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SOCIOECONOMICS

ECONOMICS AND RECREATION

(Lake Lanier and West Point Lake)

Comment ID: 4
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

In addition, the negative economic environment created by the mismanagement of the lake has crippled the surrounding area - particularly the mom and pop"" businesses that have been a staple in our economy. West Point Lake should not have to shoulder an unfair burden in the water operation plan.

West Point Lake must be maintained at a level (no less than 633 msl) that will enable safe recreation as mandated by Congress. Over the last few years, the level of the lake has consistently been unsafe and unusable. We have personally experienced accidents in our boat and often fear for our safety while boating under low conditions.

Comment ID: 5
Author Name: Paul Sconyers
Organization:

We also understand what the adverse economic impact means to the people and areas surrounding lake westpoint as was documented in the recent economic study.
We currently have a second home on lake West Point that we were considering for our retirement home, however, with all the issues surrounding the recent water Wars and seemingly inconsistent fluctuating water levels, we are somewhat hesitant to commit ourselves. In truth, we are presently concerned with any USACE controlled lake where we can't count on what is going to happen with the lake. Consistent Water levels are as important as any aspect of a lake. They offer the positive intrinsic value that has no price.

Comment ID: 7
Author Name: Greg Whitfield
Organization: Gibbs Landscape Company

By managing our reservoir operations properly, this goal can be achieved without punishing industries that rely on water to remain in operation. The landscape industry is a 8 billion dollar source of income for the Georgia market. This is critical for our economy under its current state. If we continue to lose jobs to the water crisis and lose even more jobs in this economic crunch, our livelihood in the landscape profession will be lost. This is unacceptable and must not be allowed to happen. Please consider all sources of action to help alleviate our problems.

Comment ID: 12
Author Name: Donald Baker
Organization:

In 1996 I retired and moved to the West Point Lake area. The primary reason was that one of the major objectives was recreation. This objective does not seem to be recognized by the Corp of Engineers. I spent quite a bit of my retirement money as I planned to spend the rest of my life here. I built a dock, then had to extend it for lack of water to no avail. The Corp kept dropping the lake. Most of the time I am unable to get my boat to the dock and on to the lift.

Comment ID: 14
Author Name: Al Pope
Organization:

Dear Corps, RE: Lake Lanier, I have owned a home and lived on Lake Lanier since 1980 nearly 30 years. Over that time the Corps has earned my respect. Some rules seem unimportant but over the long haul have contributed to the beauty of the lake and the surrounding area. My

respect for them however has been tarnished as a result of the lack of leadership it could have provided. Yes a drought has been a major factor, but a full river south and the releases and misreleases have been a direct result of your responsibility. You have demonstrated a lack of respect for your biggest and best stakeholders. Why? A combination of these things have had a dramatic affect on these stakeholders not only now but for years to come and for some forever. How can you assist those who have closed their businesses – lost their homes. What do we tell them. It may be easier making these decisions from Mobile.
I would like to suggest that a new agenda of priorities – where there flexibility is developed and communicated to all lake stakeholders. You hold much of your future in your hands be a leader a benevolent leader. Thoughtful and considerate.

Comment ID: 15
Author Name: Chris Smith
Organization:

Comment area for Lake Sidney Lanier/Buford Dam.) The low water level has caused a great lack of interest in boating, which has caused GREAT distress for many lively hoods. A lot of people depended on the boating industry to survive.

Comment ID: 18
Author Name: Jack Bernzott
Organization:

Legitimate downstream needs have to be addressed, but only after a water rationing program is in place. The downstream mind set that others must guarantee their economies is valid only after they help themselves. The Chattahooche watershed is very limited, and it will be years before Lanier can meet today's flows. In the meantime the local economy is taking enough of a hit.

Comment ID: 19
Author Name: Bill Thomas
Organization: Georgia Outdoors, Inc.

. Economic Impact. A. Business First off, if I understand it correctly, there are clauses in the endangered species act that give relieve for humans and negative economic impact. As a landscape business owner, my first priority is to be able to earn a living in the profession I have been in for most of twenty five years. I have been on the phone with customers for several days, and the unfair restrictions on our industry are going to certainly cause some of my fellow business owners to have to go in to bankruptcy. We may survive or not, but it is causing an already struggling industry to take on more of the burden than anyone else. As I drive by the car wash on Roswell road, I wonder why they don't at least have to operate on restricted hours. It seems that having fair outdoor water restrictions, possibly two days a week with the 30 day exemption, combined with restricting hours for other water related industry would create the same savings with out putting the entire burden on one industry. The loss of revenue over the summer was bad, this fall is worse; the spring is going to be devastating if the total ban is continued. There are many reasons. If the corps of engineers considers types of industry as oysters and power plants, why are we not considered? What makes their livelihood more important than ours? We need representation by our elected officials now! B. Property As I mentioned I live on Lake Lanier, and my parents do as well. It would be safe to say that a large part of mine and my parent's net worth is in our homes. I don't think that is unusual. In fact, all of my net worth would be in my home and business, which both or being threatened by the irresponsible operations by the corp. of engineers. How about county property taxes, mine go up every year, and I am sure that a large amount of tax in counties that border lake Lanier are from lake property owners. If the water management problems and lake levels or not corrected, the values of property will continue to fall drastically, no one will look at it as a good investment any more, and no one will want to live on a lake with these major and drastic fluctuations. The counties will have to re evaluate property and loose millions in annual revenue. That doesn't include the loss in net worth to people like my parents and my self. I am sure their will be many people that will find their selves with property that they owe more on than is worth. We know all the affects that has on the economy through out the state not just us. C. Lake Lanier driven economy I have touched on the property value issue which will have major impacts on everything from county tax revenue to the real estate market, but that is just the tip of it. How

about all the other people that our employed by business that support the lake community and support the recreation it provides. It is not about a place to swim or ski, it is about people earning a living. It is about every Business in north Georgia that needs water, including the green industry as I mentioned above. The figure of 5.5 billion is major and probably These are just a few of the economic impact issues, certainly it goes much deeper and hurts many more than I can mention. Anyone with any sense at all understands that this irresponsible water management must end now! How many warnings do we need!

Comment ID: 21
Author Name: Bill Bierbower
Organization: Fishmaster, Inc

I has been a tragedy for the Lake Lanier to stay at historically low levels while other lakes have enjoyed full pool levels. As a homeowner on Lake Lanier it has destroyed property levels as well as docks and other personal property. As a business owner in the marine industry it has been a double hit to our family financially.

Comment ID: 22
Author Name: Sam & Joyce Hancock
Organization:

Dear Sir, My wife and I have lived on West Point Lake since May 2001. We moved here from Atlanta and built our retirement home. We love the environment and beauty around our lake. The attached pictures of our and one ofour neighbor's docks show the best and worst of conditions on the lake. The picture taken September 24, 2007 shows the shoreline effects when the lake was down about 16 feet from full pool. My dock along with two others in our cove was the only one out ofabout twenty that was still in the water. The picture taken October 2, 2008, one year later, shows the same scene at full pool. WHAT a difference! Even though we were able to use our boat last year, I was reluctant because ofthe dangers created by stumps and other objects near the surface that are not normally there. This is a Federal reservoir and the primary function ofthe federal government is the safety ofits citizens. Again comparing the two pictures, it is obvious the monetary value as well as the
personal enjoyment ofour homes and the lake is very negatively impacted by low water levels. We are very appreciative ofthe efforts the Corp is making to maintain our lake at full pool. It is wonderful to walk down to our dock and not have to look at a red ring around the shoreline. Sincerely, Sam & Joyce Hancock

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Comment ID: 23
Author Name: Mr. Tom and Chris Hunkele
Organization: Lakeside Fitness & Therapy LLC

Both Chris and I want to express our concerns related to West F oint Lake - - we are privileged to live on the lake in Creek Ridge. We moved to LaGrange in May of 2003- it was our dream to live on the lake, enjoy its beauty and recreation. The current status of our lake is breathtaking - - it is a "gift" to those of us fortunate enough to "live on" the lake, for those who enjoy its recreation, for the low-income and minority families who draw both entertainment and sustenance from the lake and the varied business that rely on the draw of West Point Lakes beauty and recreation opportunties.

By copy of this letter - both of us designate the West Point Lake Advisory Council to represent our views on the serious issues facing West Point lake. We are requesting that changes to the Corps control and operation of West Point Lake include:• Maintaining a minimum lake level of between 633 and 635 MSL • Maximize positive economic impact • Manage the Lake consistent with Congressionall'y authorized purposes • restoring and maintaining recreational facilities • Ensure recreational access fore low-income and minority families.

Comment ID: 24
Author Name: Unknown
Organization:

help economy in area

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

1973, a group known as the Executive Group that consisted of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Georgia Mountains Planning Commission began the eight-year Metropolitan Atlanta Water Resources Study ("Study"). The Study was authorized by a resolution of the United States Senate Public Works Committee adopted on March 2, 1972. The study was completed in 1981. The Study concluded that Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River should provide 89% of the water to meet projected demands of the Metropolitan Atlanta area. In 1978, an interim report of the Executive Group concluded that without a long-range water supply plan, "the economic growth of the Atlanta region would be adversely affected. The adverse impacts were later defined to include significant losses to the regional and national economics."

In addition, recreational use flake Lanier also supports a multi-billion dollar economy. Lake levels have a direct impact on recreation and the
recreational economy of the lake. According to the Corps, recreation at Lake Lanier begins to suffer (i.e., some boat launching ramps unusable, most beaches unusable, navigation hazards begin to surface) when the reservoir falls to an elevation of 1,066 feet. Major impacts to concession and recreational areas are observed at an elevation of 1,063 feet. Many docks and ramps are inaccessible, and there are major impediments to navigation, at 1,060 feet.

West Point Lake also supports a significant recreational economy. Lake Walter F. George (a.k.a. Lake Eufaula) and Jim Woodruff Dam/Lake Seminole are located downstream from West Point Dam. These lakes provide valuable recreational benefits in addition to meeting other needs.

Comment ID: 40
Author Name: Paul M. Flood
Organization:

Not only are lives being lost on the most utilized Corps of Engineers Lake in the country, but the $5.5 billion economy surrounding the Lake is suffering more than the economy of any other region in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (ACF).

Develop an economic study on the impact of various water levels on each region of the ACF within the next eighteen (18) months.

7. Over the next ten to twenty years, the Southeastern United States will continue to grow economically and in population; particularly in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Greater Atlanta alone is projected to grow from 5.5 million to over 7.5 million within the next ten to fifteen years. This is an increase of over 35%! There is a simple solution to insure that the water needs of all regions of the ACF are met. This includes Atlanta, the agricultural interests in South Georgia and Alabama, the real estate and
fishing industries in Florida, as well as a the economic development of North Georgia. Keep Lake Lanier full at all times! The solution? There are trillions of gallons of water within the boundaries of the State of Georgia. This water is better knowFl as the Atlantic Ocean! The concept is simple - run a water pipe from Savannah to Gainesville and Lake Lanier along
the right-of-way of Interstate 20 and Interstate 85. Build a nuclear power plant near Savannah to desalinate the sea water, and then pump the desalinated water from the Atlantic to Lake Lanier to keep it full at all times. The Corps could sponsor a feasibility study to determine construction and annual operating costs of such a system. The City of Tampa, Florida could assist in determining the cost of a conventional desalinization plant, and the Southern Company could provide input into a nuclear-powered energy/desalinization plant. Colonial Pipeline could aid in determining the cost of constructing and maintaining the pipeline, as they have built oil and gas pipelines from Texas and Oklahoma to New England. The development and construction costs may be $2 billion to $10 billion dollars. However, this one-time cost may be relatively inexpensive compared to the annual cost of not doing it; particularly if one considers that the

lack of an adequate water supply could hinder Atlanta growth by a whopping 50% in the next ten to fifteen years or longer! Based upon projections of an increase of two million people in the relative near future, this equates to lost growth of one million people. The economic impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GOP) of Atlanta could be almost totally disastrous, if you consider that 50% of the potential one-million people lost in population growth contributes to the working population of Atlanta; the others are spouses and children. The one-half million workers moving to the
Atlanta would be coming here to take advantage of the many high-tech, research and development, marketing and manufacturing opportunities. These jobs could pay $60,000 or more per year, resulting in annual labor costs of $30 billion (500,000 X $60,000 per year). If labor costs are fifty percent of the goods and services produced, the annual Atlanta GOP lost is $60 billion each year! As previously indicated, the economic consequences of not having a full and clean Lake Lanier can be disastrous on Atlanta, North Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Therefore, it is vitally important the Corps of Engineers coordinate, develop and implement a plan in the immediate future to keep Lake Lanier full and clean on a year-round basis. I am a Board member of the Lake Lanier Association and Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. Although I am not speaking for the Association in this letter, I know that LLA is more than happy to work with the Corps on this important endeavor. Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Flood, CMC

Comment ID: 41
Author Name: Denise Deal
Organization: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

Dear Colonel Jorns: The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and its 3000 business and citizen members are very concerned about the present condition of Lake Sidney Lanier....and the health and viability of Lake Lanier in the future. Gainesville I Hall County, Georgia, USA...has been fortunate to have Lake Lanier in its "back yard" for over 50 years....over 400 miles of its shoreline border this county. We are proud to have Lake Lanier as a recreational resource, water resource, power generator....plus a beautiful home setting. Lake Lanier is by far the most important economic engine for this county and this region.

Comment ID: 45
Author Name: Gail Carmody
Organization: Fish and Wildlife Service

Reservoir Fisheries -- Sport fisheries are important recreational and economic resources in all of the federal ACF reservoirs. Important sport fish in all five reservoirs are the largemouth bass and crappie, but each reservoir supports a mix of several additional species, including walleye (Lake Lanier only), striped bass, bluegill, spotted bass, redear sunfish, and others. Based on interviews of fisheries managers and researchers in the basin, Ryder et al. (1995) identified the species considered critical in an evaluation of operating alternatives and the relative acceptability of reservoir levels for these species. The Service cooperated with the Corps for the 1998 draft EIS for ACF water allocation to develop a reservoir fisheries performance measure using the findings of Ryder et al. (1995). We recommend that the Corps update this performance measure in light of any new information developed in the past 10 years, and use it to evaluate the relative impacts on reservoir sport fisheries of alternative operating plans

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Comment ID: 49
Author Name: Stanley F. Cook
Organization: AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Recreation on impoundments and rivers in the ACF is greatly influenced by water management. Sport fishing in Alabama in a 2006 survey was estimated to exceed $1,400,000,000 and provide over 14,600 jobs. Commercial anglers targeting fish and shellfish are extremely important for providing food and supporting local and State economic wellbeing. There are more than 630,000 licensed boat operators in Alabama, which is an indication of the level of motorized recreational boating. The ability of these user groups to access both impounded and riverine waters is directly related to launching facilities being fully functional at low water conditions.

ADCNR recommends that the COE (I) monitor boating access sites and strive to maintain water levels for recreational boating access; (2) regularly clean silt and debris from access sites; (3) maintain water levels in rivers and impoundments that support recreation navigation; (4) monitor and manage nuisance aquatic vegetation that limits access to public waters; and (5) maintain

channels to backwater coves to provide angler access to these productive fishing areas, and to maintain a water connection between the main-stem river and backwater coves. These backwater areas are important nursery areas for rearing stages of many fish and invertebrate species.

Comment ID: 52
Author Name: V.M. Perry, Jr.
Organization: Lake Lanier Association

2. Alternatively, and at a minimum, we would request that the Corps set a trigger at the existing Lanier Water Access Limited level of 1060 MSL. As recognized on page 10 of the 1989 draft WCP, “The level at which severe impacts are observed on all aspects of recreational activities is called the Water Access Limited Level (WAL). At this point all or almost all boat ramps will be out of service, all swimming beaches will be unusable, major navigation hazards occur, channels to marinas are impassable and/or wet slips must be relocated, and a majority of private boat docks are unusable. Additionally, distance and bottom surfaces between water line and normal shoreline at established recreation areas makes water nearly inaccessible.” As our members have experienced over the last two years, at a level of 1060 severe economic impacts occur as a result of the recreational impacts predicted by the draft WCP. When Lanier’s level declines to the top of Action Zone 3 and further to the level of the WAL, these impacts reach drastic proportions and amount to tens of millions of dollars in direct recreational revenues alone. According to a recent assessment by the Marine Trade Association of Metro Atlanta (attached for your review), gross annual yearover- year Lanier boat sales revenues have fallen between $50,000,000 and $70,000,000 dollars, largely as a result of low water levels. The impact on Lake Lanier real estate investment values is potentially many times this dollar amount. The effect on the local economy is devastating.

Comment ID: 60
Author Name: Denesia Cheek
Organization: National Park Service

The NPS has express concerns in regards to any decision to reduce flows at Peacthree Creek less than 750cfs as a meaningful threshold for preserving water quality and biological health in the river. Historical research indicates that 750cfs provides a better support for recreation and resources than would lower flows. As a federal land management agency responsible for managing a significant percentage of the Chattahoochee River, NPS continues to recommend an instantaneous flow of 750cfs at Peachtree Creek under drought conditions needed to protect resources (fish, wildlife, and recreation) within the Chattahoochee park unit.

Comment ID: 61
Author Name: D-Jay Petroleum
Organization:

Please help save our lake. Our business depends on lake traffic. This is a part of our income.

Comment ID: 62
Author Name: Gwen Criswell
Organization:

My family’s livelihood relies heavily upon Lake Lanier for our source of revenue. My husband is in the marine business directly on the lake and I am a realtor. We have watched our incomes decrease significantly due to the water levels. The lake provides not only a source of income to those families in the boating industry, but it also affects the property values as well.

Comment ID: 65
Author Name: Vicky Ginn
Organization:

Regarding the current level of Lake Lanier, we are concerned about the impact that this drastically and historically low level is having on the lake for several reasons: Businesses that rely on recreational dollars are suffering due to decreased activity on the lake. Restaurants, marinas, lodging providers, fishing professionals and others that cater to the lake visitor are facing an increased strain on their livelihood already impacted due to the fragile economy.

Comment ID: 67
Author Name: Jeff Lukken
Organization: Mayor of LaGrange

The City of LaGrange lies adjacent to West Point Lake in west central Georgia. No single public resource in the west Georgia, east Alabama region exerts more social, environmental, and economic influence than the West Point Lake Project. As such it is important that Scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for updated and new Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system recognize that critical operating changes must be made at West Point Lake for the project to fulfill its obligations as mandated by Congress when it authorized the project in 1962. Congress established 5 specific PRIMARY authorized uses for the project:

• Hydropower
• Sport fishing and Wildlife development
• General recreation
• Navigation
• Flood Control

In the report of the Corps Chief Engineers to Congress it was clear that General Recreation and Sport fishing and Wildlife development when combined carried along with hydropower development the vast majority of the financial benefit assigned to the project. This report was completed in the context of development and social economic activity of the era around 1962 when west Georgia and east Alabama were largely rural and undeveloped.
Since that time, changes have occurred in this region that demand even more attention by the Corps of Engineers on the primary authorized uses of sport fishing, wildlife development, and general recreation. This region is growing rapidly and is now totally surrounded by the massive population growth of the Atlanta, Auburn Opelika, and Columbus MSA's. New influences have taken over and control the environment and socio-economic factors that relate to the utilization of the lake. Many of these have not been addressed or are ignored by the Corps in its operations. These include massive urbanization and growth of the area and counties surrounding the lake, industrial development form sources such as the KIA manufacturing complex, the growth of the Fort Benning complex and its contingent of citizens and soldiers that often rely on West Point Lake's facilities for recreation and sport fishing and wildlife. Yet what we have observed is that the Corps operates the lake and the system in its own way that ignores the original PRIMARY congressional authorizations while focusing exclusively on flood control needs, and addressing downstream and upstream demands that may not even meet the purposes set forth by Congress.

