0101

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Mobile District

ACF Water Control Manual Update

RELEVANT READY RESPONSIVE RELIABLE
Proudly serving the Armed Forces and the Nation now and in the future.

Name: Beverly Hewitt Address: 100 MARKET ST
City: APALACHICOLA State: FL Zip: 32320 Email: BEVSGRILL AT YAHOO.COM

***Primarily* Participating as a...**
- o Local Resident
- o Elected Official
- o Industry/Commercial
- o Native American Tribe
- o Nongovernmental Organization
- o Academic Institution
- o Local Gov't Agency
- o State Gov't Agency
- o Federal Gov't Agency
- o Other _____

Please Check a Comment Area:
- o ACF Basin
- o Blackshear Dam and Lake
- o Flint River Dam and Lake

Water Control Manual Update
- o Lake Sidney Lanier/Buford Dam
- o Morgan Falls Dam
- o West Point Lake and Dam
- o Goat Rock Dam
- o Oliver Dam
- o North Highlands Dam
- o Bartlett's Ferry Dam & Harding Lake
- o Walter F. George Lake & Dam
- o George W. Andrews Lake & Dam
- o Lake Seminole/Jim Woodruff Dam

Environmental Resources
- o Biological Resources
- o Air Quality
- o Cultural Resources

Water Management for Multiple Federal Project Purposes
- o Action Zones
- o Drought Operations Management
- o Hydropower
- o Navigation
- o Recreation
- o Flood Damage Reduction
- o Water Quality
- o Water Supply

NEPA Process
- o Alternatives
- o Baseline
- o Impacts Analysis
- o Public Involvement

- o ***Shoreline Management***
- o ***Revised Interim Operations Plan***
- o ***Socioeconomics***
- o ***Recommended Modeling Tools and Data Source***
- o ***Other*** _____

Comments

We must tie keep our Water so we keep our Seafood alive

www.acf-wcm.com
Scoping comments will be collected by Tetra Tech for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District through ***November 21, 2008.***

0102

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Mobile District

ACF Water Control Manual Update

RELEVANT READY RESPONSIVE RELIABLE
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Name: Dan Rothwell Address: PO Box 246
City: Apalachicola State: FL Zip: 32329 Email: drothwell@mchi.com

***Primarily* Participating as a...**
- (●) Local Resident
- o Elected Official
- o Industry/Commercial
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- o ***Shoreline Management***
- o ***Revised Interim Operations Plan***
- o ***Socioeconomics***
- o ***Recommended Modeling Tools and Data Source***
- o ***Other*** _____

Comments

The new operations manual should include source volume sharing based on hydrologic and environmental models and ~~an~~ needs assements. There should be scientific data to support Corps reccomendatio

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0103

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Mobile District

ACF Water Control Manual Update

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Name: Heidi Recksiek Address: PO Box 926; [redacted]
City: Eastpoint State: FL Zip: 32328 Email: waterwign17@hotmail.com

***Primarily* Participating as a...**
- ● Local Resident
- ○ Elected Official
- ○ Industry/Commercial
- ○ Native American Tribe
- ○ Nongovernmental Organization
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- ○ ***Revised Interim Operations Plan***
- ● ***Socioeconomics***
- ○ ***Recommended Modeling Tools and Data Source***
- ○ ***Other*** _____

Comments

- Climate change predictions must be considered in this process. (Both increased drought and increased heavy rain events.)
- Socioeconomics must also be considered, and should include economic valuation of the vast array of ecosystem services and cultural values provided by adequate water flowing to Apalachicola Bay.

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0104

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Mobile District

ACF Water Control Manual Update

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Name: ROY OGLES Address: 114 N. BAYSHORE DR
City: EASTPOINT State: FL Zip: 32328 Email: ROGLES@MCHSI.COM

***Primarily* Participating as a...**
- X Local Resident
- ○ Elected Official
- ○ Industry/Commercial
- ○ Native American Tribe
- ○ Nongovernmental Organization
- ○ Academic Institution
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- ○ ***Socioeconomics***
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- ○ ***Other*** _____

Comments

ANY PLAN REWARDING ATLANTA'S, AND GEORGIA'S, BLATANT MISUSE OF OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCE WILL RESULT IN FURTHER MISTRUST OF THE CORPS. IT'S TIME YOUR FEDERAL LEADERSHIP STOPPED COUNTING VOTES AND POLITICAL FAVOR, AND STARTING ACTING ON THE BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FUTURE. RESTORE HISTORIC FLOW TO THE APALACHICOLA RIVER!

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0105

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ACF Water Control Manual Update

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Name: Dr Lois Swoboda Address: 77 10th ST

City: Apalachicola State: FL Zip: 32320 Email: ANTBETTY@hycos.com

***Primarily* Participating as a...**

- o *Local Resident*
- o *Elected Official*
- o *Industry/Commercial*
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- o *Nongovernmental Organization*
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Water Control Manual Update

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Comments

Please come into compliance with the TWO court orders

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0106

Comment ID: 0106
Author Name: ELMON L. GARNER
Organization:

As City Manager of Chattahoochee, Florida, I desire that the congressionally authorized purposes be enforced and that adequate water is supplied to operate the turbines at all times. I was a City Manager in the Atlanta area in the early 80's and the Atlanta Regional Commission had a plan,supported by then Senator Zell Miller, later Governor and Senator, to install dams in the Young Harris area that would have provided adequate water for the metro Atlanta area, and would have prevented the current crises we are now facing. Also, water for recreation is necessary for the economy in our area and dredging should be authorized, regardless of how states feel, so that boat traffic and commerce can be allowed to utilize the river basins for transportation. This is especially necessary since the railroad companies are not willing to work with shippers in that they have a monopoly for transport operations. I know water is essential for the population to drink, but adequate thought and restrictions as to new construction should be strictly enforced.Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I will send more at a later date.Elmon Lee Garner, City Manager, Chattahoochee, Floridacitymgr@fairpoint.net

0107

Comment ID: 0107
Author Name: Ken Weathers
Organization:

The drought of 2007 demonstrated the problems created by low lake levels from a fisheries management perspective. Anglers were not able to use many of the boat ramps, many boat motors were damaged on exposed stumps, and many areas that anglers were used to fishing were not accessible. These problems lead to fewer anglers on the water, and this also had a negative impact on the Eufaula economy. I urge the Corp to always consider the impact on fisheries and recreation in water allocation decisions. Lake Eufaula has been held at full pool this spring and summer, and we have excellent recruitment of largemouth bass and the best sunfish fishery we have ever had at Eufaula. This has lead to a great year of fishing, and a strong economic year for the Eufaula area. I understand how the the lake levels are dependent on rainfall, but still when decisions on water have to be made, keep in mind how important recreational fishing is for all of the lakes in this basin.Thank you,Ken Weathers

---

0108

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Scoping Meeting
Gainesville, Georgia
October 29, 2008
VERBAL COMMENTS

William McCalley
3532 Mill Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

- Local Resident
- Water Supply

1. Lake Lanier should not be drawn down below a 1,066 water level except in an extreme drought, and then only for drinking water.
2. One third of the state of Georgia population gets drinking water from Lake Lanier. This is more vital than mussels or industrial water needs.
3. Raise the lake level to 1,073 feet.
4. Allow a tax credit on federal taxes to property owners on the lake if they install shoreline rip rap for erosion control.

Gentlemen,

We have been homeowners on West Point Lake for over 25 years. We are very disappointed with the deterioration of the management of the lake level. This often creates an eyesore behind our home and certainly devalues our property.

This lake was established for recreational purposes that would attract thousands of visitors and be a source of financial prosperity.

Apparently the lake management

has fallen for endanger species myths spread by Florida's shrimp + oyster lobbies.

The facts are obvious that for 16 Million years the Lord has provided ample water for the so called endangered species - mussels and sturgeons - without the help of water managers.

We need to establish a policy of filling the lake during the spring and having an "in equal out" policy for lake management. That is probably the way Solomon would rule were he consulted.

Thanks for your help,
Sylvia + Wayne Hunter
LaGrange, GA.

0110

WPLAC
C/O LaGrange Troup County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 636
LaGrange, GA 30241

STANDARD

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
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Oct. 22, 2008

Tom and
Helene Bohannon
43 Waterview Pt
Lagrange GA 30240-8983

Thank you for holding this meeting!
Our concerns for West Point Lake:
1) Lake levels — MINIMAL 633 during the winter time
MINIMAL 635 during the summer

2) Ensure recreational access for local citizens who don't have private lake access. The recreational aspect of this lake draws many people from all over which certainly helps the economy.

0110

The time has come for stakeholders across the region *to turn out and show their support to ensure the* **future sustainability of West Point Lake.**

ALL Concerned Citizens are urged to attend:

THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SCOPING MEETING

Wednesday, October 22, 2008 5 p.m.-8 p.m. (EDT)

Callaway Center *on the campus of*
West Georgia Technical College
220 Fort Drive, LaGrange, GA

The West Point Lake Advisory Council has identified six critical issues threatening the sustainability of West Point Lake.

- Maintain minimum lake level of 633 - 635 msl
- Maximize positive economic impact
- Return to managing the lake consistent with Congressionally authorized purposes
- Restore and maintain recreational facilities
- Ensure recreational access for low income and minority families
- Maintain Water Quality

Your presence is critical as a show of support for West Point Lake. Those attending may also take advantage of the opportunity to express their concerns about the six critical issues or others - via written, oral or online reports - to ensure that their voice is heard. To learn more about the scoping meeting and the efforts to secure optimal sustainability of West Point Lake visit
www.westpointlake635.com

0111

As a Troup County Native born in 1935, I have the following comments:

Sir, I can remember as a small boy in 1930's and early 40's when every 5 to 7 years people could walk across the Chattahoochee River, because of the many large rocks that were exposed with hardly any water flowing down-stream, due to the severe droughts that caused the river to practically dry up. The sturgeons and muscles survived those many years before this territory was a state or county and no one complained ever about lack of water before.

Why is it that when the Federal Government wanted to dam up the Chattahoochee River to build a lake that took away many valuable acres of property from our citizens directly within our county and named the specific purposes for which this lake would be used, that now in 2008 our county is having to battle Alabama and Florida by paying out hundreds of thousands of local dollars for studies, court, law suits, and the like, when the argument of mismanagement of the water does not even apply to Troup County and the argument of the endangerment of the sturgeon and muscles is totally illogical and thus not applicable since these species existed hundreds of thousands of years before the Dam was ever built when there were many seasons of droughts and little water flowing down the Chattahoochee River.

to Troup County

Regardless of the present need in Florida and Alabama, these so called needs were not the purpose and prescribed reasons for the construction of the Dam and lake. Troup County has needs and legitimate purposes

0112

The entire economy of the area suffers when lake levels are down. We live on the lake and we saw a bait & grocery store go out of business. The owner had to take a second job, leave his wife and daughter to tend the store, (something he hated to do) He tried all he could but in the end, he still lost his business. When the lake is down, people don't come, so hotels and restaurant also suffer.

When lake levels are down homeowners like ourselves can't get our boats out of our docks. We can't use the lake lot we purchased and then see our property values go down.

Safety is another issue we are concerned about. When lake levels are down boaters can not see trees, stumps etc. hidden just below the surface. Any of these things could lead to damaging boats, injury to boaters or even the possible death of a boater. Parks & safe swimming areas also can not be used during low lake levels.

We want the lake to be managed at a level of 633 to 635 for a safe recreational lake for which is was proposed.

We are tired of our lake being used for flood control by the corps.

Marlene Timmerberg dtimmerberg@bellsouth.net

THE WEST POINT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS IDENTIFIED SIX CRITICAL ISSUES THREATENING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF WEST POINT LAKE.

- Maintain minimum lake level of 633 to 635 msl
- Maximize positive economic impact
- Return to managing the lake consistent with congressionally authorized purposes
- Restore and maintain recreational facilities
- Ensure recreational access for low-income and minority families
- Maintain water quality

SPECIFICS ON THE SIX CRITICAL ISSUES:

1. **Maintain minimum lake level of 633 to 635 msl.**

West Point Lake has historically been maintained at very low levels during summer months due to very aggressive yet flawed operating plans developed by the Corps that allows the lake to be pulled down to meet demands throughout other areas of the ACF river basin. When lake levels fall below 633 msl, recreational use of the lake is compromised and the public's ability and desire to use the lake diminishes. The Corps must find a new approach to managing water levels to ensure year-round minimum levels of 633 to 635 msl.

Action zones are the rules that empower the Corp's use of West Point Lake's waters to address other needs throughout the Basin under dry conditions. West Point Lake's action zones, as they are outlined in the current Water Control Manual for the ACF, are extremely severe as compared to other lakes. This wide-ranging regulation allows the Corps to satisfy other parts of the basin by pulling water from the lake throughout the summer, severely impacting the use of the lake for recreational purposes. Local stakeholders must implore the Corps to radically limit the action zones on West Point Lake to ensure that the lake remains a desirable and enjoyable destination for general recreation.

2. **Maximize positive economic impact.**

West Point Lake was promised to the committee by Congress as a recreational resource. That promise and the associated economic opportunities have not been fulfilled. And recent economic study revealed that the lake has fulfilled less than 20% of its economic potential, and has denied use and economic opportunity to the regions surrounding the lake in Alabama and Georgia due to it's consistently low levels. West Point lake must maintain an elevation of 6333 msl or higher to assure that economic damage does not result from Corps operations and allow for lower lake levels, and to assure economic potential is fulfilled as promised to the citizens of East Alabama and West Georgia.

