master plan

This planning publication has neither been approved nor disapproved. Its purpose is to provide planning information and alternatives for further consideration and discussion, and it may undergo considerable revision.
Lake Meredith

recreation area • texas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Federal Lands Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Major Reservoirs Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE REGION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Oil and Gas Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Region Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE RESOURCE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Topography Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE PLAN</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Concept Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Access Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 General Development Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Land Classification Map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIXES</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

For centuries the Great Plains of North America were considered a wasteland, suited only as habitation for the "uncivilized." In 1852 Captain Randolph Marcy of the U.S. Army observed:

"It [the Great Plains] seems to have been designed as a natural barrier between civilized man and the savage, as, upon the east side there are numerous spring-brooks, flowing over a highly prolific soil with a superabundance of the best of timber, with an exuberant vegetation teeming with the delightful perfume of flowers of the most brilliant hues; — while on the other side commence those barren and desolate wastes, where but few small streams greet the eye of the traveler, and these are soon swallowed up by the thirsty sands over which they flow; here but little woodland is found, except on the immediate borders of the water courses."

The "Great American Desert," as it was designated on early maps, seriously lacked the basic necessities of travelers and settlers — wood for their fuel and shelter — and most important, water to quench their thirst,
and that of their cattle and crops. But as the irrepressible "civilized American" continued his westward migration, he found ways in which to cope with the inhospitality of the plains. The windmill was perhaps his most significant tool.

From the time of the final suppression of the Comanche in 1874, through the era of the huge cattle empires, to the gas and oil booms of the 20th century, man has prospered on the high plains of Texas — in spite of the hardships inflicted by hot winds, sandstorms, droughts, prairie fires, and blizzards. And in this region, extending from the Rocky Mountains on the west to the 98th meridian on the east, water is still scarce. As underground sources are diminishing today, Plainsmen continue in their search for the precious liquid.

As can be imagined, the almost overnight appearance within such a land of a huge blue lake creates quite a sensation — not only through the visual contrast that becomes apparent, but through its symbolism as a lavish contradiction of a harsh fact, which remains a threat to existence, as well as to prosperity.

This perhaps partially describes the attraction of Lake Meredith — but the over-one-million visitation this recreation area in the Texas Panhandle experiences each year cannot be explained simply by its curious appearance, or even by the excellent fishing and boating opportunities it offers. Some understanding of the people who go there is vital to any understanding of its importance.

Texans are well-known not only for their self-reliance and unmatched friendly hospitality, but also for a boundless and explosive energy, which exerts itself in the pursuit of both leisure and hard work. The Texan is a dynamic and exuberant man, surrounded by wide open spaces, and filled with the need to exercise his freedom within them.

But the Texan’s difficulty lies in the fact that the wide open spaces are not accessible to him. The State of Texas contains little public domain. State parks are small, and in the western half of the State they are in scarce supply. The generous share of Texas license plates seen in Colorado parks confirms and underscores this deficiency, and it seems that perhaps the Texan’s famous willingness to drive great distances in pursuit of pleasure is born of necessity.

Lake Meredith, with its nearly 45,000 acres of land and water, provides a significant opportunity for today’s Plainsman to spread his wings in a place in his home State — a place which, in its context, displays a rare beauty.
**Usable Capacity in Acre-Feet**

- 810,000 - 4,000,000
- 81,000 - 810,000

**Major Reservoirs on the Southern Plains**

618/20/006

*On Microfilm*
THE REGION

Lake Meredith is located in the geographic center of the Texas Panhandle, 35 miles north of Amarillo, the transportation hub of the Southwest, and Interstate 40, one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in the country.

The population in this region is not dense, but within a 50-mile radius of the lake it exceeds 200,000, and is double this figure at 100 miles. Ranching, farming, and the oil and gas industry dominate the scene, and are the primary contributors to the regional economy. But these are what is known as "slow-growth industries," and for a number of reasons their future is somewhat uncertain. According to an economic analysis recently prepared for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC), the regional economy is now dependent upon diminishing resources that are not replaceable — oil, gas, and underground water. Even though vast deposits of oil and gas are thought to remain, the PRPC study still considers these declining industries.

A description in the 1972-73 Texas Almanac of the region’s primary aquifer effectively describes the water problem:

“OGALLALA — This formation is the only major source of usable water on the High Plains. Recharge of water is quite limited, averaging only one-half inch yearly, while pumping is heavy, averaging five million acre feet yearly. Depletion of water supply is threatened before the end of the century at present rates of pumping. This formation supplies Texas’ largest irrigated farming region, producing most of the cotton and grain sorghums and other crops.”

The possibility of developing other resources does exist, but the only current proposal for this purpose is the controversial Texas Water Plan, which is now in an extremely questionable state. The PRPC report concludes that the economic future of the region “will depend upon the rate of exhaustion of petroleum and underground water and upon the extent to which other industries can be developed as these resources are used up.”

To the rural counties surrounding Lake Meredith, these bleak predictions look even worse when viewed in conjunction with the fact that the counties...
OIL FIELD

GAS FIELD

OIL & GAS
ON THE SOUTHERN PLAINS
ON MICROFILM 6/8/2009
are experiencing a decrease in population. Most projections indicate a continuation of this trend. Out-migration and rural-urban shifts, particularly in the younger age-groups, were a major cause in a 5 percent population decline in the region during the 1960's.

Amarillo, with an urban population of over 130,000, hosts a significant number of more diversified industries, but it is obvious that its influence alone cannot sustain the entire region.

It is not surprising that the concerned citizens of the Panhandle are diligently seeking ways in which to further diversify their economy. One aspect they are eyeing with keen interest is tourism. Many a traveler has passed through Amarillo on old U.S. 66 or Interstate 40. But chances are that most of them — in a hurry as most of us are on a trip — viewed the Panhandle much the same as Captain Marcy did in 1852. A roadmap of the State hints little at what one can see or do, and even the Official 1972 Texas Highway Map does not clearly show beautiful Palo Duro Canyon — sometimes known as “Texas’ best-kept secret” — or the flint quarries of Alibates National Monument, the State’s only national monument.

Actually, by traditional standards, the Panhandle has not had much to offer the tourist, with the notable exception of the above-mentioned parks.

But perhaps a revitalized concept of tourism is needed here. John Steinbeck, in his book Travels with Charley — In Search of America, explained very simply why he had never been a national park visitor: “Yellowstone National Park is no more representative of America than is Disneyland.” But in his travels he did spend some time in the Panhandle.

The Texas Highway Department distributes maps of various sections of the State, highlighting the regional history, geology, economy, and other aspects of the towns and countryside, thus providing a good introduction to getting to know the country Steinbeck’s way. The effective use of one of these guides, The Texas Plains Trail, can be a delightful experience, and one demonstrating that, although the Texas Panhandle is far from spectacular, it is a unique and interesting segment of America, with a rich history and a fascinating people. With such a viewpoint, tourism may well prove fruitful as one aspect of a diversified economy here, and Lake Meredith is certain to play a part in it.

Encouragement in the attainment of this objective of diversifying the Panhandle’s economy by encouraging tourism can be gleaned from a comment made by Texas Senator John Tower: “Texans... will do most anything to convince an outsider to come share what we have to offer the world.”
THE TEXAS PANHANDLE REGION
For thousands of years, the Canadian River has cut a broad, meandering canyon through the hard caprock of the flat, arid high plains of North Texas, known as the "Llano Estacado." Historically, the river and its "breaks" have served as linear landmarks for a colorful parade of travelers — Spanish conquistadores, Comancheros, military expeditions, frontiersmen, trappers, buffalo hunters, cowboys, and Indians. Prehistorically, it supported early sites of commerce and agriculture. And here, as elsewhere on the plains, water has always played a dominant role.