In 2007 the LaGrange- Troup- Valley Chamber of Commerce commissioned and independent study by a qualified economic analyst to address the impacts of varying lake levels on the local economy. The results were astounding. The lost economic opportunity is essentially an adverse impact of the greatest magnitude,.
Economic losses based on current operations by the Corps could approach $600 million dollars annually. The report is attached and tendered with this document for inclusion with the EIS. Only by raising and stabilizing lake levels to the 633-635 level can this be corrected. We ask that the report be included in its entirety and be considered as primary support for an alternative to current operations.

2. When the lake was first conceived, the Corps arbitrarily assigned action zones to the lake. The zones allow the Corps to draw water to established levels in its operations with other lakes in the region during different types of drought conditions. The zones were not set up in the enabling legislation- they were established by the Corps. They were merely applied by the Corps to allow the operators of the system to use resources at West Point for other perceived needs, some of which were not authorized purposes. No factors have cause as much harm, especially during the fall and summer months, as the application of the rule curves and action zones at West Point Project. It is essential that this be corrected and that a maximum draw down level of 633 MSL for winter pool and a stable

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635 summer pool under all but the most grave emergencies, be established for West Point Lake.
Thus, it is our contention that to meet the primary Congressional authorization of recreation, the Corps must fill and stabilize West Point Lake, basically as a "run of the river lake", while offering flows that mirror a natural flow regime- even during drought and flood conditions, for the rest of the system. Only then will the Congressional
authorizations be met by the Corps.

The Corps has not adequately funded, nor maintained in operational condition many of the recreational facilities paid for or established by Congress for the
project. The loss of these facilities, along with consistently low lake levels, has adversely impacted the recreational potential and capabilities of providing
recreation at the lake. The Corps points to lower funding levels that prevent their continued operations of these facilities. All recreational facilities at the West Point
Project must remain open and those that are closed must be reopened with adequate funding to comply With the Congressional authorization and to utilize
the investment made by US Taxpayers in these facilities. The Corps must come to recognize that low visitor-ship is DIRECTLY tied to low lake levels and aesthetic
damage to the project caused by winter draw downs and over use of project waters under the harsh action zone configuration. The Corps must also recognize
that the mild climate in this region allow for recreational use of the project year round- not just during the warmer spring summer and fall. Rates for use of
facilities must be market based and the Corps must be allowed to retain revenues collected on the project site for project maintena11Ce and operations.

The use of West Point Lake to support downstream navigation should not be
considered in any alternative in operation plans without adequate study of the
ecological and other environmental damages caused by tile likely lake fluctuations
to support that activity. Water Quality will likely be impacted under such use that
results in rapid lake elevation fluctuation .In addition the damage to the
recreational use, and sport fishing and wildlife component of the lake must be
assessed before giving any consideration of such alternative operations.
Heretofore such operations were made whenever water was thought to be
adequate, without any consideration of environmental or economic damages at
WestPoint.

In summary we no longer live in the 1940's 50'60's70' or 80's. The ACF system
operates in a new millennium. Demographics, development patterns, climate changes and other factors have brought forth an entirely new reality tile Corps must contemplate and address in a new water Control manual for the basin.

Comment ID: 68
Author Name: Dick Timmerberg
Organization: West Point Lake Coalition

On behalf of the West Point Lake Coalition and its approximately 1,200 members and its Corporate Sponsors, we submit the following comments as part of the Scoping Process
No single public resource in the west Georgia, east Alabama region exerts more social, environmental, and economic influence than the management and operations of the West Point Project. As such it is important that Scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for updated and new Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee- Flint River system recognize that critical operating changes must be made at West Point Lake for the project to fulfill its obligations as mandated by Congress when it authorized the project in 1962.
Congress established 5 specific PRIMARY authorized uses for the project:
• Hydropower
• Sport fishing and Wildlife development
• General recreation
• Navigation
• Flood Control
In the report of the Corps' Chief Engineers to Congress it was clear that General Recreation, Sport Fishing and Wildlife Development, and Hydropower comprised the vast majority of the

financial benefit assigned to the project. This report was completed in the context of real estate/industrial development and social economic activity of the era around 1962 when west Georgia and east Alabama were largely rural and undeveloped. That has all changed! This region is growing rapidly and is now totally surrounded by massive population growth in the surrounding MSA's of Atlanta, Auburn/Opelika, and Columbus. New influences have taken over and control the environmental and socio economic factors that relate to the benefits and utilization of West Point Lake. Many of these have not been addressed and/or have been ignored by the Corps in its operations. These include massive urbanization and growth of the area and counties surrounding the lake, industrial development from sources such as the KIA manufacturing complex, the growth of Ft.Benning, and its contingent of citizens and soldiers that often rely on West Point Lake's facilities for recreation and sport fishing and wildlife

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What we observe is that the Corps operates West Point Lake specifically and the ACF system in general in a way that ignores the original, PRIMARY congressional authorizations as a group and focuses extensively on flood control as well as downstream and upstream demands that do not meet the purposes set forth by Congress.
By the Corps' own admission, West Point

Lake can not stop downstream flooding. It never could! At least 2 more lakes were needed above West Point Lake that were never authorized or built to adequately support that operational goal. Consequently, managing West Point Lake in an attempt to guarantee flood protection has had a devastating economic impact on the communities surrounding the lake. No one can guarantee flood protection; Mother Nature, at some point, will always win. People and businesses who and which live and operate in flood plains do so at their own risk.

The following additional factors must be addressed and alternative operations must be identified and adopted following the conclusion of the EIS process. These factors are suggested as viable options to the operations currently utilized under the Corps' management plan.
• In 2007 the LaGrange- Troup- Valley Chambers of Commerce commissioned an independent study by a qualified economic, analytical firm to address the impacts of varying lake levels on the local economy. The results were astounding. The lost economic opportunity is essentially an adverse impact of the greatest magnitude, based on current operations by the Corps, of hundreds of millions of dollars annually! The report is attached and tendered with this document for use with the EIS. Numerous small business owners have lost their businesses and their life savings; many are in bankruptcy. Only by raising and stabilizing lake levels to the 633- 635 level can this be corrected. We ask that the report be reviewed in its entirety and be considered as primary support for an alternative to current operations.

When the West Point Project was authorized, the Corps "arbitrarily" assigned action zones to the lake. These zones allow the Corps to draw water to pre-established levels in its operations with other lakes on the system during different times of the year and during different types of conditions. The zones were not established in the enabling legislation they were "arbitrarily" defined by the Corps. And they have been applied by the Corps to allow the operators of the system to use resources at West Point Lake for various perceived needs, most of which were not and are not authorized purposes. No two factors have caused as much harm and had such devastating economic impacts as the application of the rule curves and action zones at West Point Project. It is essential that this be corrected and that a maximum draw down level of633 MSL for winter pool and a stable 635 summer pool under all but the most grave emergency, be established for West Point Lake.
Thus, it is our contention that to meet the primary congressional authorization, the Corps must fill and stabilize West Point Lake, basically as a "run of the river lake", while offering flows that mirror a natural flow regime- even during drought and flood conditions, for the rest of the system. Only then will the Congressional authorizations be met by the Corps as required by Congress.

The Corps has not adequately funded, or maintained in good, operational condition many of the recreational facilities paid for by taxpayers and established by Congress for the project. The loss of these facilities, coupled with consistently low lake levels, has adversely impacted the recreational potential of West Point Lake as well as its economic benefit! The Corps points to lower funding levels that prevent their continued operations of these facilities. All recreational facilities at West Point Lake should remain open and those that are closed must be reopened with adequate funding to meet the Congressional authorization and to utilize the investment made by US Taxpayers in these facilities. The Corps must come to recognize that low visitor-

ship is DIRECTLY tied to low lake levels and aesthetic damage to the project caused by winter draw downs and over use of project waters under the harsh action zone configuration. The Corps must also recognize that the mild climate in this region allows for recreational use of the project year round- not just during the warmer spring summer and fall. Rates for use of facilities must be market based and the Corps must be allowed to retain revenues collected on the project site to fund project maintenance and operations.

Comment ID: 69
Author Name: Jeff Brown
Organization: Troup County Chamber of Commerce

Dear Colonel Jorns:
The West Point Lake Advisory Council was established in January, 2007 by the Troup County Chamber of Commerce. Our initial goal was to raise $250,000.00 to fund separate studies on environmental issues relative to West Point Lake affected by how the United States Corps of Engineers manages the lake, an economic impact analysis of same, as well as to investigate whether there are any environmental justice issues resulting from their management. We raised $282,000.00 and all three studies have been completed. Since the inception of our council, we have worked very closely with the City of LaGrange. What follows is the letter they have sent you. Since the content of that letter has evolved with our council being very involved, we understand what is being said and endorse if 100%. Being a committee of the Chamber, we believe that it best serves our 800+ members.
No single public resource in the west Georgia, east Alabama region exerts more social, environmental, and economic influence than the West Point Lake Project. As such, it is important that Scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for updated and new Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system recognize that critical operating changes must be made at West Point Lake for the project to fulfill its obligations as mandated by Congress when it authorized the project in 1962. Congress established 5 specific PRIMARY authorized uses for the project:
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• Sport fishing and Wildlife development
• General recreation
• Navigation
• Flood Control
In the report of the Corps Chief Engineers to Congress, it was clear that General Recreation and Sport fishing and Wildlife development when combined carried along with hydropower development the vast majority of the financial benefit assigned to the project. This report was completed in the context of development and social economic activity of the era around 1962 when west Georgia and east Alabama were largely rural and undeveloped.
Since that time, changes have occurred in this region that demand even more attention by the Corps of Engineers on the primary authorized uses of sport fishing, wildlife development, and general recreation. This region is growing rapidly and is now totally surrounded by the massive population growth of the Atlanta, Auburn Opelika, and Columbus MSA's. New influences have taken over and control the environment and socio-economic factors that relate to the utilization of the lake. Many of these have not been addressed or are ignored by the Corps in its operations. These include massive urbanization and growth of the area and counties surrounding the lake, industrial development from sources such as the KIA manufacturing complex, the growth of the Fort Benning complex and its contingent of citizens and soldiers that often rely on West Point Lake's facilities for recreation and sport fishing and wildlife.
Yet what we have observed is that the Corps operates the lake and the system in its own way that ignores the original PRIMARY congressional authorizations, while focusing exclusively on flood control needs and addressing downstream and upstream demands that may not even meet the purposes set forth by Congress.

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2. When the lake was first conceived, the Corps arbitrarily assigned action zones to the lake. The zones allow the Corps to draw water to established levels in its operations with other lakes in the region during different types of drought conditions. The zones were not set up in the enabling legislation- they were established by the Corps. They were merely applied by the Corps to allow the operators of the system to use resources at West Point for other perceived needs,

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some of which were not authorized purposes. No factors have caused as much harm, especially during the fall and summer months, as the application of the rule curves and action zones at West Point Project. It is essential that this be corrected and that a maximum draw down level of 633 MSL for winter pool and a stable 635 summer pool under all but the most grave emergencies, be established for West Point Lake.
Thus, it is our contention that to meet the primary Congressional authorization of recreation, the Corps must fill and stabilize West Point Lake, basically as a "run of the river lake", while offering flows that mirror a natural flow regime - even during drought and flood conditions, for the rest of the system. Only then will the Congressional authorizations be met by the Corps.

In 2007 the LaGrange-Troup-Valley Chamber of Commerce commissioned an independent study by a qualified economic analyst to address the impacts of varying lake levels on the local economy. The results were astounding. The lost economic opportunity is essentially an adverse impact of the greatest magnitude. Economic losses based on current operations by the Corps could approach $600 million dollars annually. The report is attached and tendered with this document for inclusion with the EIS. Only by raising and stabilizing lake levels to the 633635 level can this be corrected. We ask that the report be included in its entirety and be considered as primary support for an alternative to current operations.

The use of West Point Lake to support downstream navigation should not be considered in any alternative in operation plans without adequate study of the ecological and other environmental damages caused by the likely lake fluctuations to support that activity. Water Quality will likely be impacted under such use that results in rapid lake elevation fluctuation. In addition the damage to the recreational use, and sport fishing and wildlife component of the lake must be assessed before giving any consideration of such alternative operations. Heretofore such operations were made whenever water was thought to be adequate, without any consideration of environmental or economic damages at West Point.

The Corps has not adequately funded or maintained in operational condition many Of the recreational facilities paid for or established by Congress for the project. The loss of these facilities, along with consistently low lake levels, has adversely impacted the recreational potential and capabilities of providing recreation at the lake. The Corps points to lower funding levels that prevent their continued operations of these facilities. All recreational facilities at the West Point Project must remain open and those that are closed must be reopened with adequate funding to comply with the Congressional authorization and to utilize the investment made by US Taxpayers in these facilities. The Corps must come to recognize that low visitor-ship is DIRECTLY tied to low lake levels and aesthetic damage to the project caused by winter draw downs and over use of project waters under the harsh action zone configuration. The Corps must also recognize that the mild climate in this region allow for recreational use of the project year round- not just during the warmer spring summer and fall. Rates for use of facilities must be market based and the Corps must be allowed to retain revenues collected on the project site for project maintenance and operations.

In summary, we no longer live in the 1940's, 50', 60's, 70' or 80's. The ACF system operates in a new millennium. Demographics, development patterns, climate changes and other factors have brought forth an entirely new reality the Corps must contemplate and address in a new water Control manual for the basin.

Comment ID: 72
Author Name: Dan Kauffman
Organization:

my home value is down

Comment ID: 75
Author Name: Sally Bethea
Organization: Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Dear Colonel Jorns: Thank you for the opportunity to comment as part of the Corps' revision of the Water Control Plan ("WCP") for the ACF system. Please consider the contents of this letter as comments from the approximately 4,000 individuals and businesses represented by the Lake Lanier Association. The Lanier Regional Economy Must Be Preserved A regional economy of more than $5.5 billion has grown up since the 1950's around Lake Lanier. The lives and livelihoods of thousands of people are tied to maintaining Lake Lanier at a water level that supports the lake-based economy that has become the lifeblood of the region surrounding Lanier. The operations that the Corps defines in its new WCP must be designed to preserve and protect that economy and the people whose lives depend on it by maintaining the highest possible water level in the Lake. The comments in this letter address ways in which we believe the Corps should design its WCP to safeguard and maximize the benefits Congress intended through the construction of Buford Dam and the resulting creation of Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 77
Author Name: Richard C. Wolfe
Organization: Troup County Board of Commissioners

Water Quality Findings indicate that due to our growth the low levels adversely affect economic opportunities and the action zones established by the Corps are not in keeping with and were not part o fthe original authorization by Congress. We believe that if the Corps were to fill and stabilize West Point Lake as a "run of the river lake" with flows that would mirror a more natural flow during drought and flood conditions it would revitalize the lake and the rest ofthe system. We have worked to improve county controlled recreational areas around the Lake and have found that the Corps has not funded or maintained many ofthe recreational areas paid for or established by Congress for the project. The severity of the action zones at West Point Lake are much worse that other lakes in the system and makes recreational use quite difficult if not impossible to achieve. The Lake has suffered under such rules causing rapid and frequent fluctuations in lake levels and this is causing compliance issues with the Clean Water Act, which again affects the quality of substance and recreation.

Comment ID: 82
Author Name: Vince Foody
Organization:

As a resident of Troup County, we rely on West Point Lake for clean drinking water, recreation, and Business generated from tourism. The Lake must be managed for consistent full pool (633 to 635) and the cleanliness and quality of the water must be maintained.
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Comment ID: 106
Author Name: ELMON L. GARNER
Organization:

Also, water for recreation is necessary for the economy in our area

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Comment ID: 109
Author Name: Sylvia and Wayne Hunter
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 112
Author Name: Marlene Timmerberg
Organization:

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 restaurants also suffer. When lake levels are down, homeowners like ourselves can't get our boats out of the 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 cannot 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 and safe swimming areas also cannot be used during low lake levels.

Comment ID: 113
Author Name: West Point Lake Advisory Council
Organization: West Point Lake Advisory Council

Maximize positive economic impact

Restore and maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 116
Author Name: Tommy Mike
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 121
Author Name: Jack Struble
Organization:

Third many people depend on the 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 residents have a financial stake in the lake levels as our property values would be directly affected by low lake levels.

Comment ID: 131
Author Name:
Organization:

It is imperative that the water level in West 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.

Comment ID: 132
Author Name: DANIEL PRICE
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 133
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

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.

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.

Comment ID: 136
Author Name: Phil Coulton
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 137
Author Name: Billy
Organization:

This lake has much more potential than has ever been realized. I would like to see the Corps 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.

Comment ID: 138
Author Name:
Organization:

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!
It is ridiculous to have such a beautiful lake and not be able to enjoy it.

Comment ID: 144
Author Name: Patrick Bowie Sr.
Organization:

Also lake recreation brings in $'s to Troup County.

Comment ID: 149
Author Name: murchison
Organization:

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: 153
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.

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!

Comment ID: 155
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: 157
Author Name: Bob Thome
Organization:

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: 158
Author Name:
Organization:

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: 161
Author Name: Joy
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 162
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.

Comment ID: 165
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 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.

Comment ID: 167
Author Name:
Organization:

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: 170
Author Name: Sammy Bailey Jr.
Organization:

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.

Tournament turn outs were greatly decreased.All in all everyone including the environment suffered.

Alot of people damaged bots and equipment due to low water.

Comment ID: 171
Author Name: Gary Grizzle
Organization:

In the past few years the lake has reached extremely low levels which had a negative impact on my personal experience 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.

Comment ID: 173
Author Name: Gail A Poole
Organization:

Recreational facilities should be restored and maintained so that we all may enjoy them.

Comment ID: 175
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: 177
Author Name: William R Stump,Jr
Organization:

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: 178
Author Name:
Organization:

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: 182
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

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: 183
Author Name: Tripp Penn
Organization:

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.

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.

Comment ID: 186
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.

Comment ID: 190
Author Name: Charles Prestridge

Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 197
Author Name: Michael Edwards
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 200
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.

Comment ID: 203
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.

Comment ID: 206
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.

Comment ID: 214
Author Name: Dr. George M Henry
Organization:

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: 215
Author Name: Rocky Millenbine
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 217
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.

Comment ID: 218
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.

Comment ID: 221
Author Name: Carol Todd
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 225
Author Name: Patrick Crews
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 226
Author Name: Coleman Vice
Organization:

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: 228
Author Name: Peter Mallory
Organization:

WEST POINT LAKE

FOR ECONOMIC REASONS THE LAKE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT THE 633-635 msl.

MANY SMALL BUSINESSES SUFFER AT LOWER LAKE LEVELS.

Comment ID: 229
Author Name: marjorie knipp
Organization:

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.
Our quality of life in the community is affected by the lake being maintained a this level.

Comment ID: 233
Author Name: Terry McMillian
Organization:

West Point is critical to the economic development and positive business climate of our community.

We also need to restore and maintain our recreational facilities.

Comment ID: 234
Author Name: roy spinks
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 237
Author Name: Sharon Mitchell
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 243
Author Name: Peter Houghton
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 246
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

Additionally, this will allow recreational use year round and will greatly increase economic conditions for LaGrange and Troup County.

Comment ID: 249
Author Name: Alan E Trainer
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 251
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

Additionally, low levels reduce recreation and greatly decrease the economics of LaGrange and Troup county.

