



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Savannah District

NEWS RELEASE

**Hydrilla Treatments Scheduled for Thurmond
Lake**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began treating approximately 9.5 acres of hydrilla in the J. Strom Thurmond Lake with aquatic herbicides. This action will reduce the potential impacts the aquatic vegetation may have on public boat ramps during the remainder of the summer and fall. Herbicide applications should be completed by September 15, 2008, weather permitting. The herbicides used pose no danger to swimmers, boaters, or fish.

Herbicide applications will be made at boat ramps in the following areas:

Park	County & State
Dordan Creek	McCormick Co., SC
Parksville Rec. Area	McCormick Co., SC
Clarks Hill Park	McCormick Co., SC
Scotts Ferry	McCormick Co., SC
Petersburg Campground	Columbia Co., GA
Lakes Springs	Columbia, Co., GA
Winfield Campground	Columbia, Co., GA
Cherokee Rec Area	Lincoln Co., GA
Amity Rec Area	Lincoln Co., GA
Leathersville	Lincoln Co., GA

The areas will not be closed during applications, however, boaters may need to wait a few minutes to launch or retrieve their boats while the herbicides are being applied.

Due to the falling lake level and reduction in plant abundance, herbicides will not be applied around beach areas this year. Most of the buoyed-off swimming areas have been exposed by low water, even though the beaches are not closed. Swimmers outside of designated swimming areas should use extra caution and watch for drop-offs, stumps, thick aquatic plant beds, rocks, and other underwater hazards.

Hydrilla is a noxious aquatic weed found throughout much of the United States. In Thurmond Lake, hydrilla has not caused many of the problems associated with shallow lakes in the rest of the Southeast where it is present. Hydrilla affects shoreline uses in shallow areas especially during the late summer and fall, however, the vast majority of the lake remains navigable. Hydrilla goes dormant during the winter and re-sprouts from the root system during late spring and summer.

Boaters should ensure boat trailers, boats, and live wells are free of aquatic plants before leaving the launching area. While hydrilla may have some benefits to fish and waterfowl populations as it becomes established in some lakes, it is costly to manage and has negative impacts on lake users as plant growth becomes over-abundant.

Adjoining property owners may treat hydrilla around their docks provided they obtain a permit from the Thurmond Project Office, however, an individual licensed by the state in the aquatic herbicide category must apply the herbicide. There is no charge for the permit. Additional information on aquatic plant management at Thurmond Lake can be obtained by contacting the Thurmond Project Office at 1-800-533-3478 or (864) 333-1159.

