



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Fort Worth District

Public Notice

Number: SWF-2010-00191

Activity: Cedar Ridge Reservoir
Environmental Impact Statement and Scoping Announcement

Date: April 13, 2018

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of an Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District.

Regulatory Program

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

Section 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

Section 404

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

Contact

Name: Mr. Frederick J. Land

Phone Number: (817) 886-1731

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR CEDAR RIDGE RESERVOIR

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) is releasing this Public Notice to announce a public scoping meeting and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze potential impacts associated with the Cedar Ridge Reservoir proposed by the City of Abilene, Texas. The EIS will analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to waters of the U.S. and all other relevant environmental and human resources. To keep the public informed, additional information pertaining to the EIS can be found at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/Cedar-Ridge-Reservoir-EIS-SWF-2010-00191/>.

DATE ISSUED: April 13, 2018

LOCATION: Cedar Ridge Reservoir would be located on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River in Shackelford, Throckmorton, Haskell, and Jones Counties, upstream of Possum Kingdom Lake, near the town of Lueders, Texas; USGS Quad maps Antelope Hills, Lueders East, and Lueders NE; Middle Brazos-Clear Fork 8 Digit HUC 12060102, at approximate Latitude 32.96504, Longitude -99.45903, in the Central Great Plains ecoregion.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) has received an application for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the City of Abilene to construct the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir. The Cedar Ridge Reservoir, if constructed, would be a non-federal project constructed, owned, and operated by the City of Abilene. The USACE has determined that issuing this permit may significantly impact the environment, and, therefore, requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS will be prepared according to the USACE's procedures for implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c), and consistent with the USACE's policy to facilitate public understanding and review of agency proposals, as well as to develop information, data, and analyses to be used in 404(b)(1) guidelines and public interest review analyses for the Cedar Ridge Reservoir project. The EIS is intended to provide an environmental evaluation focusing on the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative aquatic resource impacts, in addition to other relevant environmental and human resources, that could be affected by the reservoir. As part of the EIS process, a full range of reasonable alternatives, including the proposed Action and no action, will be evaluated. The use of a third party contract arrangement will be utilized to develop the EIS funded by the City of Abilene, Texas.

The USACE has invited the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Historical Commission to be cooperating agencies in the formulation of the EIS.

The USACE will be conducting a public scoping meeting to describe the Project, preliminary alternatives, the NEPA compliance process, and to solicit input on the issues and alternatives to be evaluated and other related matters. **The public scoping meetings for the EIS will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Abilene Convention Center, 1100 N 6th Street, Abilene, Texas, 79601.**

The public scoping meeting will include an ‘open house’ format and a presentation of information. Although written comments are encouraged, no formal public statements or public testimony will be taken at this time.

Written comments for scoping will be accepted until June 15, 2018. The USACE has prepared a scoping announcement (attached) to familiarize agencies, the public, and interested organizations with the proposed action and potential environmental issues that may be involved. The scoping announcement describes the target resources to be assessed and other important information. Copies of the scoping announcement will be available at the public scoping meetings or can be requested by mail.

The point of contact for the EIS is Mr. Frederick Land; Regulatory Division, CESWF-DE-R; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. You may visit the Regulatory Branch in Room 3A37 of the Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth between 8:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Telephone inquiries should be directed to (817) 886-1731.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
FORT WORTH DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

How You Can Participate

May 2018
Public Scoping
Meeting

Fall 2020
EIS for
Public
Review

2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020

June 2018
Public Comments
Period Open through
June 15, 2018

What, in your mind, are the key issues we should spend time evaluating in the Draft EIS?

- Are alternatives to the proposed project important?
- Are there other ways a reliable water supply can be secured?
- Should a water supply reservoir be constructed at all?
- Are there land use or transportation issues that might stand in the way of developing this proposed project?

- Learn about the proposed project
- Review the biological, physical, and socioeconomic issues the USACE will evaluate in the draft EIS
- Provide comments to the USACE EIS team within **30 days of Public Scoping Meeting (by June 15, 2018)**

Option
1 Written comments or oral comments to Court Reporter welcomed at the scoping meeting.