In 1965, as part of the Canadian River Project, a dam was placed across the river, and Lake Meredith was created. Since that date the National Park Service has administered the recreational use of the lake area, first under the designation "Sanford Recreation Area," and later as "Lake Meredith Recreation Area."

The Canadian River Project and Lake Meredith Recreation Area both resulted from an act of December 29, 1950 (64 Stat. 1124). This congressional action authorized the construction of Sanford Dam, and associated works, by the Bureau of Reclamation, primarily to provide a municipal water supply for eleven cities in the Texas Panhandle. The project also served to benefit irrigation, flood control, silt control, and fish and wildlife habitat, and provided recreational facilities.

The National Park Service became involved through a memorandum of understanding and agreement (Contract No. 14-06-500-579) dated June 26, 1961, with the Bureau of Reclamation. This agreement authorized the Service to investigate, plan, and develop recreational resources for the Canadian River Project.

Further, Public Law 88-536 (78 Stat. 744), dated August 31, 1964, authorized the Secretary of Interior "to investigate, plan, construct, operate, and maintain, or otherwise provide for basic public outdoor recreational facilities at Sanford Reservoir Area."

By a March 15, 1964, memorandum of agreement (Contract No. 14-06-500-1105), between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, the administration of the area for public recreational use became the responsibility of the Service. In July of 1968 the Bureau of Reclamation turned over the operation
and maintenance of the dam and associated facilities to the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA). Thus, the present-day management of the reservoir and its facilities is a cooperative effort between the NPS and CRMWA.

In October of 1972, the name was officially changed to "Lake Meredith Recreation Area."

On these table-flat grasslands, where grain elevators and fencelines are important space delineators and scenic elements for the traveler, any break in the topography or appearance of trees in the landscape is exciting. As one nears the Canadian River some 30 miles north of the city of Amarillo, the horizon-bound flatness gives way to rolling hills, which finally culminate in the steep, rugged, rock-strewn slopes of the river's inner canyon. Flowing northeast within the canyon, the lazy green-rimmed ribbon of brown becomes a broad, shimmering blue lake averaging 1 to 2 miles wide, and now extending 14 miles upriver. The side canyons shelter welcome stands of cottonwood and hackberry, whose communities in turn provide cover for deer and wild turkey. For the more than 400,000 persons who live within a 200-mile radius of the lake, and even beyond, this is a true oasis — "the place to go."

The predominant vegetative cover surrounding Lake Meredith is comprised of grasses, including blue, little bluestem, and buffalo. Since cattle grazing is allowed within the recreation area by a number of special-use permits, the appearance of this grassland does not represent what could be considered a pristine condition. Interspersed with the grasses are scattered clumps of sand sagebrush, yucca, broom, snakeweed, plains pricklypear, feather dalea, one-seeded juniper, and mesquite.

Although essentially the same plants exist within the inner canyon, the limited occurrence of shade-casting trees like cottonwood, hackberry, and chinaberry distinguish this zone, and are, of course, much sought after by the visitor during the hot summer.

Wildlife found in the recreation area is typical of the arid high plains. Major species include mule deer, whitetail deer, coyote, bobcat, and swift fox. Pronghorn antelope may occasionally stray into the area, but is primarily seen only in flatter topography away from the river. Prominent birdlife consists of turkey, golden eagle, bobwhite, scaled quail, mourning dove, and a variety of waterfowl in season. Birdwatchers generally find that the area displays a rewarding number of species. The lake lies along the central flyway, and impressive numbers of ducks settle in its upper reaches when the smaller lakes in the region are frozen.
Unfortunately, in spite of the encouraging length of the foregoing faunal list, the relative scarcity of both game and land area, coupled with the lack of other public hunting areas in the region, produces an over-concentration of hunters, who thus experience less than outstanding success.

Fish species that most attract the public are walleye, catfish, largemouth and sand bass, crappie, bluegill, and carp.

A detailed description of the socioeconomic structure of Lake Meredith Recreation Area’s users is not necessary in this master plan, but it must be pointed out that the resource can and should serve the needs of a broad spectrum of society — from the wealthy rancher with a 40-foot yacht to the ghetto-dweller with a drop-line. Day use does predominate, and undoubtedly most of it is generated on weekends by returning visitors, primarily from Amarillo. But as the quality and extent of overnight facilities in and around the area increase, and as informational signing and general public knowledge of the lake improve, it can be expected that overnight use and non-local use — the latter now estimated at 15 percent — will increase.

By simply providing access to the land and water, a varied selection of activities has been made possible here, and all are pursued with enthusiasm — fishing, powerboating, sailing, swimming, water-skiing, scuba-diving, picnicking, camping, hunting, motorcycling, hiking, rock-hounding, and just plain sightseeing. The lake is becoming well-known for its excellent walleye fishing. The abundance of wind attracts great flocks of white sails to the lake on good days. There is a major marina facility here, which in itself comprises a scenic attraction in this part of the country. The lake’s potential for duck hunters is also exciting. To many of the inhabitants of this arid land, Lake Meredith must seem like a dream come true.

No comparable body of water or land now exists to serve the recreation needs of the people of both the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles, as well as contiguous portions of Kansas, New Mexico, and Colorado. The largest nearby recreation facility is Palo Duro Canyon State Park, a beautiful scenic and historic area about 50 miles to the south. But it is less than half the size of Lake Meredith Recreation Area, and its water resources are limited. Most of its heavy visitor use consists of stream-wading, limited camping, picnicking, hiking, and trail-riding.

The number of recreation areas of significant size in the region is small, and most are oriented toward water use only.

Before the picture of Lake Meredith presented here becomes too idyllic, some harsher facts must be brought to light. Because this rare water resource
is so attractive, its users naturally want to camp and picnic at its very edge; unfortunately, due to the canyon's steep inner walls, which define the edge of most of the lake, this is very seldom possible. Because the lake is not yet full, a few side canyons at the downstream end now offer limited level sites close to the water. But when maximum conservation pool-level is attained, these conditions will only occur at the upstream end, where the water is shallow, and even a slight fluctuation in its level will cause significant horizontal movement of the shoreline. Therefore, primary water-oriented development sites are located on the caprock, 50 to 150 feet above the water.

Because it was conceived and is operated primarily as a municipal water supply, Lake Meredith Recreation Area contains only limited usable land. This general deficiency is compounded in the caprock areas, where fractured dolomite makes extensive development within 500 feet of the canyon rim unwise. In addition, geological hazards such as "filled chimneys" and hydration domes, and the danger of landslides and flashfloods, render the few areas that lie near the water-level questionable for any extensive development. Also, the steepness of the canyon walls, and their continuous sloughing as they become saturated by the advancing shoreline, make bank fishing difficult — and even dangerous at times. Swimming, an activity that requires a gently sloping shoreline, is also hampered. For this reason, the stilling-basin below the dam is the only location where supervised swimming is now possible.

