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Lake Wright Patman Elevation Increases

David,

Following a May 29, 2008 meeting in Tyler, Texas, TPWD staff members were of the opinion that increasing the elevation of Lake Wright Patman could be tolerated if the proper restrictions and tolerances were understood in regards to upriver effects on the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area. As stated in the 2002 memo from John Jones to Nathan Garner "the proposed maximum elevation increase to 230' could have minimal effects on WOC WMA." A maximum elevation increase to 230' would provide a significant increase in water to the local river, creeks and sloughs that run throughout WOC WMA and would not affect the normal operations of the managed wetland units. However, while 230' could be a tolerable maximum elevation, a more accurate analysis of increased flood severity must be completed before a final determination can be made. Further modeling is being conducted to determine the actual increased frequency and duration of flooding at this elevation and the overall impact it will have to the pristine bottomland hardwood ecosystem that makes up WOC WMA.

Please note that in Jones's 2002 memo to Garner in the last paragraph on page 1 it states that the lowest control structure in the WOC WMA wetlands is 242. This number is incorrect. According to as-built blueprints the lowest water control structure in the wetlands is 235.5. An increase past 230, whether for a permanent increase or due to flooding, will inhibit our ability to properly drain and manage the wetlands.

Sincerely,

Luke Baker
Area Manager
White Oak Creek WMA
903-884-3800