



DFW-NORTH TEXAS SHOULD USE EXISTING SOURCES OF WATER BEFORE PLANNING TO BUILD MARVIN NICHOLS RESERVOIR

Water providers in the Dallas-Fort Worth-North Texas area are planning a \$2 billion reservoir on the Sulphur River, called Marvin Nichols, which would flood 72,000 acres of productive forests and ranches. DFW-North Texas can meet their future water needs without building an expensive and destructive new reservoir -- by water conservation, increased use of recycled water, and obtaining water from existing sources.

Water experts have identified a number of less harmful, less costly alternatives to Marvin Nichols Reservoir to meet North Texas' projected future water needs:

- There is significant opportunity for North Texas for water efficiency measures to reduce the area's per-person municipal water use, thus reducing their demand for water. The Region C Water Plan projects that the people of North Texas will **still be using 197 gallons per person per day (gpcd) in 2060**. The state average water use is already below 185. The state target is 140 gpcd and some cities in Texas are already at 120 or less. Any serious effort at conservation would bring the 197 figure down.
- There are a number of 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 environmental and is often less costly to **tap existing sources of water supply** rather than building news ones. North Texas should tap Texoma, Wright Patman, Toledo Bend, reservoirs in the Brazos Basin, and others.

Building Marvin Nichols would have a devastating impact on Northeast Texas:

- Construction and mitigation of Marvin Nichols would require **condemnation of a quarter million acres or more of private land**. Thousands of Texans would be forced to sell family lands that provide part or all of their livelihoods.
- According to the principal economist for the Texas Forest Service, Marvin Nichols would cause a **loss of 400 to 1300 jobs** and **\$87 million to \$275 million in annual revenues** to the **timber industry** alone. Losses to ranching, hunting, and agribusiness would increase the economic impact.
- Drowning 72,000 acres wildlife habitat in the Sulphur Basin, including destroying more than 30,000 acres of increasingly rare bottomland hardwood forest, would **severely impact wildlife**. More than 40 miles of river would disappear under water forever.

Marvin Nichols is not a good option for DFW and North Texas:

- A project that costs North Texas ratepayers more than **\$2 billion, destroys valuable ranchland, timberland, and wildlife lands**, and has a **major impact on the economy** of Northeast Texas should not be considered as long as there are lower-cost, lower-impact water supply alternatives available.
- The unprecedented level of opposition to Marvin Nichols Reservoir can be expected to cause permit difficulties, delays, and escalating costs, resulting in **a high level of uncertainty** for the project.

PLEASE OPPOSE CONSTRUCTION OF MARVIN NICHOLS RESERVOIR!



Texas Conservation Alliance

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