Option
2 Send your comments by email or phone to USACE:
cedarridge@usace.army.mil
(817)-866-1731

Option
3 Submit your comments via mail to:
Fred Land, Regulatory Project Manager USACE, Fort Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas, 76102

We look forward to hearing from you by June 15, 2018.

Cedar Ridge Reservoir

Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping Meeting Announcement: What You Need to Know and How You Can Participate

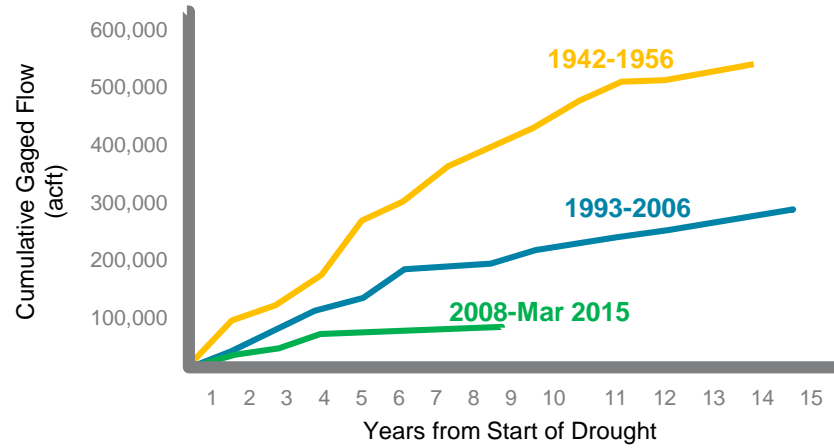


**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**

Public Scoping Meeting
May 16, 2018
Abilene Convention Center
Abilene, TX 4 – 8 PM
Open House Format - Written
Comments Welcome at the Meeting

May 16 2018
SWF-2010-00191

The USACE is preparing a draft EIS to evaluate the City of Abilene's (Applicant) permit application to construct and operate a reservoir.



APPLICANT'S PURPOSE AND NEED:

To provide up to 34,400 acre feet of additional, reliable water supplies annually through a regional project to meet existing and projected future water demands through 2070 for Applicant's regional service area, including during severe drought and other reduced availability conditions. The Applicant is proposing to construct a new 227,127 acre-foot water supply reservoir on the Clear Fork of the Brazos formed by an approximately 5,200-foot long earthen dam.

Proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir

EIS DEVELOPMENT:

Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS that have already been identified include the following:

- Project need and purpose.
- Alternatives proposed by the Applicant, the public, cooperating agencies, and others including all reasonable alternatives and practicable alternatives available to the Applicant.
- Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of reservoir development, including potential downstream effects on WOUS and other habitat, effects upon public lands, cultural resources, navigation, prime and unique farmland, invasive species, ground and surface water quality, erosion and accretion, air quality effects of the proposed project, navigation, socioeconomic effects, environmental justice, recreational resources, energy supply and natural resources, hazardous, toxic, and radiological waste, aesthetics, public safety, and other resource areas of concern.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

