

2013 Woolen Lake Aquatic Vegetation Control Plan LDWF, Inland Fisheries

Richland Parish

1. Waterbody type – Inactive Boeuf River oxbow lake (Map shown in Appendix A)
2. Age and condition of control structure – replaced in 1987, good condition, reported to be operational
3. Type of control structure – rectangular concrete box spillway with 6.5 ft. wide section for placement of stop log to raise pool stage 10 inches (Figure 1), drawdown mechanism unknown



Figure 1. Woolen Lake spillway and control structure.

4. Water level range (MSL) – Pool stage = 56.0 ft, annual fluctuation typically < 3.0 ft.
5. Surface area – 240 acres, no significant change with annual fluctuation
6. Average depth – 5 ft
7. Watershed ratio – unknown, small, likely less than 10:1
8. Drawdown potential of structure – reported to be approximately 4 feet
9. Waterbody Board or Lake Commission – Richland Parish Police Jury currently has

authority on water control issues. The Woolen Lake Commission, previously appointed by the Police Jury, is no longer a functioning entity.

- a. Creation / Nomination – Woolen Lake Commission – has had members nominated and authority defined by the Police Jury in the past (Parish Resolution 08-03-09-01). A recent ruling has made them invalid (see below in Controversial Issues). No current authorized lake commission exists.
- b. Primary contact information – Richland Parish Police Jury, Joey Evans – Parish Works, phone (318) 282-9080
- c. Procedure for spillway openings – operated by the Richland Parish Police Jury under guidance of LDWF.

DRAWDOWN HISTORY				
Date Opened	Date Closed	Purpose	Results	Issues
NO DRAWDOWNS DOCUMENTED FOR WOOLEN LAKE TO DATE				

Significant stakeholders and needs/concerns

- Farmers – minimal agricultural irrigation
- Homeowners – stable water levels, vegetation control, aesthetics

History of aquatic vegetation complaints

There have been periodic complaints from homeowners whenever nuisance vegetation has become excessive or is impacting private piers. Most of the historic complaints have been attributed to emergent and floating species. Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* and alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* have been the most problematic species, with either becoming the most problematic, based on annual variability. A shallow cove on the northeast side of the lake with several residences is the primary problem area on the lake. Nuisance vegetation has also been a problem on the shallow ends of the lake.

Controversial issues on the lake

Agricultural irrigation, primarily for rice production in the 1970’s – 1980’s, was blamed for excessively low water levels in the lake. LDWF had concern of nuisance submerged vegetation becoming established during extended periods of low water. The option to refill the lake by diverting water from the Boeuf River through the control structure was initially opposed by LDWF in 1975, but in 1977 it was agreed that turbid water from the Boeuf River may act as a suppressor of submerged vegetation. LDWF once again opposes this action due to the risk of introduction of Asian carp into the lake. In 1987, the weir on Price’s Bayou was raised 6 inches to hold more water in the lake, and help alleviate the frequent low water situation.

There has been some dispute over the legality of the Police Jury appointing a lake commission to govern Woolen Lake. There have been many lake commission members appointed by the Police Jury since the 1960's under the guidance of LA RS 56:721. The controversy stems from the lake bottom being State-owned, as per declaration of the State Lands office in 1987 (letter on file). The District Attorney's office of the Fifth Judicial District, in a letter dated 8-11-2009 (Appendix B), declared that because Woolen Lake is owned by the State, the Parish has no authority to appoint a lake commission. It also states that a lake commission would only be authorized if legislation created a specific statute for a commission on Woolen Lake.

Aquatic Vegetation Status:

2012

The floating species duckweed *Lemna sp.* and water hyacinth were the most common aquatic plants on Woolen Lake in 2012. A moderate amount of alligator weed was also present, though mostly confined to one cove.

Collective coverage and status of beneficial plant species and any considered or implemented efforts to re-establish:

The small amount of emergent vegetation in the lake provides some benefit to the fisheries. Wood cover, in the form of live bald cypress *Taxodium distichum* and dead snags is common in the lake. Dense plankton blooms at times may limit submerged vegetation growth in the lake.