3. **Return to managing the lake consistent with congressionally authorized purposes.**

West Point Lake was the first lake in the United States authorized by Congress with a specifically designated authorized purpose of "general recreation." Historically, the lake has been maintained at very low levels between late summer and late spring of the following year to provide for flood storage. The reserved volume for storage has rarely, if ever, been needed during the life of the lake. Reducing the volume of storage reserved for flood control and using other methods to mitigate flooding, while maintaining a minimum lake elevation of 633 msl, would allow for flood control while insuring West Point Lake is managed in a manner consistent with congressionally authorized purposes.

4. **Restore and maintain recreational facilities.**

The Corps of Engineers has consistently faced reduced funding for recreational facilities for the West Point project. Federal recreational facilities surrounding the project are often closed because of lack of funding. Facilities are justified for closing due to lack of use and lack of funding. The Corps must recognize that use has fallen off because of historic and consistent lake levels at the project maintained by the Corps. Facilities must be reopened and restored for use by the public and lake levels must be maintained above 633 msl so the lake remains desirable for use and attractive to the public as a viable recreational facility.

5. **Ensure recreational access for low-income and minority families.**

Many lower-income and minority families in West Georgia and East Alabama rely on and utilize the shoreline and surface waters of West Point Lake to fulfil the recreational needs and provide food for sustenance. When the lake elevation is lowered below 633 msl, the ability to use West Point Lake to fulfil this is essential social function is compromised. The Corps must address the recreational needs of low-income and minority individuals by maintaining and sustaining an elevation of 633 msl or higher year-round to provide usable, safe lake with accessible surface waters in shoreline recreational facilities.

6. **Water quality**

West Point Lake was established for sport fishing and wildlife development. The quality of its water must also meet recreational use standards. As the source of water for a large population base in West Georgia, it is essential that water quality in the reservoir be maintained to higher standards than are currently set by Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and that the lake at all times must comply with the federal Clean Water Act. Operations should be adjusted by the Corps to ensure adequate inflow of water and lake elevations to dilute nutrient loading into the lake contributed from upstream metropolitan area influences.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Thank you for attending the Scoping Meeting. If you didn't get the chance to share your thoughts, it's not too late for your input. Please take advantage of the opportunity to raise your voice and express your concerns about these or other issues by visiting www.acf-wcm.com. Comments will be collected through November 21, 2008. You can also log on to www.westpointlake635.com to learn more about the efforts of the WPLAC. Together, we form a powerful voice united behind the cause to secure optimal

sustainability of West Point Lake, for now and forever.

CECIL HAY
2030 Countyline Road
Hogansville, Georgia 30230

- Local Resident
- Water Quality

I'm Cecil Hay, 2030 Countyline Road, Hogansville, GA 30230. My concern is that landfill is built in a valley, and there's no way -- I hear that they were going to try to channel the creek around it. They can't do it. There's no way they can do it. Because the landfill is all right there together, and there's branches in there they ain't even mentioned. Now, I've been there forty-six years. I know. And when they come and tell us that it's not going to pollute, they're wrong. Because it's going to be 300-something foot high. Well, the water just from 300 foot high running off is going to bring enough pollution in there. And then, it's my understanding, that they want to bring radioactive material in there and dump it.

Now, listen to this close, ma'am: They went before the commissioners in Meriwether County. I was there. And they got permission to dig two holes, 25 acres deep -- or 25 acres and 26 foot deep. Now, right there is going to be below the waterline, because the waterline there ain't but 4 or 5 foot, and they dig it 26 feet deep. And I asked this question, ma'am, I said, "How are you going to fill this hole up?" and they said, "We're going to fill it up by the dirt around it." What's the need of digging a hole when they can get the dirt around it and won't have to dig a hole? "Won't be in mud." Common sense will tell you they're going to be in mud. And then this is -- there's two of them, now. It'll be 50 acres, 26 foot deep.

It's my belief, and I've heard people give me information, that they're going to try to slip in radioactive material in, because Oakridge, Tennessee is trying to find a place to put theirs. There was a landfill built in Oakridge were there was a reporter that went out there at two o'clock in the morning and caught them carrying in radioactive material in there. And they had to shut it down.

And these people, this here, this is the first landfill they ever built. They have no experience. And they're going to have 1,100 holes in it to start with. And this is where water is regenerated at. Now, how can they channel around that, move that creek around, when it's in a valley and regenerated and all underneath there is water? And there's no way to do it. And the federal government is coming around putting on television how precious fresh water is.

Now, they want to come in here and let this landfill come in. And this is one of the main things, whoever will listen to this or reads this here: Now, they're going to dump that trash there on us. It's going to pollute the Hogansville reservoir, it's going to pollute the creeks going down, it's also going to pollute the West Point Lake. And that trash is going to lay there from now on. It will never be moved no more. So after something lays there, just look how many germs that will produce. And there's no way to control it.

Let me use this diagram and then I'll hush. I'm trying to think of the chemical that they embalm you with. See, there ain't nothing that'll kill it. You just have to rinse it out. All right, and then, when this groundwater gets polluted underground, there's no way to clean it up. And this all falls to one thing, is for them few men to make a dollar.

It's all for a dollar. If it wasn't for a dollar it wouldn't be there.

Now, the tag [sic] commissioner over there told me -- no, it was the lady over the taxes. She told me, says, “Mr. Hay,” says, “we got plenty of places in Meriwether County instead of bringing it right there and putting it on that water like they're wanting to do.”

So, you see, the only reason they want it right there and fighting so hard is that interstate. They're bringing it right in there, see; jump in, jump off, jump in, jump off.

And I hope the Corps of Engineers will consider this and consider how much damage it's going to do in the future to all these young kids that's coming up that we're -- we're supposed to preserve a life for them, but we'll be destroying it here. And that's about all I got to say. But if anybody wants to contact me, I've been there forty-six years. I'll be glad to talk with them.

JEANNINE HONICKER
704 Camelia Drive
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Local Resident
- Water Quality

I'm very concerned about our drinking water. We live in Nashville -- no, in LaGrange, Georgia, which is about ten miles from the exit that the Turkey Run Landfill will be located on. That landfill is located right on the banks of Blue Creek, which runs into Yellow Jacket Creek which runs into West Point Lake, which is the source of our drinking water.

I have a copy of a report by Fred -- G. Fred Lee that was made in September 2005 that has this graft that I've had blown up. (Reading) "A very small portion, I would say maybe 5 percent of the possible pollutants from the landfill, will be monitored for, which means that about 95 percent will not be monitored for. If you don't look, you don't find. These are neglected, ignored, omitted, and overlooked. And all of these are toxic.”

“How much is our water supply worth? It's going to affect the health of our children and our grandchildren. And if this is derived, the pollutants will be released primarily from stormwater runoff from that landfill. The EPD has already given Greenbow, who is the operators and owners of the proposed landfill, a permit, but they said that it must be operated in such a way that it will protect the public health and take care of all these hazards continuously. The design, the siting, the operation, the closure, and the anticipated post closure care, monitoring and maintenance is proposed or inadequate." This is from another report by Fred Lee.

We are asking our elected officials to do everything that they can to stop it. But as the Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the lake, we ask the Corps of Engineers to do everything that you can to stop this. Because once the poisons are there, it will be impossible to get them out. There's better ways to handle garbage than putting it in a landfill. There's a new system called geoplasma (phonetic) that uses an arc to vaporize the pollutants. So we think that this is an unneeded, terrible thing that they're fixing to do to our water. And we, the citizens of LaGrange, beseech you and beseech the Court to look into it and to do all in your power to stop it.

We have a resolution opposing the proposed Turkey Run Landfill that says, (reading) "Whereas the proposed Turkey Run landfill to be located 1,000 feet from Hogansville city limits just off I-85, Exit 28, on Blue Creek watershed, a tributary of Yellow Jacket Creek which flows into West Point Lake and will cover 300 acres 300 feet high; whereas stormwater runoff from the proposed Turkey Run Landfill will contaminate surface water that will drain into West Point Lake and contaminate drinking water of LaGrange and other downstream water supplies; whereas groundwater will become contaminated when the liner eventually leaks, contaminating wells of residents who depend on well water; whereas there is no provision for installing methane gas capture for the first five years of operation. Toxic fumes will cause air pollution and foul odors; whereas 300 truckloads of unmonitored garbage to be dumped at the rate of 2,500 to 3,000 tons per day from 3 a.m. until 7 p.m. weekdays and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday will cause higher maintenance cost on streets and roads, depression of local property values, depression of business operations, increased traffic congestion and risk

of accidents, and decline of tourism; whereas monitoring standards are inadequate to protect the thousands of toxins that will be released from Turkey Run Landfill from its initial operation and virtually forever thereafter, not bound by the years of the permit. Now, therefore, be it resolved."

And I have all of these, and I'll tell you. (Reading) "Groups hereby goes on record as strongly opposing the proposed Turkey Run Landfill. We urge our elected public officials to do everything within their power to fulfill their duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of their constituents by preventing the development and operation of the proposed Turkey Run Landfill." And this has been signed by numerous organizations, including River Keepers, which is a group that has 5,000 or more members, to a smaller group as the Newcomers Bridge Group that has 8 members. So we've asked all size groups to sign it: The Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club executive committee signed it. The Environmental Community Action ECO-Action signed it. Let's see. I can't read that one. The Georgia State Conference of NAACP; the LaGrange Newcomers Club as a whole, in addition to just their bridge club; the Greenboro Garden Club; the Lighthouse Church in Hogansville; the Sierra Club group, LaGrange group; First Coweta Bank; Taste of Lemon restaurant; The LaGrange Foot Clinic; Shaffer & Shaffer [sic], GYN-OB clinic; Mountville community; Big Springs committee; Troup County Sheriff's Office; West Georgia Oral Surgery; the Church of God in Hogansville; Big Springs, Mountville United Methodist Church. These are just some of the groups that have said "No, we don't want it." And they said, (reading) "Now, therefore, be it resolved that this group hereby goes on record as strongly opposing the proposed Turkey Run Landfill. We urge our elected public officials to do everything within their power to fulfill their duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of their constituents by prevailing -- by preventing the development and operation of the proposed Turkey Run Landfill."

Thank you.

TOMMY MIKE
4006 White Oak Lane
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Local Resident
- West Point Lake and Dam
- Recreation

My name is Tommy Mike. I actually graduated from Auburn in 1973 with a degree in fisheries biology. And I worked with the DNR for a couple of years as they were backing up West Point Lake and did some of the pre-impoundment studies that were on the lake. And I moved back to LaGrange the second they backed-up the dam and started filling the lake in the summer of 1975 and ended up as a fishing guide on West Point Lake in 1975. And it made a wonderful living for many years on West Point Lake. Currently living on West Point Lake since 1988. So having given that little bit of history, I guess I wanted to make a comment that I think might help with the new regulations that are going to be set forth by the Corps of Engineers.

In the past, I know we've been operating on antiquated regs, or outdated regs for sure. So I did want to make a comment from a biologist's point of view, from a recreational fisherman's point of view, and from a person who lives on the lake, and from a person who's lived in LaGrange my whole life, and that is to say, in the past the regs called for West Point Lake to be full May the 15th. With the new regulations coming on board, I would hope to see regulations that would set forth higher lake levels in the spring much sooner than May 15th, mainly because the lake was built with flood control as a primary objective, but, also, it was one of the first lakes ever built with recreation as a primary objective.

And from a fisheries perspective, West Point Lake has been one of the best bass fishing and sport fishing lakes in general throughout the United States. And one of the things that we can do to insure that continues is to maintain a higher lake level much earlier than May 15th. May 15th is when West Point was supposed to be full, and I think it needs to be backed up to, say, March. And I know that that will not endanger us having a flood, because we've already had a 100-year flood, and the lake only came up three or four or five feet. So the lake can take care of a 100-year flood type situation.

So by keeping the lake level higher earlier in the spring, late winter, early, early spring, you will ensure a much higher survival rate of the sport fish in the lake which will increase the fish population, and the people who come and fish the lake will have a much greater benefit. We've already seen that happen in 2008 with the higher lake level. The survival rate of the spawned sport fish will be much greater, probably 50 or 100 times greater than it normally is when the lake is down in the spring and early summer. So if we could encourage the lake level to be up in the spring for a longer period of time, that would benefit the health in the fishery.

As far as the lake being down in the wintertime, in the dead of winter, it is not detrimental from a fisheries perspective. It won't hurt the fishery if the lake does have to go down the month of January or February or December -- December, January, or February. It would not be the end of the world if the lake did have to go down at that time. But what I'm encouraging is higher lake levels earlier than May 15th, which is what the older regs call for.

Another idea that has been brought forth would be having mooring balls on the lake. I talked to friend, Joey Maltese, and I think that would be an excellent addition to the lake, is actually to have balls around the lake that could be tied up with -- fishermen could tie up and fish from those balls without having to anchor, and, also, other boats could tie up with the mooring balls. So I think that would be a benefit to West Point Lake.

But all in all, I think the last year has been a fabulous year as far as lake levels, and it just proves that if we do get the rain we can keep the lake up. And so I look forward to new regs that really focus on current issues and things that we need to do to not worry about antiquated regulations like barge traffic downstream, etc.

