



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

News Release

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West Point Dam at Flood Elevation

Mobile, Ala. – Because of significant rainfall and flooding in Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implemented flood control operations at West Point Dam, on Sept. 21. Northern Georgia received several inches of rain causing the lake and downstream rivers to rise. The river at West Point, Ga., reached a stage of about 18.91 feet

West Point Dam is operating for one of its primary missions -- flood control. “Releases from West Point will remain near 55,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) through Friday and above 45,000 through the weekend,” said Lisa Coghlan, Public Affairs Officer. The high releases are necessary to restore the flood storage capacity of West Point Lake in order to be ready for the next storm event. “West Point Lake peaked at elevation 639.26 late Thursday night. The record elevation of 639.9 occurred in May 2003. The latest lake level Friday morning is near 639.01,” said Coghlan.

“We will continue to monitor the situation and to work with local county officials. As inflows to the lake continue to recede, we will begin to lower releases as we bring the pool back to the summer level of 635 over the next couple of weeks,” said Coghlan. “The lake has risen more than four feet as a result of the recent rains,” said Coghlan.

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The Corps has been actively engaged with local, city and state officials, Emergency Managers and others to relay information in a timely and accurate manner. The ACF is managed as a system and the flood waters are also being managed through the remaining Corps projects: Walter F. George Dam, and Jim Woodruff Dam.

The Corps continues to monitor the situation and will make necessary changes to water releases to ensure minimal impacts both upstream and downstream.

The reservoir level has begun to recede, but conditions on the lake remain hazardous. “There is a lot of debris floating in the Chattahoochee River portion of the lake, and that can make boating very hazardous,” said Steve Logan West Point Project Operations Manager. “We are encouraging boaters to refrain from using the main river channel and to use other tributaries of the lake instead. For example, areas like Yellowjacket Creek and Wehadkee Creek are relatively free of debris,” said Logan.

The water levels in the river and in the reservoir are expected to remain high throughout the weekend. All recreational boaters are urged to use extreme caution while on the lake. Some of the debris is not visible from the water’s surface. Skiing and similar water sports may be unsafe at this time because of debris in the lake.

Hardley Creek Park, Anderson Park, and West Overlook will remain closed throughout the weekend. Several campsites are closed at R.S. Heard and Whitetail Ridge Campgrounds, the two camping areas that are open in the fall. Crews are working to prevent large pieces of debris, like trees and stumps, from entering the spillway at the dam. As the reservoir level recedes, other

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hazards will be removed and inspections completed, closed parks and campsites will reopen.

For more specific information regarding conditions on other parts of the ACF river system, please contact the Mobile District Public Affairs Office at 251-690-2505. For information regarding recreational opportunities on West Point Lake, please contact the Project Management Office at 706-645-2937.

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