

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 11, 2006

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

FEMA/ MEMA Joint Field Office
Post Office Box 4517
Biloxi, MS 39535-4517

Re: Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (the "Levee Board")
Work done following Katrina

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On the morning of September 6, 2005, I received a call from Kelly Greenwood, Chief Engineer of the Levee Board, advising me that the Levee Board had men and equipment ready and available to help with work needed in the State following the damage from Hurricane Katrina. I told him to go to Laurel, Mississippi, as I understood at the time that help and assistance were needed there.

In mid-afternoon of September 6th, I received a second call from Kelly Greenwood, who advised that he was in Laurel, and that the City/ County Personnel told him they felt they had matters under control as far as clean-up, and that there were other parts of the State that had a more urgent need for help. I told Mr. Greenwood that the entire Coast needed help, and that he should find a place where he could provide needed help and assistance. Mr. Greenwood said he would go to Hancock County, and I stated that was a good place for the Levee Board to start, because Hancock County was in dire need.

Following our discussions, Mr. Greenwood sent his men and equipment to Hancock County, where they worked for several months. I met with Mr. Greenwood in Hancock County on one or more occasions from September - November, 2005. He informed me of the work that was being done, and I recall receiving reports and comments from officials in Hancock County that the work done by the Levee Board was extremely beneficial to their efforts in the clean-up of debris, clean-out of drainage ditches, and removing debris from several State Parks so that immediate housing could be established for workers and displaced residents.

We commend and appreciate the efforts of the personnel of the Levee Board, who, along with countless other people, worked tirelessly, under the worst of conditions, in helping with the clean-up after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

If I can answer any questions or provide any other information concerning the matters mentioned above, please call me at my telephone number shown below.

Sincerely,
Charlie
Charlie Williams
Chief of Staff

POST OFFICE BOX 139 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39208 TELEPHONE: (601) 359-3150 FAX (601) 359-3741 www.governorbarbour.com



Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District
P.O. Box 610
Clarksdale, MS 38614

LINKS & PARTNERS

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District
www.leveeboard.org

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Vicksburg District
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Memphis District
www.mvm.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Five Day River Forecasts
www.mvm.usace.army.mil/hydraulics/docs/nws/msrv3.txt

Waterways Experiment Station
www.wes.army.mil

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
www.mdwfp.com

USGS National Mapping Information
www.nationalmap.gov

Mississippi Forestry Commission
www.mfc.state.ms.us



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Funds Promised to Continue with Upper Yazoo Project

Congressional delegates believe \$22.5 million will be available in 2007

The U.S. Senate's version of the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill includes \$22.5 million for the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District's Upper Yazoo Project. The funding is spearheaded by U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott.



Above Left: U.S. Senator Thad Cochran.
Above Right: U.S. Senator Trent Lott.

"We appreciate Senator Cochran and Senator Lott and their support and the resources to fully fund a portion of the Upper Yazoo Project in 2007," said Sykes Sturdivant, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board President. "Mississippi's two senators have once again shown their strong support of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board's projects and the residents of the 10 counties the board represents."

The bill now goes to conference committee, where it will be reconciled with the House-passed version of the legislation.

The Upper Yazoo Project is a federally funded Corps of Engineers project that began in 1976 near Yazoo City and focuses on cleaning out and restoring channel capacity to the Yazoo River and its tributaries at a rate of 10 to 11 miles per year. Over 140 miles have been completed. The \$22.5 million will be used toward completing the remaining 55 miles, focusing on the

areas of Marks, Tutwiler and Glendora. Once the project is completed, downstream channels will be able to handle the maximum levels of discharge from hillside reservoirs, keeping the reservoirs from flooding.

Sturdivant and other YMDLB members traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Cochran, Lott and other key delegates on September 18.

"We had several productive meetings with congressional delegates, and we want to thank them personally for their support," Sturdivant said. "Senator Cochran and Senator Lott saw how important it is to continue this project. Any delay could be disastrous for the citizens of these communities."

The Upper Yazoo Project provides countless benefits to area residents without

local taxation. "The greatest benefit, obviously, is flood protection," Sturdivant said. "But area lakes also benefit, which makes fishermen and environmentalists happy."

The project is 100% federally funded and is the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers. The region is divided into nine items and sub-items, and each sub-item takes just over a year to complete, making the estimated year for completion 2010, at the earliest, contingent upon funding.

