

Protecting the Sulphur River



Water providers in the Dallas-Fort Worth-North Texas area are planning a \$2 billion reservoir on the Sulphur River, called Marvin Nichols and a smaller called Ralph Hall lake. Marvin Nichols' alone would flood 72,000 acres of productive forests and ranches.

DFW-North Texas can meet their future water needs without building expensive, destructive new reservoirs. Cost-effective options include water conservation, increased use of recycled water (called reuse), and obtaining water from existing sources.

Conserve... The State Water Plan projects that the people of DFW-North Texas will still be using 197 gallons per person per day (gpcd) in 2060. The state average water use is already below 185 gpcd. The state target is 140 gpcd and some cities in Texas are already at 120 or less. There is significant opportunity for North Texas for water efficiency measures to reduce the area's municipal water use.

Reuse... Water discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants can, with modest additional treatment, be returned directly to water supply reservoirs. Such reuse (also called recycled water) is by far the lowest-cost source of additional water supplies. Reuse can easily provide the increase in demand for Dallas, Fort Worth, and North Texas for at least the next sixty years.

Use Existing Sources of Water... There are reservoirs in north and east Texas whose water is only partly being used, sometimes only a very small part. It does far less damage to the natural environment and is usually less costly to use existing sources of water supply rather than building new ones. North Texas could tap Texoma, Wright Patman, Toledo Bend, reservoirs in the Brazos Basin, and others.

Why not build a new reservoir... According to the principal economist for the Texas Forest Service, Marvin Nichols would cause a loss of 400 to 1300 jobs and reduce revenues by \$87 million to \$275 million per year to the timber industry alone. Losses to ranching, hunting, and agribusiness would increase the economic impact. More than 40 miles of river would disappear under water forever, flooding increasingly-rare bottomland hardwood forests critical for wildlife.

To download a fact sheet on the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir, go to...
<http://www.tcatexas.org/documents/HotTopics-SulphurRiver.pdf>

What YOU Can Do...
**To Protect the Sulphur River,
its people and wildlife:**

Contact your state senator and state rep and ask them to help protect Sulphur River!

To learn who represents you in the Texas legislature, go to

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

