



CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

LITTLE OCMULGEE
STATE PARK & LODGE

BECKY KELLEY
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2008

Little Ocmulgee State Park will soon be conducting a winter drawdown of the lake. By mid-October we will begin lowering the water and the lake will remain drained until approximately March 2010. This management practice is an attempt to reduce the large amounts of aquatic vegetation that are currently growing in the lake. The 250-acre lake was constructed by the CCC in the mid-1930's and is only about 4.5 feet deep. The shallowness of the lake allows the invasive plants such as Cabomba, Milfoil, and Hydrilla to propagate and spread rapidly. With the increase of invasive plants, all aspects of recreation including boating, fishing, or skiing have been completely lost by mid-May of each year.

Due to budget cuts and lack of funds, the vegetation has not been chemically treated for four consecutive years and a draw down is a cost-effective way to reduce the plants. The success of the drawdown will largely depend upon the weather while the water level is low. Ideally, the plants need to undergo freezing temperatures and drying of sediments. If this area receives minimum amounts of rainfall and consecutive nights of freezing temperatures, the root system of the plant will be damaged or killed. Though we realize this will not eradicate the plants completely, our goal is to increase the amount of time our guest and local citizens can utilize the lake.

With the exception of the fishing pier, all fishing will be closed during the drawdown period for safety purposes and protection of the fish population. Areas of the lakebed will begin drying and appear to be safe to walk across, but only the top of the sediments may be dry causing a potentially dangerous situation. Also be aware that alligators may be semi-hibernating during cooler temperatures and be located in the muddy areas of the lake. We will be lowering the lake slowly over a two-week period of time to avoid major fish kills.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact park personnel at 229-868-7474