CLAUDETTE BOLLES
921 S. Willowcrest Way
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Local Resident
- Water Supply
- Water Quality
- Recreation

I'm Claudette Bolles. I live on the lake. I view the lake all day long from every room in my house, and it's a wonderful asset to my old age and my retirement. I have watched the lake level fluctuate. Sometimes it's embarrassing. I have relatives that call from all over the United States and make jokes about do I have water in my lake. "Will we come and ride in your boat or sit in the boat in the mud?" And so it's kind of a laugh, what's going on with the lake, which is embarrassing to me.

I have watched the recreational, the boats, the fishermen, with no place to go. I've watched the decline in the number of people. They're right outside my window, so I wake up and I look out, and if the water's good I see a fisherman waving at me. That's not been the case. This summer has been very good, however. So I would like the lake level to be maintained at a level where we can have our recreation, which is the purpose the lake was developed for to begin with.

I'd also like to have the recreational areas restored for the lower-income and minority families. Some of them depend on it for their food and sustenance, and some of them depend on it for recreation and just shoreline activities. And also to maintain the water quality. But the main thing in my mind is just if you maintain the level of water, it will cure a lot of these problems.

Thank you.

EVELYN ZARATE
1961 Blue Creek Road
Hogansville, Georgia 30230

- Local Resident
- Water Quality

Hello. My name is Evelyn Zarate. I live at 1961 Blue Creek Road in Hogansville one and half miles from the proposed Turkey Run Landfill site. My issue with this landfill is, I am not seeing the state EPD doing enough to protect our well water. All of the people within five to ten miles out there are only on well water. We don't have any kind of system that comes out into that area. It makes no sense to me to have to pay for water that has to be treated when my water is very pristine at this point.

I also have a business which I run a product of corn tortillas in a 300-mile radius. It's not only going to affect my home and my neighbor's home, it's going to affect the people who I call my customers, the people who are very close to us as well.

I have six children, one of them which has severe hemophilia. Any kind of toxin such as Aspirin, which is conveniently throwed away inside the landfills, one drop and it will hurt my son. I've been out there in that area for over thirty years, and I see no reason why a company that's coming from out of state should be allowed to come in within 200 feet of the Blue Creek water and be allowed to put in such a large project.

DORIAN ROFFE-HAMMOND
434 Marietta Street, #203
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

- Local Resident
- Water Quality

My name is Dorian Roffe-Hammond. I'm an environmental hydrologist. I live in the Atlanta area, downtown Atlanta. And my understanding is that the Turkey Creek Landfill has been proposed for the LaGrange area, and it's a regional landfill. Now, I'm prompted -- my thought is that in about 2005, when this original idea came about in this area, in 2005 a similar proposal was made in Atlanta and in an area downtown called Marietta Parkway, and it's a corridor leading down through an area near CNN and the Dome and also the Aquarium. And the Aquarium had not been ready yet, but through this area they were going to bring about 3 to 400 truckloads of garbage and trash from Atlanta to a transfer area that was a couple miles away in an impoverished area near the county jail. And after about six months, this proposal was voted down by a lot of neighborhood groups, MPU groups. And I'm wondering if this coincides. It's about the same time that this idea of a transfer site -- to bring the garbage to a transfer site and haul it away by your freight train. And if the freight trains were actually going to be taken down to this Turkey Creek Landfill, I wonder if that's the same -- I'm thinking probably it's an interesting coincidence.

And so that proposal was voted down in Atlanta because of all the tremendous amount of truck traffic through downtown Atlanta. And I think it's a very poor idea to put a regional landfill so close to an area of LaGrange and Hogansville and West Point that is going to be growing hugely in the next few years, and just how closely in those few years the landfill will become close to a proximity to downtown and the people who live in LaGrange.

I think it's a poor idea, and I'm sympathetic to the people that live around the landfill, the proposed landfill. Just keep in mind that typically landfill liners last maybe ten to twelve years before they began to disintegrate and begin leaking into the water table and eventually into West Point Lake. A lot of the garbage is -- a lot of the contents of the garbage is unknown. The contents will be mixing -- the chemicals and the liquids will be mixing, and who knows what sort of combinations of chemicals that will create that will eventually leach into the water table and the like in the drinking water system.

0120

Comment ID: 0120
Author Name: Karen Cox-Dennis
Organization:

The environment is the economy, the economy is the environment! The life-blood and health of the Apalachicola River and Bay effect an increible food chain that doesn't end with people and their way of life. Amerrica's seaffood availablity shouldn't be squandered to suburban and urban development. The integrity of the end of this entire system must be maintained in order for the wholistic system to be productive and its end flow to the Apalachicola Bay pure in order for the entire estuarine eco system to survive, let alone hang on by the threads its dangling from now. We have the great fortune of a Presidential Candidate promising to follow through and oversee the scientific studies that are long overdue and guide a productive plan. Let's end the red tape that the US ARmy Corps of Engineers seems to be so encumbered by and restore the health of our systems with the most efficent and productive means possible.

0121

Comment ID: 0121
Author Name: Jack Struble
Organization:

As a resident of Troup County and a property owner on West Point Lake,I wouldlike to give you a few thoughtson th rewriting of the manuals for th operation of the lake and the basin in general.First keeping the lake at a level of 633-635msl will store enough water in case of a real emergency in florida in relation to envirormental concerns. Kepping the lake at this level can be accomplished without any concern for flooding if the gauges are monitored and the upstream flow is also monitored.Second water quality can bemaintained easier if the lake is at a higher leval and constant flow is passed through the impoundment. The water this past summer has been the cleanest in recent years.Third many people depend on th lake for their livelihood including the marinas bait shops motels and restaurants.Thus the economic impact from a low lake level can be devastating.Lastly I as many other reidents have a financial stke in the lake levels as our property values would be directly affectedd by low lake levels. Please concider what is fair for all the citizens along the basin when rewriting the manuals for the future. Thank you

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Comment ID: 0122
Author Name: Berny D. Ilgner
Organization:

0122

Maintaining minimum flows in the Apalachicola River into the bay is critical to the oyster ecosystem. Will the study determine what minimum flows are necessary to ensure that the salinity of the St. George Sound is not too high for maintaining a vibrant ecology in the bay?

Comment ID: 0123
Author Name: Berny D. Ilgner
Organization:

0123

One of the primary demands on the water resources in the ACF system is water supply to the Atlanta metro area. Will the study examine water supply options for Atlanta other than drawing water from the ACF system?

0124

Comment ID: 0124
Author Name: Berny D. Ilgner
Organization:

Reduced flow in the Apalachicola River will damage the oyster fishery in the Bay and would have adverse economic impacts to the local Apalachicola area. These impacts could result in irreversible consequences such as forcing fishermen out of business. Will the study examine the irreversible adverse economic impacts of the loss of the oyster fishery due to low river flows?

0125

Comment ID: 0125
Author Name: Berny D. Ilgner
Organization:

Will the study examine the loss of cultural heritage of the Apalachicola oystermen if river flows are too low to maintain the fishery at adequate levels to make it economic for oyster harvest to continue?

Comment ID: 0126
Author Name: Mark and Charlene Powell
Organization:

0126

We are following the Corps of Engineers plan closely since we are located on the Walter F. George Reservoir. We are aware of the drought/water usage situation of the Atlanta area but also feel they have been negligent in continuing to build and increase their population without making any provisions for their future need for water. This is a responsibility of the community to plan for the future and not think it will just take care of itself. We appreciate the Corp taking in consideration the severe economic impact it will have on communities located below Lake Lanier that depend on the Chattahochee River. This is not about mussels. This is about livelihoods and survival for communities hundreds of miles down river. We love the Chattahochee and do everything we can to take care and protect it. I wish everyone had its best interest at heart. We have a resource that should not be taken for granted.

Comment ID: 0127
Author Name: Ronald Ready
Organization:

0127

Lrt enough water through to provide fresh water balance down river & in Appalatchacola Bay

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Comment ID: 0128
Author Name: R.S.Windham
Organization:

0128

Would like to see map of this area; therefore, see where new lake would be??
Thanks,
R.S.Windham

Comment ID: 0129
Author Name: Kyle W. Crawford
Organization:

0129

I am concerned about the baseline that is used for West Point Lake compared to other lakes in the basin. I understand that West Point lake fills faster than some of the other lakes, but in drought conditions our baseline for management puts our lake at a distinct disadvantage to other lakes that have closer baseline measurements.

0130

Comment ID: 0130
Author Name: Ted Beason
Organization:

I take issue with the fact that we operate under a baseline with wider tolerances than other lakes in our basin. I would like to see a more reasonable way of identifying baseline numbers for all lakes in the basin so that West Point Lake is treated in a fair and equitable way.

0131

Comment ID: 0131
Author Name:
Organization:

It is imperative that the water level in Weseset Point Lake be kept at a high level, year round. The lake is an enormous economic resource for surrounding communities, and that positive aspect is lost when the water level becomes too low, as has happened in the past few years.When near full pool, the lake is attractive and generates a level of tourism and recreation that is highly beneficial.
ThanksBob Yates

Comment ID: 0132
Author Name: DANIEL PRICE
Organization:

0132

PLEASE MANAGE THE LAKE AT THE 633 TO 635MSL. THIS LEVEL IS CRITICAL TO THE AESTHETIC, RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE LOCAL AND AND REGIONAL ECONOMY. PLEASE ENHANCE THE LEASED PARK SPACE FACILITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY. PYNE ROAD EQUESTRIAN PARK IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF UNREALIZED POTENTIAL FOR BOTH RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT.SINCE I LIVE ON THE UPPER END OF A COVE ON THE LAKE I SEE FIRST HAND THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF ERROSION AND UNINTENED SOIL DEPOSITION INTO THE LAKE WHEN LEVELS ARE ALLOWED TO FALL BELOW 633 MSL. PLEASE CONSIDER MINIMIZING THIS THROUGH A MORE CONSISTENT MINIMAL LEVEL ACTION LEVEL.

Comment ID: 0133
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

0133

West Point Lake is critical to the economy of Troup County. Local studies prove that a full-pool lake is essential for many local businesses.I am the State Rep. for House District 69 and represent most of the lake area. While there are huge interest to the north and to the south of us, this lake needs to be managed as it was initially intended-with recreation as a primary concern. I feel that we will fare well if an unbiased study is done of the basin and a common sense management plan is put in place.While water quantity is important, water quality is essential. Interest above and below us must be required to invest in state of the art systems so that West Point is neither the dumping ground for pollution or the source for unnecessary flows to dilute pollution down south (Columbus). I encourage the Corps to invest in the appropriate studies to develop a plan that will serve the basin for many years and will be fair to all concerned.

Comment ID: 0134
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

0134

A fair and balanced plan needs to be developed for the basin without political pressures.

Comment ID: 0135
Author Name: Diane
Organization:

0135

This lake must maintain a minimum lake level of 633-635MSL.

0136

Comment ID: 0136
Author Name: Phil Coulton
Organization:

Maintain a minimum lake level of 633-635 MSL. Recreation as been reduced over years to the point owning and operating boats fishing equipment lake property as become more of a liability than a pleasure.Local businesses are being threatened in an unprecedented way, urgent legislation is need now.

0137

Comment ID: 0137
Author Name: Billy
Organization:

This lake has much more potential than has ever been realized. I would like to see the corp become more interested in the recreational side and help us to promote this tremendous asset that we have for this community. What happened last year was ridiculous and can be avoided with a comprehensive plan that would not use West Point Lake as the workhorse for the Chattahoochee River Basin. Thank you.

Comment ID: 0138
Author Name:
Organization:

0138

It is ridiculous to have such a beautiful lake and not be able to enjoy it. The summer of 2007 was a disaster that doesn't need to happen again. How can an area grow and attract people if one of the major attractions is not usable because of outdated operational procedures? These issues need to be addressed and soon!

Comment ID: 0139
Author Name:
Organization:

0139

Very concerned about the amount of litter and debris not only in the lake but in the surrounding area brought about by people traveling to and from the lake. Needs to be thought given to how to manage this problem at the level of preventon, not correction. Last summer when the lake was low I walked several miles of shoreline and was appalled on the tremendous amount of trash from old batteries, to tires, and general litter. Need appropriate education, laws and enforcement to prevent this from occurring. The six critical areas should be ammended to include this issue. Would state it as: Minimize lake and surrounding area trash and debris.

0140

Comment ID: 0140
Author Name: Ian Ramsay
Organization:

I agree with the six major issues on the blue handout. my most important issue is a constant lake level between 633 and 635 MSL.

0141

Comment ID: 0141
Author Name: Kent Bennett
Organization:

Very interesting new software for modeling. The gentleman at the watercontrol booth explained how it is uses historical data to help with management plan.

0142

Comment ID: 0142
Author Name:
Organization:

I would like to see more testing (water quality) of water on Chattahoochee - between West Point Dam and Lake Harding. Would love to see more effort made to preserve and protect shoreline along this section of the Chattahoochee. Take whatever measures necessary to prevent/minimize development.

0143

Comment ID: 0143
Author Name: Kent Bennett
Organization:

I enjoy the lake. I like the water levels to decline in the winter to 630 levels for fishing. I used the low levels this past year to add a boat slip onto my dock. Mr. Michael Eyer at the corp office was very helpful in giving me pointers and making sure I stayed within the design requirements. He is a wonderful asset for the corp. LaGrange is a great place to live because of the lake and the Corp of Engineers committment to this area. I would like to understand why and when parks are closed. Are they scheduled to be closed in advance? I arrived at the Wehadkee park last month and discovered it was closed. Is that permanent? I would have loved to give input on the decision making for that park.