Limitations inherent in the resource are not the only problems that beset Lake Meredith. The somewhat frugal buffer provided by the boundary leaves it vulnerable to a number of potentially threatening uses: Pollution of this water supply by the growing subdivision activity around the lake could occur in the future, and surely the continued presence of livestock so close to the reservoir hardly improves the purity of the water. Over-grazing, both in and out of the recreation area, has contributed to unsightly and damaging soil erosion. Water runoff from nearby agricultural development could introduce harmful pesticides and herbicides into the reservoir; and presence of upstream municipal sewage-treatment facilities in the watershed of the river could also contribute to pollution of the lake.

One of the most serious threats to Lake Meredith and its surrounding lands may be the very people who appreciate it most: its users. Even though the area is comparatively large, it is not an unlimited resource, and could someday suffer from overuse. As visitation increases, disposal of human waste and garbage, particularly on the water, will require stringent controls. Some conflicting uses necessitate careful monitoring, and may require eventual control: for example, the water-skier and the fisherman, both seeking shelter
from the ever-present wave-producing winds, will in the future undoubtedly need some assistance in order to peacefully coexist. Even though these factors for the most part now pose only potential threats to the integrity of the lake, they are real, and their effects will be felt all too soon if adequate restraints are not exercised at the appropriate time.

Some activities in and around the recreation area presently seem to be more esthetic intrusions than ecologically damaging forces. Local authorities can enforce sewage-treatment standards that affect the purity of the lake, but they now have little power to control development and use on any other basis. New water impoundments in the State of Texas are characteristically followed by an avalanche of vacation-home development. Fortunately, this activity is now essentially in its embryonic stage at Lake Meredith, but the continued lack of proper regulations regarding retention of open space, site selection, and construction standards for roads, structures, and utilities, could someday result in a band of urban blight ringing the recreation area that would not only assail the visitor as he approaches the lake, but would exert a negative visual influence even from the water. On the other hand, private facilities that are visual and functional complements to the use of the lake would not only enhance the visitor’s experience — they might prove more profitable than unrestrained development.

Perhaps the most conspicuous evidence of man’s use of the land in the Texas Panhandle is that generated by the oil and gas industry. Both inside and out of the recreation area — in some cases even beneath the water — pipelines, wells, pumping facilities, and access roads crisscross and dot the landscape in all directions. Nearby petroleum-industry plants emit odors offensive to the newcomer, and at times their smoke mars one of the region’s finest scenic resources — “the big sky.”

Although carbon-black plants no longer cloud the countryside with their oppressive pall of smoke and soot, much of the singular scenic quality of the Panhandle is still diluted considerably by the visual predominance of industry. This observation is certainly not meant to condemn economic pursuits, for not only are they the sustenance of the people, they also contribute to the color and variety of the region. But environmental quality must have equal consideration.

More than most, Texans are proud of their State, but the visible proof is not as clear here as it could be. Perhaps Lake Meredith Recreation Area could help offer this proof, by serving as a model of sensitive land use. In so doing, it could not only become worthy of Texas pride, but act as a positive shaping force in its own region.
A CONCEPT

As a genuinely rare recreation resource of a limited size, and a precious water supply as well, Lake Meredith Recreation Area must be developed and managed with the same care that is exercised in our finest national parks. Since its basic attractions are simply water and land, upon which people can find refuge and let off steam, it is clear that the primary responsibility of the agencies who administer these water and land resources is to ensure that their esthetic and biological qualities are maintained at a standard that will serve the area's uses most effectively. Facilitating access to the land and water is the most critical developmental need.

Since the time when the National Park Service first became involved in the planning and management of this area, proposals have been made to construct a wide range of facilities at the lake, including motels, restaurants, golf courses, ballfields, and swimming pools. In contrast to these somewhat ambitious plans, the expressed needs of the people, voiced in a recent public meeting, appear to be far simpler in nature. Pleas were repeatedly heard for better access-roads and signing, and more boat-launching ramps, trails to the water, fishing piers, and campgrounds near the water.

If Lake Meredith Recreation Area is to play a viable role in the economy of its region, as well as satisfying the leisure needs of the people of its region, space-consuming facilities that can just as well be provided by private enterprise, whose successful use does not depend on the immediate setting of the lake and its canyons, should be excluded from the boundaries.
Where land is so limited, the objective of deriving the optimum return from the resource for the greatest number of people must be taken seriously.

For example, the use of valuable lakeside lands for a golf course would unnecessarily sacrifice an opportunity to serve a need unique to that location — say, a picnic area for the use of boaters and fishermen. The retention of precious public lands as pure open space, available for informal sports activities, horseback riding, and even small-game hunting, would satisfy far more needs than the conversion of these lands into a softball field. And the development of a swimming pool might add congestion to an area that is already capable of generating crowds on its own merits.

On the other hand, outside the recreation area boundaries, an endless list of potential facilities supplementing and adding variety to the basic outdoor activities at the lake could be conceived: trailer villages, additional campgrounds, golf courses and other sports facilities, dude ranches, convention centers — even amusement parks.

If nurtured by sensitive and imaginative overall planning and adequate funding, here would be all of the ingredients necessary for the creation of a fine recreation complex, whose limits far exceed the lines established by Congress in 1950 — all of the ingredients, that is, except an unlimited water supply.

The National Park Service will maintain and provide access to the vital core of this complex — a scenic gem that possesses the finest outdoor-activity setting in the entire region. Thus, it is the people themselves, whose interest and enthusiasm for the project have been unmatched, who will play the major role in determining the overall character and success of their own recreation area.

**VISITOR USE**

The following are pursuits that derive their meaning from the unique resources that Lake Meredith Recreation Area has to offer. Undoubtedly, activities that are important to some have not been mentioned, but it is not intended that they be prohibited by this omission. Rather, the intention here is to simply characterize those uses toward which primary management and development efforts will be directed in the future.

**Water-Based Activities**

This is undoubtedly the class of activity through which the greatest concentration of use is generated, and is the class primarily responsible for the success of the area. It includes:
THE LAKE
PRIMARY RECREATION RESOURCE
MAINTAIN PURITY, ENHANCE FISHERY, &
REGULATE USE.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
SECONDARY RECREATION RESOURCE
FACILITATE ACCESS TO WATER, ACCOMMODATE
ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO LAKE USE &
OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS NOT LIKELY TO
BE REASONABLY MET OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES.
MAINTAIN & ENHANCE VEGETATION & WILDLIFE.

PRIVATE LANDS
SUPPORT BASE
PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS, GOODS, SERVICES, &
SUPPLEMENTAL RECREATION FACILITIES.
fishing (onshore, or by boat)
sailing
pleasure-boating
water-skiing
swimming
scuba-diving

Activities Often Related to Water Use

camping
picnicking
informal sports and play
socializing

Land-Based Activities

picnicking and camping (experiences in themselves)
hunting
off-road vehicular travel, especially trail-biking
hiking
horseback-riding
archery
target-shooting and plinking
nature study
collecting (rocks and fruit)

“Casual” Activities

sightseeing/auto touring
“Sunday-picnicking”
transient camping

Special Events

dog trials
regattas
motorcycle races

DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that the “typical” visitor to Lake Meredith Recreation Area is intent upon one objective — getting to the water — it follows that the first order of concern in developing the area would focus upon those facilities
which ensure that he attains his objective quickly and with the least possible amount of confusion and congestion. A safe, well-defined road system; adequate parking areas; broad, properly sloped launching ramps; and trails to the water — all of these provided in sufficient numbers to disperse heavy visitor use — should accomplish this.

