

~~Strikethrough~~ print represents text which has been deleted.

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Resolution

Flood Control Reservoirs

Delta Council recognizes the vital importance of the four flood control reservoirs in North Mississippi as the most important single flood control measure throughout the entire Yazoo River headwaters system. This watershed spans from Desoto County, Mississippi, and Shelby County, TN, at its northern extremity through 12 Northwest Mississippi Counties (Tate, Panola, Quitman, Tunica, Coahoma, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo and Warren Counties). The current operational plan for the lakes, utilized by the Corps of Engineers to manage the reservoirs for their primary purpose, which is flood protection.

During the February 2019, flood event, the water coming from the Hill portion of the Yazoo Basin pushed a combined 320,000 cubic feet per second of water into the 4 Reservoir Lakes. Because the Corps had been following the rule curve, there was storage in the lakes that allowed them to discharge a combined 35,000 cubic feet per second into the Yazoo River system at Greenwood. That means that the reservoirs reduced the peak flow by about 90%. Otherwise, everything in the Yazoo River Basin would have been historically flooded. This is why we continue to emphasize the importance of following the rule curve.

We, Delta Council, urge the Congress, and the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the current operational plan for these reservoirs. Further, we strongly discourage any change in the current land uses under the management of the Corps of Engineers, unless the Corps of Engineers confirms that there would be no additional flood risks, unintended consequences, or future threats to the current operational plans, which could result from any proposed Congressional or Administrative actions. We also respectfully urge that any proposal which represents a departure from the current operational plan or land-use currently under the supervision of the Corps at the lakes, be accompanied by public meetings held by the Corps in cooperation with the 2 Levee Boards throughout the Yazoo Headwater and Tributaries project area.

Adopted by: Delta Council Flood Control Committee
August 17, 2023