0144

Comment ID: 0144
Author Name: Patrick Bowie Sr.
Organization:

Need to maintain water level for the quality of water to be maintained. Also lake recreation brings in $'s to Troup County.

0145

Comment ID: 0145
Author Name: Patrick Bowie Sr.
Organization:

As a resident living on the lake, low water levels erodes the banks of the lake and causes damage to the shoreline.

0146

Comment ID: 0146
Author Name: Bob Kustermann
Organization:

Will are Lake ever be let down again to the drastic level during the drought. Lake Harding remained at full pool the entire time. The Florida problems with their fish and mussels need to be addressed in other ways with all the water they have there.

0147

Comment ID: 0147
Author Name: Kent Bennett
Organization:

Great demonstration on the lake levels with the plastic water containers explaining the relationship between dranage area and lake size. This should be shown on TV so many more can understand.

Comment ID: 0148
Author Name: sondra bowie
Organization:

0148

when the lake level was extremely low, chemicals had to be added for safe water consumption. i don't like the taste nor the idea of these chemicals.please maintain adequate level for safe water consumption.

Comment ID: 0149
Author Name: murchison
Organization:

0149

The lake is an important part of the area and many people enjoy this region.The impact on the region is so important and must be saved.

Comment ID: 0150
Author Name: james murchison
Organization:

0150

west point lake should not be singled out to be the largest contributer to the maintenance of the whole system. this could be done much more efficiently.

Comment ID: 0151
Author Name: sondra bowie
Organization:

0151

water supply became a great concern as we watched the lake level drop. please manage to supply adequate water for this community.

0152

Comment ID: 0152
Author Name: Bob Kustermann
Organization:

Apalachicola Bay is large enough and should not be dependent on water from Georgia for their fisheries industry.

0153

Comment ID: 0153
Author Name: Debra Nix
Organization:

As a resident of a West Point Lake Neighborhood, I think the lake is one of the most important assets to LaGrange and Troup County. It is vital to the community for the lake to be maintained at a predictable, usable level for the sake of the local economy and the local ecosystems both in and around the area. It is a shame to consider the species in the lower basin in FL as more important than the species of wildlife in the upper river basin and in West Pt. Lake. I have seen years where the bass and bream are spawning and the water level is dropped by the Corps which devastates the new hatchlings in the lake. It is cruel and ridiculous for the Corps to be that irresponsible. Also, we moved to LaGrange because the area was advertised as a city in close proximity to one of the premier lakes in Georgia! It is beautiful when the water level is stable and the docks are floating but it is a disaster area when the water level is dropped with no regard for the local area and the water is sent to who knows where in order to appease the political special interests in FL. This community deserves better than that. The lake is beautiful this year and it is only fair for all of the Chattahoochee residents, both human and wildlife, to be able to count on it everyday to be usable and stable! We have wonderful public parks that benefit the poor and rich alike. How can anyone question the importance of these parks? Thank you for listening!

0154

Comment ID: 0154
Author Name: sondra bowie
Organization:

we are watching huge chunks of shoreline drop into the lake as water levels drop too low. fortunately we are in a deep water section of the lake so still have water for our dock. we are the only one in our neighborhood with a dock in the water at low pool; however, with the shoreline falling drastically, we must constantly manage the gangplank as the ground under it is disappearing.

0155

Comment ID: 0155
Author Name: Don Russell
Organization:

The economic impact of West Point Lake is of utmost importance to the LaGrange community. Lake levels have been proven to impact the local economy. Therefore, the Master Water Control Manual Update is most important to those ends.

Comment ID: 0156
Author Name:
Organization:

0156

PLEASE MAINTAIN MIN. LAKE LEVEL AT FULL POOL OF BETWEEN 633-635.

Comment ID: 0157
Author Name: Bob Thome
Organization:

0157

I am a recreational sailor and keep my boat in a slip at Southern Harbor Marina. It is very important to me that the lake level be maintained within a few feet of full pool. Any lower and I can not use the ramp to pull my boat to work on it or take it on vacations to Florida. Also West Point Lake becomes dangerous when the level drops more than a few feet because of the unseen snags.

I love West Point Lake and want to see it protected from drastic swings in the water level.

Comment ID: 0158
Author Name:
Organization:

0158

THIS MAY BE TRUE, BUT SOME KIND OF A PLAN MUST BE PUT IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE RECREATIONAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE LAKE BY MANY IS NOT COMPROMISED.

Comment ID: 0159
Author Name: Janet Fox
Organization:

0159

The water level has been wonderful this year. Everyone could enjoy the West Point Lake more if the minimum level was not less than 633.

Comment ID: 0160
Author Name:
Organization:

0160

The generation of power is a critical aspect of West Point Dam and needs to be given full support politically and economically in future planning.

Comment ID: 0161
Author Name: Joy
Organization:

0161

West Point Lake was originally impounded for the use of recreation. This can only be done if the lake is maintained at 633-635 feet above sea level year round. Another idea that could be developed on West Point Lake and other lakes in the ACF system is the installation of mooring balls for overnight fishing or camping without damaging the lake bottom and underwater vegetation with anchors. This could be another source of revenue for the Corps by leasing the areas where mooring balls are located to local marinas for development of this resource. It would be another win-win for the Corps and local economy.

0162

Comment ID: 0162
Author Name: Mark Headrick
Organization:

My son and I (with another partner) own a business building docks, seawalls, etc. on West Point Lake and other nearby areas. We typically have 6 people employeed and this is their sole livlihood. The water level and anything else that negatively impacts the recreational aspects of the lake jeopardizes our ability to make a living and support our families.Lake West Point is our life blood.As a Lagrange resident, I can attest the the lake is the lifeblood (or a significant part of it)for many other residents. The economic impact not only affects business owners like us, but there is an important part of our population that counts on the lake to supply some of their food. For years these people and their predeccessors had the Chattahoochee River to rely on. The lake then replaced the river. Families for years have relied on this waterway for subsistence and recreation, and it should be managed in a way that protects their way of life rather than steals it from them. Many of these people are towards the bottom of the economic spectrum and can little afford to have this resource made less available to them.I've got plenty more to say, but I'm not any good at typing it on this computer

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0163

Comment ID: 0163
Author Name:
Organization:

PLEASE GO BACK AND TOSS OUT LAWS THAT ARE OBSOLETE, SOME EVEN INJURIOUS TO WATER QUALITY. i SHOULD THINK VERY FEW BUSINESS NAVIGATION WOULD BE NEEDED AND RECREATIONAL WOULD BE MORE THE PLAN IN 2008.

0164

Comment ID: 0164
Author Name: Otto Korth
Organization:

We've GOT to create a series of dams on the Flint River system to help control and provide water flows to Florida. This will take some of the pressure off the Chattahoochie River and West Point Lake that is carrying that burden now.

0165

Comment ID: 0165
Author Name: Michael Bailey
Organization:

When the lake level was down in 2007 the fishing tournaments turn out were a lot less. We had a lot less water recreation sports. Marinas businesses and the troup county businesses were affected terribly. It hurt our local economy.A lot of boat damage was done due to the low lake levels. I personally know the lake very well as an avid fisherman and I knocked the lower unit off of my boat. This also costs insurance companys a lot of money. I would like to see the winter pool level to be higher and the lake level at full pool during summer months.

Comment ID: 0166
Author Name: Terri Yarbrough
Organization:

0166

As a long term resident (twenty plus years) of living on the shoreline of West Point Lake, I am concerned about the sediment build up occurring north of Ringer access in the Grayson's Landing area. Although sediment build up is to be expected, the rate has been alarming during the past decade. Raising the winter pool level to 633-635 would appear to ease the inability to navigate the north end of the lake. The quality of the waters do appear to have improved greatly over the years and the efforts of many groups and individuals have made a dramatic impact on the shoreline clean up (trash). However, of immediate concern is lake levels and sediment build up along the bottom of the lake. Thank you for your time.

Comment ID: 0167
Author Name:
Organization:

0167

West Point Lake should be maintained at FULL POOL! To see the lake as it stood last summer with drought conditions was horrific. The area crossed by 219 and Mooty Bridge Roads looked like it did BEFORE the dam was completed. Granted, this was an extreme and hopefully unusual set of conditions; but low lake levels have been a continuous source of trouble and this needs to be addressed in my opinion. Low levels devastate recreation which in turn devastates economics in this area. And adequate supply hasn't even been mentioned yet. How can this area maintain and grow with the addition of the Kia Plant and its suppliers without adequate water?

Comment ID: 0168
Author Name:
Organization:

0168

300 PREFERENCE CUSTOMERS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MANY IN THE S.E.AREA TO BE EVEN A MINOR REASON FOR THE DAMNS.

Comment ID: 0169
Author Name: Joy
Organization:

0169

Funding for water quality studies needs to be increased. This would allow for more critical areas of the river and lake systems to be analyzed to assure adequate flows to help dilute high levels of nitrogen and other pollutants that enter the river system in densely populated areas.

0170

Comment ID: 0170
Author Name: Sammy Bailey Jr.
Organization:

As a local home owner on West Point Lake. I would like to see our lake to stay at a minimum pool of 632. I fish local bass tournaments almost every weekend throughout the year. I would love to see the fish habitat to gain from a higher lake level. Speaking on the 2007 drought and draw down of the lake. The local economy faced a major decrease on lake visitors. The marinas suffered bigtime. Alot of people damaged bots and equipment due to low water. Tournament turn outs were greatly decreased.All in all everyone including the environment suffered. Please maitain the lake level to the minimum.

0171

Comment ID: 0171
Author Name: Gary Grizzle
Organization:

West Point Lake should be kept at a minimum lake level of 633-635 msl to ensure safety on the lake and greatest opportunity to enjoy the lake. In the past few years the lake has reached extremely low levels which had a negative impact on my personal experience on the lake. The water quality is also a major area of concern because my friends, family, and I spend a lot of time out on the lake. Lake water that is not of the highest possible quality would surely diminish our time on the lake and our level of enjoyment while on the lake. Both of the areas of concern have a direct impact on the maximizing the positive economic impact on the areas surrounding West Point Lake. When the lake was low in the past, it was obvious that fewer people were out on the lake. Keeping it at a certain level would help to ensure that more people would enjoy the lake and therefore be a part of the local economy.

0172

Comment ID: 0172
Author Name: KELLY ANDERSON
Organization:

A good dose of common sense must be applied to this issue. Save the peolple not the mussels.

0173

Comment ID: 0173
Author Name: Gail A Poole
Organization:

We need to keep the lake to a min lake level of 633ft. Recreational facilities should be restored and maintained so that we all may enjoy them. Water quatlity should abe maintained and managed with the consistentcy of congressional authorized purposed. We should also make sure that recreational access be totallu available for low incime and minority families along with visitors to our lake.

0174

Comment ID: 0174
Author Name:
Organization:

Not only do we need to maintain water level in Lake West Point, we need to be absolutely sure that the water quality is superb! Atlanta needs to clean up its act, stop the pollution, and responsibly address its infrastructure issues. What good is a lake full of unclean water?Return to managing the lake according to Congressionally authorized purposes.

0175

Comment ID: 0175
Author Name:
Organization:

West Point lake must be maintained at a minimum of 633 msl to maintain economic growth in this area as well as the State of Georgia. My business depends on the lake not only to supply water for processing but is also a major factor in attracting management talent to the area. We continuously lose management recruits to southwestern Atlanta and it gets worse when the lake is not maintained to this minimum level. Also, we invest in ways to reduce water consumption yet water prices just go higher to maintain revenue for the municipalities. Consequently, we net lose our investment and eventually must relocate manufacturing operations to more favorable areas.

Comment ID: 0176
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

0176

West Point Lake should be maintained at 633 - 635 msl at all times to insure access for recreational purposes. We have had several dangerous situations when boating at lower levels. I believe that Congress mandated that West Point Lake would be maintained for recreational purposes and all policies should reflect this. Many engineering reports have shown that is possible to do a better job to protect this very important resource and Congress mandates that as well.

Comment ID: 0177
Author Name: William R Stump,Jr
Organization:

0177

the recreational use of west pt lake is of vital importance to the overall health of the community-both to the citizens who enjoy it regularly as well as those who enjoy it as a recreational site whether it be boating or fishing.The economic impact to the Troup County area is greatly dependent on the vitality of the lake as it was originally intended.Surprising the level of the lake has a tremendous affect on the usage"" and consequently the economic effect.The difference in a level of 632 and 635msl literally means hundreds of millions of dollars to local businesses.Equally important is the availability of the lake for local-who many of never leave the bank to fish."

Comment ID: 0178
Author Name:
Organization:

0178

LAGRANGE JUST LOST A HUGE, HIGH QUALITY DEVELOPMENT(INCLUDING CONDOS, GOLF COURSE, HOTEL ETC.)ON WEST POINT LAKE BECAUSE THE LAKE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED"" TO STAY AT FULL POOL OR EVEN DECENT POOL!! "

Comment ID: 0179
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

0179

Maximum efforts must be made to insure that an appropriate level is maintained in WEst Point Lake to provide drinking water.Why can't we hold the water here when we have?