But unfortunately, as is the case in many reservoir recreation areas, there are a limited number of locations around Lake Meredith that possess all of the necessary assets for a good launching site:

- a location reasonably well-protected from wind and wave action
- terrain suitable for ramp construction
- an adequate amount of adjacent level land on which to provide parking
- road access to the site

In addition to the six existing public ramps, three sites have been selected as suitable launching points. There are a few more sites that appear to have a potential for future development, but ramp parking would have to be provided on private land. This should not be considered, however, until overall development-and use-plans for all of the lands surrounding the recreation area have been prepared and evaluated.

The maximum total number of ramps that should be provided at the lake is dependent upon its boat capacity. If an average space requirement of 3 acres per boat and an approximate total of 16,000 acres of total usable open water space is assumed, theoretically the lake has a capacity of more than 5,000 boats at a time. With four existing and two proposed launching ramps, each providing an average of 250 parking spaces, planned capacity is therefore roughly 1,500 boats, plus those stored at the marina — and this is far below the potential.

This brief calculation, considered with the subjective observation that the lake does not yet appear to be utilized to capacity, simply suggests that probably more ramps can be provided if suitable sites can be developed. However, the presence of a number of unknown factors and difficult variables makes it impossible to determine an accurate carrying capacity at this time. For example, frequent winds reduce the effective available water space for both water-skiers and fishermen to an unknown degree. The exact ratio of the greater space-consuming activities, such as sailing and water-skiing, to less expansive activities, such as fishing, is also unknown. Furthermore, standard space requirements are difficult to determine, and are frequently arbitrary.
ACCESS
PART of the GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

ON MICROFILM
Another factor that must be considered within the context of development planning is the safety of the visitor as it relates to the dangerous storms that can blow up on the lake almost without warning. The number and capacity of ramps could be increased to the point that would preclude the safe recovery of all craft on the lake on short notice. In other words, we must not allow excessive access capability to overload the egress points.

Water purity is the paramount management consideration; it is therefore recommended that after the three proposed ramps are constructed, future ramps be considered only after careful monitoring and evaluation of possible pollution, safety hazards, and physical and psychological crowding. This will be accomplished by National Park Service and Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA) staffs through water tests, personal observation, and visitor contacts. In any case, restraint must be exercised, because the number of ramps regulates carrying capacity — an important key to the perpetuation of a high-quality visitor experience at Lake Meredith.

Usable land of significant dimension within the recreation-area boundaries can be neatly placed in two categories, based on physical properties suggesting different use-potentials:

At the lower end of the reservoir, the transition between the flat caprock of the Llano Estacado and the floodplain of the river is quite abrupt, and is characterized by two distinct levels separated by steep slopes. Since the lower level is almost entirely inundated by the deep water, the only development sites in this area are on the caprock.

Surrounding the upper end of the lake, the terrain is generally more broken and hilly, with tributary canyons cutting longer and wider swaths away from the river. Potential development sites in this area are therefore located on river terraces or in canyons.

The primary assets of the “caprock” sites are level terrain and stable soils (except within 500 feet of the canyon rim), suggesting a potential for relatively intensive development. Their close proximity to what will always be deep water and dependable launching sites confirms their suitability as locations in which to facilitate the primary objective of the greatest percentage of visitors — that of water use. The most important facilities at all of these sites will thus be for water access. All will contain launching ramps with courtesy docks, trails to and along the water’s edge, and floating docks for fishing. To accommodate the boater, skier, and fisherman, high-density campgrounds and picnic areas will be provided. The campgrounds will be designed for use by recreation-vehicle and travel-trailer owners, as well as tent campers.
Because these areas are essentially devoid of trees and are subjected to constant winds, the picnic and camp sites will include sun and wind shelters. Open space for informal sports activities will be generously interspersed throughout the developed areas.

The canyon sites, in contrast with the flat, high-level caprock areas, are enclosed by hills, often shaded by trees, and are graced by a relative abundance of wildlife. They are in themselves particularly pleasant places to be. Considering the scarcity of trees and hills in the region, it is important that special attention be given to maintaining the health of these resources.

Although lake access and water use will also be important considerations at the canyon sites, a greater variety of recreation activities will take place within them — most of them land-oriented. Whereas the campgrounds at the caprock sites are intended primarily as a lakeside convenience for the lake user, the canyon campgrounds will provide a fine outdoor experience of a different nature.

Due to a gently sloping shoreline, two of the sites, Bates Canyon and Plum Creek, offer a rare opportunity for developing sizeable swimming beaches. It is anticipated that Bates Canyon, because of its proximity to Amarillo, will become an extremely popular day-use area. A floating concession is proposed at this location, not only to serve the needs of picnickers and swimmers, but also to function as an upriver stop for boaters and fishermen.

Perhaps the most valuable of the canyon sites is McBride Canyon, whose grove of huge cottonwoods and resident bird and mammal populations are worthy of the most careful resource management. Picnic areas, nature trails, and bridle trails will comprise the primary facilities in this special place. A public shooting range will be constructed outside of the canyon proper, to serve a regional need that is magnified tremendously by the lack of public lands. Archery and target-shooting will be facilitated at this location. Such a facility must be carefully sited to avoid noise pollution and ensure visitor safety.

Plum Creek, because of its size, will perhaps host the greatest variety of uses within the recreation area. A shooting range will also be constructed at this site, and extensive campground development will be possible.

At Sanford-Yake, McBride Canyon, and Plum Creek, group camps are proposed for use on a reservation basis by organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

At this time, it appears as if the existing marina at Sanford-Yake is adequately fulfilling the need for such a facility on the lake. If and when there is
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

ON MICROFILM 6/8/2002
sufficient demand, the feasibility of developing a second marina at Blue West should be explored. Furthermore, to provide a more easily accessible and more centrally located site for the existing marina, at such time as the water level rises, Fritch Canyon might be considered as the spot for its relocation.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority has said, “We will take all the water we can get.” Therefore, all permanent structures, including roads and launching ramps, are planned above the maximum conservation pool-level. Any structures placed below this level will be temporary, removable, or extendable (such as the ramps), and all facilities involving waste water or sewage should be located far enough from the shoreline so that no contamination of the lake will occur.

Since no prediction can be made as to when this maximum level will be reached, and since desirable picnic and camping sites do already exist below this level, an immediate program should be instituted to provide temporary road access to these areas and equip them with portable facilities such as picnic tables, garbage cans, and chemical toilets.

Park headquarters, now located adjacent to the CRMWA headquarters near the dam, will be moved to the town of Fritch. The primary objective of this move is to maintain and further establish the park staff as an integral part of the local community, which will encourage a better understanding and support of park programs. Also, relocation of the key staff members away from the lakeshore will serve to insulate them somewhat from minor interruptions of park routine. In addition, the new headquarters building will function as an information/interpretation station, which will be manned all year.

The main park maintenance facility will remain in its present location at the existing headquarters site, and a boathouse for National Park Service patrol boats will be located nearby.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

It bears repeating that maintenance of water quality is the single most important objective at Lake Meredith. Sanitation practices, the pattern and intensity of use, development standards, and dealings with other public agencies are all matters that relate to this critical responsibility. Not only is the lake’s value as a water supply at stake, but its effectiveness as a recreation resource also depends upon the purity of the water. Degradation of this most basic resource ingredient could, for example, wipe out the entire fish population,
thereby seriously diluting the area’s potential as an economic force in the region. Constant vigilance over activities outside the boundaries, as well as those inside, will be required to guard against such a possibility.