Comment ID: 252
Author Name:
Organization:

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: 254
Author Name: Phil Horton
Organization:

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.

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.

In preparing the ACF Water Control Manual Update great consideration needs to be given to recreational use of West Point Lake.

Comment ID: 261
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: 265

Author Name: ray roesel
Organization:

restore and mantain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 266
Author Name: Ralph Peery
Organization:

Maximizing positive econmic impact.
Restore and maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 270
Author Name: dan forrest
Organization:

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: 277
Author Name: Oscar Turner
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 278
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.

Comment ID: 279
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: 280
Author Name: Joshua Norred
Organization:

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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Our local economy also depends on the consistant levels to help our tourism and our own hometown folks.

Comment ID: 281
Author Name: Lance Jones
Organization:

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.

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 have enjoyed houseboating on the lake since 1997 and I am now ready to find another place to enjoy the water.

Comment ID: 286
Author Name: Raymond Newman
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 287
Author Name: Raymond Newman
Organization:

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.
The lake was authorized by Congress for the purpose of general recreation and should be so maintained.

Comment ID: 288
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: 294
Author Name: Alton Nelson
Organization:

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: 295
Author Name: Kathy Nguyen
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 297
Author Name: Jackson
Organization:

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: 299
Author Name: Jeffery Daigrepont
Organization:

Like others, out economy depends on having water.

Comment ID: 300
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.

Comment ID: 306
Author Name: Jim Levesque
Organization:

We had a very difficult summer with low water in West Point lake. Since my interest is in fishing and boating, I was able to do neither since we had not water adjacent to our dock. This is important to the entire area. Thank you for what you are able to do do for us.

Comment ID: 308
Author Name: Michael J. Mcbride
Organization:

Recently my wife and I purchased property on the Chattahochee River just north of the lake. Last fall we were shocked at what had happened to our "waterfront property." We would never have purchased the property if we had understood the current policy for lake levels.

Comment ID: 315
Author Name: Harold Trip
Organization:

That's my opinion, and you can put it off on whatever you want to, but you're ruining property values on this lake, you're putting people out of work, you're causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages for boat repairs. It's a disaster.

Comment ID: 318
Author Name: Kim Sak
Organization:

My next question is, has anyone looked at the state-wide economic impact of the drought conditions in North Georgia during the last 2007, 2008? In particular, I'm thinking of the bad press over Atlanta's water shortage as Lake Lanier's levels drop, and I think that beyond the regional impact that this has had economically, that it really has had a bigger impact that we may not be looking at.

Comment ID: 320
Author Name: William Winslow
Organization:

. My business is down by half. I buy my products from all over the country. I have boat manufacturers in South Carolina, Tennessee, Minnesota, Michigan, California. I buy my trailers out of South Carolina and Tennessee. The economic impact of this one lake is huge; personally buying $6 million less product at wholesale this year because I can't sell it. And I'll be lucky if I can stay in business, so will everybody else that I know in the marine industry. But a lot of people don't think of the economic impact that goes nationwide, that Lake Lanier affects nationwide. It goes right down to the aluminum manufacturers; raw materials aluminum that build the pontoon boats in Michigan and Minnesota; nuts and bolts and screws and tire manufacturers for trailers. I went to a marine trade meeting and met with the attorney for the Lake Lanier Association and he told me that he did not even realize how broad of an economic impact that this lake has nationwide in the United States. And I want that to be known. I personally have had to lay off five employees; good people that would be very hard to replace. And on my street, Boat Row, they call it, there's about a dozen dealers, and I know that most of them have let every possible person they can't do without go. So there's been a lot of job loss with the boat dealers here in town. And these are people that will probably go to another industry and never be able to -- will never come back into our industry. And there's a lot of good people that lost their jobs.

Comment ID: 328
Author Name: Thomas Clark
Organization:

The economic impact of allowing Lake Lanier to be lowered to current levels has had a severe financial impact on the economy surrounding the Lake. This impact is far greater than the perceived impact on the Florida fishing industry.

Comment ID: 334
Author Name: Sarah Beth Mallory
Organization:

This lake is important to our area as a source of drinking water, recreation site, and economic opportunity. For West Point Lake to be sustainable body of water and offer opportunities for our citizens and visitors, an adequate level (635msl) of water must be maintained.

Comment ID: 335
Author Name: Sue & Tim Christolm
Organization:

Restore and maintain recreational facilities and maintain good water quality.

Comment ID: 336
Author Name: Terry McMillian
Organization:

Maintain our recreation facilities.

Comment ID: 337
Author Name: Terri Brooke
Organization:

Lake effects our economy. 0 water = 0 business

Comment ID: 338
Author Name: Ruth Perdue
Organization:

Dry docks
water recreation a hazard -
maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 341
Author Name: Rick Mallory
Organization:

2. West Point Lake is critical to troup county for recreation and economic impact.
3. We need to restore and maintain all recreational facilities.

Comment ID: 344
Author Name: *Debbie Burdette
Organization:

maximize positive economic impact

maintain needed recreational facilities

Comment ID: 346
Author Name: *Jerry Fulks
Organization:

West Point Lake represents a tremendous economic and development resource for our entire region. If we don't manage the lake levels in the 633-635 level, it will cost Georgia/Alabama millions and millions of dollars annually.

Comment ID: 349
Author Name: *Marlene Timmerberg
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 352
Author Name: *Michelle Ward
Organization:

I think it is very important to keep a safe water level at our lake, West Point, because it helps our local economy with taxes, business, and recreation. We must look beyond wildlife down stream & consider safety and economy of those up stream.

Please Help!!!!!

Comment ID: 355
Author Name: *Daniel Houghton
Organization:

Restore recreational facilities

Comment ID: 357
Author Name: *Edna Foster
Organization:

The drought last year worked a terrible economic hardship on many lake centered business.

I am hopeful that the revised plan for the Corps can protect the lake enough so that recreation can be considered.

Comment ID: 358
Author Name: *Laura Breyfogle
Organization:

The water quality must be high in order for us to swim there and eat the fish we catch.
--
I am concerned mostly about the quality of our water and the level of our lake. Not only is it the source for our drinking water but also provides important recreational opportunities for our community. The water quality must be high in order for us to swim there and eat the fish we catch. The water level must be high enough for it to look appealing and to support the many boaters who like to use the lake.

Comment ID: 360
Author Name: *Mickey McCoy
Organization:

Maximize positive economic impact

Restore and maintain recreational facilities;

Comment ID: 361
Author Name: *Roberta Lauer
Organization:

Water levels need to be managed at 633 to 635 for economic success and personal recreation. Do not shut down parks or camping areas during this time of economic crisis, parks and camping may be the only thing families can afford. Please keep parks and camping areas open and maintained.

Comment ID: 362
Author Name: *Pam Ramsay
Organization:

Residents, recreational objectives, and the economy are adversely affected by a low lake level. Many business were forced to close last year because of the low level. Also home values went down tremendously.

Comment ID: 367
Author Name: David Dodson
Organization:

Dear Sir:

The debate around Lake Lanier seems to ovelooked the nearly complete loss of the lake as an economic engine in North GA. The entire lake economy has been wiped out. Further, the economic loss to property owners in the vicinity of the lake has not been entirely recognized. When it becomes clear that the Corps and others are going to do nothing to preserve the lake, the economic impact on business owners, as well as the valuation impact on homeowners will be substantial. Further, the municipalities are going to suffer severe tax impacts as homeowners contest ad valorem assessments and businesses fail to generate sufficient sales, property, income and ad valorem taxes to support county and local governments.

It would appear that the dollars associated with the Appalachicola fishing lobby, carefully disguised within an environmental contest, trumps the economic interests of all of North Georgia. It would be worthwhile to weigh the economic immpact to North Georgia against the economic impact in the FL panhandle. Further, as rivers are drawn down and the entire lake dries up, one must also question the logic of preserving an oyster bed at the expense of North Georgia's largest lakes and one of its largest fisheries.

Simply put, if you are going to lean on environmental and economic factors to validate a decision to favor FL, you absoutely must weigh the same factors as they relate to North Georgia. It goes without saying that North Georgia has already been impacted far more negatively in both environmental and economic terms than a nearly complete shutdown of Lanier flow would ever impact FL.

Sincerely,
David Dodson

Comment ID: 371
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

* 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.

Comment ID: 389
Author Name: Kent Bennett
Organization:

Stop closing access parks.

Comment ID: 391
Author Name: Cile Gierhahn
Organization: Lakefront Homeowner

Alabama and Florida together don't service as many counties as GA, and I suspect the GA counties are much larger than the AL/FL counties in terms of human beings serviced. Yet the GA counties suffer when the lake is drained to dangerous levels.

Comment ID: 394
Author Name: Robert Kopp
Organization:

3. Consider the ECONOMIC impact. (While business suffers and property value falls, I know of no such in Alabama and Florida that one directly related to the lack of water).

Comment ID: 399
Author Name: Jane Browder
Organization: lake property owner

The economic distruction this mismanagement and drought has caused the Lanier area is more

dramatic than what it is causing Florida or Alabama. We have not denied those states water and the flows are consistant to past years.

If Lanier didn't exist...then what?
Georgians would lose a jewel that has been a great source of recreation, beauty and the water usage that has driven our growth as a leading city that has enriched millions of people.

Lake Lanier has developed billions in income for businesses that support the lake and all it offers the public, that in turn helps support tax revenues for our State and Federal coffers.

Comment ID: 400
Author Name: Chuck Hall
Organization: Lake Lanier Homeowners Assoc.

The business in and around the lake area including the Corps revenue has been reduced by millions of dollars! This has a ripple effect for the entire state!

Comment ID: 406
Author Name: Robert Johnson
Organization:

The economic impact of a lower lake level for even a part of the year is very significant.

Comment ID: 409
Author Name: Frank Russo
Organization:

maximize positive economic impact
restore and maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 411
Author Name:
Organization:

I have grown up enjoying Lake Lanier. I now have the priveledge of living on this beautiful lake. It is sad to say my property value is now nothing because of the lake. I feel something has got to be done about this problem.I no we need for it to rain, however it use to be when we would get an inch of rain the lake would go up a foot now it barely moves. I pray for rain and a solution to this problem.

Comment ID: 412
Author Name: Jerry Griffin
Organization: Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Serving as the water supply for 3 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta region and generating 8 million visits per year (thus resulting in an economic impact of $5.5 billion to the regional economy) Lake Lanier must be more effectively managed to best serve the public interest.

Comment ID: 422
Author Name: Jerry Collins
Organization:

Lake Lanier is vital for the supply of water for North-Northeast Georgia. In addition, the lake is a vital economic engine for a large segment of the population surrounding Lanier.

Comment ID: 430
Author Name: Kathi Wilson
Organization:

As a resident in the LaGrange community and owner of a home on West Point lake I have seen the impact that lower lake levels have on the community. I believe that if the lake levels were to be maintained between 633MSL and 635MSL as shown in the study completed by Basile

Baumann Prost Cole & Associates it would not only be an economic asset to the community and the state of Georgia but will also be maintained as it was originally intended.

Comment ID: 431
Author Name: Ted Wilson
Organization:

From a lake front resident and Treasurer of Holbrook Pointe Property Owners Associations point of view I believe the economic impact on our community is driven by West Point Lake level remaining between 635MSL and 633MSL. (Based on the study by Basile Baumann Prost Cole & Associates)

West Point lake was specifically authorized by Congress for the purpose of "general recreation". Allowing the lake levels to remain low creates hidden dangers for anyone using the lake for recreational purposes and reduces the quality of the water.

Comment ID: 432
Author Name:
Organization:

We bought our home on Lake Lanier in 1999 and have had very few times to use the lake in 8 years due to water levels. Our boat has been in storage numerous times and for one year during this last episode where the Corps misread the guage. Of course we are still paying property taxes for lake property, of which there is none. We"re sure we couldn't sell our property at this point if we had to. Hopefully if the FULL POOL level was raised, not so much concern about releasing water to the neighboring states and more interest in the people in Georgia, these issures can be resolved. PLEASE HELP.

Comment ID: 433
Author Name:
Organization: n/a

Also, lake side values as well as boat damage etc should be figured into the costs of the lake being down, in addition to the lost tourism. Those figures surely outweigh the economic value of any endagered animals. If reason doesn't explain why we mustn't kill Lake Lanier, then perhaps dollar figures can.

Comment ID: 434
Author Name: Pam
Organization:

We need the water in our area for business, recreation and people's every day life. Lake Lanier looks very depressing and desolate. Please save the Lake!!

Comment ID: 439
Author Name: Dixie Speck
Organization: Solterra, Inc.

My husband and I own a medium-sized landscaping business in the Atlanta area. We were having good growth numbers until the drought hit and the water suppliers in our area felt forced to place complete water bans only on outside watering. This ban directly and immediately affected our industry and many businesses and jobs have been lost. Following this second year of unreasonable restrictions on outdoor irrigation, we have been forced to continue lay-offs and are most likely looking at having to go out of business this winter along with high debt from trying to hang on and hoping for better decisions on the water restrictions to have been made in order to save our industry (which was worth 8 billion dollars statewide before the watering restrictions). We have owned this business for 10 years and have supplied several jobs for Georgians, and now since our industry has been unfairly singled out, we are going down. You say that it is your purpose to weigh all requirements of the water operations and find a balance. That balance certainly needs to include the ability for industries depending upon outdoor water use to survive. Not only is being able to water lawns and plants good for jobs and income, but it

is also critical for the quality of our overall environment.

Comment ID: 468
Author Name: Ethyl L. Ault
Organization:

Maximize positive economic impact
Restore and maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 469
Author Name: Robbie Nichols
Organization:

Maintain positive economic impact
Restore and maintain recreational facilities

Comment ID: 470
Author Name: Sammie F Jones
Organization:

At lake levels below 633 ft property values go down.
Also the economic impact of guests & visitors coming to the lake is lost. They spend money in the area and losing the value of their purchases seriously hurts our economy and tax base. Jobs are lost!

Comment ID: 471
Author Name: Fred L Jones
Organization:

My concern is that property values and economic benefits from visitors will/are/have been reduced with water levels at West Point Lake dip below 633 ft. Our boat and dock are on the bottom at 630 ft. Our family and guests from afar cannot enjoy the lake below 633 ft.

Comment ID: 480
Author Name: Nicholas Grillo
Organization:

Under normal economic conditions, significant low water levels of Lake Lanier always have a negative impact on the economies of the surrounding cities, towns and counties. Under the current slumping economy the impact is very severe, and is destroying businesses and lowering

While the needs of Alabama and Florida are important, I don't believe they are hurting as much as those of us who depend of Lake Lanier for its designated water uses, the survial of our businesses and the value of our properties.

Comment ID: 483
Author Name: Steve Warlick
Organization:

Comments concerning Lake Lanier: I moved to live on the Lake three years ago, the first year the water in my cove dropped to 6 feet which was bearable. Year two I ended up putting my boat at Gainesville Marina because the lake dropped to a couple of feet in my cove. Now year three I'm paying to have my boat in a slip at Gainesville Marina, because there is no water in my cove. Now, I own a lake house with no water which has caused a depreciated home value by a $100,000.00 dollars, and I'm paying $3500.00 a year to house a boat that should be on my own dock.
How many business's and homeowners are going to put their tax dollars elsewhere if we cannot use this lake.

Comment ID: 484
Author Name: Leonard & Joanne Hinton

Organization:

We oppose the low water levels for Lake Lanier, for the following reasons: It has lowered the value ofour lakefTont property.

Comment ID: 485
Author Name: George Ehrhardt
Organization:

The states of Florida and Alabama have stated that the economy of their states would be harmed by the lessening of the fishing industries in the Apalatchicola River basin. But what of the economy of North Georgia which has been decimated by Lake Lanier falling some 20 feet below full pool? Our maritime, botanical and vacation industries have, and are currently, fallen into very troubled times which only a full pool, or near full pool in times of drought, can begin to alleviate.

Comment ID: 495
Author Name: Christopher Seeley
Organization:

5) If economic criteria are considered, the Apalachicola Bay economic impact is a fraction of Lake Lanier's. (150 million vs. several BILLION!) If an argument can be made for the Apalachicola Bay economy, a much bigger argument can be made for that of Lake Lanier. It's simple numbers. In addition, the population of Northeast Georgia affected by Lake Lanier is much larger than that of Apalachicola Bay, Florida.

Comment ID: 496
Author Name: James & Martha Burwell
Organization:

Lake Lanier is vital to the infrastructure and economy of Georgia, particularly the metro Atlanta area. The low level of Lanier seriously endangers the well-being of local citizens.

Comment ID: 497
Author Name: Terri Johndahl
Organization:

The importance of Lake Lanier as a vital source of water for the metro Atlanta region must be fairly considered. Reservoirs are built to hold water.... Not to run dry. U.S. taxpayers do not spend millions of dollars on reservoirs to use them at only a fraction of their capacity. An unnecessarily low water level in Lake Lanier is surely a sign of poor management of priorities when there is likely enough water to meet all purposes in the basin. The negative impact of a questionable water supply on future economic development efforts must also be factored in. New industry and jobs cannot be attracted easily to a region that is notorious on national news for poor water management plans. We believe that scientific studies will bear out that there are ways to manage this increasingly scarce water resource and meet all requirements in the basin. Terri Jondahl CEO

Comment ID: 500
Author Name: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and its 3000 business and citizen members are very concerned about the present condition of Lake Sidney Lanier....and the health and viability of Lake Lanier in the future. Gainesville I Hall County, Georgia, USA...has been fortunate to have Lake Lanier in its "back yard" for over 50 years....over 400 miles of its shoreline border this county. We are proud to have Lake Lanier as a recreational resource, water resource, power generator....plus a beautiful home setting. Lake Lanier is by far the most important economic engine for this county and this region. Of course, it is also important to the entire State of Georgia and our neighboring states. We certainly understand that we must share Lake Lanier's waters.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must update the water control manuals for the ACF Basin

.....including studies of science, technology and economic impacts.... with the most up-to-date factual information examining new and different ways of operating Lake Lanier and the other Corps projects in the ACF Basin. We must bring the operations of our water resources to the twenty-first century. Yes, we are still experiencing a drought. Yes, the local, state and national economy is suffering. Yes, we are seeing extreme fuel price fluctuation. These reasons stated are putting added pressure on Lake Lanier and its economic importance to this county and region. Today, Lake Lanier is more than 18 feet below full pool and dropping at a rapid rate. Businesses and citizens are suffering because Lake Lanier's waters are at record low levels.

A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use. The visitors to Lake Lanier are down over 1,000,000 from 2007. We are seeing other states use Lake Lanier's low levels as a tool to recruit businesses from the state of Georgia. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help.....by better management of Lake Lanier and the ACF, particularly during drought times. Thank you and the Corps for partnering with the Gainesville I Hall County community in protecting and enhancing Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 503
Author Name: Kit Dunlap
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

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Yes, the local, state and national economy is suffering. Yes, we are seeing extreme fuel price fluctuation. These reasons stated are putting added pressure on Lake Lanier and its economic importance to this county and region. Today, Lake Lanier is more than 18 feet below full pool and dropping at a rapid rate. Businesses and citizens are suffering because Lake Lanier's waters are at record low levels. A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use. The visitors to Lake Lanier are down over 1,000,000 from 2007. We are seeing other states use Lake Lanier's low levels as a tool to recruit businesses from the state of Georgia.

Comment ID: 504
Author Name: Katheryn Dunlap
Organization: Metropolitan North GA Water Planning District

Lake Lanier receives approximately eight million visits per year resulting in an economic impact of$5.5 billion annually.

Lake Lanier's recreational value should also be an important consideration for the Corps during this update process.

