



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

News Release

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Buford Dam reduces elevation

Mobile, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District has begun reducing the elevation at Lake Sidney Lanier. Unprecedented recent rain events have taken lake levels above normal for this time of year. Lake Lanier is now above the top of conservation lake level and within the flood storage dedicated to flood control by more than 2.5 feet. Given the long range forecast of a wetter than normal winter/spring, maintaining the normal winter pool level of 1070 as long as conditions allow is necessary for flood control capabilities.

“To hold the lake above that level could have serious lakeside impacts if wet weather continues and would impact our flood fighting abilities in the basin. The Corps must be positioned to respond to these conditions in a way that best serves the public and ensures project purposes are met,” Mobile District Chief of Public Affairs Officer E. Patrick Robbins said.

“With Lake Lanier at 1072.99 and precipitation expected later in the week, Buford will increase releases to allow us to follow the guide curve to reach 1070’ (winter pool level) by December 1,” Robbins said.

Fisherman, kayakers and other recreational users of the river below Buford Dam need to pay close attention to release schedules which can be

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2-2-2-2 *Buford Dam reduces elevation*

obtained by calling 770-945-1466, or in the local vicinity, tune your radio to 1610 am.

“These releases add significant flows immediately below the dam and since they are something that hasn’t occurred in a while due to the drought, people need to retune themselves to checking the release schedules before going in the river,” Robbins said.

As in the September flood conditions, Buford Dam again has been able to store excessive inflows and minimize flood damages downstream. Since Tuesday, Nov. 10, Buford Dam has held back 23 billion gallons of flood waters.

The projects south of Buford Dam such as West Point and Walter F. George will continue to release water to minimize flooding and decrease lake elevations.

“We have gone from operating in a drought situation to operations for flood control,” Robbins said. “All indications are that the Southeast will be in for a wetter than normal to normal winter weather pattern and it is important that the lakes in the system are prepared to handle the excess water.”