Comment ID: 0180
Author Name:
Organization:

0180

When will Floridians be accountable for their use of water? When will they be asked to account for watering indiscriminately while demanding more of our water supply be released to them--and for freshwater mussels/clams or whatever? If their neighbors (Georgia, etc.) are experiencing extreme conditions, why not ask for their support in limiting their use as well? What is good for one, in this case, would be beneficial to all involved.

Comment ID: 0181
Author Name:
Organization:

0181

WE NEED TO KEEP THESE AREAS VIABLE.

Comment ID: 0182
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

0182

the constant fluctuations with our water levels on West Point Lake isn't good for any aspect of the basin if we held constant water levels it would not only have a huge economic impact on our local economy it would provide more water storage for the entire basin in periods of historic drought

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Comment ID: 0183
Author Name: Tripp Penn
Organization:

0183

The significant fluctuations in the lake levels have a serious impact on recreation, local economies and potentially water quality. The low levels last year made the lake nearly impossible to maneuver in a boat for half the summer and all of the off-season. This made recreation and fishing impossible, brought many businesses in proximity to the lake to a halt, and made it very difficult to move houses and real estate close to the lake. I'm sure that there are valid concerns to be considered downstream, but this doesn't mean that the people upstream should be punished and their overall quality of life should be diminished. Please, please consider the impact on this region in making future lake management decisions.

Comment ID: 0184
Author Name:
Organization:

0184

we liveon thwe lake, near longcane park and find it beautiful and perfect for recreation when at or near full pool. it was a great disappointment during th drought of 2007 to see thousands of muscles drying and dying in the mud flats.We are greatly concered ab out the possible contamination of West Point Lake water from the proposed dump to be built in Merriwether County, but with probable drainage into Blue Creek and thus into Lake West point. We consider this a real peril to those wh receive water from LaGrange or West Point city, from this source.JOHN THOMAS WEST, MD

Comment ID: 0185
Author Name:
Organization:

0185

THE CITY OF LAGRANGE HAS MANY DEVELOPMENTS ON WEST POINT LAKE THAT DO NOT HAVE SEWERS. I FEEL THIS IS A TRAVESTY.ALSO LANDFILLS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEECH INTO ANY OF THE LAKES WHERE PEOPLE FISH AND EAT THOSE FISH, OTHER LIKE TO SWIM AND ENJOY PICNICS ON THE SHORE.

0186

Comment ID: 0186
Author Name: Wayne Anderson
Organization:

The economic impact on the West Point Lake is huge.At full level,the area benefits from recreation,sporting,and conservation. Without consistent and reliable level management these objectives disappear.thank you for your concerted effort to keep a full pool at West Point.

0187

Comment ID: 0187
Author Name: Wayne Anderson
Organization:

The flint river basin is a huge water resource for Southern GA.Efforts must be made to provide flood and water flow options for this river.

Comment ID: 0188
Author Name: Janet Neal
Organization:

0188

The lake impacts the economics for this area. We need to keep the lake level up in order to offer a good recreational facility. The lake is a positive draw to attract new people and industry to the area. The lake needs to be maintained at a 633 to 635 MSL in order to support water quality for the population of West Georgia.

Comment ID: 0189
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

0189

the action zones on West Point Lake should be changed to meet the rest ofthe lakes on the basin there isn't a logical reason that we should have such dramatic fuctutions

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Comment ID: 0190 0190
Author Name: Charles Prestridge
Organization:

Thanks for your help in keeping the lake level up this year. I know that you cannot predict weather patterns, but keeping the winter pool up at about 632-633 should help make sure that summer/fall pools are higher. West Point is such a great lake and asset to this area. Your work on the recreation areas, boat launches, picnic day use areas, is vital and appreciated. With budget cuts and increased costs, thank you for making this lake a priority. We need to make sure the facilities are maintained and continue to operate. This area is full of volunteers that can help with projects if needed. I know that you may have to lower the lake level (winter-time) for maintenance, etc. If you have to do this, Yellow Jacket, Horace King, etc. (deep water extended ramps), need to have the larger rocks removed at the end of the ramps. Last fall it was very difficult to launch a boat, because the trailer would be unlevel. One tire would be on rocks and the other would be in a hole. Thanks for coming to LaGrange for input on how critical the lake is to this area. It is a beautiful lake and a treasure to have in this area. We just took a boat trip down the Chattahoochee from Walter F. George to Seminole. Thanks for operating the locks. Thank you very much.

Comment ID: 0191 0191
Author Name: Kyle W Crawford
Organization:

Why is the rule curve for West Point Lake so dramatically different than the rule curve for any other lake in our basin? Why does winter pool have to be 628 if the corp was able to avoid flooding of West Point, Georgia during May of 2003, when the flood of the century occurred while the lake was at 635. The highest the lake got during that flood was 641 or thereabout, some 6 feet above full pull. Surely there is some common ground that can be agreed upon where winter pool can be raised so that our lake is safely navigable during the off season months.

Comment ID: 0192
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

0192

the West point reservoir provides a source of recreation for economically challenged families that have no other outlets without sustainable water levels which we have not had in years

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Comment ID: 0193
Author Name: Maureen Struble
Organization:

0193

I support the comments on the blue sheet of paper.

Comment ID: 0194
Author Name: William Robinson
Organization:

0194

Control the level of West Point Lake at 633 - 635 feet.

Comment ID: 0195
Author Name: Kyle W Crawford
Organization:

0195

Safe recreation of West Point lake is substantially diminished at levels below full pool. In fact, safe boating is virtually impossible at levels below 630. With today's technology why is it not possible to manage West Point Lake in such a way that it is not the work horse"" of the basin. Flood control can be achieved without lowering the lake to the point where it cannot be used by most of the dock owners on the lake."

Comment ID: 0196
Author Name: matthew walker
Organization:

0196

I am very concerned about several issues associated with Lake West Point; 1) water quality- as the population continues to increase throughout the region and existing waste treatment facilities age, it is putting increased pressure on the quality of the downstream stakeholders. Maintaining a minimum flow for water quality can be also addressed by increasing the water quality released by the waste water plants discharging into the river. To simply fine the municipality is not enough. More must be done to insure that all of the downstream stakeholders are taken care of. 2) lake levels- one of the original intents of the lake was to provide flood control, again as the population increases, the demand for water is increasing, these minimum levels need to be revisted and addressed. I am constantly hearing about the mussels and sturgeons down stream. I sympathize with him, however, in years past (prior to the dams), when the river ran dry (during drought conditions), I doubt seriously too many people were concerned about the wildlife. I believe that part of the equation should be to maintain a mass balance of whatever enters the lake is allowed to leave the lake. 3) Again with the population growth in the metro-Atlanta area, there is already an increased pressure to look for other sources of water. One of those is Lake West Point. Again, this will affect demand on the lake and the lake level.I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Comment ID: 0197
Author Name: Michael Edwards
Organization:

0197

I have lived near West Point Lake for 15 years. I chose to live in this area because of the lake. Variations in lake level have had a dramatic impact to our area. West Point Lake was chartered to be a recreational lake and needs to be managed as such. This lake is a tremendous asset to West Georgia. Please consider keeping the lake level at 635 all year.

0198

Comment ID: 0198
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

West Point Lake was not put in place to support GA/Al power plants down stream it should be a crime for the lakes that are managed by the corps to be drained each year when the ga power lakes down stream have full beautiful lakes all the while screaming for more water for their down stream plants

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0199

Comment ID: 0199
Author Name: Johnny R Ashmore
Organization:

I believe that we need an update version of the water control manual, one that is more appropriate to the challange that the area is currently facing. I believe that this manual should be be consistant with current needs of the basin and the lakes and rivers it governs .

0200

Comment ID: 0200
Author Name: Kyle W Crawford
Organization:

As a resident of Troup County for 36 years, I am keenly aware of the varied use of the lake depending on the level. When people don't use the lake, businesses that tailor to them suffer substantially. As a resident of the lake for the last 8 years, I have personally witnessed the limited use of the lake when the level is below 630.

0201

Comment ID: 0201
Author Name: James A. Stinson
Organization:

Please maintain minimum lake levels of 633 msl during the winter months. The impact of the lake levels directly impacts recreational access for low income and minority families. I am also concerned about maintaining and protecting water quality for my children and their children.

0202

Comment ID: 0202
Author Name: Johnny R Ashmore
Organization:

I do not believe just based on my limited knowledge and the information i have discover and read that West point lake was originally intended to be a source of hydro power.

0203

Comment ID: 0203
Author Name: Beth Stinson
Organization:

The actions that allowed the lake levels to fall so low to the point that grass was growing in the middle of what was once a creek channel impacted the citizens of Troup county and surrounding areas economically and recreationally. Maintaining the lake levels at 633 msl will protect the water source and create opportunities for recreational uses for minority and low income families. Having water in the lake attracts families from other communities and brings in revenue to local businesses. I support maintaining the six critical issues listed by the West Point Lake Advisory Council and commend them for their committment to our community.

0204

Comment ID: 0204
Author Name: Lee Bedingfield
Organization:

Decrease the winter draw down level on all reservoirs to reduce the impact of drought conditions. This reduction may for short periods impact flood control if we have a series of extremely heavy rain periods but you will not have the long lasting impact of low water conditions in which to recover.

0205

Comment ID: 0205
Author Name: Rocky Millenbine
Organization:

Many people do not notice all the different dams/lakes below West Point Lake. I personally think we need to think more about the individuals from all these areas and not just about the boat dock owners around West Point Lake. If we did the concern would be about releasing enough water to supply all these areas and having enough flood storage to prevent future flooding of the areas down stream of West Point Lake.

0206

Comment ID: 0206
Author Name: Johnny R Ashmore
Organization:

I believe that recreation on West point and all of the lakes in the basin is an extremly important use of our lakes. Recreation, if the lakes are maintain at safe levels, is a key component in the economic stability of many of the communities in which the lakes serve. I think that drastic flucuation in these levels expecially those that could be prevented, negativley impact these communities and there economic growth. A lot of this is due to the lost of revenue from lost fishing tournaments and other revenue producing attractions. In many of these communities recreation at these local lakes is sometimes the only chance for low income families to come together in an affordable manor.

0207

Comment ID: 0207
Author Name: Lillian Ford
Organization:

It is very important to this area to allow water levels to remain such that the lake use can continue year round. We must maintain water storage in the lake. I for one live on the north end of Troup County. We have several problems. The lake is filling in at an alarming rate. In a matter of a few years I won't have water under the dock. At pool full we don't have 5 feet of water. Now we have water plants taking over. Never should this lake be destroyed as it was last year.

Comment ID: 0208 0208
Author Name: RON GARRETT
Organization:

OUR BIGGEST CONCERN IS THE WATER LEVEL BECAUSE THE LAKE THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL CREEK ON BEECH CREEK.

Comment ID: 0209 0209
Author Name: Lee Bedingfield
Organization:

Metro Atlanta is vital to the states economy but they have to be in compliance with their release BOD/COD levels. Instead of maintaining a minimum flow upstream to account for wastewater permit violations there should be either stiffer fines or take a stronger legal approach.

0210

Comment ID: 0210
Author Name: Rocky Millenbine
Organization:

This should be top priority. The amount that would be damaged in a flooding situation should outweigh the need for increased storage for recreation purposes.

0211

Comment ID: 0211
Author Name: Kyle W Crawford
Organization:

I John Crawford think that we I mean the lake should have more water. Like the water should always have the same amount of water not like lowering the water every two or three maybe even four mouths.I just don't like it that much and it makes boating dangerous.

0212

Comment ID: 0212
Author Name: Andy Fritchley
Organization:

I am deeply concerned over the inflows and outflows of West Point Lake and the impact that has on water quality of area residents. West Point Lake is essential for drinking water and maintaining a consistent water level (633 - 635) is critical for residents.We take great pride in our lake and want to pass it on to our children and our children's children.

0213

Comment ID: 0213
Author Name: Donna Garrett
Organization:

We are very concerned about how low the water was this time last year and if will ever be that low again. We also had dead mussels on the dry land at our house when the water was down. There was only a 5-7 foot creek behind our house instead of 200 yards !!!

Comment ID: 0214
Author Name: Dr. George M Henry
Organization:

0214

I live near West Point Lake adjacent to Ringer Park. During the present drought, until a few months ago we saw the water level so low as to be dangerous for boaters and swimmers, inaccessible to docks and unattractive for other recreational uses.By balancing outflow with thankfully better inflow this summer, the level was kept at or near full pool since spring . However, the current policy permitting this one lake to carry a markedly disproportionate burden in maintaining downstream flow threatens the water quality, power generation, and economic viability of the entire area. This current policy violates the original rationale and promises made when the impoundment was developed. A lake level of 633-635 MSL is known to be the necessary minimum for West Point Lake.

George Henry, MD

Comment ID: 0215
Author Name: Rocky Millenbine
Organization:

0215

The issue of socioeconomics should include the entire ACF region not just those concerned with West Point Lake. Most complaints I have heard on this issue are from those only looking at local numbers. These people need to have finacial amounts that are produced downstream so they can see that holding more water at West Point Lake would actually have an overall negative impact on the entire area.

