

Caddo Lake Institute, Inc.

Caddo Lake Watershed Expanded Water Quality Monitoring

Project Description:

The Caddo Lake Watershed is located in northeast Texas on the border of Louisiana. It is fed by the Big Cypress Creek, a tributary to the Red River. The Caddo Lake Watershed includes wetland, stream, and open lake features at various locations. Caddo Lake and other water bodies in the Cypress Creek river basin are listed on the Texas Water Quality Integrated Report as impaired due to bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, mercury in edible tissues, and pH.

SEP Funds will be used for sampling and analysis in the Caddo Lake Watershed. Third-Party Administrator shall use SEP Funds to pay its contractor to conduct field measurements, to conduct laboratory tests for bacteria, pH, conductivity, and to identify levels of pollutants and pollution indicators such as nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, and phosphorus, and to prepare field data sheets for reporting results. Third-Party Administrator shall also use SEP Funds to pay for vehicle and boat fuel necessary for the contractor to reach the monitoring sites. Third-Party Administrator's contractor shall measure water quality on a monthly basis at the following six sites:

1. Station No. 15022, Big Cypress Creek below State Highway 43 at Caddo Lake State Park Boat Ramp, Harrison County, GPS coordinates 32.693859, -94.175816.
2. Station No. 15249, Caddo Lake near shore at end of Farm-to-Market Road 2198 at private property southeast of Uncertain, Harrison County, GPS coordinates 32.704472, -94.11353.
3. Station No. 10288, Caddo Lake in Goose Prairie south of Star Ditch and southeast of the end of Farm-to-Market Road 2198, Harrison County, GPS Coordinates 32.698612, -94.1125.
4. Station No. 14236, Clinton Lake at Channel Market C111 near Caddo Lake 165, north and east of the intersection of Cypress Village Road and Cypress Village south, Marion County, GPS Coordinates 32.737778, -94.10083.
5. Station No. 10286, Caddo Lake near Harrison Bayou, northeast of the mouth of Harrison Bayou and east of Long Point, Harrison County, GPS Coordinates 32.680832, -94.10667.
6. Station No. 10283, Caddo Lake mid Lake south of the end of Farm-to-Market Road 727 and northwest of Colliers Launch, GPS Coordinates 32.690277, -94.06416.

Third-Party Administrator shall, at its own expense, ensure that it has permission to conduct water quality monitoring activities at each of these sites. Monitoring will be conducted under a QAPP that will be approved by TCEQ prior to monitoring activities. All work conducted for this Project will be in addition to and separate from the work conducted by Third-Party Administrator under the Clean Rivers Program. All data collected under this Project will be provided to TCEQ in a format acceptable to the agency.

Environmental Benefit:

Caddo Lake was recognized as a Wetland of International Importance in 1993 by the Ramsar Convention. This designation was based on Caddo Lake's unique characteristics as one of the best examples of a bald cypress forest in the United States; support of diverse plant and animals species, including species that are vulnerable or endangered; support of animal species at critical stages in their life cycles, including breeding migratory birds; and

support of indigenous fish. It is important to maintain the integrity of Caddo Lake so that it can continue performing its ecological functions.

Because Caddo Lake and other water bodies in the Cypress Creek river basin are now listed as impaired due to bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, mercury in edible tissues, and pH, influences on water quality in this area need to be thoroughly studied. This Project will add to the understanding of pollutant loadings in the Caddo Lake Watershed. It will also provide quality-assured data that can be used by TCEQ for pollution reduction efforts. The Project will also increase the available water quality data for use in studies of the ecology of the Caddo Lake Watershed.

Eligible Areas and Counties:

This project may receive contributions from the following:

Camp, Cass, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Marion, Morris, Titus, Upshur, and Wood Counties

Minimum Contribution Amount:

\$300