

MOREHOUSE PARISH RESERVOIR

**EDITOR; BASTROP DAILY ENTERPRISE BASTROP, LA.
MOREHOUSE PARISH RESERVOIR**

Poverty Point Reservoir is being touted as a model for water conservation and economic development. This is simply not true. First of all it does not have enough rainfall and surface water draining into it to fill it, nor to maintain it to its optimum level . They have several wells to pump ground water (good drinking water) into this mud container to evaporate and become polluted and unfit to drink until it is treated at another expensive facility.

They said this lake would cost twenty-eight million dollars. Well they must have the same accountants that did the books for the ENRON CORP because that lake cost the taxpayers over one hundred million dollars and they didn't get much back when they sold some of the expropriated property to a developer to build a country club type housing area that has a locked gate to keep us commoners out. This in itself should have been considered a crime against the taxpayers. But nooo; it was all arranged thru the legislators to appear legal. This is exactly what is being planed at eight or more places in Louisiana right now using the same engineering firm an consultant that are drawing humongous fees from the tax payers. The consultant draws from 60 to 100 thousand dollars from each proposed lake. That's at least a half a million dollars a year to grease the palms of the right people keeping the path smooth for the DO GOODERS. This goes on as long as they can keep the proposal alive, no matter whether or not the lake is ever built, probably up to ten years.

Now our DO GOODERS here in Morehouse Parish are proposing one for us: another one that will have to be pumped full and pumped occasionally to maintain its preferred optimum level. This system of levees and canals will block ninety percent of the natural flow of Chemi-a-Haut creek during the times of big rains, mostly in the spring, and will not allow the creek itself to fill the lake. I firmly believe this will cause flooding in the Chemi-a-Haut drainage basin north of this lake to a considerable distance in Arkansas. Flooding to a greater extent than was experienced in the flood of 1991. There may be even some cemeteries flooded in Arkansas.

I have requested aid from the NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, the SERRIA CLUB, and the WILDLIFE FEDERATION. I have also requested help from Congressman Rodney Alexander and Congressman Mike Ross of Arkansas, as well as our Louisiana Senators. These lakes will destroy thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and hardwood forest and if it does not store surface water, then it is not a proper reservoir. It is my hope and prayer that I will be joined by others in this endeavor to stop this greedy grab for the taxpayers money, loss of habitat, loss of timber land, and foolishly flooding of people's homes and the cemeteries even in another state.

NAT LITTLE
310 BONNER PLACE
BASTROP, LA 71220

EDITOR: ASHLEY COUNTY LEDGER
HAMBURG, ARKANSAS

TO: LETTERS SECTION
SUBJECT: PLUM LAKE

There is a proposal in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana to make a lake in the Cheminahaut bottom. The people of Ashley county and that part of Louisiana north of the proposed lake should be alarmed by this proposal.

The proposed level of this lake is 115 ft above sea level, the levee will have to be some what above this level. They propose to make a canal around the east side of this lake to drain the rest of the Cheminahaut (all of the bottom north of the Texas Gas Pipeline) into Bayou Bartholomew. This will necessarily limit the passageway for all this water to something like a width of five or six hundred feet. This is only ten percent of the width of the natural flow of the flood plain. In other words they are going to block ninety percent of the natural flow of the flood waters. This not going to handle the volume of water that comes that way after a big rain.

I don' t know how many of you remember a storm that dumped twelve inches of rain on Hamburg on a Thursday afternoon in late April of 1958. That water fell in a four hour period. Well these planers will tell you that is a 100 year rain. Well, we had another 100 year rain on a Saturday night in late April of 1991. That night, in about ten hours ,it rained from sixteen to eighteen inches in all of Arkansas south of the Arkansas River, then in 1973 and 1974 there was a tremendous rain that came each spring that caused unusual flooding. The 58, 73, and 74 rains caused Bayou Bartholomew to run backwards all the way to Wilmot, Arkansas, the 91 rain put equal water in the Bayou so didn' t go backwards, it just went all over the country, so did Cheminihaut , Overflow creek and the Ouachita river.

