

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

SCR 30

4  
5 By: Senator Womack  
6 By: Representatives Ledbetter, Key

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9 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FROM  
11 ARKANSAS URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GIVE  
12 FINAL AUTHORIZATION TO REALLOCATE WATER STORAGE  
13 IN NORTH ARKANSAS LAKES MANAGED BY THE U.S. ARMY  
14 CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE MINIMUM  
15 FLOWS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION  
16 PURPOSES.

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18 **Subtitle**

19 REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL  
20 DELEGATION URGE THE UNITED STATES  
21 CONGRESS TO GIVE FINAL AUTHORIZATION TO  
22 REALLOCATE WATER STORAGE IN NORTH  
23 ARKANSAS LAKES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE  
24 MINIMUM FLOWS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE.

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27 WHEREAS, in Section 374 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999,  
28 the United States Congress authorized the Secretary of the Army to “provide  
29 minimum flows necessary to sustain tail water trout fisheries by reallocating  
30 the following amounts of project storage: Beaver Lake, 1.5 feet; Table Rock,  
31 2 feet; Bull Shoals Lake, 5 feet; Norfork Lake, 3.5 feet; and Greers Ferry  
32 Lake, 3 feet.”; and

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34 WHEREAS, Congress directed that “[n]o funds may be obligated to carry  
35 out work on the ... [minimum flow project] until completion of a final report  
36 by the Chief of Engineers finding that the work is technically sound,



1 environmentally acceptable, and economically justified"; and

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3 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently in the process  
4 of completing its Minimum Flow Study to evaluate the environmental and  
5 economic impacts above and below the dams in the White River Basin, and to  
6 consider the methods, costs and benefits of reallocating water currently set  
7 aside for hydropower, flood control, or a combination of both, to increase  
8 flows for trout fisheries and recreation; and

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10 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Corps of Engineers' Minimum Flow Study  
11 findings, which should be released for public comment in the fall of 2003,  
12 will support allowing additional releases of waters from some or all of the  
13 dams in the White River Basin; and

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15 WHEREAS, the benefits expected from providing the adequate minimum flow  
16 are: (1) more stable and increased flow in the White River system, including  
17 a larger permanent wetted perimeter in the tail waters below the dams; (2)  
18 more stable instream environment so that trout and aquatic life they depend  
19 on can prosper, resulting in increased fish production and wade fishing  
20 opportunity; (3) easier small boat navigation; and (4) stabilized water  
21 temperature; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 2002, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission sold  
24 approximately 160,000 trout permits, which resulted in tourism and outdoor  
25 recreational opportunity that generated an overall economic value to the  
26 State of Arkansas of approximately 193 million dollars,

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
30 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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32 That United States Senators Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Mark Pryor, and  
33 United States Representatives Marion Berry, Vic Snyder, John Boozman, and  
34 Mike Ross are requested to urge the United States Congress to give final  
35 authorization to reallocate water storage in North Arkansas lakes managed by  
36 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide adequate minimum flows for fish

1 and wildlife, and recreation purposes.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of this Resolution, and after concurrence by the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit appropriately certified copies hereof to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C., the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.