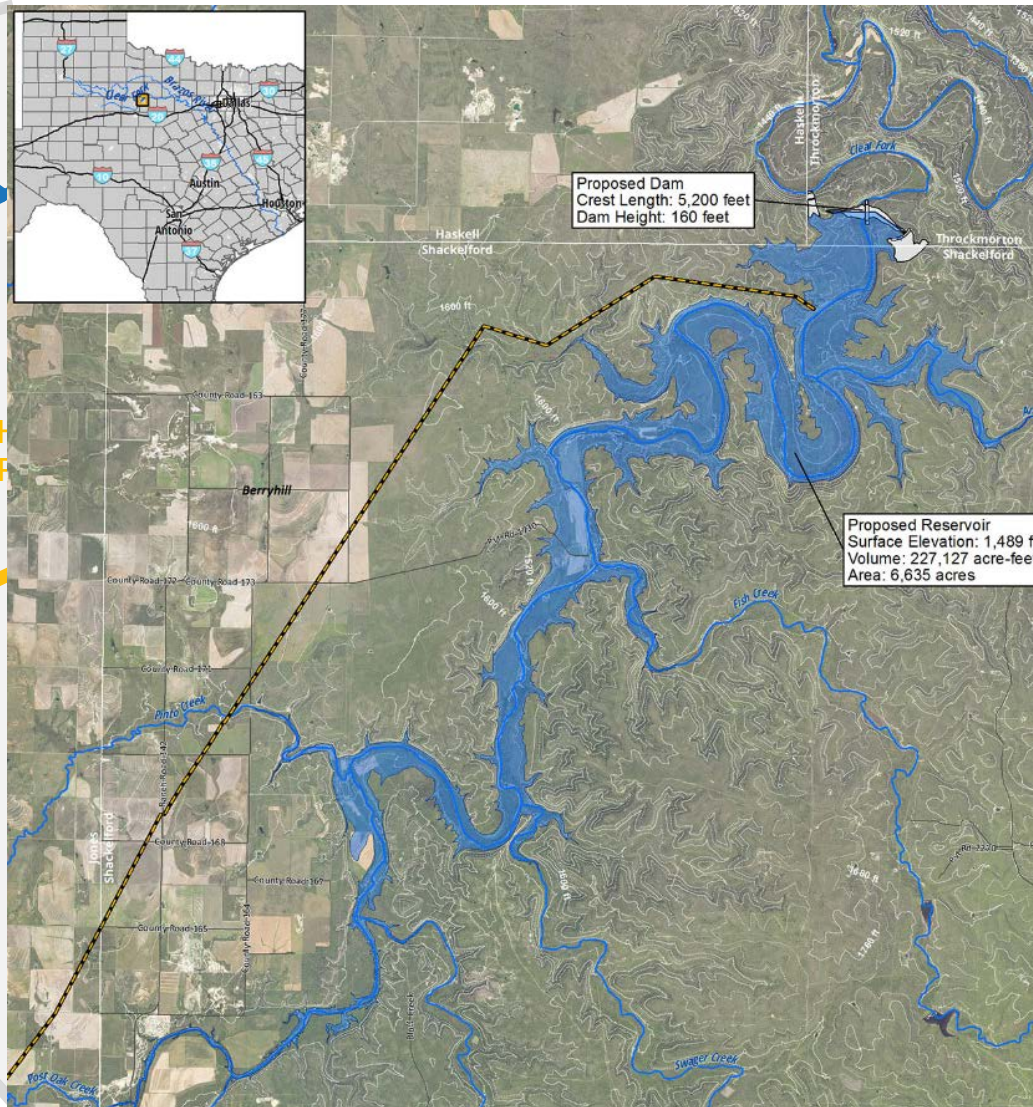
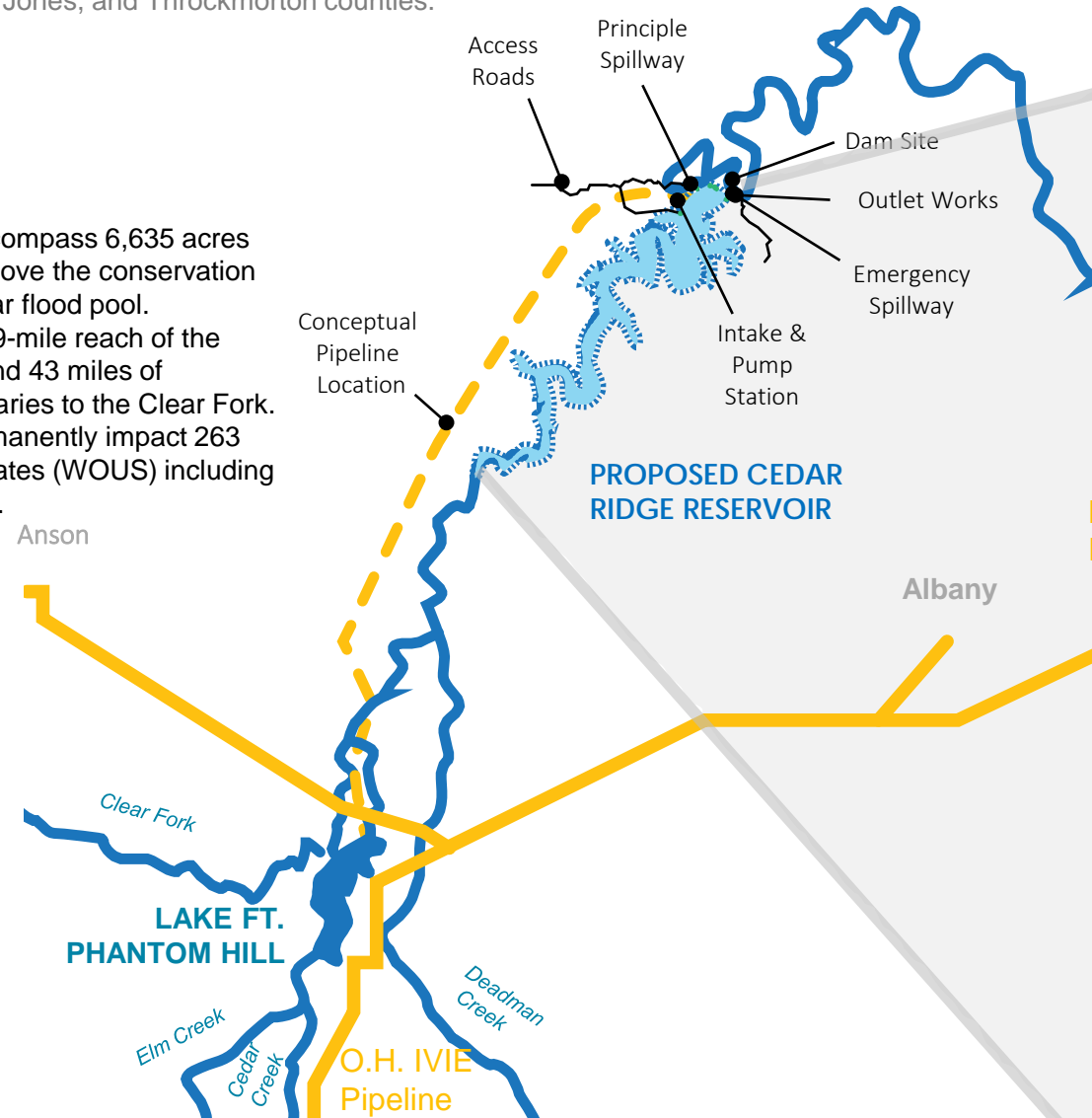
The USACE requires the City of Abilene to consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources. Two fish species endemic to the Brazos River Basin have been proposed as endangered by United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) – the sharpnose shiner (*Notropis oxyrinchus*) and the smalleye shiner (*N.buculla*). Two freshwater mussels, the smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstensis*) and Texas Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*) also occur in the Brazos River Basin. The City of Abilene sponsored surveys have not found evidence of these species in the area of the proposed reservoir.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The southern limit of the proposed reservoir is approximately 25 miles northeast of Abilene and the project is located primarily in northwest Shackelford County along the Clear Fork of the Brazos River with small portions located in adjacent Haskell, Jones, and Throckmorton counties.

