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2013 Miller's Lake Vegetation Control Plan **LDWF, Inland Fisheries**

Date reservoir formed

Miller's Lake is a privately owned 3,200 acre impoundment located in Evangeline Parish roughly 6 miles northwest of the town of Ville Platte, Louisiana. The lake was originally built in the late 1920's and after a failure of the original levee; the USDA-Soil Conservation Service designed the 27,000 foot levee and spillway that exists today. The levee was completed in 1942. The area draining into Miller's Lake includes twenty-three square miles of area that drains via Bayou Nezipque plus an additional drainage area directly north of the lake.

The primary purpose for constructing the lake was to provide a source of irrigation water to cultivate rice. Besides providing irrigation water, Miller's Lake is excellent habitat for many species of animals, waterfowl and aquatic life. Although Miller's Lake is a privately owned reservoir, it has provided excellent hunting and fishing for the public (Appendix I).

There are two spillways: a 60-foot spillway and a 300-foot spillway. (**See pictures below**)

Pool Stage- 42.5 feet MSL

3,200 surface acres at pool stage

Average depth – 4 feet

Watershed ratio – 10:1

Drawdown potential of structure – There is no drawdown structure. There are eight 24 inch pipes placed on the west, south and east side of the lake to irrigate the rice fields that surround the lake.

Waterbody Board or Lake Commission Creation / Nomination – There is no waterbody board or lake commission. This lake is privately owned but is managed by LDWF through a memorandum of understanding (Appendix I) with the landowners that make the lake available to the public for part of the year.

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

This lake is used for irrigation to cultivate rice; therefore a spring/summer drawdown occurs each year. There have been no drawdowns to control vegetation.

This lake's main purpose is for agricultural irrigation. Recreational activities such as fishing & hunting also occur.

Recreational fishermen complain about the submerged vegetation (hydrilla) limiting their fishing access.

In the spring of 1993 hydrilla was discovered in Miller's Lake. Miller's Lake is very shallow; therefore the spread of hydrilla happened quickly. By the fall of the year the infestation covered approximately 1,000 acres. Triploid grass carp were stocked in December of 1993 and January of 1994 totaling 12,000 fish ranging from 8-10 inches in length. By 1995 the submerged vegetation was reduced by about one-third from the previous year. But by 1996-1998 infestation levels remained the same, and then came the drought of 1999-2000. The grass carp perished due to low dissolved oxygen level.

Aquatic Vegetation Status:

In April of 2012, Miller's Lake contained approximately 2,400 acres of hydrilla. Other plants included American lotus (800 acres), common salvinia (500 acres), and water hyacinth and water lettuce (300 acres combined) throughout the lake.

Other aquatic plants consist of coontail and fanwort covering approximately 240 acres. Duckweed covers approximately 500 acres.

Limitations:

This lake is used for irrigation therefore a spring/summer drawdown occurs each year. A fall/winter drawdown could help control nuisance aquatic plants. A drawdown would conflict with duck hunting. The property owners will not approve a drawdown at this time.

Restrictions on the use of 2,4-D between March and September.

Dense stands of buttonbush limit the sprayers' ability to access the floating plants.

Past Control Measures

Biological Control

Triploid grass carp were stocked at a rate of 10 per vegetated acre for a total of 10,000 fish. The stocking was made in two batches of 5,000 in December 1993 and January 1994. Most of these fish died during the drought of 1999 and 2000.

Chemical Control

In 2012, foliar herbicide applications were made on nuisance plants such as water hyacinth, American lotus, duckweed, and common salvinia in Miller's Lake. A total of 233 gallons were applied to 519 acres. To control water hyacinth and American lotus, 2,4-D was applied at a rate of 0.5 gallons per acre. Diquat and glyphosate were applied at 0.75 gallons per acre to control common salvinia and duckweed.

Physical Control

Drawdowns for vegetation control have never been attempted due to irrigation practices and duck hunting.