Comment ID: 505
Author Name: John and Jodi Wacho
Organization:

6) The economic impact of keeping Lake Lanier full dwarfs any economic value or need out of North Florida or South Alabama.

Comment ID: 506
Author Name: Marilyn Haight
Organization:

Some day we will be forced to sell our home, too much maintenance, too many steps, our health will decline, one of us may pass away. We thought our investment in our home was one of our securities but now that has certainly changed. With the lake as low as it is & the fact that

the outlook of ever having a full lake again is questionable, I have to wonder who will want to buy a home on a disappearing lake?

Comment ID: 509
Author Name: Greg Smallwood
Organization:

Lake Lanier is the heart and soul of Gainesville, Ga. I have lived on the lake since I was 4 years old except for a few years after I got married. I saved until I was able to finally buy a piece of property on Lanier. That was 5 years ago. Today my dock sits on dry land and my value is about half what it was. We only built there for 1 reason. LAKE LANIER. Please help us protect our investments and our pride and joy

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Comment ID: 516
Author Name: Robert Hilton
Organization: Homeowner

There is nothing left of the lake now. It will be years to partially recover from what has been released. Any little bit will help now. It has hurt the local economies and provided a dangerous situation for the boaters that are able to drop their boats in.

Comment ID: 520
Author Name: Michael P Harney
Organization:

There is severe property damage and home value errosion in an already difficult housing market./

Comment ID: 535
Author Name: Stacy Wade
Organization: LLA

-If this isn't acceptable, why don't you repair the ramps, enabling people to put boats in the water and enjoy the lakes for fishing, or pleasure.

Comment ID: 546
Author Name: John E. Webb
Organization:

Full benefit by all parties must start at the beginning of the basin, if the Lake Lanier project is allowed to remain at the bottom of the pool the people who use the lake for business and pleasure suffer from undue hardship. Recreational use of the lake has inspired me to work harder for the past thirty years in order for me to have the money to pursue my hobbies of boating and fishing.
The money spent by people who use this lake directly benefits the people of our community, it creates jobs and adds millions of dollars to our local economy.

Comment ID: 547
Author Name: John E. Webb
Organization:

Hundreds of people in our community Gainesville, GA, have lost their jobs as a direct result of the lake level being so low. Thousands of potential users of the lake have stayed away because of the lack of access to boat ramps, and the potential dangers from objects which are barely under the water.

Comment ID: 550
Author Name: Todd Bitzer
Organization:

I would alos suggest that these measure be added asap inorder to protect the business and

recreation activities of this region. Low water level have a significant impact on the economy of this area.

Comment ID: 554
Author Name: John Gundlach
Organization:

Our economy, recreation and aquatic life have been seriously threatened and many thousands of Clams have died because of their greed to lay claim to our water. All the lakes south of Lanier have been full the entire year. It's time to respect the economy, residents and Lake Lanier's natural environment and fill the lake back up and let us claim the very small area of the ACF basin that we occupy.

Comment ID: 557
Author Name: Terry Donnenwirth
Organization:

Please make responsible policies for Lake Lanier, considering the standard of living around the lake, the lack of jobs and the unhealthy environment which has been caused by the present policies. Thanks.

Comment ID: 563

Author Name: David Long
Organization:

Come on, unedible mussels in Florida? What is the Federal Government doing when faced with a serious financial situation? They are getting involved and helping. Lake Lanier is a major, I repeat major, ecconomic impact on North Georgia. We should have the same attitude about it.

Also never considered is the millions of dollars of lost property value in lake homes and businesses.

Comment ID: 566
Author Name: Tom Riggle
Organization:

It seems that what has happened is that people downstream have developed communities and projects and then said, OK, now we must have the water to support what we just built. Well, nature plays the key role in this. If nature doen't provide, then we all should be impacted the same way.

Comment ID: 569
Author Name: Edward Close
Organization:

Why aren't the Corps fixing boat ramps now that the water levels are low?

Comment ID: 571
Author Name: Robert Kopp
Organization:

3). Consider the economic impact. (While business suffers & property value falls, I know of no such in Alabama & Florida that are directly related to the lack of water.)

Comment ID: 572
Author Name: Billy Turner
Organization: Columbus Water Works

Columbus Water Works Columbus Water Works (CWW) appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the update of the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint

(ACF) Riverbasin in Alabama. Florida and Georgia. The Chattahoochee River has always played a major role in the life of Columbus. That role is expanding even more today. A river restoration project which involves breeching two small dams promises to restore the river to a more natural state and accommodate the establishment of a whitewater rafting enterprise and increased tourism and recreational activities. The Corps has engaged in considerable study of this project and it continues to make progress. Currently, there are plans to develop a major marina complex to complement the National Infantry Museum. Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center and the continuing development of this once blighted area. Also, Columbus and Phenix City, Alabama support the redevelopment of this area a major inland port. A report by Troy University addressing 1) navigation; 2) recreation; 3) water supply; 4) assimilation: 5) real estate; and 6) power calculates the economic impact on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Fling (ACF) system and concludes that navigation is potentially significant economic benefit to this area.

Comment ID: 573
Author Name: Pam Ramsay
Organization:

The lake is very important to LaGrange. It is a great recreation facility, which brings more job oportunities. Real estate is so affected by the level of water. Of course, the needs for water for consumption and personal use are obvious. We need our lake for growth of our town, recreation, business opportunities, drinking water and other uses at home. Please consider our needs as you make your decisions. Thank you.

Comment ID: 574
Author Name: G. Eucle Vickery
Organization:

West Point Lake was promised to the community by Congress as a recreational resource. That promised and the associated economic opportunities have not been fulfilled. Our recent economic study revealed that the lake has fulfilled less than 20 percent of its economic potential, and has denied use and economic opportunity to the regions surrounding the lake in Alabama and Georgia due to its consistently low levels. West Point Lake must be maintained at an elevation of 633 msl or higher to assure that economic damage does not result from Corps operations that allow for low lake levels, and to assure economic potential is fulfilled as promised to the citizens of East Alabama and West Georgia.

The Corps has consistently faced reduced funding for recreational facilities at the West Point Lake Project. Federal recreational facilities surrounding the project often are closed due to lack of funding. Facilities are justified for closing due to lack of use and lack of funding. I beg to differ that it is the inconsistent water levels and lack of updated facilities that are keeping campers out of these parks. State Line Park is a prime example and it is probably one of the most beautiful parks on the lake. The Corps must recognize that use has fallen off because of historic and consistent low lake levels at the project maintained by the Corps. The facilities must be reopened and restored for use by the public and lake levels must be maintained above 633 msl so that the lake remains desirable for use and attractive to the public as a viable recreational facility. With our close proximity to both Columbus and Atlanta and with the implementation of an additional 35,000 troops at Ft. Benning by 2009, now is the time to complete these changes.

In the winter, it is virtually impossible to keep our boat at our dock.

The extreme variance in the action zones for West Point Lake can have an adverse impact on the lake during a dry winter; the real impact of the action zones is seen in dry summers. These wide ranging action zones allow the corps to satisfy other parts of the basin by pulling water from West Point Lake throughout the summer, severely impacting the use of the lake for recreational purposes.

The summer climate, especially from an economic impact point, suffers as well.

2. Return to managing the lake consistent with Congressionally authorized purposes.] In the Corps' November 1973 Master Plan, the purpose of West Point Lake was defined as having been "developed for the purpose of providing a wider variety of recreational facilities and

opportunities for the public than normally provided at Corps lakes." In fact, West Point Lake was the first lake in the United States authorized by Congress with a specifically designated authorized purpose of "general recreation."

[3. Restore and maintain recreational facilities.] We not only live on the lake but we also enjoy camping at the local Corps parks. However, the campgrounds are desperately in need of updating. There are a number of campers with expensive RV's and other 21 st century camping options that can't camp at these campgrounds due to outdated facilities. The restrooms, electrical outlets, water sources, washer and dryer facilities are either outdated or desperately in need of repair.

Years of abuse and inconsistent water levels drastically contributed to the current situation. Thank you for your cooperation so far in this long running debate and all of us in this community appreciate you taking the time to gather the facts. The future of West Point Lake is in your hands.

Comment ID: 575
Author Name: Dolly Martin
Organization:

Thank you for accepting input into new operational procedures for West Point Lake. As an owner of property adjacent to the Lake, I would like to make the following points regarding management of West Point Lake: 1). The lake should be managed as originally mandated by Congress. It was intended primarily as a recreational lake and should be managed to allow recreational use a full 12 months of the year.

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 576
Author Name: Dave Marting
Organization:

Thank you for accepting input into new operational procedures for West Point Lake. As an owner of property adjacent to the Lake, I would like to make the following points regarding management of West Point Lake: 1). The lake should be managed as originally mandated by Congress. It was intended primarily as a recreational lake and should be managed to allow recreational use a full 12 months of the year.

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 577
Author Name: Brenda Harris
Organization:

Thank you for accepting input into new operational procedures for West Point Lake. As an owner of property adjacent to the Lake, I would like to make the following points regarding management of West Point Lake: 1). The lake should be managed as originally mandated by Congress. It was intended primarily as a recreational lake and should be managed to allow recreational use a full 12 months of the year.

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 578
Author Name: Billy Harris
Organization:

Thank you for accepting input into new operational procedures for West Point Lake. As an owner of property adjacent to the Lake, I would like to make the following points regarding management of West Point Lake: 1). The lake should be managed as originally mandated by Congress. It was intended primarily as a recreational lake and should be managed to allow recreational use a full 12 months of the year.

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 579
Author Name: Anonymous
Organization:

I would like to see the lake maintain full pool or with in a two to three feet of full pull year round. It would help the economy in our area as fisherman and others would utilize it year round safely.

Comment ID: 580
Author Name: Hugh Toles
Organization:

1purchased a house in a subdivision on the lake as a retirement home where 1could boat from my own dock. 1 have always wanted to live on a lake because I have always enjoyed boating, both sailing and power boating. After looking at lakes in Alabama and Georgia, we picked West Point Lake. 1had always heard of how great this lake was for recreation. We invested in a house and an improved dock, and then realized that water levels in the lake sometimes were questionable from year to year.

In today's economy, I hate to see my property value decrease because of low water levels and I dislike having to pull my pontoon boat (which was bought new in LaGrange) out of the water and not be able to enjoy this lake as it was intended. My sail boat has not been in the water for 2 years. This year I was afraid the water levels would drop prematurely and I would have to pull it out early. Hopefully, I can depend on the Corps of Engineers to maintain a good level next summer and I can find the peacefulness of a good sail on this beautiful lake, and have another full season with 635 foot water level.

Comment ID: 581
Author Name: Molly Link
Organization:

I understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has invited input from the public for consideration while updating the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin. The following is submitted with much appreciation for the opportunity to express my concerns and interests related to the management of West Point Lake. After living 15 years in Alpharetta, GA, a hectic face-paced stressful suburb of Atlanta, my husband and I decided to relocate to a less stressful environment. Our criteria for relocating were that the new place be on a lake and within an hour drive to the Atlanta airport for the travel required of his work. After viewing three lakes, we decided on West Point Lake. The city of LaGrange had many desirable attributes and we loved the fact that the lake was not over populated and developed, and the natural lakeside beauty was maintained. In June 2000 we purchased a lot for building and within three years we had begun construction of our home. During those three years we would occasionally visit West Point Lake between April and November with friends and rent a boat from Highland Marina for a lovely day riding on the lake and swimming. After moving into our home in late 2004, we continued this practice until we purchased a ski boat in August 2005. Unfortunately, from August 2005 there was a span of 33 months that West Point Lake's monthly average lake level was below the full pool of 635mll, with only 9 months during this time that the water level was at 632mml for safe boating. This created some issues when we purchased our dock in January 2006 because the water level was too low to get the gang way to the shore for final installation. Looking toward the spring and higher water levels, we purchased a power boat lift and waited, and waited, and waited for the lake level to get to 632mll for installation. A small window of time provided the water level needed to complete boat

lift installation. In addition, during this time we started our annual Memorial Day party. At our inaugural party we took our guest for boat rides and hoped to start a yearly gathering for friends. The next year our Memorial Day party was had but we could only sit on the dock because the lake level was too low to launch the boat off of the lift. Both years, 2006 and 2007, proved to be a very frustrating and shocking times in West Point Lake boating community. (See attached photo.) We were unable to safely use our ski boat except for four months during these two years. There has been excessive finger pointing among the Corps of Engineers leadership with the lack of reasonable justification for the extreme drop in lake levels and the inconsistencies in the management of the lake levels.

Unexpectedly, the 2008 year has been an exciting year for us on the lake because it is truly the first year we have been able to enjoy it fully since moving here four years ago. With our boat we enjoy riding on the lake observing its natural beauty, skiing and tubing with our two daughters and their friends. During this past year we invited several families from our church out boating to teach their children to ski and tube. We have also discovered some beautiful locations to anchor and enjoy a picnic lunch. Several time this year we would boat over to our friend's Place on the lake, pick them up and a pizza for dinner, eat and float abound for a relaxing and fun evening during the summer.

We are just discovering the many opportunities that the lake offers for recreation. Maybe next year we will take up fishing! Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns for these critical lake issues. While updating the West Point Lake operating manual please consider managing and maintaining the lake level at 633 to 635mll to ensure that the lake is restored and preserved as a recreational lake, consistent with Congress original authorized purpose.

Comment ID: 583
Author Name: Elizabeth Johnson
Organization:

The ability to furnish high quality drinking water in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the population is mandatory for any town especially one that is growing and is economically viable. As a Realtor I have seen the lake level have direct impact on the value of property and on the economy in LaGrange. It also impacts the health, quality of life and the beauty of LaGrange and the counties which border the lake. During times of low lake levels, I have heard derogatory remarks from real estate customers and visitors to our town. It definitely has shapes the opinion of people regarding the desirability of the area.

Comment ID: 583
Author Name: Elizabeth Johnson
Organization:

High lake levels tend to correct the majority of the problems that most people have concerning the lake whether they are economic, conservation, recreational, health, or esthetic issues.

Comment ID: 588
Author Name: Jay Fager
Organization:

When the current economic downturn subsides, LaGrange, GA and Troup County in general, are poised for tremendous growth! The lake is very important to the economic well-being of this area. It is an asset that we want to preserve and improve. Water issues downstream in Florida impact our lake and economy in many negative ways.

Since the authorized purpose of the lake is recreational, an increase in the minimum pool level would guarantee increased activity 12 months a year.

Comment ID: 589
Author Name: Lee and Ann Cathey
Organization:

To Whom it May Concern, My reason for writing this letter is to give feedback to those who

manage the West Point Lake about the success of the Interim Operating Plan for lake management. This is my family's second year on the lake. The first year was quite unusual due to the drought and water release. Frankly, I hope to never see the lake in the shape it was in for 2007 again. It never got to full pool. Our dock was only floating for about two weeks and then it was on the ground again. We really began to question whether or not moving to the lake was a good decision. We believe that the Temporary Interim Operating Plan has been wonderful this year because we have been able to use our fishing boat to fish, visit restaurants across the lake, take pictures of some amazing wildlife and even show the beautiful lake scenery to our (out of town) friends and others who live in the area. It has remained an incredible source of enjoyment and recreation for our family.

Comment ID: 590
Author Name: Erin Cathy
Organization:

To Whom it May Concern, I understand this meeting is to get feedback to those who manage the West Point Lake about the Interim Operating Plan for the lake. I will say that I really enjoy fishing and always have enjoyed it. But when we first moved to the lake, I was really discouraged because the water was so low that we couldn't even use our dock for most of the year. I think that this year has been much better and the Temporary Operating Plan has been a good thing. My friends and I have been able to fish, use our jet skis and swim more this year than ever before. I've probably been out there every weekend (I didn't have to work) this summer. I love that there is water enough for the dock to float and we've been catching some bass here lately that are a nice size. I do think the lake should be used for recreation purposes and shouldn't be allowed to get as low as it was last year and in the years before that.

Comment ID: 591
Author Name: Alex Cathy
Organization:

To Whom it May Concern, I wanted to come to the lake meeting, but I couldn't come on this day. I wanted you guys to know how I feel about the Interim Operating Plan for the lake though. I like to fish and swim with my friends in the water, but wanted to say that we were not able to do that last year because our dock didn't even reach the water. I like the way that you have kept the water up during this Operating Plan and hope that you will continue to keep the lake levels as high as you can during the summer months. This lake was created for lots of different purposes and I've got to say that recreation is important to our LaGrange and West Point, not to mention the Alabama side of the lake. Not too long ago, I started to notice all the different fishing boats being pulled through town and when I could, I tried to pay attention to the tags on them. Some of these fishermen come from a long way away to fish in West Point Lake. That means they've got to stay somewhere close by and they've got to eat in our restaurants. I think its good for our economy when you keep the lake water high. Please keep it up so we can draw more fishermen and tourists to our area. But not only them, there are a lot of poor people who camp out on the banks and fish all weekend. They might really need the fish to eat. It is kind of hard to say what people do when they are hungry and spent all their money on gas just to get to work and back. Please do your best to keep the water levels high.

Comment ID: 592
Author Name: Chuck & Pam Rogers
Organization:

When we moved into our house in July of 2007 from the Florida Gulf Coast, we were excited to be living on a peaceful West Point Lake. Imagine our distress when our lake-front property slowly became a puddle surrounded by Georgia c1ay. Our grandchildren were able to walk under our dock, instead of dangling their feet out the edge of it into the refreshing water. We wondered if we had made a mistake moving to the lovely town of LaGrange and further would not have done so just 2 months later. What about our property value? What about the drawing card of the lake bringing in new residents? We realize that there are many issues that affect our beautiful West Point Lake; we just hope that when it comes to adjusting the lake level, at least as much consideration be given to local use as is given to political influence. We certainly do not want to be left out... stuck in the mud. Thank you for this meeting and the opportunity to express our individual and collective requests to maintain West Point Lake at a level that supports the original intent. Chuck and Pam Rogers 1 North Willowcrest Way LaGrange, GA 30240

Comment ID: 599
Author Name: Don Turner
Organization:

Please, you are dealing with millions of people's water here, a significant recreational asset, and a large Lake Lanier based economy.

Comment ID: 600
Author Name: Bill Perkins
Organization:

The situation has become a disaster for the businesses surrounding Lake Lanier. It is time to save Lake lanier. if the power plants downstream need to invest in longer intake points, so be it.

Comment ID: 602
Author Name: Mack Butler
Organization:

I am concerned for the low lake level at Lake Lanier. The low level has a negative impact on safety on the lake, the economy and home values around the lake, and water usage in the community.

Comment ID: 604
Author Name: FRED ROBBE
Organization:

Lake Lanier businesses and recreation have sufferedf greatly in order to save mussels.

Comment ID: 605
Author Name: Rick Smathers
Organization:

Water quality, reacreation and "quality of life" in areas adjacent to the lake are dependent on an adequate lake level. The relationship between lake level and local commerce has been documented. The economic impact of low water levels can hurt local economies.

Comment ID: 609
Author Name: Paul Kelman
Organization: Central Atlanta Progress/Atlanta Downtown Improvement Disstrict

Central Atlanta Progress, Inc. and Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Inc. are private, nonprofit corporations located in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia. We represent business and institutional interests in the central business district of the largest metropolitan area in the ACF water basin. Within our area of interest there are millions of square feet of office space and retail uses, thousands of residents, millions of annual visitors and some of the most iconic structures and institutions in the United States. We are extraordinarily concerned about the Water Control Plan for the ACF River Basin. We are cognizant that three million residents in north Georgia rely on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River as their sole major source of drinking water. The river and lake are literally our most important lifelines for our physical and economic health.

