

Expanding Irrigation in Alabama: Potential Implications for Georgia's Watersheds

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Reference: McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

Abstract. Irrigation has allowed for the expansion of agriculture worldwide; this has led to the need for greater management of water resources. Throughout the southeastern United States, there is considerable heterogeneity in irrigation adoption. Georgia and Florida lead the region in irrigated land. While Alabama lags behind, it has recently passed legislation providing tax incentives to growers who adopt irrigation systems. The success of this policy could have significant implications for the water resources of Alabama's neighbors, including Georgia. The primary objectives of this study are to 1) identify the economic and climatic conditions under which adopting irrigation is profitable in Alabama, and 2) estimate, at the watershed level, aggregate water use associated with the increase in irrigated acreage under those conditions.