Recommendations

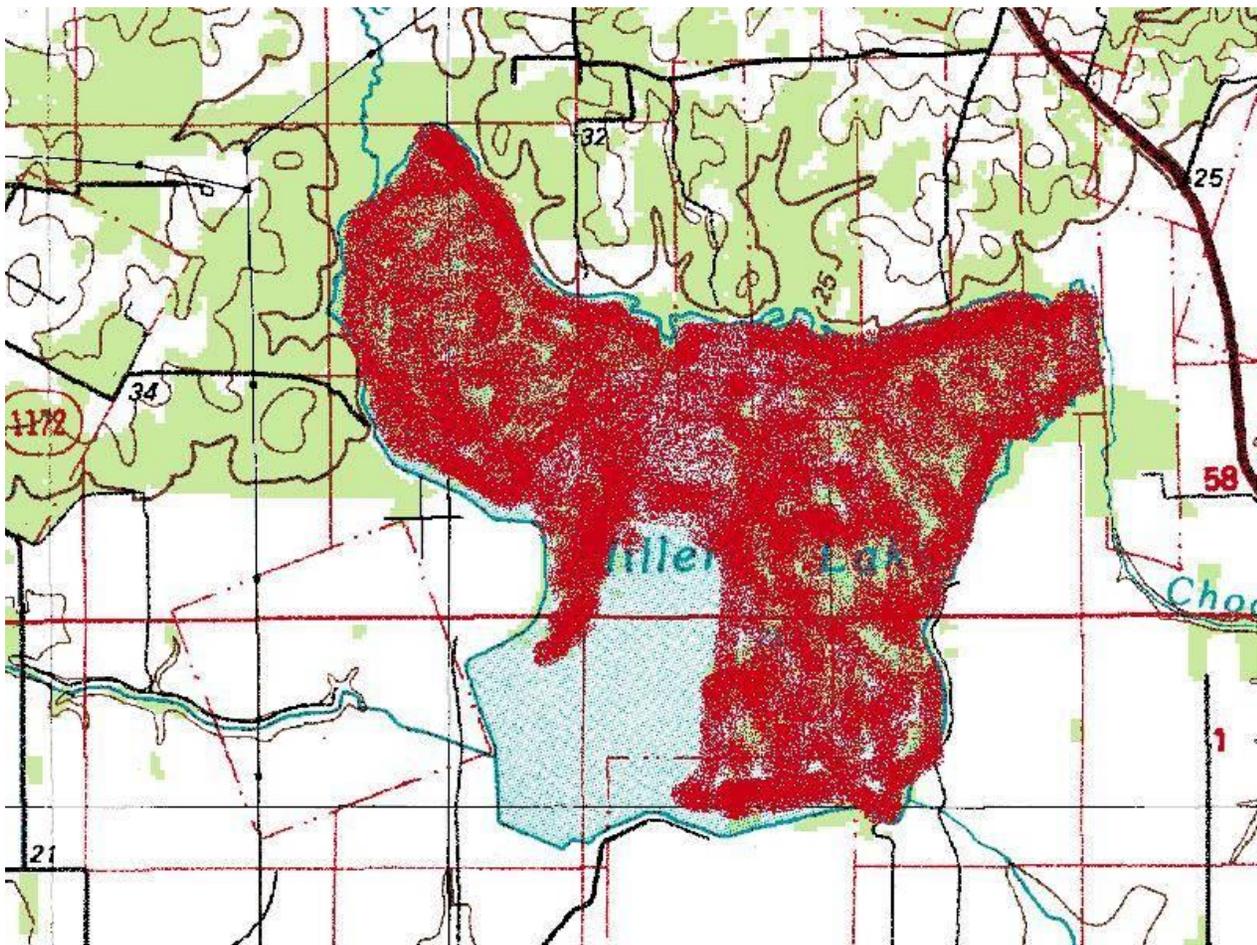
Stocking triploid grass carp (TGC) will help to control the spread of submersed vegetation such as hydrilla. TGC should be stocked at a rate of 5 fish (10-12 inches) per vegetative acre in the winter of 2014 to retard hydrilla growth.

Foliar herbicide applications will be continued on an as-needed basis. Common salvinia and American lotus will be treated with glyphosate at 0.75 gallons per acre and other emergent plants will be treated with diquat at 0.75 gallons per acre. To control water hyacinth, 2-4D will be applied at a rate of 0.5 gallons per acre.

Typemap

Miller's Lake Vegetation survey 7 28 2010

A survey of the present aquatic vegetation was conducted on Miller's Lake on 7 23 2008. The infestation hydrilla, *Hydrilla verticillata*, was seen throughout the lake with slightly heavier amounts on the north and east side of the lake. Hydrilla remains the most dominant plant in the lake. Other submersed vegetation mixed in with hydrilla was coontail, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, and fanwort, *Cabomba caroliniana*. Floating plants such as duckweed, *Lemna minor*, common salvinia, *Salvinia rotundifolia*, water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes* and water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, are present throughout the lake especially in the buttonbush on the northwest and north end of the lake. There is also a heavy infestation of American lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, in the open areas throughout the lake.



Years in which sampling occurred include: 1983, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 2008.