The relative deterioration apparent in much of the recreation area’s land resources is perhaps more of an esthetic issue, but the quality of land-oriented experiences here is to a great extent dependent upon the general appearance of the vegetative cover, as well as the presence of wildlife. Existing cooperative agreements with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will help to ensure that the quality of fish and game resources is enhanced, but firm action is needed to restore the land itself to an exemplary condition.

The opportunity to return at least a portion of the recreation area to native grassland will be pursued, and as an element of scenic variety, especially in the caprock areas, the growth of some healthy stands of mesquite will be encouraged. As previously mentioned, the streamside vegetation in canyons and on river terraces will be treated as special resources, deserving of careful protection. To accomplish these general goals, a resource-management plan supported by basic research is needed.

Two existing uses have a direct bearing upon the appearance and health of the lands within the recreation area, and they should be modified as necessary. First: Grazing constitutes an intrusion in visitor-use areas, and perhaps more important, it continues to alter the basic structure of the landscape. It should therefore be totally eliminated within the boundaries. Second: Since the area was necessarily established with outstanding private oil and gas rights, industrial activities around the lake cannot be terminated. However, access to the various gas and oil facilities need not be gained in the conspicuous, haphazard manner of the past, proliferating a confusing network of rutted dirt roads. In cooperation with the appropriate companies, a reasonable access plan should be prepared and adhered to. All superfluous roads should be obliterated, and those left should be treated to reduce erosion. Also, when gas or oil wells within the recreation area are exhausted of their resources, the entire physical installation should be removed by the operator.

Finally, the park staff must take on the responsibility of controlling various uses, as the need arises. For both visitor safety and resource protection, the number of hunters must someday be limited. Some areas should be designated for the consumptive use of off-road vehicles, but the needs of other visitors must also be met.

Much can be done through zoning and scheduling (by time or season) to maximize public enjoyment of this popular place. For example, the potential conflict
CLASS I  HIGH-DENSITY RECREATION AREAS

CLASS II  GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS

CLASS III  NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS

CLASS IV  OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREAS

CLASS VI  HISTORICAL AREAS

NOTE: THERE ARE NO CLASS II AREAS (PRIMITIVE) WITHIN THE RECREATION AREA.

LAND CLASSIFICATION
ON MICRofilm

6182003
between fishermen and skiers might be partially resolved by prohibiting skiing in selected areas during early-morning and late-afternoon hours. Also, certain areas might be reserved strictly for skiers. The possibilities are endless, and the best solutions will result from observation and experimentation by an alert, creative staff.

INTERPRETATION

Because the recreation area is primarily an active, use-oriented facility, interpretation will constitute a relatively minor aspect of park operations. Obviously, recreation-information services will receive the greatest emphasis. Primarily because of the multiple access points around the lake, it is felt that the job can be done best by separate information/contact stations located along access routes leading to the primary developed areas. These will be small structures, with displays offering information about opportunities for various activities and essential messages on subjects such as water safety. The stations will be designed to be utilized either manned or unmanned.

It might be assumed that the visitor, in his rush to the water, will not take the time to stop and view the exhibits at these contact stations. But the local people’s intense interest in the recreation area, and their obvious pride in their heritage, suggest a potential for considerable use. Therefore, subjects such as the oil and gas industries, and even environmental matters relating to the region, will provide an attractive supplement to the basic informational function of the stations. The saga of the famous XIT Ranch is an excellent example of a possible theme for interpretation. A different subject might be treated at each location, while general visitor-use information on the recreation area would be offered at all of them.

To maintain visitor interest in these contact stations, the exhibits should be changed periodically, and the possibility should be explored of gaining assistance from organizations who might be involved in one of the themes — such as petroleum institutes or cattlemen’s organizations.

A series of wayside interpretive shelters and signs, designed to communicate important messages such as park rules and hazard warnings, will also be provided throughout the area as an adjunct to the contact stations.

An important part of the interpretive program will be carried on within the environmental study areas at McBride Canyon and Plum Creek, where local schools will utilize the resources of the area as an outdoor laboratory. In the future, consideration will be given to establishing additional areas for this purpose.
EXPANSION

The numerous references within this document to limited land resources around the lake cannot go unexamined. Hunting, hiking, off-road vehicle use — and perhaps activities not yet even envisioned — will someday exert pressures to the point where use must be rationed. If this resource is limited now, what about the future?

It is therefore simply suggested here that consideration be given in the near future toward expanding the boundaries of the recreation area to include more “scenic” topography, and more significant stands of native vegetation — of which there is precious little in the region. This can only be done if the public supports the idea, for of course only they can express their own needs.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING

Assuming that sufficient discussion was provided at the beginning of this report regarding the benefits of carefully planned and coordinated development of private lands around the lake, it remains here only to offer a few suggestions:

Three phases of involvement are basic to this matter: first, having the desire to protect and enhance the environs of Lake Meredith; second, preparing well-defined objectives, concepts, and plans; and third, enacting effective zoning laws to implement the plans.

It is apparent that the first phase is at least partially in operation today.

The second phase will require a true sense of common purpose and cooperation, professional talent, and money. An important thing to remember in this phase is that successful development of the area as a recreation complex can probably be best accomplished by capitalizing upon the region’s unique identity — its history and human resources. The images of the cowboy and the well-rigger should not be lost in an attempt to duplicate a Palm Springs or Miami Beach. To the tourist, catfish and calf-fries would be a far more attractive item on a menu than would lobster.

The third phase will present a temporary problem. Presently lacking the power to enact zoning laws, the three counties involved must seek legislative action at the State level to enable them to do so. But at least one precedent has been established in the State for this same kind of citizen action: the people of the area surrounding Amistad National Recreation Area in southwestern Texas faced a challenge identical to the one presented here, and are now successfully pursuing their objectives — armed with the law.
APPENDIXES

A: LEGISLATIVE DATA

B: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

C: DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

D: TEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT LOCATIONS

E: REFERENCES

F: PLANNING TEAM
AN ACT

To authorize the construction, operation, and maintenance by the Secretary of the Interior of the Canadian River reclamation project, Texas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purposes of irrigating land, delivering water for industrial and municipal use, controlling floods, providing recreation and fish and wildlife benefits, and controlling and catching silt, the Secretary of the Interior, acting pursuant to the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto), is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the Canadian River reclamation project, Texas, described in the report of the Commissioner of Reclamation approved by the Secretary May 3, 1950, entitled “Plan for Development, Canadian River Project, Texas,” Project Planning Report Number 5–12.22–1, at an estimated cost of $86,656,000, the impounding works whereof shall be located at a suitable site on the Canadian River in that area known as the Panhandle of Texas. In addition to the impounding works, the project shall include such main canals, pumping plants, distribution and drainage systems, and other works as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act. The use by the project of waters arising in Ute and Pajarito Creeks, New Mexico, shall be only such use as does not conflict with use, present or potential, of such waters for beneficial consumptive purposes in New Mexico.
SEC. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any recommendations in the above-mentioned report to the contrary, only the costs of construction allocable to flood control and, upon approval by the President of a suitable plan thereof, to the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife, and operation and maintenance costs allocable to the same purposes, shall be nonreimbursable.

