

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **Community Meeting May 20<sup>th</sup> on Transition of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant to the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

Caddo Lake area organizations will host a community meeting regarding the clean-up and transfer of the remaining lands of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (LHAAP) to the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (agenda attached.) The meeting is Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 pm at the Karnack Community Center, located at 15593 FM 134 (Intersection of FM 134 and T.J. Taylor Ave.) Refreshments will be provided.

The Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge can play a very important role in the economic development of the area, as well as in protection of the area's ecological, historic and cultural assets. While the Refuge officially opened in 2009, public access and resource protection are limited by the failure of the U.S. Army to perform timely remediation and transfer of property to the FWS.

As a result, Caddo Lake area communities have serious concerns about the intentions of the Army. This meeting intends to open dialogue between the public and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and other agencies and communities affected.

Commenting on the upcoming meeting, Marshall Mayor William D. "Buddy" Power stated:

"The clean up and transfer of the remaining Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant lands to the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge are of utmost importance to the economic well being of the City of Marshall and all of Harrison County. It is also crucial to the water supply companies in this area that serve many residents to know that every step to clean up and protect our groundwater has been taken by the Army and monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency. The City of Marshall and the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge have forged a strong partnership, and we support the efforts of all who are endeavoring to complete the scheduled clean up and transfer of the remaining LHAAP lands in a timely fashion."

The meeting will focus on two issues: 1) community concerns and questions regarding the transition of the remaining former LHAAP lands to control by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for public use as part of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and 2) community concerns

and questions regarding clean-up of groundwater contamination at the site. Key players in the issues from local, state and federal agencies and organizations will be participating, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Caddo Lake NWR, and the Restoration Advisory Board. A groundwater expert hired by Caddo Lake Institute will also make a short presentation on significant deficiencies he identified in several of the Army's plans for groundwater clean-up.

The meeting's sponsors to date are: Caddo Lake Water Supply Company, Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas, Louisiana Greater Caddo Lake Association, City of Uncertain, Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Caddo Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, and Caddo Lake Institute.

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