"The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is committed to the goal of completing the Upper Yazoo Project," Sturdivant said. "Flood control and proper water management are basic keys to prosperity and quality of life in the Delta."

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CONTACT INFORMATION

COMMISSIONERS

- B. Sykes Sturdivant, *President***
Tallahatchie County
- Bishop David Cotton, *Vice President***
Holmes County
- Kent Haney**
Coahoma County
- Robert P. Sayle, Jr.**
DeSoto County
- N. Craig Brewer, III**
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- David Williams**
Tunica County
- Willie Gregory**
Coahoma County
- Ralph Sewell**
Humphreys County
- Jerry Caffey**
Quitman County
- Clarence Cariker**
Tunica County
- Caesar Felton**
Yazoo County
- Kelly Greenwood**
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Engineer



INQUIRIES TO:

The Office of the Chief Engineer
c/o Kimberly B. Easley
Secretary, Executive Assistant

TELEPHONE: 662-624-4397

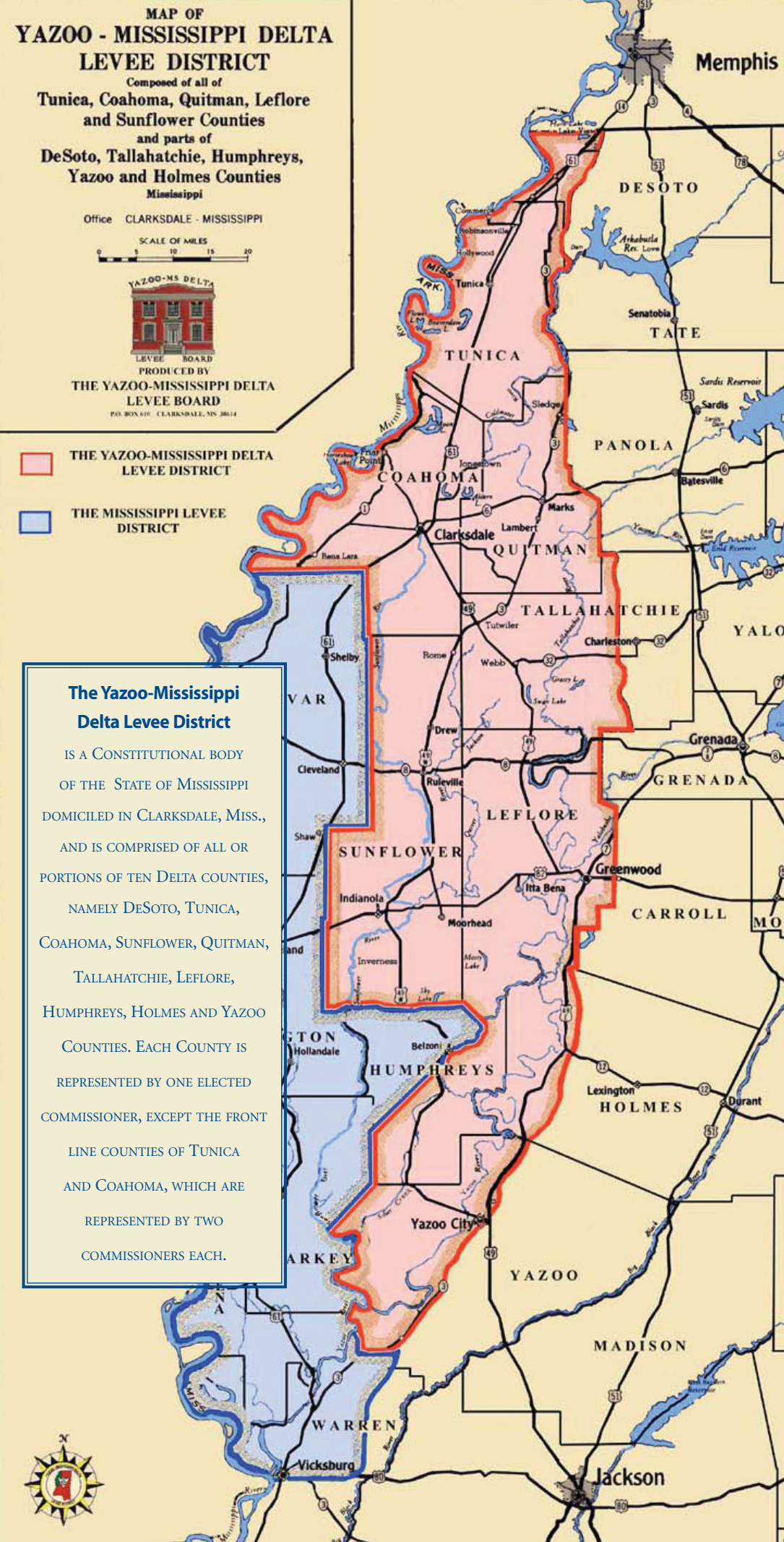
FAX: 662-624-2450

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 610
Clarksdale, MS 38614

SHIPPING ADDRESS: 140 Delta Avenue
Clarksdale, MS 38614

E-MAIL: ymdl@bellsouth.net

WEB SITE: www.leveeboard.org



Regrowing Mississippi with YMDLB

“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.”

According to an old English proverb, “He that plants trees loves others besides himself.”

If that statement holds true, Sam Hobart must have a large heart.

Hobart, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Forester, oversees the harvesting of between 300,000 and 400,000 hardwood seedlings annually at a seven-acre nursery owned and operated by YMDLB.

Out of this harvest, 60,000 seedlings are given away to public and private entities. In addition, 5,000 seedlings are given to each Natural Resource Conservation office in nine of the 10 counties represented by YMDLB, for a total of 45,000 trees.

The YMDLB Forestry Program began only three years ago; this March will mark Hobart’s third crop. Working out of a nursery in Coahoma County, YMDLB employees are responsible for the growth and upkeep of nine different tree varieties, including persimmon, cypress, magnolia, cherry bark oak, willow oak and water oak.

“We started completely from scratch out here,” Hobart said. “We didn’t have anything but a dream.”

From September to December, seeds are collected and cleaned then stored in cool storage until March, when they are put in the ground. After the seedlings are lifted the following January, they are put directly back onto YMDLB properties or saved for giveaway programs. Most planting is done before the end of February – before the spring rains.

