

Why the proposed Marvin Nichols Lake on the Sulphur River is bad for Northeast Texans

LAND LOSSES AND TAXES

Marvin Nichols Lake, the first of the lakes that Dallas-Ft. Worth Planners are trying to force on Northeast Texans, would destroy over 72,000 acres of farms, ranches, and forest. In addition to the 72,000 acres, at least another 163,000 acres would be necessary to mitigate the federally listed "Priority 1" bottomland hardwood forest which would be flooded, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The impact of Marvin Nichols would remove at least 235,000 acres from our tax rolls, more land than is in all of Morris County. This would deprive our schools and counties of revenue. Where would our schools and counties get the money to replace the lost taxes? Marvin Nichols would force our school districts and counties to raise taxes on the rest of us. This even though our 50-year water plan shows that East Texas doesn't need water from Marvin Nichols. However, a few Dallas-Ft. Worth Planners and some greedy local Special interests do want it, and they're trying to sneak it by the people. Northeast Texans would pay for the privilege to give our water away!

JOB LOSSES AND THE ECONOMY

Marvin Nichols would eliminate many jobs in farming, ranching, logging, and other areas due to the land taken for the lake. Also badly hurt would be the people who provide goods and services for the jobs that would be lost, such as feed and seed stores, farm and tractor supply stores, along with the pulpwood supply for International Paper (IP) at Domino, Texas. According to our own region's water plan, the Marvin Nichols Lake may force IP to purchase water from the lake to maintain the required water flow in the Sulphur River below Wright Patman Dam! This added cost could be the deciding factor in IP choosing our plant as the next one to close.

HOMES AND HISTORY

Marvin Nichols Lake would evict law-abiding, taxpaying and longtime Texans from their homes and land, destroying a part of the rural heritage of Northeast Texas. Many of the homesteads have been passed from generation to generation. Marvin Nichols would flood several family cemeteries and historic Native American sites. Marvin Nichols would destroy one of Texas' oldest historic sites at the Dalby Homestead, affirmed with a Texas Historical Marker. It would destroy the home's historic log cabin walls, which date back to before Texas was even a state.

ENVIRONMENT AND WATER QUALITY

Marvin Nichols Lake would affect at least 22 different species listed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Department of the Interior as endangered or threatened. Marvin Nichols Lake would destroy about 30 percent of the remaining bottomland hardwood habitat above Wright Patman Lake. The loss of such an immense amount of water purifying wetlands could degrade the water quality in Wright Patman Lake, and pollute the water in our wells.

WHY DALLAS CHOSE MARVIN NICHOLS LAKE

Marvin Nichols Lake is not being planned, nor built, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The planners of Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW) chose Marvin Nichols Lake from their own wish list of 32 proposed lakes. DFW Planners see our land as worthless, except for building a lake for their wasteful needs. Even though DFW wastes half of its water, more than anywhere else in Texas, they still want our water even if it does destroy our heritage and our people's livelihoods. DFW wants to take our water, land, and tax money. In effect, Dallas-Ft. Worth Planners want to waste all the water they want, take our water rights, and force Northeast Texans to pay dearly for it.