(b) Actual construction of the project herein authorized shall not be commenced, and no construction contract awarded therefor, until (1) the Congress shall have consented to the interstate compact between the States of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas agreed upon by the Canadian River Compact Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, December 6, 1950, in conformity with Public Law 491, Eighty-first Congress, and (2) repayment of that portion of the actual cost of constructing the project which is allocated to municipal and industrial water supply and of interest on the unamortized balance thereof at a rate (which rate shall be certified by the Secretary of the Treasury) equal to the average rate paid by the United States on its long-term loans outstanding at the time the repayment contract is negotiated minus the amount of such net revenues as may be derived from temporary water supply contracts or from other sources prior to the close of the repayment period, shall have been assured by a contract satisfactory to the Secretary, with one central repayment contract organization, the term of which shall not exceed fifty years from the date of completion of the municipal and industrial water supply features of the project as determined by the Secretary.

(c) The repayment contract shall provide, among other things, (1) that the holder thereof shall have a first right, to which right the rights of the holders of any other type of contract shall be subordinate, to a stated share or quantity of the project's available water supply for use by its constituent industrial and municipal water users during the repayment period and a permanent right to such share or quantity thereafter subject to payment of such costs as may be incurred by the United States in its operation and maintenance of any part of the project works; (2) that, subject to such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the care, operation, and maintenance of such portions of the pipeline and related facilities as are used solely for delivering such water to the contract holder and its constituent organizations shall, as soon as is practicable after completion of the municipal and industrial water supply features of the project, pass to the contract holder or to an organization which is designated by it for that purpose and which is satisfactory to the Secretary; and (3) that title to such portions of the pipeline and related facilities shall in like manner pass to the contract holder or its designee or designees upon payment to the United States of all obligations arising under this Act or incurred in connection with the project.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Approved December 29, 1950.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT
between the
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
for the
INVESTIGATION, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
at
SANFORD DAM AND RESERVOIR
CANADIAN RIVER PROJECT, TEXAS

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT is entered into this 26th day of June, 1961, between the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, represented by the Regional Director of Region 5, Amarillo, Texas, and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as the Service, represented by the Regional Director of Region 3, Santa Fe, New Mexico, pursuant to agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, approved by the Under Secretary of the Interior on April 5, 1955, which governs the relations of the Service and the Bureau and the responsibilities of each in a cooperative program for the investigation, planning, development, and administration of recreational resources and facilities in the vicinity of Reclamation reservoirs.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, by Act of Congress approved December 29, 1950, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the Canadian River Project, Texas, under the Federal Reclamation laws, and

WHEREAS, the Canadian River Project includes the Sanford Dam and Reservoir, and involves investigation, planning, development, and administration of recreational resources and facilities at the Sanford Reservoir, and

WHEREAS, under a contract with the United States, the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority has agreed to operate and maintain without cost to the United States, the minimum basic recreational facilities to be provided at the Sanford Reservoir, and

WHEREAS, the Service, under agreements with the Bureau, has supplied preliminary plans and proposals for the development and administration of recreational facilities for Sanford Reservoir.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree with respect to the development of the recreational aspects of the Sanford Reservoir, as follows:

32
1. The Service will perform survey and studies and make a comprehensive overall master recreational development plan.

2. The Bureau will supply the Service with the field survey data and maps required by the Service for the preparation of the plans.

3. The Service will summarize its plans for recreational developments and facilities for the reservoir in a separate report to be made available to the Bureau by June 30, 1962.

4. The Bureau, subject to the availability of funds, will advance funds to the Service, as soon as available in Fiscal Year 1962, in the amount of $8,000 to cover expense for preparation of a plan for recreational facilities. Expenditures from funds advanced may be made for negotiations, investigations, development plans, and for other items necessary to carry out the provisions of this agreement: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That no such funds shall be expended to cover the costs of the normal, usual, and continuing functions and duties of the Service.

5. The Service will submit an itemized statement of expenditures at the end of each fiscal year, and will, upon completion of all of its work and full execution of its responsibilities under this agreement, refund to the Bureau any unexpended funds.

6. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT shall be effective from the day first above written, and may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the Regional Directors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this instrument to be executed as of the date first hereinabove indicated.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

By

(Sgd) Leon W. Hill
Regional Director

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By

Jérôme C. Miller
Acting Regional Director
Public Law 88-536
88th Congress, H. R. 8135
August 31, 1964

An Act

To provide for the establishment and administration of public recreational facilities at the Sanford Reservoir area, Canadian River project, Texas, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to investigate, plan, construct, operate and maintain, or otherwise provide for basic public outdoor recreation facilities at the Sanford Reservoir area, Canadian Federal reclamation project, to acquire or otherwise include within the project area such adjacent lands or interests therein as are necessary for present or future public recreation use, and to provide for the public use and enjoyment of project lands, facilities, and water areas in a manner coordinated with other project purposes: Provided, That this Act shall not provide the Secretary with a basis for allocation to recreation of water, reservoir capacity, or joint project costs of the Canadian River project nor affect the priority for municipal use of water stored in Sanford Reservoir, or the priority of use for municipal purposes of the capacity of said reservoir. The Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with Federal agencies or State or local public bodies for the operation, maintenance, or additional development of project lands or facilities, or to dispose of project lands or facilities to Federal agencies or State or local public bodies by lease, transfer, conveyance or exchange upon such terms and conditions as will best promote the development and operation of such lands or facilities in the public interest for recreation purposes. The cost of providing basic recreation facilities shall be nonreimbursable. In carrying out the aforesaid activities the Secretary shall take cognizance of the effect of the fish and wildlife plan approved by the President December 19, 1962, pursuant to the Act of December 29, 1950 (64 Stat. 1124) in providing facilities at the Canadian River project which have general recreation utility.

Sect. 2. There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts, but not more than $1,100,000, as may be necessary for the investigation, preparation of plans, construction and acquisition of lands authorized in this Act.

Approved August 31, 1964.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 891 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 1461 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 110 (1964): Aug. 18, considered and passed Senate.
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, entered into this 15th day of March 1965, between the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, herein called "Bureau," represented by the Regional Director, Region 5, Bureau of Reclamation; and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, herein called "Service," represented by the Regional Director, Southwest Region, National Park Service.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Bureau is constructing Sanford Dam and Reservoir as a part of the Canadian River Reclamation Project, Texas, authorized by the Act of December 29, 1950 (74 Stat. 1124). The Secretary of the Interior has also been authorized to provide for basic public outdoor recreation facilities by the Act of August 31, 1964 (78 Stat. 744). This act specifically authorized the investigation, planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of recreation facilities as a project purpose on a nonreimbursable basis. The Service is preparing a master recreation plan for the reservoir area and will cooperate with the Bureau and other interested agencies in formulating a reservoir management plan. Such management plan will bring all uses into compatible relationship with the primary purposes for which the reservoir is being constructed. It is the desire of the parties that the Service assume primary responsibility for public recreational use of available land and water areas of the Canadian River Project. The Service will also function in accordance with authority granted to it under Public Law 633-79th Congress, Part (b), approved August 7, 1946 (60 Stat. 885).

AGREEMENT

The parties hereto agree that the following principles shall govern the administration, planning, development, and use of lands and facilities for recreational purposes at Sanford Reservoir.
1. The Service will prepare detailed plans for development and administration of public outdoor recreational use facilities and will establish policies, rules, and regulations relating to public outdoor recreational use and occupancy of lands and water areas available for such use. All general development plans and significant changes or revisions thereof will be forwarded for review by the Bureau to assure that said plans will not interfere with the primary purposes of the project. Bureau shall construct, or contract for the construction of, minimum basic recreational facilities authorized by the Act of December 29, 1950, and basic public outdoor recreation facilities authorized by the Act of August 31, 1964. Any additional authorized construction and development shall be performed by the Service.