PROJECT FEATURES & AREAS AFFECTED:

- The conservation pool would encompass 6,635 acres with an additional 2,151 acres above the conservation pool to be designated as 100-year flood pool.
- The inundated area includes a 29-mile reach of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River and 43 miles of intermittent and ephemeral tributaries to the Clear Fork.
- The proposed project would permanently impact 263 acres of Waters Of the United States (WOUS) including 6 acres of non-forested wetlands.
- The construction of the dam and two spillways will require 117 acres of land.
- The 34 mile pipeline could impact 578 acres of land area and the pump station is estimated at 2 to 3 acres.
- Access roadways required for construction could require up to 300 acres of total right of way
- Temporary construction laydown areas may require up to 20 acres of land.
- Borrow areas could require up to 200 acres of land in various locations plus removal of varying volumes of excavated fill material.



CURRENTLY PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

Alternatives under consideration include, but are not limited to the following:

- Developing new reservoirs at other locations including South Bend Reservoir site, Double Mountain Reservoir (east or west sites), and Breckenridge Reservoir site
- Securing additional water via a pipeline from Possum Kingdom reservoir
- Developing a scalping operation from Clear Fork to Hubbard Creek reservoir
- Water purchases
- Additional development of groundwater resources
- Municipal water conservation strategies
- Water reuse
- No action