In 2005, YMDLB teamed up with Take Pride in Mississippi, a public endeavor organized by Governor Haley Barbour that aims to seek, support and recognize volunteers who work to improve our natural and cultural resources, in giving away hardwood trees at the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Expo in Canton. The YMDLB also plans to take part in the 2007 Expo, which will be held in February in conjunction with Arbor Day.



Above: Tilling takes place before February, when most planting is done. Below left: Workers plant between 600 and 1,000 acres of trees per year. Below right: Sam Hobart, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Forester, oversees a seven-acre nursery owned and operated by the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board.



Hobart and his crew plant between 600 and 1,000 acres of trees per year to reforest YMDLB property.

“Our goal is to eventually produce a half million seedlings annually,” said Hobart. “We also hope to take some seedlings to the Mississippi Gulf Coast when they are ready.”

Common Misconceptions About Flood Control



Flooding is good for waterfowl.

Waterfowl do not utilize deep bodies of water. They feed and nest in shallow areas of flooded timber and low-lying agricultural fields. Most importantly, the Mississippi Delta is a winter waterfowl area and is not typically used by waterfowl during the springtime, when the Delta experiences flooding.

Flooding is good for timber.

According to recent research by the National Biological Service, trees are one of the hardest-hit plant species when floods of long duration occur. According to private forestry consultants and representatives of the Forest Service-USDA, ponding water is one of the primary killers of trees in the Mississippi Delta.

It would be cheaper to buy flood easements.

This statement is not true because the purchase of easements, the right to use the land of another for a special purpose, is not a simple procedure. Things to be considered are: availability of the land, infringing on other property (public and private) and interruption of public services.

Flood control projects destroy fisheries in the Delta's natural streams.

All Delta streams experience channel modification. Because of the extremely gradual slope, Delta streams are slow-moving and prone to silting up. Historically, they are characterized by heavy sediment loads and do not produce high-quality fishery habitats. Substantial investments have been made to develop fish-spawning structures, and other improvements are in place to enhance fishery habitat recovery. Recent studies have documented that the fishery habitats on the Yalobusha River, which was

enlarged in 1990, have experienced significant and rapid recovery.

It would be better to use ring levees to protect our communities.

