

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT
IN LOUISIANA**

WHEREAS, the development of a comprehensive groundwater management plan for Louisiana is in its infancy, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature and the Louisiana Groundwater Management Task Force have recognized the important link between the state's ground and surface water resources, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has an abundant water supply in parts of the state, including the state's share of Toledo Bend water, and numerous reservoirs in other places, while experiencing shortages and aquifer declines in other areas, and

WHEREAS, there has not been a comprehensive review of the state's surface water needs with respect to public supply, industrial and agricultural uses, and fish and wildlife habitat within the context of reservoir development, and

WHEREAS, during the last session of the Louisiana Legislature, no less than 6 reservoir development projects were included in the capital outlay budget to receive funding for various stages of planning and development, including Allen Parish Reservoir, Morehouse Parish Reservoir, Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir, Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir, Bayou DeLoutre Reservoir and Washington Parish Reservoir,* and

WHEREAS, the development of reservoirs can severely impact fish and wildlife resources, forest and agriculture land, and generally substitute an abundant and increasing habitat type (open water, lacustrine habitat) for a diminishing habitat type (stream bottom, stream bank and riparian ecosystems, wildlife corridors), and

WHEREAS, new reservoirs consume land that supports forestry, hunting leases, and habitat for many wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrel, and numerous non-game wildlife, and

WHEREAS, reservoir construction has the potential to drastically alter the important natural ebb and flow of streams, often with potential for significant adverse impact on downstream values, and

WHEREAS, segments of several streams within the Louisiana Natural and Scenic River System will be inundated or otherwise adversely impacted by the development of the aforementioned reservoirs, and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section I of the 1974-Revised Louisiana Constitution, as ruled on by the Louisiana Supreme Court, requires an agency or official, before granting approval of a proposed action, to determine that adverse impact has been avoided or minimized.

Res. No. 20D, 2004 – continued

(More)

Res. 20D, 2004 – continued

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that a full review of Louisiana's present and future surface water needs be made within the context of a comprehensive water management plan for the state, and that such water management plan strategically identify the location and capacity of any surface water supply reservoirs that may be required to meet the state's realistically-projected future water supply needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges that any future, publicly-funded reservoir development in the state be consistent with the state's strategic reservoir development plan and that all impacts to the environment, fish and wildlife and their habitats, communities, and industries be fully considered before a decision is made to build such reservoir.

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled, 29 February 2004, in New Iberia, Louisiana.

*Note: 8 such projects were included in the 2004 capital outlay budget – see below

Reservoir funding per HB 2 (Act 2) of 2004:

- \$800,000 P1, \$300,000 P2, \$1,700,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Allen Parish Reservoir

- \$475,000 GF, \$4,750,000 P1, \$500,000 P2, \$1,000,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Poverty Point Reservoir (Richland)

- \$400,000 P1, \$100,000 P2, \$200,000 P5 bond funding for Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir

- \$100,000 P1, \$400,000 P2, \$1,000,000 P5 bond funding for Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir (LaSalle)

- \$300,000 P1 bond funding for feasibility study for New Morehouse Reservoir;

- \$600,000 P1, \$350,000 P2, \$1,250,000 P3, \$1,250,000 P4, \$1,200,000 P5 bond funding for feasibility and planning for Washington Parish Reservoir

- \$1,415,000 P1, \$500,000 P2, \$3,900,000 P3, \$4,000,000 P4, \$500,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Bayou Dechene Reservoir (Caldwell)

- \$35,000 P1 bond funding for planning and construction for Bayou De l'Outre Reservoir