Comment ID: 613
Author Name: David Herndon
Organization:

With these priorities given, my concern is that due consideration be given to the economic impact of recreational boating on Lake Lanier. Boat sales, marina operations, marine supply stores, hospitality and entertainment businesses, boat repair and maintenance businesses, and many others are all suffering because of the record low water levels in the lake. As these businesses struggle, so do the local governments that depend on them as a major part of their tax base. I've seen several varying estimates of the total economic impact, all of which are in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Comment ID: 615
Author Name: Judy Humphreys

Organization:

The corps of engineers has totally ruined Lake Lanier, put people out of work, damaged property, closed businesses, depressed property values!

Comment ID: 618
Author Name: Barry Smith
Organization:

As a tax paying citizen the negative economic impact combined with the drinking water needs to the Atlanta Metro Area need to be protected.

Comment ID: 619
Author Name:
Organization:

So many businesses and lifestyles have been erased because of the mismanagement of this lake, not to mention the seriously compromised reserve capacity for an entire cities water needs.

Comment ID: 620
Author Name: Jerry Griffin
Organization: Association of County Commissioners of GA

Serving as the water supply for 3 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta region and generating 8 million visits per year (thus resulting in an economic impact of $5.5 billion to the regional economy) Lake Lanier must be more effectively managed to best serve the public interest.

Comment ID: 622
Author Name: Aron Hendrix
Organization:

South of Lanier lakes are full, no water restrictions (ever!), life goes on. Lanier continually takes the abuse of the system and suffers more economic loss than everything south of Buford dam to the ocean combined! (1071 Coalition economic survey is underway!!)

Comment ID: 625
Author Name: Mike Cooper
Organization:

We have many business and employees that depend on the lake

Comment ID: 633
Author Name: David Vogelpohl
Organization:

The last two years of low water levels have been very disappointing and dangerous from a safety and economic aspect.

Comment ID: 634
Author Name: Laura Adams
Organization:

The lake has been an important "draw" for the area that impacts the socio-economics of the area from fishermen, visitors, to homeowners. You destroy the lake, you detroy the positive economics of the area. Is this going to be another example of the government promising one thing and then doing the opposite? Keep the water level up - keep West Georgia a place to live, work, and enjoy the area!

Comment ID: 635
Author Name: O.W. McGowan
Organization:

Recreation is the prime economic drawer from use of West Point Lake; therefore that should be the major consideration for operation of the lake - not flood control. Even the "flood of record" of 2003 created minimal flood danger, and the water level never reached the max positive level. It is my belief that the winter pool level can be maintained at NLT 633' MSL with no negative impact. In other words follow the original congressional purpose for the lake, and we will maximize the economic impact for this area.

Comment ID: 639
Author Name: Patrick Brock
Organization:

Maximize economic impact

Comment ID: 641
Author Name: James Schoor
Organization:

Just moved to LaGrange and will be purchasing a home on the lake. As a business and home owner I am very concerned with the lake level and maintaining it. the lake is the biggest influence of our economy so it must be controlled and regulated in the best way possible.

Comment ID: 642
Author Name: Katie Van Schoor
Organization:

We plan to buy a home very soon on West Point Lake.
My family and I are very concerned about keep West Point Lake as it was initially intended. We want to restore & maintain recreational use.

Comment ID: 643
Author Name: William Robinson
Organization:

Keep level @ 633'-635' to maximize recreational & economic liability of lake.

Manage consistent w/ recreational charter.

Comment ID: 656
Author Name: Tom Stratton
Organization:

The Water Operations must be changed to prevent the extreme draw down of Lake Lanier. Lake Lanier provides jobs for many people in marinas, boat sales, recreational equipment sales, restaurants, and real estate. There has been a severe economic impact to the area surrounding the lake due to the reduced recreational opportunities. The economic value of a full lake should be considered versus the economic impact of releasing large amounts of water.

Comment ID: 658
Author Name: Paul E. Andrew
Organization:

Further, recreation is a huge part of the northeast Georgia economy and high levels in Lanier would safeguard this aspect of Lanier's usage.

Comment ID: 672
Author Name: David Volpe
Organization:

The economic impact to the lake and the Atlanta area is huge. The damage to my property is also sognificant. We need your help to manage this resource correctly!

Comment ID: 673
Author Name: Masry Jean Volpe
Organization:

The condition of the lake is deplorable causing economic chaos and significant property damage that could be avoided by proper management.

Comment ID: 674
Author Name: Michael Volpe
Organization:

I hereby request the Corp to properly manage Lake Lanier to stop the property damage and negative economic impact. We need water to survive in Atlanta and the current system is definitely not working.

Comment ID: 681
Author Name: Earl Arrowood
Organization:

Property values have plummeted. Many businesses are going out of business.Down stream lakes and rivers are full. Other states are enjoying our water without water restrictions. Lake Lanier supplies water to the City of Atlanta and it is at new lows.

Comment ID: 686
Author Name: Lee Edwards
Organization:

Manage lake consistant with congressionally authorized purpose of "general recreation" which provides for positive economic impact. When the Corps drops the lake level below 633 msl our recent economic study indicates we drop to 20% potential positive economic dollars.

Comment ID: 687
Author Name: Tim Newton
Organization:

The economic impact to Georgia is also a good reason to apply common sense to our water controls as compared to the decision to help the mussels and prehistoric fish survive. Move them to another location...

Comment ID: 688
Author Name: arnold hall
Organization: none

i have lived here all my life and i see 2 events side by side here, on one side i can see people becoming unemployed, property values falling, businesses failing peoples liveleyhood vanishing, costing citizens millons of dollars a lake fading away that will devestate the future of several counties that depend of this lake for drinking water.

Comment ID: 690
Author Name: A. Jim King
Organization:

The Flint-Apalachicola system is vital to three states. I hope it finds a place on any public works-infrastructure plans brought out by the new political structure in Washington. I can't think of a better way to help our economy than to spend a little to preserve the livelihoods impacted by this river system. This could be a new TVA, and just as important.

Comment ID: 691
Author Name: Brandon Shields
Organization:

It is imperative that all be done possible to restore Lake Lanier to its healthy level. This lake is such a valuable asset to Atlanta, not only as a water supply but a great family oriented recreational facility. So many issues appear to have been handled irresponsibly and that coupled with our severe drought has made for a disastrous situation. Great lengths need to be taken to rectify this result, assuring the future health of the lake. We need to work to make sure that future generations of Georgia will look back and know that all of this was handled correctly, safekeeping our water supply as well as our recreational areas

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Comment ID: 698
Author Name: Ann Langley
Organization:

As an individual that lives on the lake, I'm particularly affected. I still have water but barely. I take a boat ride and there are tree tops to navigate! The lake is being ruined as we stand by helpless! It is so frustrating!

It needs to be readjusted based on true need. The leaders involved from that state need to understand that. The lost the Georgians are experiencing are massive. Both in property values, recreation and local economy.
--
We absolutely need to readjust the amount of water that we release to ALA and FL. They do not need this large amount of water. My understanding is that this amount was determined pretty much arbitrarily but when we had plenty of water. It needs to be readjusted based on true need. The leaders involved from that state need to understand that. The lost the Georgians are experiencing are massive. Both in property values, recreation and local economy.

Comment ID: 699
Author Name: Joel A. Ramsey
Organization:

I am going to be very blunt and honest with you. We have lived here for 4 years, 2 of which our boat dock is sitting on the dirt. We also have a home in Florida - believe me they have plenty of water. Please update the 50-year water manual that Jackie Joseph has been trying to update for years. Let's deal with the hear and now, not arcaic and ridiculous burearacy. I am paying high taxes on water property, but no water. I am paying taxes on a boat I cannot use. At some point, I am going to have to stop paying taxes. Please expedite your solution.

Comment ID: 701
Author Name: Richard P. Sandoz
Organization: Property Owner

It is vitally important for the economy and property values of the area which surrounds Lake Lanier remain healthy.
The best ways of keeping a healthy economy and preserving the lake as a fully functioning recreathional area is to keep water in the lake!

Comment ID: 705
Author Name: Jim Purdy
Organization:

I think the priorities for water in Lake Lanier should include recreation and the level maintained closer to full pool year round.

Comment ID: 707
Author Name: Vicki Bentley
Organization:

I live in a lake front house, with a heavily forested strip of USACE land between my yard and the lake's edge. I estimate that raising the full pool level might result in the deaths of as many as 20 trees along the shoreline. I do not believe that USACE will have the funding to remove any trees killed by an increase in the level of full pool. Thus, I will have to pay for tree removal, or else

suffer further damages to my property (I already have experience in this matter!!!)

Comment ID: 709
Author Name: Richard DeWitt
Organization:

The economy in the north Georgia near Lake Lanier should also be considered , not just the communities down sream.
I repeat....Same Lake Lanier from the fate of Lake Meade !

Comment ID: 720
Author Name: Sid Riley
Organization: Jackson County Times

The low levels are converting what was once lake front property on Lake Seminole into swamp front worthless properties. Yet you still charge full annual fees for docks and boat houses when you can only get a boat to the site when the lake is flooded. Your management (or mismanagement) has caused property values to drop and citizens to lose money. Also, I appreciate the similar losses those people in Apalachacola are experiencing due to damage to the bay.

Florida residents are paying a disporportionate cost for the water problems.

Comment ID: 722
Author Name: janice harris
Organization:

my family has owned property on lake eufaula for more than 40 years. over the years we have enjoyed fishing, swimming, boating and various water sports. this property on the lake has been a getaway/vacation for my immediate and extended family and friends. i feel very strongly the water level should remain as it has in the past for the enviroment, wildlife and recreation.

Comment ID: 724
Author Name: D Head
Organization: boater

The Corps' actions have cost the boating industry Millions of dollars on Lanier.

Comment ID: 726
Author Name: Vince Foody
Organization:

It is very important to keep the West Point Lake Level between 633 and 635 to maintain the safety of boaters, the quality of water, and the economic well being of the local economy.

Comment ID: 727
Author Name: Mike Sullivan
Organization: City Council for City of Sugar Hill

Atlanta has experience economic turmoil due to loss of jobs due to the 2007-08 drought. Companies went bankrupt, people lost their jobs. The Governor of Alabama said that Atlanta was making much to do about nothing. Loss of basic sanitation due to lack of water is an extremely scary thought, and at what point do people outside of Atlanta start to care?

Comment ID: 732
Author Name: linda k. hendrix
Organization:

recreation is the least entity that has been hurt due to low lake levels. does anyone not know or care how many businesses have been hurt or even ruined because of (not only a drought)poor water/lake level management? human error in the form of a faulty gauge (not noticed) was only one of many things we have on record which has helped to put lake levels in jeopardy.thank you

for the oppotunity to let us voice our comments.

Comment ID: 733
Author Name: ron miller
Organization: home and boat owner

For the 3rd year we have been unable to enjoy the lake. Water levels have make it too dangerous for swimming and boating. Like so many of our legislators dictates I can not understand how they can dictate minimum water releases to go down streem which do not take into consideration water coming into the lake. Present legislation (like so much of other legislation) potentialy leads to disaster. If present conditions continue the lake will be dry and benefitting no one.

Comment ID: 734
Author Name:
Organization:

Atlanta has experience economic
turmoil due to loss of jobs due to the 2007-08 drought. Companies went
bankrupt, people lost their jobs. The Governor of Alabama said that
Atlanta was making much to do about nothing. Loss of basic sanitation
due to lack of water is an extremely scary thought, and at what point do
people outside of Atlanta start to care?

Comment ID: 742
Author Name: Tim Arnold
Organization:

There is no doubt as a Civil Engineer from Gerogia Tech that the limited watershed of the Lake Lanier basin is just as fragile, if not more, than any other part of the ACF basin. Lake Lanier has served as a mjor water resource for Atlanta metro for many years with no push back. Now that we're in drought mode, everyone is complaining about releases. Today, the lake is a huge economic generator for many people. To allow the lake the be dropped and ruin people's investments in business' and properties is ludicrous.

The COE needs to devise a plan that can look beyond drought times and settle the ACF basin issue for all interested parties. Adding elevation to the lake is probably prudent due to the future added water demands.

The new Water Contol Manual Update must consider population and business growth for the metro-Atlanta area as priority One.

Comment ID: 743
Author Name:
Organization:

The Atlanta area is experiencing an economic turmoil due to loss of jobs from the recent drought. The Governor of Alabama has said Atlanta is making a big deal about nothing. Companies in our community have gone bankrupt and people have lost their jobs. The idea of losing basic sanitation due to lack of water is a very scary thought.

Comment ID: 750
Author Name: RHONDA Y MITCHELL
Organization: MITCHELL MARINE, INC.

Maintain a minimum lake level of 633 to 635 ft. I beleive with the technology available today and the knowledge of employees of the Corps of Engineers that this level could safely be maintained without the overwhelming risk of flooding downstream. This lake is our livelihood!! In times of drought we can't afford for there not to be water in our lake. In 2007, during the drought and the months leading to the drought, I feel West Point Lake was mismanaged. We should not have been nearly as low as we were!!!! This put many businesses out of business and brought many of us to our knees!! Look at the economical impact study of West Point Lake. Low water is

economically very hard on many of the businesses around this area.

Comment ID: 754
Author Name: Charles Cataldo
Organization: Arris Group

Please consider the dire reliance of North Georgia on the northern part of the basin, espcially the valuable Lake Sidney Lanier. This lake has been depleted due to extended drought in N. Georgia and increasing local demand of over 3 million citizens that rely on Lake Lanier for their water supply. This lake is our "lifeblood" and we hope that the Corps will act fast to reform the current Endangered Species Act. The citizens of North Georgia need this in a most dire way not only to sustain life for us, but for our local economy. Thank You.

Comment ID: 755
Author Name: Will Poston
Organization:

The loss of the water in Lake Sidney Lanier has caused disasterous effects. It is threatening the very survival of the people who depend on the water shed to survive in the surrounding Atlanta area. It has also created both financial reprocusions and safety hazzards for the people who live on Lake Lanier and around Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 758
Author Name:
Organization:

The description given about the bay should also include statements about the numbers of other salt water species that depend on the bay, estuary, and river as part of their life cycle (fish breeding grounds, etc.) This system not only supports Gulf Coast wildlife, but the Gulf Coast sport fishing and commercial fishing industry as well.

Comment ID: 761
Author Name: Mary Lou Dabbs
Organization:

I understand that the balancing of the lake's purposes is a complicated issue, and that weather is unpredictable, but an extra 7 feet of winter drawdown on West Point Lake combined with a dry spring causes increased 'low level' problems. If the system could be set up to be more flexible and subject to change based on recent weather patterns, slightly higher levels could be maintained. If they're not, we may not have any 'life or property' to protect within the basin, because economic conditions will have driven everyone away!

Comment ID: 762
Author Name: Mary Lou Dabbs
Organization:

Unless West Point Lake is maintained at a level of 633-635 it cannot fulfill its congressionally mandated purpose of "general recreation." The low lake levels have a negative economic impact on LaGrange and nearby towns when fishing is compromised. Fishing tournaments and sailing regattas cannot be held safely at the lower lake levels. Especially in the recent downturn in economic conditions, these issues become even more critical, as does the ability of low income and minority families to supplement their food supply with fish from the lake.
As a local resident I believe that the "recreation" focus of this lake means much more than 'just for fun', and an adequate supply of water is essential to the welfare of our community!

Comment ID: 766
Author Name: Cathy Cunningham
Organization: Realtor

I am a Realtor and property owner living on Lake Lanier for almost 6 years now and we desperately need your help in making this lake what it once was....Please do whatever you can to change the laws to protect our investments. This has also effected my husband's occupation as he is in the Boating industry. We as residents of Lake Lanier are begging for a change in the

use of the water that is being distributed.

Comment ID: 767
Author Name: Byron Galway
Organization:

Keep water in our lake and don't send it all downstream.

There are many reasons to keep water in the lake, from drinking water for Atlanta to local business around the lake, which gas a huge economic impact on Georgia's local, regional and state-wide economic health.

Comment ID: 768
Author Name: Holley Powell
Organization:

My husband and I own The Dam Store, Inc. which is a tackle and guide service store. We purchased the store 2 years ago and have seen a drastic drop in revenue to the low water levels and lack of ramp availability. I am also a realtor and lake home values have plummeted. This lake is a wonderful resource that is being abused and something has to be done. The drop in water levels has affected countless business owners and property owners. In these difficult economic times, lake businesses are suffering needlessly because there is something that can be done - stop giving away all the water! No bailouts here - just do what is right!

Comment ID: 771
Author Name: bruce longshore
Organization: na

In this period of economic crisis we do not want to continue to contribute to those that depend on their basic survival.

The imbalance of water release from Lake Lanier has created an incredible hardship on the economic viability for areas located near lake lanier.

Comment ID: 774
Author Name:
Organization: Realtor

The lake level has affected my business severely. I am hoping that between now and Springtime that if we do have the rain and the water level reaches a pool where the beauty of our lake is restored the water level will be consistent and we get our lives back to normal..this has affected so many businesses and so many people from making a living it's just awful.

Comment ID: 775
Author Name: James Cole
Organization:

I am a homeowner and have been thoroughly digusted over the condition of the lake level here. My home value has dropped tremendously because of the level although my property tax remains the same. We must make a change in the laws and make it quickly. Our investments depend on it. If we don't make these changes now we may never see this lake and it's value return.

Comment ID: 777
Author Name: capt guy h firor
Organization: the dam store inc

as a homeowner and 30 year veteran of marine industry on lake lanier, i am seeing everything i ever worked for evaporate with every drop of water leaving lake lanier. we have a lakefront home on shoal creek that has been on market for almost 2 years, even with a deep water dock still in operation.
just drive down friendship/holiday rd and imagine what the 2009 atlanta boat show is going to be like.think disaster.

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please dont kill off the industry that drives north georgia. no water means no ramps means no fishermen or familiy vacations.
lake lanier is the jewel in your portfolio. please don't destroy it.

Comment ID: 778
Author Name: Philip Burton
Organization:

Recreation and boating along with all its income chains as become a large industry for the state of Georgia, which ranks in the top 15 states both for recreation spending and boat registrations making it a multi-billion dollar industry and providing jobs for thousands in the state. Over 65 percent of this industry is located in the northern 1/3 of the state of Georgia.

Comment ID: 781
Author Name: Elizabeth Cobleigh
Organization:

The water supply is very low. My boat has been beached on shore since Sept. 2007 with us anble to move to to water as the water is now 50 feet away from our dock. This is unacceptable as we have been told that the water level will not rise for at least another year

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Comment ID: 784
Author Name: David Vaughan
Organization:

Maintain and protect Lanier in accordance with that overriding principle. Enormous sums have been invested by local governments, businesses and individuals in reliance on that stated objective and the reasonable expectation that Lanier would be maintained and protected in accordance with it. Quit ignoring the interests of property owners; the economic losses resulting from not doing so may constitute an unlawful taking without compensation.

Comment ID: 789
Author Name: carrie segrest
Organization: marinemax

Please stop taking water from Lake Lanier. You are not only hurting business, you are hurting everyone that lives in Georgia. The economy is already bad enough, draining the lake doesn't help one bit. Comment ID: 790
Author Name: Jerry W. Carter
Organization:

I am not sure that I am in the correct section, but here goes. I find it appalling that boat owners, large and small, have had to endure the low levels of Lake Lanier just to pass along water to those who are not conserving, and are not in need of additional water. I have been a boat owner for over 30 years. These past few years have not been a total disaster, but very close. There are parts of Lake Lanier that are just not navigatable. Some of my fondest memories are being with my family on Lake Lanier and I would love my son and daughter to be able to use the lake. I do not feel that will be possible. The low levels of this lake are not due to droughts. It is due to our government decidng what is best. Our government should not be the sole decision maker in this case. I could understand if there was a need for water down stream, but frankly, show me the need. We are just allowing water to pass through the lake for no apparent reason. Please, take another look at this and make a decision based on need, not a government mandate.