2. For purposes of operation and management, the Sanford Reservoir area is divided into two segments as indicated on Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof. The two areas are: (1) land and water areas needed exclusively for construction, operation, and maintenance activities of the Bureau; and (2) land and water areas to be administered for public outdoor recreational use and for fish and wildlife purposes. Subject to leases which may be issued as proposed in Article 5 hereof and subject to outstanding oil and gas leases and the rights associated with those interests, Service will administer the land and water areas comprising the second group. The Service will provide such visitor services as may be desirable for the land and water areas it administers and will control and administer recreational use thereof by the public. In such administration, the Service will cooperate with other Federal and State agencies and will conform its management plans to those indicated for the remainder of the project area. Annual reports of public use for recreation will be furnished the Bureau.

3. All public outdoor recreational and fish and wildlife facilities and activities shall be planned and constructed so as not to interfere with any Bureau construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance, rehabilitation, soil and moisture conservation, or any other responsibility of the Bureau. However, the Bureau will cooperate with the Service by coordinating its construction and operation of the Canadian River Project with recreational development and administration of the project area. No recreational use of Canadian River Project areas shall be permitted which is inconsistent with the laws of the State of Texas for the protection of fish and game and the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. The Service, after consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, may issue regulations designating zones where and establishing periods when no hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.
4. In the event the Service should conclude that it is desirable to permit grazing on any of the project lands to be managed by it under the terms of this agreement, the Service after consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, shall notify Bureau of its recommendation, including a designation of the land to be leased, and the term and consideration proposed. Upon approval of the plan by the Bureau, Service will negotiate the grazing leases and be responsible for continued administration of the leases. Under no circumstances shall any leases be considered which will interfere in any manner with management of the areas needed for operation and maintenance of the project under supervision of the Bureau.

5. In the event the Bureau proposes the issuance of oil and gas leases or other mineral leases on any of the lands in and adjacent to the Sanford Reservoir, the Bureau shall consult with the Service on such proposal to issue such leases or accept applications, and the Service shall submit its recommendations on such proposal based upon anticipated interference with recreation facilities and use. In the event the Service concludes that such interference would result, the Bureau shall withhold issuance of oil and gas leases. Land and interests in lands for the Canadian River Project reservoir and the adjacent lands have been acquired subject to outstanding oil and gas leases and other mineral leases, with limited subordination in some cases. Activities proposed hereunder are subject to limitation by those outstanding rights.

6. Based on reports prepared annually by the Service, revenues received from fees and charges paid by the public for use of facilities in the reservoir area shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable law.

7. This agreement shall become effective upon execution by each of the parties hereto and shall remain in force as written unless the parties hereto do mutually agree to its modification or termination, or unless termination is directed by the Secretary of the Interior, or until enactment by the Congress of legislation terminating or superseding it. However, fulfillment of the undertakings expressed in this agreement is contingent upon the appropriation of funds for these purposes.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this memorandum of agreement as of the day and year first hereinafter written.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

By /S/ Leon W. Hill
Regional Director, Region 5

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By /S/ Daniel B. Beard
Regional Director
Southwest Region

CONCURRED:

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

By /S/ John C. Gatlin
Regional Director
Southwest Region

CANADIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY

By /S/ George W. Finger
President

ATTEST:

/S/ Doris Alexander
Secretary

(SEAL)
(FST040865) Contract No. 14-06-500-1116

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT
between the
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RELATING TO IMMEDIATE ASSUMPTION BY NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC USE AREAS

CANADIAN RIVER PROJECT, TEXAS

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT is entered into this 12th day of April, 1965, between the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, hereinafter referred to as "Bureau", represented by the Regional Director, Amarillo, Texas, and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as "Service", represented by the Regional Director, Southwest Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico, pursuant to the Act of Congress of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 382, 417; 31 U.S.C. 686), commonly known as the "Economy Act", and pursuant to the agreement by the Bureau and the Service approved by the Under Secretary of the Interior on April 5, 1955, governing the relation between the Bureau and the Service in cooperative programs for the investigation, planning, development, and administration of the recreation resources and facilities in the vicinity of Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs.

WITNESSETH THAT:

The Service is equipped and staffed to accomplish the administration of public use areas for recreational purposes at reservoirs constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation for multiple purposes; and

Service and Bureau have reached agreement concerning the administration, planning, development, and use of lands and facilities for recreational purposes at Sanford Reservoir under that certain Memorandum of Agreement entered into on March 15, 1965 (Contract No. 14-06-500-1105); Provided, however, said Memorandum of Agreement contemplates the undertaking, by Service of certain administrative functions upon appropriation by the Congress of funds therefor, and, inasmuch as certain recreational use facilities are already constructed at Sanford Reservoir it is necessary that certain maintenance functions for such areas be provided for immediately.
NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Immediately upon execution of this Memorandum of Agreement, Bureau will advance to Service the sum of Fifteen Thousand ($15,000) Dollars. Such sum shall be utilized to provide for the administration and maintenance of public use areas on Sanford Reservoir through June 30, 1965. Such administration and maintenance by Service shall begin as soon as possible after execution of this agreement. In no event shall such sum be utilized for the costs of previously budgeted, normal, usual, and continuing functions and duties of the Service.

2. At the end of fiscal year 1965, Service shall submit an itemized statement of the cost of rendering such service through June 30, 1965, to Bureau, and as soon as possible after the end of the fiscal year, Service shall refund to Bureau any amount remaining unexpended, or the parties shall otherwise adjust payment by Bureau to actual cost of the services.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement shall become effective upon execution by each of the parties and shall remain effective until completion of the adjustment of costs at the end of fiscal year 1965.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this instrument to be executed as of the date first hereinabove written.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

BY /S/ Leon W. Hill
Regional Director, Region 5

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BY /S/ George W. Miller
Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region
IN REPLY
REFER TO: 5-420

OCT 15 1965

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
REGIONAL OFFICE - REGION 5
P. O. BOX 1609
AMARILLO, TEXAS 79105
OCT 14 1965

To: Regional Director, National Park Service, Southwest Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico

From: Regional Director

Subject: Operation and management of additional segments of land under Memorandum of Agreement dated March 15, 1965 (Contract No. 14-06-500-1105) -- Canadian River Project, Texas

In accordance with verbal discussions, the Bureau of Reclamation hereby assigns to the National Park Service the responsibility for administration of public use of a segment of the land located in Area 1 at Lake Meredith as described in the March 15 Memorandum of Agreement and identified on Exhibit A. The segment of land assigned hereunder is identified on the enclosed plat. It shall be operated and managed by the National Park Service in the same manner as lands comprising Area 2 and shall be subject to all conditions and provisions of the March 15 memorandum applicable to lands administered by the National Park Service.

This transfer shall be effective upon approval of this letter by you. Please return one copy with your approval noted.