0216

Comment ID: 0216
Author Name: david scott
Organization:

This project was intitially sought after by citizens of West Point, GA in an attempt to reduce the effects of flooding in the Chattahoochee river. This has been accomplished by the West Point dam and lake. It was most recently tested in May of 2003. With the largest flood on record the Dam reduced flooding greatly. The lake rose 10 feet to its maximum storage level at which time all inflows had to be matched by the dams outflows to maintain the dam's integrity. My main concern is this, if that exact situation happened again with the lake at 635' MSL rather than 630' MSL what will the result be below the dam. 130,000 ac.ft. of extra water will have to pass over the spillway gates as compared to the 2003 flood. Since the maximum storage level will be reached quicker in this hypothetical situation, all inflows will have to be matched at an earlier stage which could increase flood levels below the dam even more. My main concern as a citizen with family and property below West Point Dam is that we continue to be protected by the project, and that our safety is not disregarded in an attempt to keep someone's dock afloat all winter long!

0217

Comment ID: 0217
Author Name: Lillian Ford
Organization:

Recreation is about the only lifeblood left in this area. So many small business in Troup County have suffered and failed without water.Why can't water remain in the lake year round. Water is used for electricy and the dam monitered if large amounts of rain fall the over flow could allow this water through. Allowing the water to flow through to an area the is not holding it but running on into the ocean makes no sense. Why were resivors never built on the Flint River?

0218

Comment ID: 0218
Author Name: CHARLES
Organization:

In my opinion the lake levels need to be maintained during peak recreational times due the economic effect on our lake community. When the lake levels are not full the enjoyment of the lake is not at its full potential which means that citizens are not earning their full income which supports them for the off season as well as the on season. We need to remember that it is not just an enjoyment or play issue, but it is an issue which effects the lively hood of citizens. If our lake levels drop then our water supply drops. We need water to survive! If it can be here naturally, then it needs to be left here. We do not need to be paying to pump water into our community for survival when it can be here naturally to be filtered through the water treatment plants. We already have to spend enough money treating the water due to our poor pollution effects and lifestyles that we do not need to spend more pumping it in. Thirdly, our wildlife depends upon the water levels to survive. We need to support their life which in turn supports our life through food sources and oxygen. These are three reasons in my opinion which support leaving our lake levels at full pool for the various seasons.

0219

Comment ID: 0219
Author Name: Todd Vinson
Organization:

The plan needs to be updated so the lake can be maintained at a full pool level for more months during the year.

0220

Comment ID: 0220
Author Name: Rocky Millenbine
Organization:

The issue of ensuring recreational access for low income and minority families"" that the West Point Lake Advisory Council is attempting to push is rediculous. The ones that are effected are the wealthy not the poor! Those that are complaining about low lake levels are the ones who are wealthy enough to own a house with boat dock on the lake. Use by low income families are not effected by dry boat docks! This is the rich attempting to take advantage of the issue of helping the poor!"

0221

Comment ID: 0221
Author Name: Carol Todd
Organization:

I strongly believe that the Corps should keep the lake levels at West Point Lake between 633-635 msl. West Point lake was congressionally authorized as a fishing and recreation lake, and I feel that any plans affecting the lake basins need to include this recreational purpose. Also, many lowerincome ndividuals rely on West Point Lake for sustenance.Also, I believe the water quality needs to reflect the recreational use as well and maintain the standards as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

0222

Comment ID: 0222
Author Name: Lillian Ford
Organization:

There has to be a better way to moniter the water levels of this water way. Tenn seemed to have near full reserve of water when we were near dry. Who makes decisions on draining a water way without using your eyes? What will fix this?

0223

Comment ID: 0223
Author Name: Dr. George M Henry
Organization:

A new impoundment on the upper Flynt, while attractive to some in the longterm hope of reservoir supply for metro Atlanta growth, forebodes severe ecological damage to the bioregion and threat to the balance between aquifer and surface flow in the lower Flynt.

Lake West Point carries much too great a burden for managing the downstream flow toward Lake Seminole and Florida, as Lake Lanier suffers from the triple woes of low inflow, severe managerial errors in 2007, and Atlanta's unrestrained growth and inadequate water planning. The Southern Company lakes along the Chattahoochee should be required to participate in the maintenance of downstream flow also. West Point Lake cannot do it all.

George Henry, MD

Comment ID: 0224
Author Name:
Organization:

0224

I live below West Point Dam, and though I am not in the inundation zone, if the water level is kept at 635' year round, I feel for the unfortunate families who are downstream and living in that zone. The main reason the lake is dropped to begin with is to allow for Spring rains to fill the lake back up without worry of overflowing or having to release large amounts of water, thus flooding the homes and businesses downstream. What is the importance of keeping the lake level at 635'? It is important solely for recreation, which can still be appreciated at 630' msl. You will notice that the group which is really pushing this issue is the dock owners around the lake. Now, tell me what is more important: having a floating dock year round or having the safety and security of knowing that West Point Lake is being managed to reduce floods which could destroy your home.Then, proponents of this higher lake level bring up last year's low summer level: they want to prevent that from happening again. Well, that drop was natural. We were in a drought. If you took the time to drive around and look at farm ponds and other lakes, they were down too. And look at how much the wildlife benefited from that drop. The exposed shoreline allowed plants to grow and flourish, which in turn provided cover and food for fish. Also, you could see deer browsing along the shorelines. Even ducks benefited from the grasses and forbs which grew along the shoreline as the water came back up.Over all, as a local resident to West Point Lake, I am proud to say that I can see the bigger picture. I realize that there is more to West Point Lake than just docks and looking pretty. As West Point Lake is currently managed, with the fluctuating lake levels, it provides so many benefits to ALL of its purposes. The lake provides homes and forage for wildlife in the lake and downstream, aids navigation, provides recreation to approximately 3 million people per year, maintains water quality, but most of all, provides safety and security for those living downstream.Thank you.

Comment ID: 0225
Author Name: Patrick Crews
Organization:

0225

West Point Lake is a very beautiful natural lake. I truly appreciate the fact that we do not allow construction near the shoreline. When water levels are allowed to drop significantly, the beauty of the lake is destroyed. When you visit lakes controlled by Georgia Power, those lake's water levels remain constant even during droughts.As a banker, I can see the economic impact the low levels have on businesses owners and property owners. The lake is a tremendous economic engine for this entire region.I also look at the number of folks that park and fish off the banks during the year,family reunions, parties, fishing events, etc that are always going on around the lake.I ask that the Corp consider allowing the lake to stay at 635 year round.

Comment ID: 0226
Author Name: Coleman Vice
Organization:

0226

we need the water level at 635 for the growth of the lake and area plus the access for citzens all around the lake is very important - water flow for clean water is very important please listen to the citzens of Troup County for that we can work together in having a wonderful lake for everone

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Comment ID: 0227
Author Name:
Organization:

0227

Keeping West Point lake at full pool throughout the recreation seasons (March through November) is very important. Keeping winter(off-season) elevation at 632 would allow much better utilization of the lake and would increase the value of the resource compared to lower elevations, but would still provide large amounts of storage for flood control.With today's technology, weather forecasting and flow control modeling, the entire basin should be managed to maximize lake elevations throughout the basin.

Comment ID: 0228
Author Name: Peter Mallory
Organization:

0228

WEST POINT LAKEFOR ECONOMIC REASONS THE LAKE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT THE 633-635 msl.MANY SMALL BUSINESSES SUFFER AT LOWER LAKE LEVELS.

Comment ID: 0229
Author Name: marjorie knipp
Organization:

0229

We need your consideration in keeping the water supply in Lake West Point at a full or near full pool. Our quality of life in the community is affected by the lake being maintained a this level. The quality of drinking water is a major concern. This year has been a good year with the pool holding up so far. With this residents have been able to use the lake recreationally. The benefit economically is huge. We have had fishing tournaments consistently throughout this season, keeping motels full and bringing many visitors to the area.

0230

Comment ID: 0230
Author Name: Scott Harris
Organization:

I think we need to keep the lake levels at the minimum levels, 633.

0231

Comment ID: 0231
Author Name:
Organization:

There is no reason that West Point Lake should be utilized as the workhorse"" of the basin to supplement all of the needs. West Point Lake should have priority and all lakes on the basin should be considered in the overall flow management."

0232

Comment ID: 0232
Author Name: Todd Vinson
Organization:

A large dam on the Flint River would help to conserve water up stream as well as maintain a good flow of water in times of a drought.

0233

Comment ID: 0233
Author Name: Terry McMillian
Organization:

West Point is critical to the economic development and positive business climate of our community. Tothis end, please maintain our lake level a 633-635 ms and improve our water quality. It would help to stop Atlanta from dumping its raw sewage into the river that feeds our West Point lake. We also need to restore and maintain our recreational facilities. Thank you for your consideration

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Comment ID: 0234
Author Name: roy spinks
Organization:

0234

The Corp is encouraged to maintain the lake consistent with the original congressinally authorized uses.A minimal operating level of 633' msl will have a great economic impact on the W Ga area as experienced in 2008 as a result of the stable pool.This will improve water quality and reduce shoreline erosion as well by stabilizing the water level.End of comments.

Comment ID: 0235
Author Name:
Organization:

0235

Water quality and water supply should be at the top of the priority list when considering Lake West Point.

Comment ID: 0236
Author Name:
Organization:

0236

In times of drought, priority should be given to keeping lake elevations high rather than allowing high river flow rates to artificially supplement the atural"" flow. Drought is a ""natural"" condition. "

Comment ID: 0237
Author Name: Sharon Mitchell
Organization:

0237

As a long time resident of West Point Lake I have witnessed the socioeconomic drain on our city and surrounding areas due to consistently low water levels. When our lake is kept at a minimum level of 633 to 635 msl our lake and other local businesses experience positive benefits. I ask that you return to managing the lake consistent with its Congressionally authorized purposes. Restore and maintain our recreational facilities and maintain our water quality.

0238

Comment ID: 0238
Author Name: archiemitchell
Organization:

ihave livedon west point lake forthe past 23 years.ihave onlywitnessed two ofthose 23 years were the waterremained clearand the lake stayed fullthroughoutthe summerseason.thank you for those twoprecious years as theymeanta lot to me and my family.

0239

Comment ID: 0239
Author Name:
Organization:

Thank goodness Atlanta sewer upgrades are finally underway. Atlanta needs to do what ever it takes to keep their releases clean. Sending polluted water downstream should never be tolerated again. My children swim in these waters, and my family eats the fish!!!

Comment ID: 0240
Author Name: Jeff Todd
Organization:

0240

the operation of the system this summer and fall, particularly the Corps ability to store more in WPL, has made a great impact on our ability to see the lake fullfill the authorized purpose of recreation. Serious study should be given to leveling out our action zones, and raising the winter pool to 633. We think that flood control would not suffer as a result, and that having that extra storage in WPL when the flows are truly needed downstream would be very positive.We have serious questions as to whether the project is being operated to fullfill the project purpose of recreation, on the whole, and would like to see that aspect of our purposes given a higher priority in the water control plan.

Comment ID: 0241
Author Name:
Organization:

0241

I like the possibility of building smaller dams on the creeks of the Flint River instead of damming the Flint.

Comment ID: 0242
Author Name:
Organization:

0242

Extinction is a natural process and if a drought means that threatened or endangered species might become extinct, then so be it. Put the needs of the HUMANS above the needs of the animals.

Comment ID: 0243
Author Name: Peter Houghton
Organization:

0243

We need a water level of around 632 ft.winter and summer to be able to use the lake year around. Any lower and we caanor launch our boats.

0244

Comment ID: 0244
Author Name:
Organization:

The support of navigation on the chattahoochee is ridiculous! During times of drought the barges should shut down. That's what we have trucks for. There are millions of people that depend on the storage of that water - compared to the interests of a VERY few barge owners. Barges can run when we get rain.

0245

Comment ID: 0245
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

Continuation from previous comments:It is critical that all interest be considered equally-Florida's cry about endangered species MUST be considered in light of all species up and down the basin, from spawning fish in West Point lake to PEOPLE in Atlanta.We need to remove the gamesmanship from the process and use real science and common sense. I don't think any of the people up and down the basin want to destroy the environment, but there is a tremendous need to consider all stakeholders. In extreme drought, why not let the flow of the river determine flows into Apalachicola Bay? The mussels and sturgen survived many droughts before the lakes-they can do it again. Draining Lake Lanier as a short term fix for endangered species will possibly take years to refill, whereas the mussels and sturgen would have been just fine on run of the river as they were for thousands of years before the dams.All interests need to be considerd and evaluated fairly with no one allowed a trump card at everyone eles's expense.

0246

Comment ID: 0246
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

I would like to see the Corps manage West Point Lake at levels from 633-635 msl. This will ensure improved water quality and reserve so that during drought conditions in the summer, the lake will not be drained. Additionally, this will allow recreational use year round and will greatly increase economic conditions for LaGrange and Troup County.

0247

Comment ID: 0247
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

By maintaining West Point Lake from 633-635 msl year round, drought conditions will not cause such a dramatic effect during the summer.

0248

Comment ID: 0248
Author Name:
Organization:

We need more lake shore development. Marinas, restaurants, entertainment venues should be encouraged and permitting of such facilities should be simplified. Put the people first!

0249

Comment ID: 0249
Author Name: Alan E Trainer
Organization:

Please continue your efforts in maintaining a full pool in West Point Lake. Our lake looks terrible when it is down. It is evident by the large number of boats on trailers I see daily on our roads in LaGrange and Troup County that our lake is a tremendous contributor to our local economy. The city of Atlanta needs to be monitored very closely for the release of untreated wastewater into the ACF system.