Comment ID: 791
Author Name:
Organization:

My life depends on the water in our lake. Please make changes so that we can get our water level back and never have this happen again.

Comment ID: 792
Author Name: Frank Dennis
Organization: Marine Max

I depend on the lake and the people it attracts for my income in the boat sales business. Please consider the economic effect you are having by destroying our lake and reducing it to a dead sea. Comment ID: 793
Author Name:
Organization:

I am an avid boater on Lake Lanier and i just wanted to comment that the Corps needs to do whatever it can to keep as much water in Lake Lanier as possible.
I realize there are many demands from Al and FL for this same water, but no one need should overshadow another.
If we in GA are undergoing water use restrictions due to low levels in Lanier, everyone down stream affected by this should also have water use restrictions.

Comment ID: 796
Author Name: Ken Johnson
Organization: MarineMax

The low lake level has affected our boating customers to the point that they don't use there boats anymore. this alone has everyone that work on holiday road worried that their job will soon be gone. The low lake level has cut my pay check in half for the past two years.

Marine max has already layed off over half my staff.
Please do something before all our jobs are gone!!

Comment ID: 797
Author Name: Greg
Organization:

Property values have fallen, navigation and water activities have become dangerous, regular events - including events that bring revenue and national exposure to the Lake - have been cancelled, the gereral appearance of the lake is declining.

Comment ID: 799
Author Name: Troy Zavitz
Organization: Marinemax of Georgia

As a sales consultant in the marine industry this one issue has cost us dearly in lost revenue. If the water level of Lake Lanier is not expected to rise in the very near future then authorize to extend the current boat ramps to a useable state.

Comment ID: 800
Author Name: Scott Cunningham
Organization: Marine Max

As a resident and business man dealing with the lake levels I must say with regret that this has been the most devastating disaster that has occured to the counties involved. It has not only hurt property values but also the Boating industry as well. My livelyhood has been dramatically reduced and my customers are suffering due to the lake levels. If the situation doesn't improve the counties surrounding this situation will have revenue disappear and may not fully recover from this disaster. The law must be changed and changed immediately to protect this lake and it's purpose for existence. We are pleading with the forces that be to help us now.

Comment ID: 803
Author Name: Harry Cardillo
Organization:

We must insure a more adequate/consistent full Lake as we are jeopardizing our Economy and Recreation in Northern Georgia. How can we as Boaters/Users help this situiation before it is too late?

Comment ID: 805

Author Name:
Organization:

The economy effect of Lake Lanier on the region is very high. When the lake is allowed to reach the level at which it is now impacts everyone near the lake. Home owners, businesses around the lake and businesses in the cities near the lake. This is a year around problem. the lake is used the year around.

Comment ID: 811
Author Name: Lorin Ward
Organization: MarineMax

s a local resident, private boat owner, MarineMax employee and local business patron, I am a firm stakeholder in the water levels of Lake Sidney Lanier. My wife and son depend on my income as a boat salesman and our livlihood is granted by the public access and safe usage of Lake Sidney Lanier for recreational purposes. Please do all that is necessary not only to preserve our lake but to allow it to replenish itself to full pool lake levels for the sake of recreational businesses in the area. Thank you for taking my individual interests into consideration!

Comment ID: 813
Author Name: SCOTT FERRIS
Organization: MARINEMAX

I'VE BEEN SELLING BOATS ON THE LAKE FOR A LIVING FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS. THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN VERY BAD FOR ME DUE TO THE WATER LEVEL AND NOT BEING ABLE TO SELL TRAILERABLE BOATS. I HAVE CHILDREN AND PARENTS THAT DEPEND ON ME. PLEASE HELP ME BY MAINTAINING A HIGHER WATER LEVEL

Comment ID: 818
Author Name: mike venable
Organization: local resident

The cove I live on has been dry for the past 3 summers, I have a damaged dock from a tiny creek that washed out the dirt holding up the dock, Im still paying dock fee's even the cove is dry,and I have been paying marina fee's on top of that so I can enjoy my boat,and that is very expensive,and is not in my budget.

Comment ID: 819
Author Name: DAVID STOLFO
Organization:

THE LAKE GOING DOWN SO LOW HAS REALLY HURT ME AND MY FAMILY. I SELL SEA RAYS AT BALD RIDGE MARINA.MY CUSTOMERS WONT BUY B/C THEY HAVE NO WATER AT THEIR DOCK. ALSO THEY CANT LAUNCH.MY CUSTOMERS WHO ALREADY BOUGHT FROM ME WONT BOAT B/C THEY ARE SCARED THEY WILL HIT SOMETHING AND HURT THEIR BOAT. WE ARE LOOKING AT SELLING OUR HOUSE IN BUFORD, AND MOVING BACK TO TN WHERE WE CAME FROM. IT IS JUST NOT GETTING BETTER. MY CUSTOMERS HAVE INDICATED IT IS NOT THE ECONOMY, OR FUEL PRICES, IT IS THE LAKE LEVEL. I AM AT 30% OF MY NORMAL INCOME.I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN USACOE LET TOO MUCH WATER OUT, AND THEY LAKE HAS BEEN WAY DOWN EVER SINCE. FIX THIS PROBLEM PLEASE...THIS IS NOT HELPING!!!

ECONOMICS AND RECREATION

(Projects below West Point Dam)

Comment ID: 1
Author Name: Helen Lankford
Organization:

Please do not allow Atlanta's over-development to deplete the waters that feed into Apalachicola Bay. The livelyhood of too many depend on the actions of the Corps of Engineers.

Comment ID: 13
Author Name: Noah Lockley
Organization: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

The Apalachicola River runs through the heart of Franklin County, Florida and empties into the Apalachicola Bay. The ecosystem and resources that are harvested in the lower reaches of the River and the Bay are the base of the county's economy, and have been for the last 100 years.

The Board hereby requests that the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is being developed as part of the update of the WCM be required to include the ecosystem of the Apalachicola Bay. Specifically, the EIS should take into account the harvestable resources (shrimp, blue crab, mullet) that have seen their landings plummet over the last few years because of the lake of freshwater reaching the Bay.

The Apalachicola Bay is the last truly economically productive Bay in the state of Florida. Unfortunately, it is now one of a kind in a state that once had dozens of productive bays. It is a valuable resource the state has spent millions of dollars protecting and the Board believes the current WCM does not adequately address its freshwater needs.

Comment ID: 25
Author Name: Lesley Cox
Organization:

I'm here as a local resident. I'm a certified Green Guide. That means that I depend on the public lands, then the natural areas here in Franklin County and Northwest Florida. The Apalachicola Basin is very important to me personally and as a business person. I'm also a board member of several non-profit organizations that are particularly interested in the environment. I'm president of the Florida Green Guide Association, and there's many of us in that association that depend on our natural resoruces as our livelihood.

Comment ID: 26
Author Name: Donald Smiley
Organization:

Okay. My name is Donald Smiley. I live in Wewahitchka, Florida at 161 Bozeman Circle. I am a local resident. I'm also a beekeeper, and my livelihood depends on the health of the river system, specifically Tupelo Honey trees, Ogeche Tupelo, which produces Tupelo honey. My main concern is the lack of water and waterflow in the lower Apalachicola River System. The Tupelo tree depends on wetland, we forested areas. The tree needs water on its roots, specifically -- especially during sprintime when it needs to bud out, and I've been on the river system my whole life. I was born here in Wewa, fished and worked on the river. My livelihood is pretty much always depending on river system. What i've seen is a lot of Tupelo trees that used to be there are gone. They've died out because of the lack of water. I see wetland that used to be wet that's dry. Upland trees, hardwoods and other types of trees have encroached into areas where it used to be Tupelo trees. The Tupelo can't survive there any longer, because there's no water there.

Comment ID: 30
Author Name: Joseph Parrish

Organization:

Our oyster industry, our fishing industry, our shrimping industry are all being damaged.

Comment ID: 36
Author Name: Tony Owens
Organization: MeadWestvaco

Submitted Via Electronic Mail to comments@acf-wcm.com Dear Colonel Jorns: This letter presents MeadWestvaco's ("MWV") input regarding the issues and concerns which it believes should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") to be prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ("Corps") for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Flint ("ACF") River Basin Water Control Manual Update. MWV is a member of the Tri Rivers Waterway Development Association ("TRWDA"), and agrees with the comments presented by TRWDA on its behalf, which MWV has expanded on below. On addition, MWV's more specific comments follow. Thank you for allowing MWV to submit these comments and for your consideration. 1. MeadWestvaco's Interest in the ACF River Basin MeadWestvaco's Mahrt Mill is located near Phenix City, Alabama. The Mahrt Mill is the sole manufacturing facility for the production of coated paperboard for MWV's Coated Board Division. The Mahrt Mill produces over 1,000,000 tons of coated paperboard per year at the Phenix City site, which covers about 1,400 acres and operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, approximately 355 days per year. The Coated Natural Kraft paperboard produced at MWV's Mahrt Mill is shipped around the world and converted into folding cartons and beverage carriers. MeadWestvaco is a major employer in the Phenix City and surrounding area, with approximately 950 employees. MWV's Mahrt Mill requires water from the Chattahoochee River for use in its manufacturing processes. On average, the Mahrt Mill withdraws approximately 28 mgd and at the same returns approximately 24 mgd to the Chattahoochee River, almost 90% of what it withdraws. Flow reductions in the Chattahoochee River can have significant negative effects on the financial viability of MWV's Mahrt Mill. Insufficient water for manufacturing processes will result in reduced production and, consequently, lost jobs in the Phenix City and surrounding areas of Alabama and Georgia.

In addition, MWV's current NPDES permit includes provisions which are dependent upon instream flows and water quality within the Chattahoochee River. Flow reductions in the river and the corresponding reduction in water quality will make it difficult or (more likely) impossible for MWV to continue to operate the Mahrt Mill and remain in compliance with its NPDES permit. Consequently, significant flow reductions in the river would result in MWV shutting the mill down in order to avoid NPDES permit violations.

In addition, flows in the Chattahoochee River sufficient to support navigation will be beneficial to the natural resources of the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay. While a minimum flow of 5,000 cfs has been established for the benefit of certain species protected under the ESA, it is the position of Apalachicola Bay and River Keeper and the Franklin County Seafood Workers that those minimum flows do not adequately protect the Bay and its other resources, including commercial fisheries and other ecological resources, on a sustained basis. Like TRWDA, MWV believes that flows sufficient to meet Middle and Lower Chattahoochee requirements would increase the frequency of instances when flows below Woodruff exceed 5,000 cfs, particularly when combined with contributions from the Flint River.

Comment ID: 51
Author Name: Billy V. Houston
Organization: Tri Rivers Waterway Development District

Dear Colonel Jorns: This letter provides the comments of Tri Rivers Waterway Development Association ("TRWDA") regarding the scoping process of the Corps of Engineers ("Corps") to update its water control manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint ("ACF") River System. Thank you for your consideration of TRWDA's views. 1. TRWDA's Interest in the ACF River Basin TRWDA represents many stakeholders who rely on the ACF River System for a variety of uses, including navigation, hydropower generation, water supply, wastewater treatment, economic development, environmental enjoyment, tourism, and recreation. The members of TRWDA include the cities of Eufaula, Dothan, and Phenix City, Alabama, and Columbus and Bainbridge, Georgia; most of the counties in the three states along the federal navigation project; the Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations; Columbus Water Works;

Georgia Pacific; Lake Seminole Association; MeadWestvaco; Middle Chattahoochee Water Coalition; Riverway South; Southeast Water Alliance; and Southern Nuclear Company. TRWDA seeks to partner with business, municipal, industrial, environmental, agricultural, and recreational interests, and with local, state and federal agencies to seek scientific, technical and economic solutions to the obstacles which have prevented a full realization of the benefits of the ACF River System in recent years. We have engaged experts in business development and economic analysis from Troy University to quantify the economic value and potential of the system, including impacts to industrial development, agriculture, municipal revenues, and tourism.

Communities in the Lower Portions of the Basin Depend on the Corps' Provision of Adequate Flows. Communities and businesses located and grew in cities like Dothan, Eufaula, and Phenix City, Alabama, and Bainbridge, Columbus, and La Grange, Georgia, with the full expectation that the Corps would operate the ACF reservoirs according to the laws authorizing their construction and operation. Those communities spent millions of dollars to build public works projects as well as infrastructure including the Eufaula Inland Dock, the Phenix City Inland Dock, and the Columbia Inland Dock in Alabama and the Port of Columbus and Port Bainbridge in Georgia. Those facilities made it possible for local communities to sell and ship agricultural, silvicultural and mineral products in bulk and to receive large deliveries of fuels and fertilizers by barge. Companies including TRWDA members Georgia Pacific, MeadWestvaco and Southern Nuclear Company sited and built major industrial facilities on the Chattahoochee River based in large part on the federal commitment that flows sufficient to serve the Congressionally authorized purposes would provide for their industrial cooling and discharge assimilation. They also expected to reap the benefits associated with barge transport of fuel and bulk products provided by a reliable navigation channel. Not only have these communities and businesses acted and invested in reliance on the Corps' lawful operation of the ACF reservoirs in the past, but they are counting on adequate flows for their future survival. Industry and commerce will continue to grow in southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia with adequate flows and channel maintenance. Several new economic opportunities which depend on flows in the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers have recently been developed or are under serious consideration. The Corps and the cities of Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, have been working on a river restoration project involving the removal of two small, historic dams to improve habitat and create a whitewater recreation course. Riverway South—an organization extending across all three ACF states—is actively promoting eco-tourism, and its success depends on the assurance of a safe and reliable navigation channel from Columbus, Georgia, south to the Gulf of Mexico. Longleaf Energy Associates has a permit to site a new energy production facility on the Chattahoochee River in Early County, Georgia, and the company plans to begin construction next year. Several projects which include marinas or other river-based recreational opportunities have recently opened, are under development, or are in serious consideration, including a new marina which recently opened in Bainbridge, Georgia; the Trail's End Resort and Marina on Lake Seminole; a proposed new marina near the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia; a proposed marina and nature trail in Quitman County, Georgia; and a kayak venture proposed for Chattahoochee, Florida. Without adequate flows and safe and reliable navigation, these opportunities for economic growth and business development will be subject to difficult challenges. TRWDA urges the Corps to explain in its revised manual and the accompanying environmental documentation how it intends to provide for the needs of the communities and industries located in the middle and lower portions of the ACF River System.

Comment ID: 53
Author Name: Ron Seder
Organization:

Apalachicola River flows are said to be needed for power plants, endangered/threatened species survival/spawning, and a healthy oyster/Gulf fisheries industry. We have yet to see the scientific and justified economic facts behind these claims, and punishing millions of people by taking their water because of the declaration of a few threatened/endangered species in the Apalachicola River is just plain wrong.

Comment ID: 54
Author Name: Dan Tonsmeire
Organization: Apalachicola River Keepers

The Apalachicola Basin is a distinctive, highly productive and bio-diverse area of North America.

Within its boundaries are: Highly productive farmlands and springs of Jackson and Gadsden counties. • Vast pine and floodplain forests of Calhoun, Liberty, Franklin and Gulf counties. • Coastal estuaries and Gulf waters of Franklin and Gulf counties, which team with commercially harvested oysters, crab, mullet, shrimp, scallops, grouper, snapper and many other seafood delicacies harvested by the tons. • Harvest representing over 10% of the national oyster and 90% of the State of Florida oyster production comes from Apalachicola Bay. Additionally, harvest from the River and Bay of shrimp, finfish, blue crab, crawfish, and eel are commercially important on a national and regional scale. It should also be recognized that the contributions of the Apalachicola estuary to the commercial seafood harvest is significant as one of the most productive bays remaining on the Gulf of Mexico. •

Regionally and nationally significant recreational activities (i.e., fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation activities are part of the social, cultural and economic pursuits in the Apalachicola River and Bay watershed).The combinations of this unique natural environmental, cultural and economically important area are of national, regional, and local significance.

Loss of traditional livelihoods resulting in impacts to the economic, social and cultural structure of the Apalachicola Basin. Consideration of these and related impacts should be addressed through a comprehensive economic, environmental, social and cultural analysis. Include All Socio-Economic Impacts to Ecosystem Services The tremendous economic benefits to water uses on the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers have been well documented by a number of economic reports. Much of that water use has resulted in economic impacts to users along the Apalachicola River and Bay, the region and the nation. Since the continued productivity and bio-diversity of the Apalachicola River and Bay are historically the economic and cultural backbone of the rural riparian counties and communities of the Apalachicola region, and has national significance the EIS must include the socio-economic impacts to those specific users and to ecosystem services provided by a healthy functioning Apalachicola ecosystem to the nation. Ecosystem services considered must include outdoor recreational activity such as fishing and swimming, water purification, flood mitigation, cycling and movement of nutrients, atmospheric carbon reduction, maintenance of biodiversity, protection of coastal shores, and more as identified in ATTACHMENT 2

Comment ID: 58
Author Name: Caroline Weiler
Organization:

Additionally, this estuary sustains no small economy, from the local seafood workers to the restaurants in NYC. You know the right thing to do. Please take the higher road. It doesn't have to be viewed as Atlanta versus Apalachicola; it is a choice between mortar and bricks or a productive paradise that can't be replaced once it is destroyed.

Comment ID: 101
Author Name: Beverly Hewitt
Organization:

We need to keep our water so we keep our seafood alive.

Comment ID: 103
Author Name: Heidi Recksiek
Organization:

Socioeconomic 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 the Apalachicola Bay.

Comment ID:107
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 understand how 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.

This has lead to a great year of fishing, and a strong economic year for the Eufaula area.

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.

Comment ID: 120
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.

Comment ID: 124
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?

Comment ID: 275
Author Name: Becky Gibson
Organization:

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: 405
Author Name: L Levi
Organization:

Economic impacts to the Apalachicola Bay area from sustained minimum flows are severe - commercial seafood harvesting and tourism are the 2 primary means of income for most residents of the area.

Comment ID: 458
Author Name: Susan Pruitt
Organization:

As a full time resident of St. George Island, the barrier island bordering Apalachicola Bay, I am very concerned about the reduction in water flow to our bay from the Apalachicola River. We are

dying down here...our local economy is so dependent on this body of water! If we let this bay die, it will destroy this area not to mention one the last healthy river/bay systems in this country. Once the seafood in this bay is gone, it is gone. And we will have nothing left to protect here. This will have far reaching effects on this spectacular place. We will become just another stretch of beach filled with multistory high rise buildings, completely obliterating the area's natural beauty. We beg you not to let this happen to us. We are not asking for more than our share of this water. Just let the river flow.

Comment ID: 473
Author Name: Nita Morgan
Organization:

You must certainly protect the Apalachicola River and the bay it feeds. Our community and will not survive.

Comment ID: 513
Author Name: Jansen
Organization: Riverfront Therapy Inc.

I believe the preservation of this great bay is essential to not just the economy here but it will inevitably influence all the visitors who come to our area for vacations. Most of the visitor are from Alabama and Georgia.

Comment ID: 572
Author Name: Billy Turner
Organization: Columbus Water Works

he Corps must recognize its responsibility to enable development throughout these areas of Georgia and Alabama rather than serving as an impediment to vital economic growth.