Appendix I

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the J. B. Gus Miller Estate

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Department) and the J. B. Gus Miller Estate (Participant) enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

I. Purpose

Louisiana has an abundance of lakes, streams, bayous, canals and backwater areas and some of them are privately owned. Additionally, the ownership of some water bodies is uncertain. This agreement will allow recreational and commercial fishermen to utilize these waters when fishing from a boat. By signing this agreement, the Participant has agreed to allow fishing on these waters and will not pursue trespass violations for fishers, both recreational and commercial, when utilizing waters specified in this agreement. In exchange, the Department will agree to provide a defined level of aquatic plant control in these waters and will consider the need for fish stocking to improve public fishing opportunities.

II. Background

The Department oversees the State's aquatic plant control program and is responsible for keeping nuisance aquatic vegetation under control in Louisiana's public waters. This MOU is an effort to increase areas where anglers have the opportunity to fish through agreements with owners of private waters. The waters designated in this agreement must be accessible by the public and be deemed fishable by the Department. Waters without public access or deemed unfishable will not be included in this agreement.

III. Location and Control Level

The waters where this MOU will apply and the level of control by the Department is specified in Addendum 1, attached to and made part of this MOU. The lands and waters adjacent to the specified waters are neither part of nor impacted by this agreement.

IV. Participant's Rights Preserved

The public's use of the water bodies listed in Addendum 1 is strictly limited to fishing. No other public use is authorized under this agreement. Additionally, the participant maintains his right to selectively prohibit a fisher from utilizing the water bodies listed in Addendum 1 if the fisher has previously violated the terms of this MOU.

IV. Ownership Issues

The ownership of many water bodies in Louisiana is unclear and is sometimes disputed. Signatures by the Department and the Participant on this MOU shall have no bearing on land ownership issues.

V. Amendments

Modifications to this MOU or the addendum(s) shall only be made through signed amendments.

VI. Treatment Notification

The Department shall notify the Participant at least one week before making herbicide applications in the specified waters.

VII. Off-target Damage

The Department will make reasonable efforts to prevent off-target damages to the vegetation on the Participant's property. However, minor damages such as yellowing of non-targeted plants may occur. The Participant shall not seek reparation from the Department for such damages.

VIII. Public Notification

The Department shall have the authority to notify the public of the availability for fishing of the water bodies specified in Addendum 1 through written and electronic means. The Participant shall have the opportunity to review notifications before they are made public.

IX. Cancellation and Renewal

Cancellation by either party within the effective period shall only be allowed with cause and agreed upon by both the Department and the Participant. The failure of either party to fully participate in this agreement will be grounds for non-renewal of the MOU.

IX. Effective Date

This MOU shall be in effect from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013.

Participant

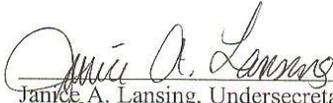
Department



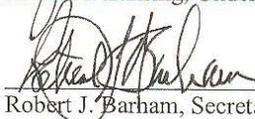
Robert Gus Miller, Chairman
J. B. Gus Miller Estate



Randy Pausina, Assistant Secretary
Office of Fisheries



Janice A. Lansing, Undersecretary



Robert J. Barham, Secretary

ADDENDUM 1

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the J. B. Gus Miller Estate

Water body – Millers Lake

Surface Acreage – 3,200

Parish – Evangeline

Location – Miller's Lake is located just west of Ville Platte, Louisiana off of Hwy 376

Facilities – 2 single ramp boat launches

Nuisance Aquatic Plants – water hyacinth, common salvinia, frog's bit, pennywort, lotus,
water lily, water lettuce and sedge

Conditions of the Agreement

1. The Participant will allow the public to begin fishing the day after the end of duck hunting season for the west zone through November 1 of each year.
2. A boat launching fee not to exceed \$5 per boat per day can be charged by the Participant.
3. The Department will decide when, where and how to use herbicide to maintain access to suitable fishing habitat within the lake. At a minimum, the department will dedicate 40 crew hours a year towards aquatic plant control on the lake.
4. The Department may stock fish if it is deemed by the Department to be in the best interest of the fishing public to do so.

ISSUE: Signatures on a MOU with the Miller Lake Estate

BACKGROUND:

- Miller's Lake is a 3,200 acre, privately owned impoundment in Evangeline Parish
- The lake is open to the public for fishing, except during the winter months when it is closed for duck hunting (private). They do charge a \$5 fee to launch a boat.
- The department has traditionally treated aquatic plants, sampled and stocked fish in this lake.
- The purpose of this MOU is to establish a formal agreement between the Estate and the Department.
- The conditions of the agreement are included in Addendum 1.

CONTACT:

Gary Tilyou
2331

Concur		
Gary Tilyou	<i>[Signature]</i>	2/4/09
John Roussel	<i>[Signature]</i>	2/11/09
Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/2/09
Randy Pausina	<i>[Signature]</i>	2-12-09
Janice Lansing		

60-foot spillway on north end of lake



Spillway on north end of lake (these two spillways are 1,200 feet apart)