Comment ID: 0250
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

0250

I have two children under seven (7) years old and I am concerned about water quality during periods of low lake levels. Last year, the West Point Lake dropped close to Dead Pool. This creates less dilution and thus requires additional chemical treatment. I am concerned about my children having to drink this type water. By changing the Action Zones to levels between 633-635 msl, we can help to ensure better water quality.

Comment ID: 0251
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

0251

Low lake levels create dangerous conditions for recreation such as boating, skiing, tubing, PWC, etc. There are many hidden dangers such as dead trees and stumps that become dangerously close to the surface at lower levels.Additionally, low levels reduce recreation and greatly decrease the economics of LaGrange and Troup county.

Comment ID: 0252
Author Name:
Organization:

0252

The use of West Point Dam to control flood should be balanced with the economic impact of low lake levels. This is a risk reward issue. If in fact the economic impact is not taken into account in the manual update the Corps is not taking into account all the risk involved in there water control policy.

Comment ID: 0253
Author Name:
Organization:

0253

The Corp should increase the size of docks allowed on West Point Lake. It is unfair to residents of West Point Lake to allow residents on Lake Lanier and other lakes to have significantly larger docks. I know of no reason that residents of West Point Lake should not be able to have docks as large as those allowed on Lake Lanier. I would greatly appreciate a change in this policy so that we could have docks on Lake West Point equal in size to those allowed on Lanier.

Comment ID: 0254
Author Name: Phil Horton
Organization:

0254

I appreciate being able to meet with members of the US Army Corps of Engineers on the evening of October 22, 2008 in LaGrange, Georgia. I understand the Corp of Engineers must protect areas downstreem from West Point lake from floods. However, I think the Water Control Manual needs to be revised to reduce the economic impact the lowering of West Point Lake has on the LaGrange, Hogansville, and West Point areas. Rather than dropping the lake from November through March, why can't the lake be lowered in late December or January. I believe records will reflect most flood situations have occurred from January through April. Another month or two of normal lake levels could have a very positive impact on this area's economic situation. It would also buy time to analyze the weather patterns to determine if the ACF River Basin is in a rainy or drought cycle each year. Perhaps this would help us avoid another dangerously low lake situation like we had in 2007.

Comment ID: 0255
Author Name: Phil Horton
Organization:

0255

In preparing the ACF Water Control Manual Update great consideration needs to be given to recreational use of West Point Lake. Over the years the recreation aspect of West Point Lake has resulted in a very significant economic impact to all the communities in close proximity to the lake. A revision of policy to not reduce West Point Lake by as much as previously mandated in the Water Control Manual and/or reducing the levels a month or two later in the year could have a significant positive economic impact on the region.

Comment ID: 0256
Author Name: Phil Horton
Organization:

0256

An issue I've heard little about is how the continual raising and lowering of West Point Lake has severely eroded the shoreline of the lake. When the lake is raised, the shoreline soil is saturated with water. As long as the water level is up everything is fine. However, when the water levels are dropped, the saturated soil along the shoreline collapses (erodes) due to no longer held up by the water pressure of the higher lake levels. The result is that the shoreline receeds due to this erosive action and the collapsed soil along the shoreline washes into the lake when the water levels rise. This has happened in the area of our dock. It used to be in channel that we could navigate during low water levels, however, there has been so much erosion over the last several years, our dock now essentially becomes land-locked due to the silt buildup over the years. This erosive action caused by the constant raising and lowering of the lake levels needs to be given serious consideration when preparing an updated ACF Water Control Manual.

Comment ID: 0257
Author Name: Phil Horton
Organization:

0257

In 2007, our water supply from West Point Lake got dangerously low. Consideration should be given to reducing the draw-down of West Point Lake in the future and/or drawing down the lake a month or two later in the year. Drawing down the lake in November seems premature considering most of this area's heavy, flood producing rains usually occur in the months of January through April.

0258

Comment ID: 0258
Author Name: Tim Gay
Organization:

I agree with the recommendation to maintain lake levels at 633-635 msl. I personally use the lake year round for hunting and fishing. Low levels in winter months are dangerous.

0259

Comment ID: 0259
Author Name: Randall Norred
Organization:

West Point Lake has been misused during droughts. Even when rainfall below us is greater that what we receive,we are still sending water down stream. Other lakes below West Point That are not managed by the Corp never deviate.

0260

Comment ID: 0260
Author Name: Randy Norred
Organization:

A project on the Flint could ease the strain on the Chattahoochee.

0261

Comment ID: 0261
Author Name: Randy Norred
Organization:

Dropping West Point below 633 has hurt the water quality, caused erosion,effected economics,and many other negative effects.

Comment ID: 0262
Author Name: louis j. cue
Organization:

0262

concerned about the water level being so low. i am a avid fisherman, fishing at least three times a week.
The last three years, the fishing has declined greatly. I FISH FOR CHANNEL CAT IN PERTICKLY. ANY MORE YOU HAVED TO FISH ALL DAY JUST TO CATCH 5 OR 6 FISH. I MOVED DOWN HERE 8 YEARS AGO JUST FOR THE FISHING. I MOVED HERE FROM LANSING, IOWA. HAD A BAIT SHOP FOR 28 YRS AND A GUIDE SERVICE. WORKED WITH THE DNR AS A ADVISER AND FISHING REPORTER. AS I SEE IT,THE FISHING IN THIS AREA OF FLOIDA HAS GREATLY DECLINED. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT THE FLATHEAD FISH HAS TAKEN OVER THE RIVER SYSTEMS. I FISH FOR PANFISH ALOT TOO. SAME DEAL. HARD TO CATCH A MESS.I HAVE WATCHED THE DNR SHOCKING FOR CHANNEL CAT WITH VERY LITTLE SUCESS.I THINK FISHING BEDDING FISH IS A BIG MISTAKE.I DON'T DO THAT. MAY BE THE FLATHEADS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT. THANK YOU KEEP ME INFORMED.

Comment ID: 0263
Author Name: Daniel H. Cox
Organization:

0263

Any allocation of water resources within the ACF system must be based on sound scientific analysis of the fresh water needs and salt water tolerances of the Apalachicola Bay. I have lived my whole life within the ACF basin and can attest to the fact that the lack of fresh water in the downstream system has altered the biology of the flood plains and caused long term ecological damage to the system. Fresh water flows at historic levels must be restored to the Apalachicola river.

Comment ID: 0264 0264
Author Name: Coweta County Water Authority
Organization:

My concern last night no one seemed interested enough to know the answer. Is the update to the manual a full scale update or a band-aid approach?

Thanks
Ellis P. Cadenhead

Comment ID: 0265 0265
Author Name: ray roesel
Organization:

maintain water lake level of 633-635 mantain water quality restore and mantain recreational facilities

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Comment ID: 0266
Author Name: Ralph Peery
Organization:

0266

Maintaining a lake level of 633-635. Maximizing positive econmic impact. Return to managing the lake consistant with congressionally aurthorized purposes. Restore and maintain recreational facilities. Ensure recreational acess for low income and minority families. Maintain water quality.

Comment ID: 0267
Author Name: doug pauley
Organization:

0267

i would like to see this lake maintained at 633 msl or higher year round

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Comment ID: 0268
Author Name: doug pauley
Organization:

0268

i am glad to see that commercial navigation activities (incl dredging) have been suspended. i would like to see this activity removed as an authorized purpose

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Comment ID: 0269
Author Name: doug pauley
Organization:

0269

i am concerned about water supply and water quality on this project

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Comment ID: 0270
Author Name: dan forrest
Organization:

0270

West Point Lake needs to be held at levels at or about 635 year round to help promote year round activities ie Fishing, camping and water sports.

We can also serve as a drinking water source for areas in the South Atlanta Metro area in order to take pressure off the limited resources of Lake Lanier.

The economic impact has been proven both thru an indepth study as well as revenue differences between last year and this year with the Fishing Tournaments that were cancelled last year and were held this year.

Comment ID: 0271
Author Name: Carl C. Staley, Jr.
Organization:

0271

I attended the public meeting in Marietta. Was impressed with the data shared and the demonstration. However, no one had an answer about the amount of water going through the system in excess of minimums required. Assuming that there is excess flow has consideration been given to piping water back to Lake Lanier? With the time estimates to refill Lake Lanier to normal pool with normal rainfall being what they are someone needs to be looking for alternative sources of water. It appears that the original design of Lake Lanier with its limited watershed has created a situation that will be a recurring concern that neeeds to be addressed.

Comment ID: 0272
Author Name: Marsha Woodward
Organization:

0272

I appreciate what the corp is doing to try and help with our lake.West point Lake Was built primarily for recreation for Troup County and for flood control for West POINT.We bought our land and built a small house just for our retirement,to be able to fish and enjoy the water to the fullest.I understand all about the drought we have had for the past few years but fail to understand why we have to be denied our water just to satisfy our neighboring states. Alabama has plenty of water running thru it, they acould build more reseviors and use their water for electricty and what else.Florida needs to understand that the natural flow from the incoming rivers is only so much, and stop bickering about what we have worked to store to take care of the people here in Ga. I sincerely hope that the corps can find a way to keep our lake at no less than 630' year round, it aould drop a little more but then would put all boats and people at risk that use the lake year round like the local residents, not to mention the business that is lost in the county. Please do what you can to help us. Thank You Marsha

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Comment ID: 0273
Author Name: kathleen autry
Organization:

0273

I stay at the home of my employer for months as he travels the world as a biblical archaeologist. I dog sit for him at his home on the lake. I have seen it last year dry as a bone and I could walk clear across the entire lake. All the plankton, marine life, etc. died as the water was let out each day to go to Florida.
Some balance needs to be met here. I am from Texas and volunteering at the Antiquity museum and it is so hard to see fish dying because they are caught in a small pool and it just dries up on them and there is no place for them to go. It is one thing for nature to control wildlife but for man to destroy all this life and ruin the balance of ecolocy on purpose is very hard to understand. I hope you come to some understanding with the neighboring states that the water needs to be shared equally and not all sent downstream. Kathleen Autry

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Comment ID: 0274
Author Name: Michael Halicki
Organization:

0274

I believe that the Corps has a difficult job to do in the ACF. There are lots of stakeholders and lots of competing agendas.

These circumstances make it difficult to develop a plan that makes everyone happy. That said, from the press reports, it appears that the Corps may be pursuing a course of action that makes no one happy. It is for this reason that I submit the following comment.

From my perspective, there are three needs that make sense to me regardless to one's vantage point within the basin. First, there is a need to develop a solid base of facts. Presently, facts are widely disputed throughout the basin. An ACF basinwide study could provide the facts and sound science needed for good policymaking moving forward.

Second, there is the need to study alternatives to the RIOP. To use this waste this opportunity by merely documenting existing operations is a waste of taxpayer money towards an end that makes little sense and will cost a lot of money. If you don't have the money to do what you should do, it still doesn't make it right to squander the resources you have on a process that fails to engage on the important issues facing the basin. This is not the time for timidity. This is the time for leadership. Third, there is a need for a formalized stakeholder process that engages the stakeholders in a meaningful way to work through the goals of the basin study and the alternatives analysis.

As an Atlanta resident, I fear that downstream interests have consistently taken precedence over our region's water supply needs. This concern feels validated by the present state of Lake Lanier.

--Michael Halicki

PS In the spirit of full disclosure, I feel compelled to note that I work for a consulting firm that works with the Atlanta Regional Commission. That said, I submit these view are my own and I submit them on my own behalf as a private citizen.

Comment ID: 0275
Author Name: Becky Gibson
Organization:

0275

As stated in the your description of Apalachicola Bay, it is not just about oysters, but the impact the bay has on other inhabitants of the bay, education and recreation to the area. However, the bay cannot survive without fresh water from the river,so it is imperative to release water to flow into the bay.

Comment ID: 0276
Author Name: Michael Ellis
Organization:

0276

I have lived in the area for almost 9 years. The control of the dam by the corp is extremely poor. A good example is when we flooded several years ago due to holding back the water levels of the dam. Since then we still see water levels in our area rise after heavy rains. When the Corp finally opens up the dam we see this water disappear.

The Corp needs to take a more proactive approach to the creeks that feed into the lake. Example is Long Cane Creek. This needs to be cleaned up and dredged out starting where it empties into the Lake going back. This is causing low areas to flood more than it used to. I have sent pictures of several areas to the Governors office in hopes of taking action against the Corp.

I understand the Corp is not responsible for doing the work. They are responsible for putting pressure on the local county to clean them up. Without this pressure the counties are not going to spend money they don't have to.

Comment ID: 0277
Author Name: Oscar Turner
Organization:

0277

They need to keep this water at a Normal level. We cant even use it to enjoy a summer... it is ALWAYS drained before the Hottest part of summer is here. I have grand children that come to spend the summers, they need to be safe on this lake. The level in WestPointLake is NOT kept at a SAFE level. STOP worrying so much for Mussels and start worring more about humanity.....I pay my taxes, Yall leave the water alone.

