



2. The Suwannee-Satilla Water Planning Region

sectors in the region include agriculture, forestry, professional and business services, education, healthcare, manufacturing, public administration, and construction.

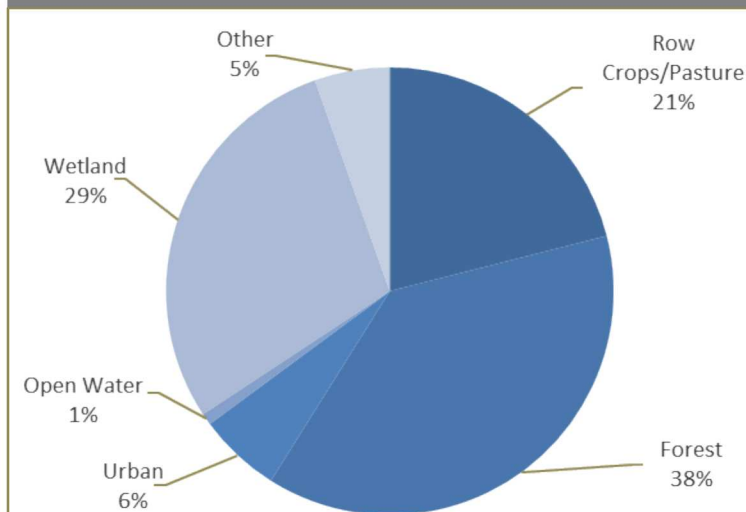
Agriculture has historically played a dominant role in the economy of the Suwannee-Satilla Region and the State. During 2012, Georgia agriculture generated more than \$9.3 billion in cash receipts to the State's economy, with the Suwannee-Satilla Region contributing approximately \$821 million in 2009 (2012 Census of Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2009). According to the USDA Economic Research Service, farming's contribution to state and national economies can be determined by calculating the *net value added*, which is the total value of the agricultural sector's production of goods and services less payments to other sectors of the economy. The farm production *net value added* for the Suwannee-Satilla Region represents 14% of the total state farm *net value added* in 2007. The Suwannee-Satilla farm production *net value added* represents 0.12% of the total State gross domestic product (GDP), which was \$399 billion in 2007 (U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis). Turner, Irwin, Tift, Brooks, Berrien, and Cook Counties are expected to continue to be the higher agricultural water use areas of the region.

While forestry and agriculture have, and will continue to be major economic drivers in the region, a number of areas will experience increased urbanization and increases in commercial and industrial growth. These trends are especially likely to be seen in Coffee, Lowndes, and Tift Counties among others.

The region includes four colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Valdosta State University, South Georgia College in Douglas, and Waycross College. The region also includes three colleges within the Technical College System of Georgia: Wiregrass Technical College in Valdosta, Douglas, and Fitzgerald, Okefenokee Technical College in Waycross, and Moultrie Technical College in Tifton. In addition to county jails, there are six correctional facilities that are important employers and water users in the Suwannee-Satilla Region.

A summary of 2008 land cover distribution is shown in Figure 2-3, based on data obtained from the University of Georgia

Figure 2-3: Land Cover Distribution



Adapted from:
University of Georgia
Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory
Percentages are based upon land use
estimates from 2008

Note: "Other" represents
clearcut/sparse, beaches/dunes,
and quarries/outcrops land use
categories