I remember these floods because I was affected to a large degree by them. I was farming land near the mouth of Cheminihaut and along the Bayou. If you don' t think this lake will affect your area in an adverse way, you had better put some real thought on the possibility of flooding above the 120 ft elevation. Cheminihaut was running over one and a half miles wide at its junction with the Bayou Bartholomew, that' s 8000ft, and they plan to channel that in a canal some 600 to 700 feet wide. It doesn' t take a rocket scientist to see that is not going to let the water off of you in the normal amount of time.

I would strongly advise you to oppose this very foolish and unsound waste of tax dollars as well as the loss of wildlife habitat and hardwood forest.

NAT LITTLE
310 BONNER PLACE
BASTROP, LA.

MOREHOUSE PARISH, LA.

What is your position on the Plum Lake and the Chemin-a-haut bottom?

What they could do is buy the " bean field" in the Ouachita River bottom if the true reason for a lake is for the water source, and recreation. The only problem is , that there would be no way that they could take property and make a golf course nor make some fancy real estate development very close to it. It would serve every purpose that they are using to rationalize the use of public money for the betterment of Morehouse Parish except this real estate development that they can maneuver in to private hands by some sly legal deals. A repeat of the Poverty Point business where property is expropriated for Public ownership, developed with tax money, then sold to a third party, for less than what the state has in it. Then this entity sells it for a fortune for retirement homes and golf courses.

This area already has a levee (it may have to be modified some) that can hold a eighteen thousand acre lake. This makes more sense to me than the Chemin-a-haut deal where you are going to subject a very large portion of Louisiana and Arkansas to flood stages never experienced before. There is no way to construct a canal a round this proposed lake to carry the water that could be put in that area with one huge rain or a prolonged series of rains as we experienced in 1958 , 1973 , 1974 , and 1991. You will endanger areas above this lake to waters that would be as much as eight feet above the levels experienced in 1991. This could endanger cemeteries along the edge of the Chemi-a-haut bottom all the way to an area east of Fountain Hill, AR. I can see absolutely no need what so ever to put these areas in this danger.

Another thought would be to put a series of dams in Chemin-a-haut to hold water at or near the top of the first natural bank. Do this all the way to hiway 82 east of Hamburg. I don' t think this would cause flooding, and would provide a good source of water and recreation. I also think this could be done in Bayou Bartholomew, not to the height of the top bank but hold about six feet above the lowest flowing level. This would provide water and recreation.

Why our "do gooders "will not consider these alternatives is beyond me, except that there is some ulterior motive to their actions.

NAT LITTLE
BASTROP. LA
71220 2352
318 281 6753

February 7, 2005

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

P O BOX 530

EDGEFIELD, SC 29824-0530

SUBJECT: WILD TURKEY HABITAT

Dear Sir:

In Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, we have a lake proposed that will forever destroy over six thousand acres of wildlife habitat in what is known as Chemin-a-Haut Creek. Wild Turkeys have been reintroduced to this area and we now have an abundant supply of them again. Now comes along the promoters wanting to make this lake and have golf courses and a ritzy housing development destroying probably over six thousand acres of unspoiled bottom land then taking all the high land that they want to make the country club housing and golf clubs. They have the power to do this as a government entity . This area where the proposed lake is to be built is very thinly populated, therefore, not politically powerful .

We need help to stop this unwise waste of this unspoiled woodland and beautiful natural area. If there is any way that you can help us, some of us will appreciate it.

We are located south of the Arkansas state line and sixty miles west of the Mississippi River . This bottom area has about ten thousand acres in Louisiana and maybe ten thousand in Arkansas that is uninhabited flood plain. They want to make lakes in both states. The state needs to buy this land from PLUM CREEK TIMBER COMPANY and make a Wildlife Management area out of it.

You can find a wealth of information on this area by searching Google for "Chemin-a-Haut", also go to the web page - www.angelfire.com/gundam/reservoir.

We urgently need help to save these lands from the hands of unscrupulous developers.

Sincerely,

Nat Little

310 Bonner Place

Bastrop, La 71220

cc: Sierra Club

La. Wildlife Federation