0278

Comment ID: 0278
Author Name:
Organization:

it is imperative to the residences and businesses of our area to maintain the recreational facilities and to keep water quality at its best in order to best use the lake. also lake levels to be at 635 minimum for residences and local business to survive and stay in business for tourism. thanks

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0279

Comment ID: 0279
Author Name: Betty Turner
Organization:

If our water is not at a consistant level, this really affects the Fishing and water sports. This lake was built for RECREATION and Flood Control. Well Flood control sure aint a problem. cause we dont get to keep any of our water, Florida seems to get it all. So that leaves us at Recreation,. If you dont have the water, you can use it for recreation.. Our Neighborhood depends on the Lake to keep people here and to get the tourism. Leave the level alone.....

Comment ID: 0280
Author Name: Joshua Norred
Organization:

0280

Our local wildlife (Osprey) depend on the levelized water in WestPointLake. their were several Nest affected by the lower/fast rising Water levels than ever before, this year 2008. Our local economy also depends on the consistant levels to help our tourism and our own hometown folks. Florida is more concerned about Mussels than about the people who depend on this water for drinking (thats a sad thought). Wake up people.. no water means no drinking water also

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Comment ID: 0281
Author Name: Lance Jones
Organization:

0281

I am a resident and boat owner in this area. There are three areas of concern that I have. The first is that of Lake Lanier (LL) as a reservoir.

The lake was created as a reservoir. I understand when water levels and rain fall is at the normal level of letting more water out to support the riverine system. However,without sufficient inflow, the lake levels will obviously drop as has been demonstrated during the current drought. During these times, and the Corps has done a good job this year, water flow must be restricted to what comes in to the lake. During a drought, if 212 CFS enter the lake, let out 212 CFS. However, do not let out the excess that will help refill the lake. Picture how much water the river would be sending downstream during a drought without the lake being here.

Secondly -- Economics. I realize that the Florida panhandle has their economic needs. However, it seems as if the LL area's economic impact has been overlooked. The amount of income generated by recreational activities, tourism, restaurants and the likes is staggaring. Now, if you add in the economic impact of all the marine related industries such as marinas, boat repair/sales, bait shops and the like, the numbers are very large, perhaps even dwarfing those of NW Fl.

Finally, recreation. While not a major issue, I own two sailboats that I sail regularly on LL. LL is a center, in the SE, for sailing and sailboat racing. With the constant low lake levels now, that is having a severe impact upon that. Not only sailing; but, boating in general is greatly affected by the lack of water in the lake.

0282

Comment ID: 0282
Author Name: Lesley Cox
Organization:

Water data have been collected for the past 25 years. I know because I have been involved in the demand for water for downstream users of the ACF Waterway since 1983. I was a board member of the Chipola Basin Protective Group which sued and won the case for removal of the Dead Lakes Dam on the Chipola River in 1988 that resulted in increased water flow to the Apalachicola River. We need water in our river!!! Compare pre-dam and post-dam data. We need the pre-dam water regime in the Apalachicola River and Bay to sustain our important food and livelihood source. Minimum flows are significantly harming the river and bay ecology. The upstream users are taking too much water from the system!!! Since 1983 you have been asked to include to the fresh water requirements of the Apalahchicola River and Bay in your Water Control Manual. It still hastn't been done!!! The ACF file comment file must be huge by now. How about sharing what you've been collecting all these years so everyone knows we've been making these demands all along.

0283

Comment ID: 0283
Author Name: Bruce Whyte
Organization:

The lake level in Lanier is far too low and has resulted in dangerous boating. We have witnessed too many groundings as a result of both low water level and an almost total lack of adequate navigational aids. There are no navigational devices that are visible at night.

Surely the safety of all boaters should be the highest priority.

0284

Comment ID: 0284
Author Name: James Bishop
Organization:

I am a resident in the area. I am concerned about the water supply in Lake Lanier.This drought has gone on for over three years. We can only hope and pray that it will end. We may have to eventually rely on interbasin transfers. Due to the pending Supreme Court review of the GA/AL/FL water problem. No one knows what the outcome of this will be. conservaation is important in a time like this for sure;however, there is only so much we can conserve.

Comment ID: 285
Author Name: Daniel Houghton
Organization:

I would expect to see a much better job of managing the level of West point lake. Last year the corp released more water than the mandate called for and the impact on the local economy was deverstating. I am a houseboater and if this isn't corrected soon the lake will have no value at all the the local area merchants. The low of 621.97 on December 14th 2007 was not at all what should have happened. Our marina had to move and extend our dock 240ft to deeped water because of the mismanagement of the lake level and the total disregaurd for the lake itself. I can't think of any reason not to change the winter pool level to 633msl and around 635 msl summer pool but, if that can't be done I would like someone to explain it to me. I have enjoyed houseboating on the lake since 1997 and I am now ready to find another place to enjoy the water. Thank You

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Comment ID: 0286
Author Name: Raymond Newman
Organization:

West Point Lake need to be maintained at minimum lever of 623-635 MSL. The lake was authorized by Congress for the purpose of general recreation use. It should be maintained at levers that serve that purpose.

If maintained at the proper lever the lake would have a very positive economic impact on the area surrounding the lake in both Alabama and Georgia.

0287

Comment ID: 0287
Author Name: Raymond Newman
Organization:

The West Point Lake should be maintained at the minimum level of 633-635 MSL.
The lake was authorized by Congress for the purpose of general recreation and should be so maintained.

Both Alabama and Georgia regions that surrounding the lake need the economic impact that could be provided if the lake was maintained at the proper levels.

I know that there are other needs for water downstream but I feel that this lake could be better managed to provide for both our needs and theirs.

Thanks for the opportunity to hear the comments that you gave at the meeting. I just hope that you will hear and act on some of the comments that we the people of this area are making.

0288

Comment ID: 0288
Author Name: Eugenia H. Newman
Organization:

Please maintain the lake at the levels that will provide the recreational activities that it was designated for by Congress.

Thanks for your interest in our input.

Comment ID: 0289
Author Name: Eugene Gatwood
Organization:

0289

Please maintain the lake level between 633-635 feet winter pool due primarily to sediment build up. Also, could the lake be dredged between the docks and sandbar in the Grayson's landing area, either federally or private dredging? Again, the reason being sediment buildup which makes it difficult if not impossible to reach the lake from my dock during winter pools of less than 630.

Comment ID: 0290
Author Name: Eugene Gatwood
Organization:

0290

Though the water quality of Lake West Point has improved significantly over the past decade, their are still a high level of impurities in the water. I surmise that it is mainly due to water treatment releases from Atlanta and other cities upriver from the lake. Please continue to monitor the water quality and insure that water treatment releases up river meet or exceed federal standards.

0291

Comment ID: 0291
Author Name: James R Franks
Organization:

I would like to see in the new manual a requirement that annually there be a "shoreline allocation" Review. I have had a petition in to the West Point Office for 6 years and to date no "shoreling allocation review" has taken place. I am told the reason is lack of funds to do the EPA study.
J.R. Franks

0292

Comment ID: 0292
Author Name:
Organization:

As a boater and a resident the water in Lake Lanier is VERY important for recreation and our supply of fresh drinking water.

Comment ID: 0293
Author Name:
Organization:

0293

As a boater (sailboat) and resident, the quantitiy of water in Lake Lnier is vital for recreation and our supply of drinking water. PLEASE reduce the volume of discharge.

Comment ID: 0294
Author Name: Alton Nelson
Organization:

0294

In 1990 my wife and I purchased a home on West Point lake for our retirement years. Since buying the property the lake level has been less than desirable especially in the winter months. When I bought here it was not only for recreation but an investment as well. Considering the past water level history the recreational use of the lake has been marginal at best. If the lake level continues to be managed as it has since 1990, it will result in a poor investment for anyone owning waterfront property. Looking at it from an investment stand point, if the present plan is not redefined as was originally called for by congress it will mean a huge loss of millions of dollars in property values which also negatively affects the Troup County tax rolls.

Comment ID: 0295
Author Name: Kathy Nguyen
Organization:

0295

Three million residents in north Georgia rely on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River as their sole source of drinking water. We have no alternative source of water supply, so careful management of this precious resource is critical.

As important, Lake Lanier is a recreational resource that generates 8 million visits per year resulting in an economic impact of $5.5 billion to the regional economy. West Point Lake is also an important recreational resource that should be protected.

ğ The Corps must consider alternative operating plans to balance upstream needs with downstream needs before adopting a new Water Control Plan. There is enough water in the ACF River Basin to meet all reasonable needs, if the reservoirs are managed properly.

The Water Control Plan should be based on facts and sound science.

ğ Metro Atlantas use of water in the ACF Basin is reasonable by any measure. Currently metro Atlanta uses only 1 to 2% of the water in the ACF Basin as measured by the flow at the Florida line. The new Water Control Plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals consistent with projections contained in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning DistrictFs Water Supply and Conservation Plan.

Metro Atlanta is committed to aggressive water conservation. The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is already far ahead of the rest of the basin in this effort.

Comment ID: 0296
Author Name: Kathy Nguyen
Organization:

0296

More than 3 million people depend upon Lanier and Chattahoochee River for Water Supply. With limited possibilities for future reservoirs and further impacts on strained river basins by these reservoirs the management of Lanier based upon sound science including a more aggressive look at water supply preservaiton during historical droughts is imperative.

The decisions about the management of the ACF basin should be based upon sound science. It is clear before Lanier the species in Appalachicola Bay were able ot survive water level fluctuations.

Comment ID: 0297
Author Name: Jackson
Organization:

0297

Over the last 2- 3 years particularly and even since I have been a local resident (since late 1981), Lake Lanier has been managed based on needs a long way from the North Georgia region.

It is recognized that the catchment area for Lake Lanier is very small in relation to its volume (3x smaller that for instance Lake Alatoona) and any releases take an inordinately long time to recover.

Recognizing that North GA has been in a severe drought for some time (as it was in 1980 - 1982 and recently in the early 2000s) way too much water is released to the lakes downstream (which have mostly remained close to full) to allow any hope of recovery of Lake Lanier in any reasonable time.

From a mass balance (Engineering) perspective, allowing only as much out as comes into the lake would maintain level (short of evaporation). This is unreasonable however, allowing out 10 times the input (which has been done frequently in the last 3 years) is not sustainable either.

From the wildlife point of view (clams in Florida etc.) if we consider that since the last Ice Age (15,000 years or so) the Chattahoochee watershed has probably run DRY a couple of hundred times, the clams have survived. Balancing input and output flows and only releasing to match water usage downstream (and still require conservation) appears a more sustainable way to manage the resource for both water needs of North Georgia, the border areas of Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and recreation etc. on the Lake.

As a frequent lake user (member of Lake Lanier Sailing Club and Club Officer for 26 years) it is sad to see so much BEACH and recreational users not able to access the lake (ramps are out of the water). Personally i have been able to sail my boat about 10 times in the last 2 years. I usually use the lake 3 out of 4 weekends year round.

The economic impact to the region around Lake Lanier is also huge.

I hope the new management plan will reflect some of these aspects.

Comment ID: 0298
Author Name: Tom Bartels
Organization:

0298

When updating the Water Control Manual be very careful what you use as a base line. Many purposes have been added since the original Congressionally authorized purposes were established. Recent operations have led many "stakeholders" to believe that their purposes are even more important than the original ones that pay the bills. Without hydropower as a purpose, none of the dams would have been built. When the Corps adds other operations without considering the impact on hydropower, it destroys the economics of the system. When the Corps uses its 'operational flexibility' to approve certain added purposes while "hiding behind" the same operational flexibility to prohibit others, it opens itself up to lots of criticism. The Southeast Federal Power Customers suggest that the Corps use as a base line the last approved Water Control Manual--not some arbitrary year like 2004 or 1993. Doing anything different than going back to an approved plan codifies the myriad Corps operational decisions through time and, almost certainly, harms hydropower. As you know, the hydropower customers are willing to forego their authorized storage at the projects as long as there is proper compensation. We are certainly not the most vocal of your stakeholders, but we try to be the most reasonable given the millions of dollars we have at stake in your decisions. We are not your enemies in this process. We are merely trying to receive the benefits that we have paid for in the past and continue to pay for. We look forward to being an integral part of this process as it moves forward.

Comment ID: 0299 0299
Author Name: Jeffery Daigrepont
Organization:

I would like to see the Corps consider releasing less water out of Lanier on days when there is significant rain south of Lanier. Even if the cut back in only for ONE day, this would help our lake recover. Right now most of the lakes south of Lanier are at full pool or better. Now would be our best shot at pulling Lanier out of this.

Last year it was mid-spring before the reductions were considered. If we can do somthing NOW, (while there is less deamnd) we will have more oppertunity to get caught up. Lanier is at the very top of the basin and has the least amount of watershed and needs the most help right now. Like others, out economy depends on having water.

The current manual does not appear to consider rivers south of Lanier that add water into the ACF basin. This water should off-set what is required from Lanier.

Comment ID: 0300 0300
Author Name: Beverly Rayner
Organization:

Dear Sirs: Thank you for this opportunity since I wasn't able to attend the meeting in LaGrange last week.
It is my sincere prayer that you will allow the Lake to remain between 633-635 msl and return to managing the lake consistent with congressionally authorized purposes, ensure recreational access for low income and minority families, restore and maintain recreational facilities, water quality, maximize positive economic impact or other concerns that may impact the lake. I am a Realtor in LaGrange and it surely does make a difference when we have water at a decent level when we are showing Lake properties. I had one family that had wanted to move here and put their house boat in the Lake but had to wait a year to be able to do so after last years' low level.
Thank you again for the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns.
Sincerely,
Beverly Rayner
Re/Max Results LaGrange