

Flood Damage Reduction

While flood damage reduction is not an official authorized project purpose of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, flood damage reduction is of paramount importance to the Association. And although not a part of the Navigation Project, the Ouachita River levee system is closely associated with navigation as it provides flood damage reduction from the Ouachita River in the southern portion of the basin. This project is currently threatened by bank caving on the Ouachita River in several areas, and the Association is actively supporting the incorporation of bank stabilization as a project purpose of the Navigation Project.



Flood walls up on the River

Wastewater Discharge

Wastewater discharge is a fact of life. Discharge is based on the flow and volume of water in the river. These two factors are key to the dilution of wastewater. Volume is dependent on the level of the river and nature plays the major role in this process. In large part, the level of the river can be controlled and made somewhat dependent on the locks and dams to maintain minimum water volume. Therefore, if the locks and dams are not maintained, the river level cannot be maintained, there would be less dilution, and subsequently there would be less discharge.

The amount of pollutant the river can handle boils down to the amount of dilution, which equates to the level of necessary water treatment. The level of water treatment requires greater capital expenditures from entities and businesses which ultimately equates to greater costs to residents. The end result: the maintenance of the locks and dams is critical to the river and people of the Ouachita River Basin.



Commerce moving on the Ouachita

Help Us Continue the Legacy - Join ORVA -

ORVA can only provide these services with the support and participation of individuals and organizations that comprise the constituency of our communities. If you are interested in promoting and preserving the opportunities of the Ouachita River Valley, please fill out the membership form below and return to ORVA, P. O. Box 913, Camden, AR 71701.

Name: _____

Contact Person (Organizations Only): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Annual Membership Fees

- \$50 Individual \$100 Small Business
 \$200 Civic / Professional / Public Entity (please circle one)
 \$500 Corporate \$1,250 User Fee \$2,500 Sustaining Member

Objectives

- Maintain collaborative relationships with elected officials
- Support economic development/environmental sustainability
- Operate, maintain and complete the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Safeguard water supply
- Support flood damage reduction projects
- Enhance fish and wildlife resources
- Coordinate with members of Congress, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and other Federal, State and local entities
- Keep members informed on current legislation and issues affecting the Ouachita River Valley
- Coordinate navigation on the Ouachita-Black Rivers to make it safe, dependable, and successful
- Enhance public awareness through newsletters, website (www.orva.org) and media news releases
- Conduct quarterly meetings and an annual convention in cities along the Ouachita-Black Rivers

ORVA

Ouachita River Valley Association

Serving Arkansas and Louisiana



A River Basin of Opportunity...
A Century Plus of Commitment

ORVA

www.orva.org

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History

The Association was organized in 1893 as the "Ouachita River Improvement Association" with the sole purpose of obtaining a year-round commercial navigation system on the Ouachita River in Arkansas and Louisiana. In 1950, the Association was renamed as the "Ouachita River Valley Association." With this renaming convention, came an expansion of its objectives to include the full myriad of benefits that could be derived from water and water resources development throughout the entire Ouachita River Basin.



Flooding in Arkansas City, AR – 1927.

Mission

The Ouachita River Valley Association is a nonprofit organization that promotes the development of water and land resources projects that are engineered and economically feasible, environmentally sustainable, and publicly acceptable that enhance the general welfare of the people in the Ouachita River Basin in Arkansas, Louisiana, and the Nation.

While the major focus of the Association is on operation, maintenance, and completion of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project and associated infrastructure, the Association also supports economic development projects throughout the Basin.



Navigation

The Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project provides dependable year-round commercial navigation from the mouth of the Black river to Camden, Arkansas, a distance of approximately 330 river miles.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers currently maintains four locks and dams on the Ouachita River, each having a lock chamber 84 feet wide and 600 feet in length. The navigation channel is maintained to a 9 foot depth and 100 foot width to accommodate barge traffic.



Dredging operations on the Ouachita River

Recreation



With other recreational areas managed by state, local, and private entities, it is estimated that the total visitation exceeds two million annually providing a huge economic impact to the Ouachita River Basin.

The economic value associated with tourism and recreation alone at the Ouachita, DeGray, and Greeson Lakes, an integral part of the Hot Springs community and economic system, is tremendous with more than one million visitors annually to these three Corps Lakes.

Currently there are 21 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreational areas along the Ouachita-Black Rivers and its tributaries with visitation to these sites totaling more than 700,000 annually.

Water Supply

The Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project provides a dependable source of water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use along its entire length and is becoming an increasingly important component of the River. Several municipalities depend on the Ouachita to provide water supply to its residents.

Along with municipal water supply is the supply of industrial water by multiple firms within the Ouachita River Valley. These users also depend on maintaining an adequate pool depth to sustain their operations.

An evolving use of the River is for agricultural use. Thousands of acres of agricultural fields, primarily in the southern area of operations of the basin, are becoming more dependent upon irrigation. The net result greatly increases the value of agricultural commodities at harvest.

Fish & Wildlife Conservation

Concerning wildlife conservation, two national wildlife refuges – Felsenthal and the Upper Ouachita, 65,000 and 40,500 acres, respectively – lie adjacent to the Ouachita River in Arkansas and Louisiana, and are operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Felsenthal NWR, located in southeast Arkansas, is dominated by the Ouachita and Saline Rivers and the Felsenthal pool. The flooding within the bottoms provides excellent wintering waterfowl habitat. The Upper Ouachita NWR, located in northeast Louisiana, is bisected by 18 miles of the Ouachita River. The refuge is a very important overflow of the Ouachita River floodplain and provides excellent waterfowling opportunities. Both Felsenthal and Upper Ouachita NWR's contribute greatly to the economy of southeast Arkansas and northeast Louisiana.