Vegetation prediction for the upcoming year, 2013:

Numerous frosts during the winter of 2012-2013 should have reduced coverage of emergent and floating vegetation. The year 2013 is expected to be similar to 2012, as for the total amount of vegetation on Woolen Lake.

Limitations:

- Factors that may limit the effectiveness of chemical, mechanical, or biological control methods for the aquatic plant problems found in the waterbody.
 - Agricultural and residential irrigation may preclude the use of certain herbicides
 - Small watershed may prolong drawdowns
 - Infrequent flooding from Boeuf River may eliminate grass carp as an option for control of submerged vegetation

- Regulatory or public factors or anything else that may limit the ability of LDWF to control aquatic plant problems in the waterbody.
 - Application of the herbicide 2,4-D would require a waiver from LDAF between March 15 - Sept. 15.

Past Control Measures:

Historic

Applications of commonly used aquatic herbicides (2,4-D, diquat dibromide, and glyphosate at the respective rates of 0.5, 1.0, and 0.75 gallons per acre) have been made by LDWF crews in custom spray boats. In the past, applications were made when infestations of nuisance vegetation became abundant in the lake. The majority of these efforts were for control of alligator weed and water hyacinth.

Recent

Recent herbicide applications on Woolen Lake have been limited to no more than two treatments per year for control of nuisance emergent vegetation in the lake. The treatments have been conducted during the spring and summer, and have involved a spray crew applying 0.75 gallons of glyphosate per acre for control of alligator weed along the shoreline and shallow portions of the lake. The number of crew hours spent treating vegetation on the lake from 2007 – 2010 were 8, 12, 13, and 6 hours, respectively.

No vegetation control was needed in 2011 and nearly all herbicide spraying efforts in 2012 were for control of duckweed and water hyacinth, with 17 and 23 acres sprayed, respectively. Approximately 2 acres of alligator weed were also treated. Water hyacinth and alligator weed were treated with Aquamaster herbicide (glyphosate at 0.75 gals/acre), while the duckweed was treated with Tribune herbicide (diquat at 1.0 gals/acre)

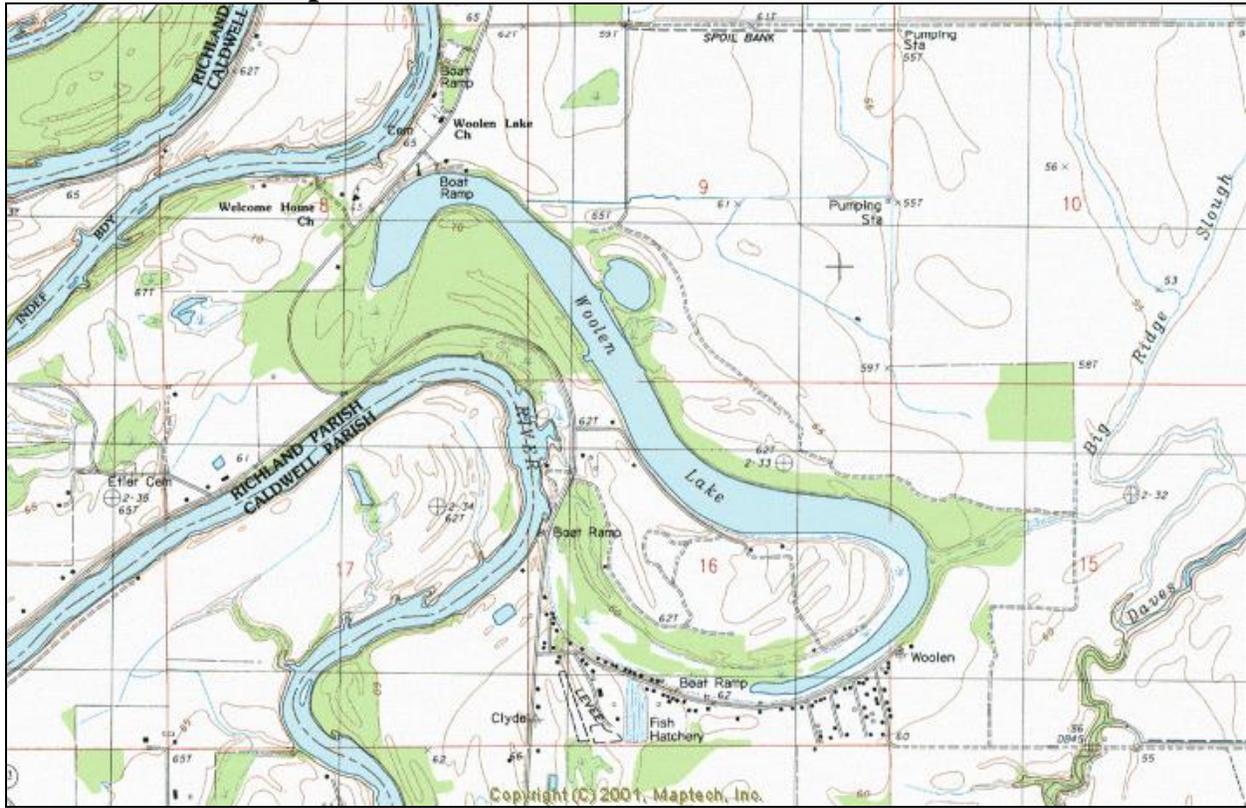
Recommendations:

Regularly scheduled treatments (1 spray crew day/month) during the growing season are to be continued to maintain nuisance vegetation at acceptable levels. Public complaints and requests from the Police Jury will be responded to as soon as possible. The following herbicides are to be applied by boat spray crew: diquat dibromide (1.0 gal/acre) for control of duckweed and other floating or emergent species during fall and winter months, glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) for control of most emergent species during the growing season, and 2,4-D (0.5 gal/acre) for control of water hyacinth outside of the 2,4-D waiver period. The herbicide Clearcast (Imazamox, 0.5 gal/acre), will be used for control of alligator weed and other emergent species near developed or high access areas. Ecomazapyr (Imazapyr, 0.5 gal/acre) will be used for alligator weed control in all other areas.

Typemap:

No detailed type map surveys have been performed on Woolen Lake.

APPENDIX A: Map of Woolen Lake



Appendix B: Lake Commission ruling

OFFICE OF THE



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August 11, 2009

Mr. Kathy Burns, Secretary/Treasurer
Richland Parish Police Jury
P. O. Box 668
Rayville, LA 71269

RE: Woolen Lake Commission
RPPJ/CBHD File No. 1955.004

Dear Kathy:

I've researched the issues regarding Woolen Lake. On September 15, 1987, the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Lands, issued a letter stating that Woolen Lake is state owned, as the Lake was navigable in 1812 and connected on the south end of Bouef River. Further, the Lake was excluded from the acreage patented out in the respective sections with the ownership remaining in the state.

The Police Jury is wanting to establish a Woolen Lake Commission. Louisiana Revised Statute 56:721, et seq, allows a Parish, by formal resolution, to establish, maintain and operate Game and Fish Preserves in the Parish. The Parish may appoint a Commission to make rules and regulations for the government regulation control of the Preserve. There is an Attorney General's Opinion that states that a Parish could create a Game and Fish Preserve on Parish lands, but the Parish Game and Fish Commission was not authorized to create Game and Fish Preserves out of State lands or State water bottoms, nor could they assume jurisdiction over State lands or water bottoms without a special act of the Legislature or consent of the Department of Conservation.

Since Woolen Lake is owned by the State, the Parish has no authority to actually point a Commission in this situation. The proper procedure would be to have enabling legislation, such as other area lakes

Appendix B cont.'d

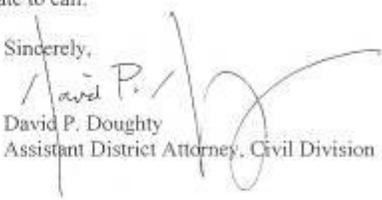
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around here, where there is a specific statute authorizing a lake commission for Woolen Lake. The Jury may want to speak to Senator Thompson or Representative Chaney regarding the establishment of a Woolen Lake Commission. However, without an Act of the Legislature, I don't believe this can be done. The other option may be to contact the Department of Conservation to see if they would allow a locally appointed Commission to control Woolen Lake.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


David P. Doughty
Assistant District Attorney, Civil Division

cc: William R. Coenen, Jr.