Delta flood protection projects have already utilized ring levees in a number of urban centers to reduce vulnerability to flooding. However, ring levees have proven to be an impractical investment that does not reduce the crest, duration or frequency of flooding. They also do not alleviate the interruption of public services such as sewer and water for the area encircled by the ring levees.

Delta flood protection projects can't be economically justified.

Investments throughout Northwest Mississippi have reaped huge economic returns for the region, our state and the nation. Agriculture, business and industry have made investments in the region based upon the expectation that Mississippi River levees will hold back floods with limited damages to private property and public facilities. The total cost of all Delta flood protection projects, when completed, is less than the value of raw materials used by agriculture and industry in the Delta in a single year.

We don't need flood control. We should leave rivers and streams alone and let nature take its course.

Delta flood protection projects allow the region to be safely inhabited by humans, animals and the hugely productive capacity of agriculture and industry in the region. To adopt a "no action" plan carries a huge responsibility. Without adequate flood protection, we can expect to renew problems associated with earlier flooding conditions such as yellow fever, typhoid fever, malaria and unsanitary drinking-water supplies.

Flood Prevention: One Ditch at a Time

The residents of the Blue Cane community in Tallahatchie County know firsthand the positive effects of projects completed by the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board.

Citizens were inundated annually by flooding – rains of only five inches caused roadways to be underwater. In 2006, YMDLB crews completed the task of clearing debris that would open existing ditches near Blue Cane, thus restoring them to their original capacity and preventing flooding.

In addition to the Upper Yazoo Project, which is focused on re-establishing channel capacity to the Yazoo River and its tributaries, the YMDLB also focuses their efforts on cleaning and maintaining drainage ditches throughout their ten-county district.



Kelly Greenwood, YMDLB CEO. "By keeping the ditches free of debris, we are ultimately preventing flooding."

Ditches throughout the district are ranked by priority for work. The crews use heavy equipment to dig the ditches down to their original capacities – up to ten feet down and thirty feet across. When debris and silt have built up in the ditches, crews scoop out the built-up siltation with land-based machines, which allows water to flow freely again.

Three YMDLB crews complete approximately 100 miles of ditch work per year, totaling at least \$2.5 million worth of work done annually to prevent flooding by keeping ditches clean.

"This is a project that the public entity could not afford to do otherwise," said

The residents of Blue Cane have experienced firsthand the result of proper maintenance and restoration of ditches," Greenwood said. "We will continue to work to clean the ditches on our list to ensure the safety of residents in the communities that we serve."

Anatomy of a Berm

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board has completed another project that will benefit the residents of Tunica County by preventing flooding. Trotter's Berm near Flowers Lake, five miles west of Clayton, has been extended almost 44.5 acres, which will allow water to flow through more freely.

"High water causes increased seepage in any soil embankment," said Kelly Greenwood, CEO of the YMDLB. "The Mississippi River levee is no exception."

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers was in charge of the project to reduce seepage on the land owned by the YMDLB, which involved filling in low spots in the berm up to an elevation of approximately 180 feet, according to Bruce Cook, YMDLB assistant chief engineer, who managed the project.

"This project will continue to help residents in the area by preventing flooding,"



Landside Berm: a low, wide fill to reinforce the base of the levee and provide weight to counteract the uplift pressure of seepage waters during times of high water.

Berm: a level space, shelf or raised barrier separating two areas; used to control erosion and sedimentation by reducing the rate of surface run-off. The berm either reduces the velocity of the water or directs water to areas that are not susceptible to erosion, thereby reducing adverse effects of running water on exposed topsoil.

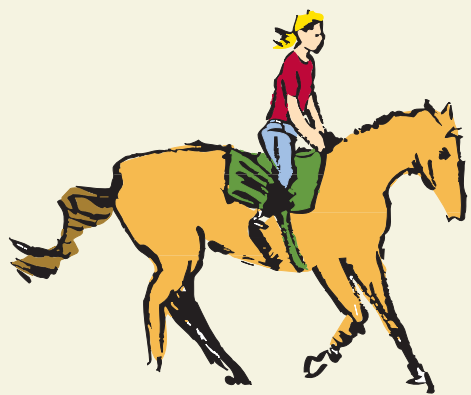
Sand Boil: a common cause of a levee breach is a sand boil, which occurs when the upward pressure of water flowing through soil pours under the levee (underseepage) exceeding the downward pressure from the weight of the soil above it. The underseepage resurfaces on the landside, in the form of a volcano-like cone of sand. If left unattended, a boil that is carrying enough foundation material with it can carry away enough foundation material that the overlying levee begins to collapse, resulting in a breach.

