

Lake Columbia

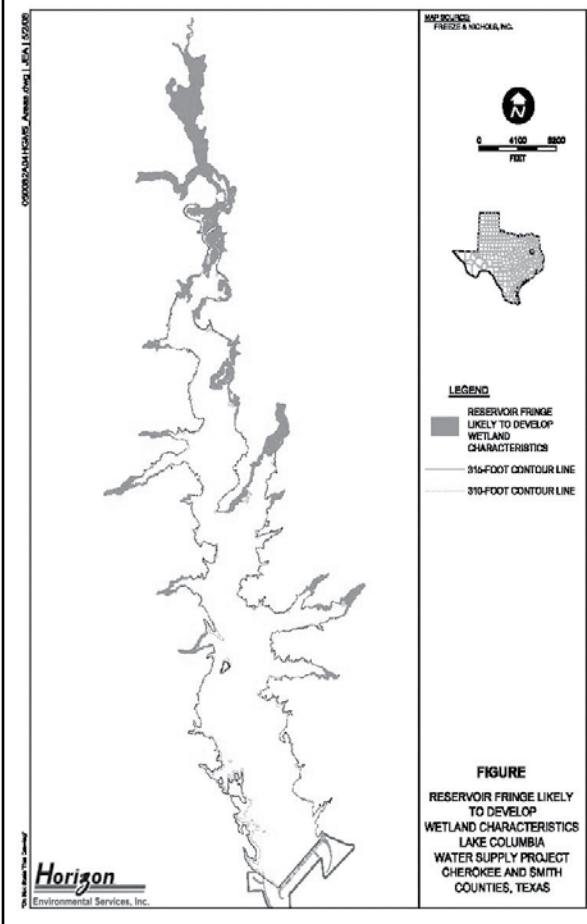
Angelina and Neches River Authority
Regional Water Supply Project

MARCH 2009

1,200 acres of wetlands expected to be created

While the construction of any reservoir impacts existing wetlands, it also creates the proper environment for the establishment of emergent wetlands. Some areas along the shoreline where the terrain is reasonably flat will become wetlands due to the rise and fall of water levels within the reservoir.

In the case of the Lake Columbia project, current estimates indicate that nearly 1,200 acres of wetlands will be created through this process. The map shows these areas.



ANRA seeks grant funds

On January 14th, 2009, ANRA submitted two Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program (TEIP) grant applications for the Lake Columbia project. The two applications totaled \$16.739 million. The applications competed with 40 other applications received by the Texas Water Development Board for a pool of approximately \$40 million in federal funds.

The total dollar value of the applications was in excess of \$210 million.

There were not sufficient funds available in the pool to recommend funding many of the applications, including ANRA's. ANRA will continue to seek grant funding for components of the reservoir project.

Revised PDEIS submitted

The revised version of the PDEIS (Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Study) was submitted to the Ft. Worth Corps office in mid-February. The revisions were directed by the Corps following the submission of the initial preliminary draft earlier in 2008. The document will be reviewed by the Corps staff and, barring any additional changes, will be sent out soon for a 60-day public comment period.

Need for groundwater alternative critical

Groundwater is a critical issue in Texas because it is the source of 59 percent of the water used, according to the 2007 State Water Plan. The danger is that the aquifers could eventually be depleted. To avoid that, the Legislature decided groundwater districts should create plans that could limit how much water is pumped.

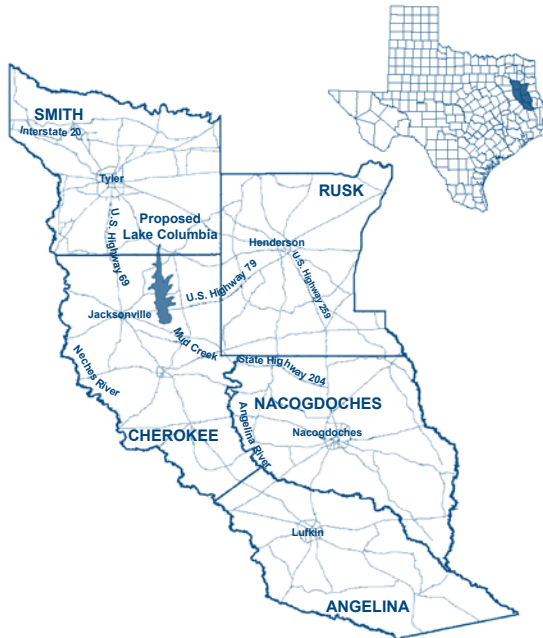
State law requires that "Desired Future Conditions" must be set for the state's major and minor aquifers by September 1, 2010. This will impact the ability of water providers to simply "drill another well" without consideration of the potential consequences for other water users within the Groundwater Conservation District.

Clearly, water users not served by water supply corporations or municipalities, will continue to depend on groundwater provided by their private wells. For other water users a surface water supply, which is renewable and cost effective while providing economic and recreational benefits, constitutes prudent long-range planning.

ANRA's Mission

The Angelina and Neches River Authority jurisdiction covers 8,500 square miles within the Neches River Basin. Within this area, approximately 500,000 East Texans live and work.

ANRA was created by the Texas Legislature and its nine-member board of directors are appointed by the governor. The board establishes policies to carry out its mission of, "controlling, storing, and preserving of water resources in the Neches River Basin. This pursuit shall include the construction, maintenance, operation, monitoring, and testing of this resource."



Lake Columbia Participants

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| City of Alto | City of New London |
| Afton Grove WSC | City of New Summerfield |
| City of Arp | North Cherokee WSC |
| Blackjack WSC | City of Rusk |
| Caro WSC | Rusk Rural WSC |
| Cherokee County | Stryker Lake WSC |
| Jackson WSC | Temple-Inland, Inc. |
| City of Jacksonville | City of Troup |
| City of Nacogdoches | City of Whitehouse |

Angelina & Neches River Authority
P.O. Box 387
210 East Lufkin Avenue
Lufkin, Texas 75901
Telephone: 936-632-7795
Fax: 936-632-2564

