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**December 2, 2004 set for Caddo Lake
Environmental Flow Orientation Conference**

Sponsored by

**The Caddo Lake Institute (CLI),
US National Ramsar Committee,
Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Science & Visitors Center
Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

When: Thursday, December 2, 2004 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Where: The Jeffersonian Institute at Jefferson Texas, on the shores of Big Cypress Bayou, Caddo Lake's main tributary.

Who: This conference of scientists will be facilitated by TNC. Conferees will include leading scientists from US Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas, Louisiana and Mexican state environmental agencies and academic, for-profit and non-profit scientists.

First of three steps. The December 2, 2005 Orientation Conference is the first of three steps that will lead to developing initial environmental flow recommendations for Caddo Lake and its tributaries.

- (1) Orientation Conference (12/2/04) Jefferson Texas
- (2) Literature review and summary of flow-ecology relationships (Winter 04-Spring 05 by Texas A&M University)
- (3) 2-3 day Flow Recommendation Workshop (Spring 05, by scientific conferees, venue TBD)

Purposes. The purposes of this project are:

- (1) To engage inter-disciplinary scientists in a collaborative process of developing environmental flow recommendations for inflows to Caddo Lake.
- (2) To facilitate interaction among a variety of agencies, academic institutions, and organizations to gain a shared understanding of the water needs of Caddo Lake.
- (3) To identify critical linkages between various components of the flow regime (low flows, high pulse flows, and over-bank flows), lake level fluctuations, and the plant and animal species inhabiting Caddo Lake and its tributaries.
- (4) To develop initial environmental flow recommendations to protect the health of Caddo Lake and its tributaries
- (5) To identify research and monitoring activities necessary to fill information gaps and address critical uncertainties in flow-ecology relationships.
- (6) To provide scientifically-credible information about environmental flow needs to water managers and thereby promote the adoption of "ecologically sustainable water management."
- (7) To demonstrate a process for developing environmental flow recommendations that can be applied in other aquatic ecosystems.

Methodology. The project methodology is described in detail in the following paper (attached to this notice): Richter, B.D., A.T. Warner, J.L. Meyer, and K. Lutz. 2005. A collaborative and adaptive process for developing environmental flow recommendations. *River Research and Applications*, in press

Project Summary. The December 2004 Environmental Flow Orientation Conference is designed to build consensus on a process to be used to develop initial scientific recommendations for environmental flows and lake level fluctuations. These initial recommendations are intended for use by water managers in decision-making while additional field research, monitoring, and analysis is conducted to further refine the initial flow recommendations. The conferees will review and make suggestions concerning the work plan being undertaken by Texas A&M to prepare a literature review and summary of key flow-ecology relationships. Conferees will identify key scientists that can assist this environmental flow process by providing information and scientific knowledge relevant to water needs of species in the basin, and known sources of information that should be reviewed by Texas A&M scientists.

In late Spring 2005, the literature review and summary report prepared by Texas A&M scientists will be widely distributed to scientists who can contribute to the development of initial environmental flow recommendations. Those scientists will attend a 2-3 day workshop to develop the initial environmental flow recommendations.

Sponsored conferees travel & lodging allowances.

Conference reservations are free to scientists who are selected as sponsored conferees. By advance agreement, the CLI will pay for mileage, food and lodging costs of sponsored conferees in this project. Others should inquire (see below).

Multi-day conferee's "SciTour" family packages.

This scientific conference will be a part of a multi-day community-based Natural Science Eco-tourism (SciTourism) pilot program. This component will recruit and field-train SciTourists from Texas, Louisiana, Mexico and elsewhere. Special multi-day family SciTour Hospitality & Program Packages will be provided for conferees and their families who extend their stay in Jefferson and Caddo Lake Friday and Saturday and participate in community-based SciTourists' "flotilla" field assessments and cultural events that are scheduled around the Environmental Flow Orientation Conference.

Please RSVP by email by November 19. Confirm your December conference reservations, travel & housing allowances and SciTour packages, by email to: Dwight K. Shellman, Jr. dks@sopris.net
President Caddo Lake Institute, Chair, US National Ramsar Committee. PO Box 2710 Aspen, CO 81612-2710 Cell: 970-618-6023 eFax: 240-214-7612

Associated Websites: www.caddodefense.org;
www.ramsarecotourist.net; www.ramsarcommittee.us.