Comment ID: 587
Author Name: Robert Tant
Organization: Columbus Water Works

Water Works Columbus Water Works (CWW) appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the update of the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Riverbasin in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, The Chattahoochee River has always played a major role in the life of Columbus. That role is expanding even more today. A river restoration project which involves breeching two small dams promises to restore the river to a more natural state and accommodate the establishment of a whitewater rafting enterprise and increased tourism and recreational activities. The Corps has engaged in considerable study of this project and it continues to make progress, Currently, there are plans to develop a major marina complex to complement the National Infantry Museum. Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center and the continuing development of this once blighted area. Also, Columbus and Phenix City, Alabama support the redevelopment of this area a major inland port. A report by Troy University addressing 1) navigation; 2) recreation; 3) water supply; 4) assimilation: 5) real estate; and 6) power calculates the economic impact on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Fling (ACF) system and concludes that navigation is potentially significant economic benefit to The Corps must recognize its responsibility to enable development throughout these areas of Georgia and Alabama rather than serving as an impediment to vital economic growth.

Comment ID: 623
Author Name: Jan Thomas
Organization:

Since l999, i have lived at 32 Avenue D, two blocks from the Apalachicola River.....i rehabilitated the historic building, have leased to tenants who love this location on a vital corner and i live up above "the store". Walking by the Water Street river park almost daily, and observing the volumes of locals and tourists that are drawn to the River bank view, i never cease to be amazed at what the River means....The Apalachicola River is an absolute necessary artery to this part of the Gulf of Mexico. Decreased water flow would undoubtedly devastate our contiguous communities here for miles around....i genuinely hope that all parties can come to

the table to share.....if everyone gives a little??!!.....Thank you for allowing concerned community members to share their feelings.....Jan Thomas, Apalachicola, FL

Comment ID: 645
Author Name:
Organization:

This bay--the Last Great Bay--is extremely vital not only to thousands of people that live in this area, but vitally important to tbe most active estuarine foodweb in North America. Everything must be done to protect its future.

Comment ID: 654
Author Name: Linda Raffield
Organization: FCSWA Secretary

As the Secretary of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association nothing is more important to me with the ACF Issue than seeing that the Apalachicola Bay and our industry recieve the adequate water needed for us to maintain the industry that has been the backbone of Apalachicola for generations.

Considering others with just as much at stake as anyone else, seeing the faces of the people who work and live on or around the water. The farmers, Bee Keepers, fishermen, oystermen and any number of other people who depend upon the water to make a living and have families who depend upon them to make a living for them.

Comment ID: 659
Author Name: Daniel Itzkovitz
Organization: Tamara\\\'s Cafe

My familys livelihood depends on the river and bay. We could not make a living here if the river flow was decreased even the slighest bit.

Comment ID: 679
Author Name: April M. Dalton
Organization:

I was born in Carrabelle, Florida in 1969 and I sure have seen alot of changes occur in the Apalachicola Bay area in my near 40 years here. The quantity and quality of the seafood has suffered tremendously in the time I have been alive. The first impact of the loss of fresh water to the bay was seen by my father when the Bob Sikes cut was allowed by the Corps of Engineers. Why would they allow someone to suggest something and then give them the okay to proceed with their project before doing the research needed to see if there would be any impact to the natural resourses in that particular area is beyond me. The oystermen used to be seen on the Apalachicola Bay by the thousands now we are lucky if we get to see them by the hundreds. So many families in Franklin and surrounding counties have moved to other areas to find work that will appropriately sustain their family because there are no oysters left in the bay to supply the great numbers of people who love working in the seafood industry. Not only have the oysters been negatively affected, but so have the Shrimp, Crabs, and Fish. More and more citizens(like me)from here are finding jobs on the land away from the Apalachicola Bay because of the fact that the seafood industry is becoming endangered itself. You hear all the time about the endangered species list, well the Oystermen, Oysterwomen, Shrimpers, Crabbers, Fishermen, and Fisherwomen need to be added to that list because in the last 10 years the number of people holding these kinds of jobs has decreased by half. I would like for everyone to know that the Apalachicola Bay is highly dependent on the fresh water that comes flowing naturally down the Apalachicola River System and without the fresh water not only will the seafood die so will the seafood industry itself. We will then not only be dependent on foreign oil, but we will have to depend on froeign seafood too. The shrimpers have already been forced out because of the shrimp that is being grown on farms. What is the next step for the oyster industry, will we have to open ourselves up to oyster farming just to eat oysters. I do know one thing for a fact and that is that the seafood produced here in the Apalachicola Bay have the best flavor that anyone could ever get in seafood. We have here for our pleasure not only World Famous Apalachicola

Oysters, but Island Mullet from St. Georges Island, and Apalachicola Bay Shrimp that will make your mouth water for more. So share the water especially if you love the taste of Apalachicola Seafood. I KNOW I DO LOVE THE TASTE OF SOME GOOD OLE FRIED APALACHICOLA OYSTERS, FISH, SHRIMP, AND CRABS.

Comment ID: 683
Author Name: Jane Shiver
Organization:

My Family has made their living on Apalachicola Bay for generations. I now have 2 sons and other family members who still oyster the bay. Please do what you can to save our bay. Without the bay, this community cannot survive.

Comment ID: 695
Author Name: Willis T. Bird
Organization: Citizen

I no longer live in Apalachicola but did during my school years. It was a fishing village then and I realize it has changed somewhat to a tourist attraction. However, part of that wonderful feel is the remaining fishing industry which includes oystering. The oysters from the bay there are the absolute best of anywhere. Many families depend on the oysters for their livelyhood and many people in this area and elsewhere look for those Apalachicola oysters wherever we find seafood served. I ask for them. Do not allow this part of history to be ended with the stroke of someone's pen. It is too important. People matter and this affects more people than you know.

Comment ID: 696
Author Name: Stan Siprell
Organization:

I was born and raised in Apalachicola. I have friends who oyster and friends who own oyster businesses. I here the importance of a good fresh water supply to our bay. I am also a hunter and fisherman and appreciate our beautiful area. Species have come and gone thru out this world and I believe in protecting them, but not to the point of terrible human sacrifice. Just think when you consider this that if your families next meal depended on an oyster how would you vote.

Comment ID: 700
Author Name: Mary Ann Durrer
Organization:

-I wanted to write and deliver my comments regarding the water issues surrounding the Apalachicola River. I live in Eastpoint, FL and the Apalachicola River is a very big part of our life down here on the coast. Seafood is the major industry in the area and employs a vast number of people in the area. Seafood is also very important to the tourists who visit the area and provide us income.

Comment ID: 730
Author Name: Carole Rutland
Organization: RiverWay South

It is important to the very existence and life of many of these communities they be considered before altering flow plans. Lives of citizens as well as the protection of natural resources need to be coordinated

Many of these counties are defined as some of the most economically distressed in our nation. RiverWay South is working to help these counties develop without harming the unique cultural heritage and riverine environment... including the rivers' waterways. We are bringing communities back to the river as a focal point for sustainable economic development because we know that people who experience the river are far more likely to protect the river.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Comment ID: 23
Author Name: Mr. Tom and Chris Hunkele
Organization: Lakeside Fitness & Therapy LLC

Both Chris and I want to express our concerns related to West F oint Lake - - we are privileged to live on the lake in Creek Ridge. We moved to LaGrange in May of 2003- it was our dream to live on the lake, enjoy its beauty and recreation. The current status of our lake is breathtaking - - it is a "gift" to those of us fortunate enough to "live on" the lake, for those who enjoy its recreation, for the low-income and minority families who draw both entertainment and sustenance from the lake and the varied business that rely on the draw of West Point Lakes beauty and recreation opportunties.

Comment ID: 38
Author Name: Carl Von Epps
Organization: House of Representatives

Dear Col. Joms:
I am writing to you today as the Founding President of the 100 Black Men of West Georgia. The 100 Black Men of West Georgia is a SOl(c)3 non profit organization whose mission is "to provide quality experiences for youth in order to develop good moral values, ethical values and a positive attitude towards the educational process."

We are aware that the Mobile District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE Mobile) has been actively engaged in various environmental review processes and a proposed Environmental Impact Statement for the Apalachicola- Chattahoochee- Flint (ACF) River basin. Of specific concern to our organization are those actions taken by USACE Mobile that relate to operations at West Point Lake, a federal project under your command.

As you know Executive Order 12898 addresses the issue of Environmental Justice for minority and low income populations as a result of a proposed federal action. Any decision by the Corps of Engineers to modify operations is of particular concern to our organization. Actions which result in lower elevations of West Point Lake represent a potential or threat of denial of access to recreational resources for min0l1ty and low income populations in the West Georgia and East Alabama area.

In addition, Section 4-4 of E.O. 12898 provides that any actions by your Agency that could impact "consistent consumption of fish and wildlife" must be considered with any Federal action.

As you are aware, the West Point Lake Project was the first Corps project to carry a specific authorization by the United States Congress to provide for recreational purposes as well as sport fishing and wildlife development. What you may not be aware of is the large numbers of minority and lower income persons that reside in the vicinity of West Point Lake in west Georgia and east Alabama that are directly affected by the Corps' operations at the West Point Project. When the lake was built, a significant amount of the shoreline was reserved and set aside for use for recreational activities for picnicking, camping, swimming and fishing. Each of these elements has been severely impacted by the Corps' continued maintenance of low lake elevations at the project since its inception.

The framework for our concern regarding environmental justice lies in the foundational issue of "environmental policy and civil rights" outlined by the EPA in 2004. The executive order anticipated that peoples of all races, colors and income levels are treated fairly with respect to development and enforcement of protective environmental laws and policy. It also anticipated that potentially affected communities would be "meaningfully involved in the decisions that affect their environment and health."

It has been observed that many of the environmental assessments undertaken by your office thus far that incorporate consideration of actions relative to operations at the West Point project have acknowledged the responsibility of USACE Mobile to comply with E.O .12898. What we question is the magnitude of study, and the management of the project in such a manner that would assure a minimal impact on populations as a result

of decisions made by USACE Mobile.

West Point Lake is a prime recreational fish and fishery resource for all segments of the population surrounding the reservoir. However, due to its proximity and use of access, the lake provides substantial and in most cases the only opportunity for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, swimming, fishing, hiking and camping to the segment of the society surrounding West Point Lake that falls within a definition of minority and low income populations. You are also aware that West Point Lake was assigned a cost allocation of 44.3 %of its allocated investment to recreation and sport fishing and wildlife development. This represents the highest cost allocated to any of the Congressional purposes authorized for the lake. But at the same time, the Corps of Engineers has consistently utilized West Point Lake "as it's workhorse" to provide for other demands throughout the river basin, while ignoring the original authorized purpose of recreation, and the needs and expectations of minority and lower income households in west Georgia and east Alabama area.

Our non-profit has a lease on 31 acres with a one an one/half mile of shoreline on Lake West Point with anticipation of providing camping, day and night retreat activities for our inner city youth to achieve our mission. Although, we are still in the planning stage, our potential is hampered by the uncertainty of lake level.

The Corps of Engineers is required to identify disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental affects on minority and low income populations, to coordinate research and data collection, to conduct public meetings, and to develop inter-agency model projects with regards to the matter of environmental justice.

We ask that the Corps reconsider and more fully address the impacts that have resulted thus far under the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) established for the ACF basin that has so detrimentally impacted water elevations especially during late summer (2006 and 2007) on West Point Lake. We further ask that the project be managed in such a way to assure a viable and usable winter and summer pool elevation that more closely approximates and assures use of the lake at the initial recreational impact level of 632.5 MSL.

As your office begins its processes associated with conducting in a new Environment Impact Statement for the new Water Control Plan for the ACF basin, we respectfully request that your office engage far more intensely and with a great deal more thoroughness in addressing Environmental Justice issues at West Point Lake than it has in the past. We further ask that this letter be incorporated in the all subsequent environmental review processes that may be undertaken by your office that may have an impact on the West Point Project and that this letter be retained as part of the Environmental Record for the ACF basin Water Control Plan EIS.

We stand ready to work with you as you pursue the matter of environmental justice and improvements to West Point Lake project elevations and operations. Please don't hesitate to contact us in regards to this matter.

Comment ID: 67
Author Name: Jeff Lukken
Organization: Mayor of LaGrange

We sense the federal government has not paid adequate attention to the critical issue of Environmental Justice. A preliminary report by LaGrange College
(attached) and our own knowledge of our own communities make us keenly aware that the Corps has not addressed the needs and expectations of lower
income and minority populations surrounding the West Point project that rely on the facility for sustenance, and for water based and shoreline recreation. A simple
review of census data will reveal that this issue can not be ignored and that operations must be revised to raise and stabilize elevations at the lake to meet the
needs to these populations. Lower income and minority families and individuals consistently rely on the project as their source of shoreline recreation and a
source of fish for sustenance. The current operations work directly opposite of those interests.

Comment ID: 68
Author Name: Dick Timmerberg
Organization: West Point Lake Coalition

Environmental Justice. A preliminary report by LaGrange College and our knowledge of our own communities make us keenly aware that the Corps has not paid close enough attention to the needs and expectations of lower income and minority populations surrounding the West Point project who rely on the facility for sustenance, for water based recreation, and for shoreline recreation. A simple review of census data will reveal that this issue can not be ignored and that operations must be revised to raise and stabilize elevations at the lake to meet the needs of these populations. Lower income and minority families and individuals consistently rely on the project as their source of shoreline recreation and a source of fish for sustenance. The current operations work directly opposite of those interests.

Comment ID: 69
Author Name: Jeff Brown
Organization: Troup County Chamber of Commerce

Dear Colonel Jorns:
The West Point Lake Advisory Council was established in January, 2007 by the Troup County Chamber of Commerce. Our initial goal was to raise $250,000.00 to fund separate studies on environmental issues relative to West Point Lake affected by how the United States Corps of Engineers manages the lake, an economic impact analysis of same, as well as to investigate whether there are any environmental justice issues resulting from their management. We raised $282,000.00 and all three studies have been completed. Since the inception of our council, we have worked very closely with the City of LaGrange. What follows is the letter they have sent you. Since the content of that letter has evolved with our council being very involved, we understand what is being said and endorse if 100%. Being a committee of the Chamber, we believe that it best serves our 800+ members.

We sense the federal government has not paid adequate attention to the critical issue of Environmental Justice. A preliminary report by LaGrange College (attached) and our own knowledge of our own communities make us keenly aware that the Corps has not addressed the needs and expectations of lower income and minority populations surrounding the West Point project that rely on the facility for sustenance, and for water based and shoreline recreation. A simple review of census data will reveal that this issue cannot be ignored and that operations must be revised to raise and stabilize elevations at the lake to meet the needs of these populations. Lower income and minority families and individuals consistently rely on the project as their source of shoreline recreation and source offish for sustenance. The current operations work directly opposite of those interests.
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Comment ID: 113
Author Name: West Point Lake Advisory Council
Organization: West Point Lake Advisory Council

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

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Comment ID: 162
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 employed 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 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 predecessors 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.

Comment ID: 173
Author Name: Gail A Poole
Organization:

We should also make sure that recreational access be totally available for low income and minority families along with visitors to our lake.

Comment ID: 192
Author Name: Joel Upchurch
Organization:

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

Comment ID: 201
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.

Comment ID: 220
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 ridiculous. 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!"

Comment ID: 221
Author Name: Carol Todd
Organization:

Also, many lower income individuals rely on West Point Lake for sustenance.

Comment ID: 354
Author Name: *Barbara Keller
Organization:

I am also concerned that the Lake remain available to all citizens and not be allowed to become either poor water quality or recreation for only those who can afford it.

Comment ID: 266
Author Name: Ralph Peery
Organization:

Ensure recreational access for low income and minority families.

Comment ID: 300
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.

Comment ID: 354
Author Name: *Barbara Keller
Organization:

I am also concerned that the Lake remain available to all citizens and not be allowed to become either poor water quality or recreation for only those who can afford it.

Comment ID: 409
Author Name: Frank Russo
Organization:

ensure recreational access for low income and minority families

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Comment ID: 468
Author Name: Ethyl L. Ault
Organization:

* Ensure recreational access for low income and minority families

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Comment ID: 469
Author Name: Robbie Nichols
Organization:

5. Access for low income & minorities

Comment ID: 574
Author Name: G. Eucle Vickery
Organization:

[6. 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 water of West Point Lake to fulfill their recreational needs and provide food for sustenance. When the lake elevation is lowered below 633 msl, the ability to use West Point Lake ot fulfill this essential social function is compromised. The Corps must address the recreational needs of lower income and minority individuals by maintaining and sustaining an elevation of 633 msl or higher year round to provide a usable, safe lake with accessible surface waters and shoreline recreational facilities.

Comment ID: 730
Author Name: Carole Rutland
Organization: RiverWay South

Many of these counties are defined as some of the most economically distressed in our nation. RiverWay South is working to help these counties develop without harming the unique cultural heritage and riverine environment... including the rivers' waterways. We are bringing communities back to the river as a focal point for sustainable economic development because we know that people who experience the river are far more likely to protect the river.

Comment ID: 762
Author Name: Mary Lou Dabbs
Organization:

Unless West Point Lake is maintained at a level of 633-635 it cannot fulfill its congressionally mandated purpose of "general recreation." The low lake levels have a negative economic

impact on LaGrange and nearby towns when fishing is compromised. Fishing tournaments and sailing regattas cannot be held safely at the lower lake levels. Especially in the recent downturn in economic conditions, these issues become even more critical, as does the ability of low income and minority families to supplement their food supply with fish from the lake.
As a local resident I believe that the "recreation" focus of this lake means much more than 'just for fun', and an adequate supply of water is essential to the welfare of our community!

SAFETY HAZARDS

Comment ID: 22
Author Name: Sam & Joyce Hancock
Organization:

Dear Sir, My wife and I have lived on West Point Lake since May 2001. We moved here from Atlanta and built our retirement home. We love the environment and beauty around our lake. The attached pictures of our and one ofour neighbor's docks show the best and worst of conditions on the lake. The picture taken September 24, 2007 shows the shoreline effects when the lake was down about 16 feet from full pool. My dock along with two others in our cove was the only one out ofabout twenty that was still in the water. The picture taken October 2, 2008, one year later, shows the same scene at full pool. WHAT a difference! Even though we were able to use our boat last year, I was reluctant because ofthe dangers created by stumps and other objects near the surface that are not normally there. This is a Federal reservoir and the primary function ofthe federal government is the safety ofits citizens. Again comparing the two pictures, it is obvious the monetary value as well as the
personal enjoyment ofour homes and the lake is very negatively impacted by low water levels. We are very appreciative ofthe efforts the Corp is making to maintain our lake at full pool. It is wonderful to walk down to our dock and not have to look at a red ring around the shoreline. Sincerely, Sam & Joyce Hancock

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Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

In addition, recreational use flake Lanier also supports a multi-billion dollar economy. Lake levels have a direct impact on recreation and the
recreational economy of the lake. According to the Corps, recreation at Lake Lanier begins to suffer (i.e., some boat launching ramps unusable, most beaches unusable, navigation hazards begin to surface) when the reservoir falls to an elevation of 1,066 feet. Major impacts to concession and recreational areas are observed at an elevation of 1,063 feet. Many docks and ramps are inaccessible, and there are major impediments to navigation, at 1,060 feet.

Comment ID: 40
Author Name: Paul M. Flood
Organization:

To Whom It May Concern: Over the July 4th, 2008 weekend, four individuals drowned in Lake Lanier directly due to the extremely low water. Others have drowned since then. There are a large number of individuals who use the Lake who have asked the question, 'How many individuals must drown each year due to Lake Lanier being drained below a level of 1060 to 1065 feet above mean sea level for the sole purpose of allowing Florida to have enough water for real estate developments, their fishing industry and mussel population protection?'

