

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DeWitt - Interior 4662

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 28, 1962

PRESIDENT KENNEDY APPROVES FISH AND WILDLIFE PLAN FOR CANADIAN  
RIVER PROJECT, TEXAS

President Kennedy has approved a fish and wildlife development plan for Sanford Reservoir on the Bureau of Reclamation's Canadian River Project in Texas, the Department of the Interior has been informed.

The plan was approved under a 1950 law authorizing construction of the Canadian River Project, which provided that upon acceptance by the President of a suitable pattern for conserving and developing fish and wildlife resources of the project, the costs would be borne by the United States.

The plan was developed jointly by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation, both in the Department of the Interior, and the Texas Game and Fish Commission. It provides for access areas and public-use facilities at six key locations around Sanford Reservoir, and for minimum standard roads to guarantee public access to the fish and wildlife opportunities created by the reservoir.

The President's action permits full development of needed fishing and hunting opportunities in an area which has offered little recreation of this type in the past. Sanford Reservoir will provide about 200,000 man-days of recreational fishing each year. Fishermen may expect to catch channel catfish, large-mouth black bass, walleyes, and bluegills. It is also anticipated that more game animals and waterfowl will be taken each year by hunters on lands surrounding the reservoir.

Fishermen will spend an estimated \$780,000 and hunters \$59,400 annually on trips to the reservoir area. Local businesses such as gasoline stations, motels, and sporting goods dealers, catering to their needs, will benefit accordingly, the Department indicated.

Construction costs of the plan are estimated at \$683,200, with annual operation and maintenance costs estimated at \$17,000. The plan anticipates that future improvements to access roads will be made with local or State highway funds, and that administration of the access areas will be turned over to a State agency, such as the Texas Game and Fish Commission.

The primary purpose of the Canadian River Project is to furnish municipal water for 11 cities in the Texas panhandle and high plains areas. Construction is underway on Sanford Dam, in Hutchinson County, Texas, the principal feature of the Canadian River Project. The 1,331,500 acre-foot Sanford Reservoir will provide an annual average of 103,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water to supplement dwindling groundwater supplies for the northwestern Texas cities of Amarillo, Borger, Brownfield, Lamesa, Levelland, Lubbock, O'Donnell, Pampa, Plainview, Slaton, and Tahoka.

The water-supply features of the project will be repaid with interest by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority under a 50-year repayment contract of \$92,600,000. Sanford Dam is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1965, with initial storage to begin in December 1964. Water deliveries to the 11 cities are scheduled to begin in the summer of 1967.

x x x