Greenwood said. "The last levee breach in our district was in 1897, and maintenance and improvements such as the Trotter's Berm Extension will continue our excellent track record."

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Clarence Cariker Horse Trail

On the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board's agenda for next spring is the completion of the Clarence Cariker Horse Trail, a nature trail running adjacent to the levee in Tunica County. Cariker, the trail's namesake, has represented Tunica County on the YMDLB for the last fifteen years but confesses he has, "been a horseman all my life."



The Clarence Cariker Horse Trail, a Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board project, should be completed by next spring.

Designed for equestrians and biking enthusiasts alike, the trail serves as another area attraction to be enjoyed by both the community and visitors. The trail can be accessed from a parking area off of River Park Drive and stretches south towards Sam's Town Casino. The trail is approximately three miles in length, but Cariker advised that later expansion could increase its length to anywhere from 12 to 15 miles.

This fall, some finishing touches are being added such as markers being placed along the trail. In addition, the parking lot is being equipped for horse trailers. Once finished, the trail is scheduled to open on May 1, 2007.

So keep the trail in mind when springtime rolls around again and you're looking for a relaxing way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Why not saddle up the horses for a little stroll or gather the kids and head out for a nice bike ride?

For more information on the Clarence Cariker Horse Trail, call 662-624-4397.

Students Get a First Hand Look at the Levee

The Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board wants the children of its region to educate their parents on the functions of the levee.

One of the many ways the district strives to educate youth is through a tour of the levee system. Under the supervision of Loris A. Johnson, Education Liaison for the YMDLB, students in grades six through twelve are extended an invitation to an educational outing.

"We provide lunch, along with a tour of the Tunica River Park and Museum located in Robinsonville," Johnson said. "This is all done at no out of pocket fees to the school districts."

The tour spans the YMDLB area from Clarksdale to Tunica. Students receive an informational briefing about the levee and various levee spots they pass. The event ends with students walking along the levee in Tunica.

"This is just one of the many ways that the YMDLB is reaching out to the youth in our region," said Sykes Sturdivant, YMDLB president. "We hope that students will take their further understanding of the levees into their communities and become vital advocates for the program."

"Most everything we hear is positive," he says.



Above top: Coahoma Community College Students toured the Tunica River Park and Museum located in Robinsonville. Above: Students enjoyed a tour of the levee.

Flood Control Award for 49 Consecutive Years



Lt. Colonel Richard Ott of the Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recently presented Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board President Sykes Sturdivant with the District's Outstanding Maintenance of Flood Control Facilities award. The award marked the 49th consecutive year in which the YMDLB has received the Corps recognition of its sound levee maintenance practices.

Far Left: Sykes Sturdivant, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board President. Left: Lt. Colonel Richard Ott, Memphis District, U.S. Corps of Engineers.



Fishing Holes

Within Coahoma and Tunica Counties, there are 26 public fishing areas nestled along the levee system. More than half of those sites have gravel or concrete boat ramps, and several have picnic tables, where the public can relax and enjoy the scenery.

FISHING SITES

- 1 Hillhouse Landing
- 2 Stump Hole
- 3 Connell Lake
- 4 Desoto Landing Park
- 5 Wilson Blues Hole
- 6 Humber Landside Pitts
- 7 Quapaw Landing
- 8 Mile 78 Landside
- 9 Stovall Old River Lake South
- 10 Stovall Old River Lake North
- 11 Friar's Point Blue Hole
- 12 Delta Landing
- 13 Moon Lake State Park Ramp
- 14 Moon Lake Landside Pits
- 15 Snag Lake
- 16 Kirkmans
- 17 Old River Blue Hole
- 18 Flower Lake Pits North
- 19 Flower Lake Pits South
- 20 John White Blue Hole
- 21 4-D Bar Pits
- 22 Seabrook's Blue Hole
- 23 Austin Pits
- 24 Tunica Cutoff Public Ramp
- 25 Moon's Bend Bar Pits
- 26 Buck Lake