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Rainy March helps ease drought conditions

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ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - An unusually wet March has helped elevate vast parts of Georgia from epic drought conditions.

State climatologist David Stooksbury says that only basins surrounding north Georgia's Lake Lanier and Lake Hartwell are still in drought conditions.

But he says long-term rainfall deficits are still a concern, and that Lanier and other major reservoirs are still far from full. He also says soil moisture levels across south Georgia remain "abnormally dry."

Much of Georgia descended into an epic drought in late 2007, forcing state officials to call for sweeping water restrictions. Many of those rules have since been relaxed as the drought loosened its grip.

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