Comment ID: 65
Author Name: Vicky Ginn
Organization:

Such low lake levels involve safety issues. Landforms are much closer to the surface of the water
yet can still remain unseen by motorists until too late or dangerously late. Due to the decreased water level, swimmers have less shallow water before deep dropoffs, and inexperienced swimmers can find themselves in life threatening situations.

Comment ID: 82
Author Name: Vince Foody
Organization:

As a resident of Troup County, we rely on West Point Lake for clean drinking water, recreation, and Business generated from tourism. The Lake must be managed for consistent full pool (633

to 635) and the cleanliness and quality of the water must be maintained.
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When the lake levels were so mismanaged a year ago, it was very dangerous to use the lake as tree stumps and other hazards made navigating the lake very risky and dangerous.
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Comment ID: 112
Author Name: Marlene Timmerberg
Organization:

Safety is another issue we are concerned about. When lake levels are down, boaters cannot 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 and safe swimming areas also cannot be used during low lake levels.

Comment ID: 348
Author Name: *Steven Ward
Organization:

I feel that it is important to maintain safe water level on our lake for recreational purposes, etc. as this is a main source of tax dolars in our area. Also as a property owner, it is unfortunate that we are forced to pay accelerated taxes due to having "waterfront" property. I believe safety of humans is more important than wildlife in Florida. Keep in mind our economy and safety of boaters is negatively affected while you protect snails, which provide very little return.

Comment ID: 352
Author Name: *Michelle Ward
Organization:

I think it is very important to keep a safe water level at our lake, West Point, because it helps our local economy with taxes, business, and recreation. We must look beyond wildlife down streem & consider safety and economy of those up stream.

Please Help!!!!!

Comment ID: 500
Author Name: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use. The visitors to Lake Lanier are down over 1,000,000 from 2007. We are seeing other states use Lake Lanier's low levels as a tool to recruit businesses from the state of Georgia. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help.....by better management of Lake Lanier and the ACF, particularly during drought times. Thank you and the Corps for partnering with the Gainesville I Hall County community in protecting and enhancing Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 516
Author Name: Robert Hilton
Organization: Homeowner

There is nothing left of the lake now. It will be years to partially recover from what has been released. Any little bit will help now. It has hurt the local economies and provided a dangerous situation for the boaters that are able to drop their boats in.

Comment ID: 547
Author Name: John E. Webb
Organization:

Hundreds of people in our community Gainesville, GA, have lost their jobs as a direct result of the lake level being so low. Thousands of potential users of the lake have stayed away because of the lack of access to boat ramps, and the potential dangers from objects which are barely under the water.

Comment ID: 563
Author Name: David Long
Organization:

An issue that seems to never come up is the loss of life and property damage that occurs when the lake is at low levels. Just read the news from this past summer on folks who walked off drop offs thinking the level at swim areas was smooth.

Comment ID: 575
Author Name: Dolly Martin
Organization:

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 576
Author Name: Dave Marting
Organization:

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 577
Author Name: Brenda Harris
Organization:

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 578
Author Name: Billy Harris
Organization:

Since it was developed as a recreational lake, the local economy is geared towards that use. Therefore, there is a significant negative economic impact when the lake is unsafe for recreation.

Comment ID: 602
Author Name: Mack Butler
Organization:

I am concerned for the low lake level at Lake Lanier. The low level has a negative impact on safety on the lake, the economy and home values around the lake, and water usage in the community.

Comment ID: 625
Author Name: Mike Cooper
Organization:

Also, the navigation when the lake is so low is very difficult and dangerous

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Comment ID: 627
Author Name: Chad Hargett
Organization:

We are residents at Lake Lanier across from War Hill Park the level of the lake has gotten so low that it is becoming dangerous to boat or even swim. We bought our property with hopes of creating lifelong memories at lake Lanier with our family but I am afraid that if something is not

done to preserve the Lake Lanier may cease to exist.
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We bought our property with hopes of creating lifelong memories at lake Lanier with our family but I am afraid that if something is not done to preserve the Lake Lanier may cease to exist.

Comment ID: 726
Author Name: Vince Foody
Organization:

It is very important to keep the West Point Lake Level between 633 and 635 to maintain the safety of boaters, the quality of water, and the economic well being of the local economy.

Comment ID: 755
Author Name: Will Poston
Organization:

The loss of the water in Lake Sidney Lanier has caused disasterous effects. It is threatening the very survival of the people who depend on the water shed to survive in the surrounding Atlanta area. It has also created both financial reprocusions and safety hazzards for the people who live on Lake Lanier and around Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 762
Author Name: Mary Lou Dabbs
Organization:

Unless West Point Lake is maintained at a level of 633-635 it cannot fulfill its congressionally mandated purpose of "general recreation." The low lake levels have a negative economic impact on LaGrange and nearby towns when fishing is compromised. Fishing tournaments and sailing regattas cannot be held safely at the lower lake levels. Especially in the recent downturn in economic conditions, these issues become even more critical, as does the ability of low income and minority families to supplement their food supply with fish from the lake.
As a local resident I believe that the "recreation" focus of this lake means much more than 'just for fun', and an adequate supply of water is essential to the welfare of our community!

Comment ID: 797
Author Name: Greg
Organization:

Property values have fallen, navigation and water activities have become dangerous, regular events - including events that bring revenue and national exposure to the Lake - have been cancelled, the gereral appearance of the lake is declining.

Comment ID: 4
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

West Point Lake must be maintained at a level (no less than 633 msl) that will enable safe recreation as mandated by Congress. Over the last few years, the level of the lake has consistently been unsafe and unusable. We have personally experienced accidents in our boat and often fear for our safety while boating under low conditions.

Comment ID: 157
Author Name: Bob Thome
Organization:

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: 176
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

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: 195
Author Name: Kyle W Crawford
Organization:

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: 214
Author Name: Dr. George M Henry
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 251
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 258
Author Name: Tim Gay
Organization:

I personally use the lake year round for hunting and fishing. Low levels in winter months are dangerous.

Comment ID: 277
Author Name: Oscar Turner
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 283
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.

Comment ID: 362
Author Name: *Pam Ramsay
Organization:

Please keep our water safe. We need to maintain the lake for recreational purposes as it was originally intended.

Comment ID: 365
Author Name: Larry Daniel
Organization:

I've requested a "NO WAKE" buoy to be placed at the mouth of the "no name" creek that I live on, and the Corp at the dam denied it and gave no reason. I've seen them in other small creeks on the lake and we have a dire need for one. The creek at full pool is maybe 125' wide at f/p, with docks (4) in it, it is less than 100' wide @f/p, thereby everyone by state law should be at idle only. I want to know why we can't get a buoy.

Comment ID: 406
Author Name: Robert Johnson
Organization:

Safety of boaters is also of great concern.

Comment ID: 425
Author Name: HUGH R. MCQUEEN
Organization:

To me it is a no-brainer. Keep the lake levels so that they can be SAFELY navigated.

Comment ID: 431
Author Name: Ted Wilson
Organization:

West Point lake was specifically authorized by Congress for the purpose of "general recreation". Allowing the lake levels to remain low creates hidden dangers for anyone using the lake for recreational purposes and reduces the quality of the water.

Comment ID: 472
Author Name: Mary Kirves
Organization: Lake Property Owner

Many trees and stumps that show while lake is low,and are in the paths of the boat ramps should be cut down and lake to be dredged for safety reasons. Owners have cleaned the shores from debris and trash.

Comment ID: 500
Author Name: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use.

Comment ID: 503
Author Name: Kit Dunlap
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use.

Comment ID: 560
Author Name:
Organization: Windsong Sailing Academy

-Permit dredging and removal of hazardous shallows/shoals in the primary thoroughfares thus adding additional water capacity to the lake and making the lake safer to navigation.

Comment ID: 563
Author Name: David Long
Organization:

An issue that seems to never come up is the loss of life and property damage that occurs when the lake is at low levels. Just read the news from this past summer on folks who walked off drop offs thinking the level at swim areas was smooth.

Comment ID: 574
Author Name: G. Eucle Vickery
Organization:

It is also frustrating to constantly monitor the Corps website for lake levels in order to keep our boat floating. Lower lake levels' also expose tree stumps and obstructions that were left in the lake when the lake first filled. This causes monetary damages to boats, docks and most importantly, human life.

Comment ID: 597
Author Name: Kent Caldwell
Organization:

At this point the lake has no recreational value because you can't access the lake and even if you could the navigation is so dangerous due to tree stumps that are not marked, that your afraid to operate a vessel for fear of damage to the vessel and the safety of your passengers.

Comment ID: 602
Author Name: Mack Butler
Organization:

I am concerned for the low lake level at Lake Lanier. The low level has a negative impact on safety on the lake, the economy and home values around the lake, and water usage in the community.

Comment ID: 622
Author Name: Aron Hendrix
Organization:

When Lanier is over 10 feet down it gets very dangerous and so many ramps close. It is almost unusable and inaccessible, at 18' it is finished, 2 ramps open out of over 100!

Comment ID: 627
Author Name: Chad Hargett
Organization:

We chose our lot due to it being on big water but even the area near war Hill Park is dangerous and the shoreline is sad.

Comment ID: 633
Author Name: David Vogelpohl
Organization:

The last two years of low water levels have been very disappointing and dangerous from a

safety and economic aspect.

Comment ID: 648
Author Name: Trey
Organization: Wakeboarder

I have been wakeboarding on Lanier for many years, and I can't tell you how dangerous it has become... Especially driving the boat near dusk. I've witness many boats damaging props, trailers, and hull, due to the low water level.

Comment ID: 718
Author Name:
Organization:

I call attention to the fact that recreation is an important resource for the lakes and cannot be enjoyed if the water level is dangerously or prohibitively low.

OTHER SOCIOECONOMIC CONCERNS

Population Growth

Comment ID: 196
Author Name: matthew walker
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 305
Author Name: Nancy H. Green
Organization:

I am very concerned about the quality and future lack of water in this area, particularly with the unrestricted growth all through this region, especially in the Atlanta area and south through Troup County. The Corps should tighten the restrictions on growth around existing reservoirs and any that are planned in the future. It does no good to have water supplies and then have the area developed to the point that more and more water is required from the river. We have limited resources and someone will have to come to the conclusion that everyone that wants to cannot live along the Chattahoochee River. This River is stressed to the point of no return now.

Comment ID: 311
Author Name: Stephen Scanlan
Organization:

I grew up in Tucker Georgia and sailed on lake lanier as a young man, however when I hear that Atlanta needs to maintain the lake at greater levels to maintain property values on and around the lake or lake lanier island resorts economic interests or new subdivision planned it sounds like a spoiled child not getting his or her way. If this is about sustaining human life due to fresh water issues that is more tolerable and understanding, but growing up in Tucker Georgia in the 1970's I saw fist hand how Atlanta never addressed its growth issues. Atlanta economically can easily win a court battle regarding this issue, however that will ultimately result in all of us loosing. Please do not allow the destruction of this great eco system by reducing the water flow to Accommodate a city that does not adequately plan for its population growth and its land developers.

Comment ID: 404
Author Name: L Levi
Organization:

Require future growth and developement in Atlanta to demonstrate where water supply will come from to support planned growth - accountability for sustaining continued growth is needed.

Comment ID: 570
Author Name: Bradley Curry, Jr.
Organization:

A key issue should be reflecting the value of the creation of jobs in the Atlanta region as against much lower value for electric power production, navigation, and agriculture downstream. None of these uses reflects the value added or the economic output of the Atlanta region as against the much lower value of output for these alternative uses downstream. Atlanta's current net usage is one to two percent of the flow at the Florida line and look eminently reasonable given the importance of the Atlanta economy to the region.

Comment ID: 742
Author Name: Tim Arnold
Organization:

There is no doubt as a Civil Engineer from Gerogia Tech that the limited watershed of the Lake Lanier basin is just as fragile, if not more, than any other part of the ACF basin. Lake Lanier has served as a mjor water resource for Atlanta metro for many years with no push back. Now that we're in drought mode, everyone is complaining about releases. Today, the lake is a huge economic generator for many people. To allow the lake the be dropped and ruin people's investments in business' and properties is ludicrous.

The COE needs to devise a plan that can look beyond drought times and settle the ACF basin issue for all interested parties. Adding elevation to the lake is probably prudent due to the future added water demands.

The new Water Contol Manual Update must consider population and business growth for the metro-Atlanta area as priority One.

Shoreline Management

Comment ID: 4
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

One issue that should be addressed is the legality of charging for dock permits when docks remain unusable due to mismanagement of the lakes resources.

Comment ID: 108
Author Name: William McCalley
Organization:

4. Allow a tax credit on federal taxes to property owners on the lake if they install shoreline rip rap for erosion control.

Comment ID: 139
Author Name:
Organization:

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 prevention, 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 amended to include this issue. Would state it as:

Minimize lake and surrounding area trash and debris.

Comment ID: 253
Author Name:
Organization:

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: 291
Author Name: James R Franks

Organization:

Comment:
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 "shoreline allocation review" has taken place. I am told the reason is lack of funds to do the EPA study.

Comment ID: 304
Author Name: Randy Norred
Organization:

Many parks have been abandoned, leaving the shoreline looking run down. Land owners are not allowed to even have grills or tables on the shoreline these are people who would keep them up. Many land owners improve the shoreline and should be given more use.

Comment ID: 333
Author Name:
Organization:

2. The Corps of Engineers should take a more proactive approch to private dock placement on Lake Lanier. The constant shoreline hording conducted mainly by older residents is appauling to say the least. Not to mention the enormous erosion problem such behavior produces.

3. Enforce rules that protect Corps property from abuse. I have seen too many residential off-road coures on Corps property (Lake Lanier) go unpunished.

Comment ID: 337
Author Name: Terri Brooke
Organization:

Allow us to have docks as big as Lake Lanier's!

Comment ID: 359
Author Name: *Stafford Brooke
Organization:

Please change the dock size policy for West Point lake to allow us to have docks as large as those allowed on Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 365
Author Name: Larry Daniel
Organization:

I've requested a "NO WAKE" buoy to be placed at the mouth of the "no name" creek that I live on, and the Corp at the dam denied it and gave no reason. I've seen them in other small creeks on the lake and we have a dire need for one. The creek at full pool is maybe 125' wide at f/p, with docks (4) in it, it is less than 100' wide @f/p, thereby everyone by state law should be at idle only. I want to know why we can't get a buoy.

Comment ID: 482
Author Name: City of Oscarville
Organization: City of Oscarville

A great deal of money is generated through Corp fees as boat permits, land use permits, dock permits, and business permits. What have we gained from these fees?

Comment ID: 579
Author Name: Anonymous
Organization:

Relaxing some of the codes on the lake would be beneficial. Who ever surveyed it did a lousy job. Some of the homes are so far uphill from the lake it's almost funny. Then others are so close to the lake on level ground. Allowing a dock with two slips and a sun deck would be nice. You have to get very creative to pass this with the local ranger.

Comment ID: 582
Author Name: Danny Rock
Organization:

Clean up the shoreline
Continue to maintain the campground.

General Comments

Comment ID: 5
Author Name: Paul Sconyers
Organization:

First of all thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on lake West Point and more importantly the bigger issue of water management in Georgia which is a vital issue for all of Georgia residents.
Myself and my family are strong proponents of our environment and its resources. We have been residents in Georgia since 1982 and have visited and enjoyed many of Georgia's State Parks and lakes. We are currently both retired and love being on the water we spend more than half of our time on the lake enjoying not only the boating aspects but, the beauty, serenity and natural wildlife the lake attracts. Our kids and all their friends learned to swim, water ski and generally appreciate all the wonderful things lake West Point has to offer. We feel these opportunities will make them better stewards of our environment and learn the importance what our natural resources means to current and future generations.

Comment ID: 143
Author Name: Kent Bennett
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 184
Author Name:
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 190
Author Name: Charles Prestridge
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 212
Author Name: Andy Fritchley
Organization:

We take great pride in our lake and want to pass it on to our children and our children's children

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Comment ID: 225
Author Name: Patrick Crews
Organization:

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.

Comment ID: 238
Author Name: archiemitchell
Organization:

I have lived on West Point Llake for the past 23 years. I have only witnessed two of those 23 years were the water remained clear and the lake stayed full throughout the summer season. Thank you for those two precious years as they meant a lot to me and my family.

Comment ID: 249
Author Name: Alan E Trainer
Organization:

Our lake looks terrible when it is down.

Comment ID: 465
Author Name: David W True
Organization:

I need some water under my dock so I can boat.

Comment ID: 530
Author Name: Lisa H. Howell
Organization:

-Consider dredging the cove at the GA 400 bridge and addressing the siltation issues that have arisen from the construction and water treatment plants. Their unexcused neglect to the lake and it's value has created an eye sore. The City of Cumming and the County of Forsyth should want to make this location on the lake look better due to the fact that is the only true major Hwy./Interstate that shows Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 536
Author Name: Ellen Whitaker
Organization:

I am a member of the Lake Lanier Association and have lived on Lake Lanier for 10 years. When I was offered a job to move to Georgia from Ohio my husband got out a map of the state and said we will only move there if we can live on this lake and he pointed to Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 546
Author Name: John E. Webb
Organization:

My time on the lake is calming, inspiring and at times spiritual.

Comment ID: 566
Author Name: Tom Riggle
Organization:

Our home has been on Lake Lanier for the last 18 years. This was a beautiful lake until the last two years. The way is is now is just sickening. What has happened to this jewell of Georgia?

Comment ID: 582
Author Name: Danny Rock
Organization:

My name is Danny Rock, I have lived in LaGrange since 1989 and I'm glad to be here. I have enjoyed fishing, boating, walking the shoreline and on occasion camping at West Point Lake since I've been here. I live near McGee Access, Horace King and Pine Road Park. I use the boat ramps and have been taking my 9 year old granddaughter fish and walking the shoreline exploring and pick up shells since they were 2 years old and two younger granddaughter will been coming along soon. I have worked picking up trash with West Point Lake Coalition's lake clean up days and pick up litter on my own when at the lake and teach my granddaughter to do the same. I appreciate the Corps and what you do to maintain the lake and campgrounds. And the opportunity to make a statement of my concern for the lake. I also appreciate the West Point Lake Coalition and agree with there effort to take care of this beautiful lake.

Comment ID: 585
Author Name: Calvin Willis
Organization:

I own a sailboat that is docked at the Southern Harbor Marina near the dam that formed Lake West Point. I was sailing today and saw a bald eagle swoop down from the sky and attempt to pluck a fish from the lake.

Comment ID: 625
Author Name: Mike Cooper
Organization:

The Corp also needs more floating docks at the ramps that are in the water. Forsyth County does a good job with their floating dock at Charleston Park and when the lake goes down they still make sure it is floating and usable.

Comment ID: 663
Author Name: J. Gordon Shuler
Organization:

We live in an area that is unique in all the world. It is a beautiful, bio-diverse area, teeming with wildlife, an aquatic bounty and people who love it.

Comment ID: 668
Author Name:
Organization:

GRANT BETHEL PARK TO FORSYTH COUNTY

Comment ID: 774
Author Name:
Organization: Realtor

The level of our beautiful Lake Lanier or what was our beautiful Lake Lanier is so depressing to all of us. I am hoping and praying that the U S Army Corps of Engineers will take all measures necessary to bring our lake level back to a normal level that we can all live with today.

Comment ID: 797
Author Name: Greg
Organization:

For decades Lake Lanier was one of the best lakes in the southeast.