[Signature]

In triplicate
Enclosure

Approved and accepted this 25 day of October 1965

[Signature]
Daniel B. Board, Regional Director
National Park Service

CONCURRED:

[Signature]
President, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority

cc:
Superintendent, Sanford Recreation Area, Sanford, Texas (w/c enclosure)
Contract No. 14-06-500-1198

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT

Between the

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

and the

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For the Investigation, Planning, and Development of Recreational Resources and Facilities at Lake Meredith (Sanford Dam), Canadian River Project, Texas

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT is entered into this 2nd day of December, 1965, between the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, represented by the Regional Director, Region 5, Amarillo, Texas, and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as the Service, represented by the Chief of Western Office, Design and Construction, San Francisco, California, pursuant to agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, approved by the Under Secretary of the Interior on April 5, 1955, which governs the relations of the Service and the Bureau and the responsibilities of each in a cooperative program for the investigation, planning, development, and administration of recreational resources and facilities in the vicinity of Reclamation reservoirs.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, by Act of Congress approved December 29, 1950, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the Canadian River Project, Texas, under the Federal Reclamation laws for purposes which include providing recreation and fish and wildlife benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian River Project includes the Sanford Dam and Lake Meredith, and investigation, planning, development, and administration of recreational resources and facilities at Lake Meredith are necessary for performing project objectives; and
WHEREAS, under a contract among the Bureau, the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, and the Service, the Service has agreed to operate and maintain the recreational facilities to be provided at Lake Meredith; and

WHEREAS, the Service, under agreements with the Bureau, has supplied preliminary plans and proposals for the development and administration of recreational facilities for Lake Meredith; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 88-536 approved August 31, 1964, (78 Stat. 744) authorized an appropriation of not more than $1,100,000 to provide basic public outdoor recreational facilities, and the Service is equipped and qualified to conduct studies and investigations prerequisite to constructing desired facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree with respect to the development of recreational facilities at Lake Meredith, as follows:

1. The Bureau will supply the Service with available field survey data and maps as requested by the Service.

2. The Service will:
   a. Perform the necessary survey, and studies therefor, and prepare master recreational development plans for Lake Meredith.
   b. Investigate domestic water sources for serving principal recreation areas. Prepare plans and cost estimates on recommended sources.
   c. Investigate sewage disposal. Prepare plans and cost estimates on recommended plan.
   d. Prepare preliminary recreation use layout for Fritch Fortress, Sanford-Yake overlook, parking expansion and picnic area, and Cedar Canyon marina access, parking, and ramp. Plans will include the suggested location of utility lines and will be available to the Bureau by November 1, 1965.
a. Provide plans and specifications for comfort stations, shelters, picnic tables, stoves, and garbage receptacles.

f. Negotiate with local utilities companies for electric, gas, and telephone services, including rates.

g. Provide consultant landscape architectural services during design and construction phases of projects.

3. The Service will submit its plans for recreational developments and facilities for Lake Meredith in a separate report to be delivered to the Bureau on completion, in no event, however, to be later than June 30, 1968.

4. The Bureau, subject to the availability of funds, will reimburse the Service for expenses incurred in accomplishing the obligations assumed in Articles 2 and 3 hereof. Expenditures may be made for negotiations, investigations, development plans, and for other items necessary to carry out the provisions of this agreement: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no such funds shall be expended to cover the costs of the normal, usual, and continuing functions and duties of the Service, and PROVIDED FURTHER, that in no event shall reimbursable expenditures incurred exceed $50,000.00. The Service will submit an itemized statement of reimbursable expenditures incurred periodically, but not more often than monthly.

5. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT shall be effective as of the day of this agreement, and may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the agency representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this instrument to be executed as of the date first hereinabove indicated.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

By /s/gd/ Leon W. Hill
Regional Director, Region 5
Amarillo, Texas

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By /s/gd/ Chief, Western Office
Design and Construction
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
State of Texas  

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, represented by the Director, hereinafter called the Department; and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, represented by the Director, hereinafter called the Service; and

WHEREAS, joint and cooperative endeavors between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Service will contribute substantially toward promoting and providing maximum recreation, hunting, and fishing benefits for the best interests of the people of Texas and of the United States, within Amistad Recreation Area, Padre Island National Seashore and Sanford Recreation Area.

NOW THEREFORE,

The National Park Service agrees:

1. To cooperate with the Department in the joint enforcement of Texas game and fish laws and the Texas Water Safety Act.

2. To practice those forms of resource management that will benefit wildlife as fully as practicable that are compatible with the recreational mission of the area.

3. To authorize no wildlife control work involving the use of poisons, other killing chemical agents or traps on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service until the designated employees of the Department have had an opportunity to review such programs.
4. To recognize the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission as having the regulatory responsibility for the management of harvesting fish and wildlife by the public.

5. To make available to the Department such National Park Service facilities, equipment, and personnel as can be devoted to wildlife needs consistent and coordinated with other National Park Service requirements.

6. To provide the Department with reports and copies of all vital correspondence directly related to this memorandum.

7. To cooperate with the Department in the development or construction of wildlife habitat improvements within the limitations of funds available for such purposes.

8. To permit the erection and maintenance of structures needed to facilitate wildlife management activities on lands under the management of the Service, provided such structures conform in character and location with the requirements of the Service, and their intended use is not in conflict with policies of the area.

The Department agrees:

1. To notify the Service promptly of changes in the game, fur and fish laws or regulations.

2. To provide the Service with reports and copies of vital correspondence relating to this memorandum.

3. To make, stimulate interest in, or sanction no artificial plant of wildlife which may affect management of the recreation area until a joint investigation has been made and until mutual agreement is reached regarding its effect upon all other resources.

4. To make no use of poisons, other killing chemical agents, or traps for the control of fish and wildlife on the lands and waters administered by the Service without the approval of the Area Superintendent.
5. To erect no signs or structures and perform no construction or other acts not herein provided for without first securing the concurrence of the Superintendent.

6. To create no game preserves, refuges, or sanctuaries within the recreation area without approval of the Regional Director concerned.

7. To recognize the Service as the agency having regulatory authority for determining the proper use of the recreation area lands in the interest of coordination with other uses and values.

The Department and the National Park Service mutually agree:

1. To promote a united approach to the problems relating to wildlife and fisheries management and water safety by all interested parties.

2. To cooperate in the formulation and application of plans and programs to guide the management of wildlife upon lands under the National Park Service administrative policies for recreation areas.

3. To meet jointly at least once annually for discussion of matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources on or affecting the lands and waters administered by the National Park Service; and to provide for other meetings at various administrative levels for discussion of law enforcement, educational programs, cooperative studies, plans, wildlife surveys, hunting and fishing and trapping seasons and other such matters as are relevant to the fish and wildlife resource and its habitat.

4. To cooperate in publicity matters by encouraging their local employees to jointly publicize reports of mutual interest and avoiding publicity of a character embarrassing to the cooperating agencies.

5. To cooperate in the restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources in proper relation with the land and water management plans for the area.
6. To require as close cooperation as practicable of all Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and National Park Service personnel, including the prompt and complete interchange of information in all matters such as game counts, population trends, kill records, losses, studies, and all other desirable information required for the wise use and beneficial management of wildlife.

7. That each and every provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the laws of the State of Texas and the laws of the United States, and to the delegated authority in each instance.

8. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party hereto in the expenditure of funds or for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

9. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting or affecting in any way the proper authority of the Service in connection with the administration and protection of the lands under the administration of the National Park Service in accordance with the purpose for which the recreation area was acquired, reserved, or resulting from agreements with another Federal agency.

10. That no member of or delegate to Congress, or resident, commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made for a corporation for its general benefit.

11. This agreement shall become effective when signed by the parties hereto and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement or by either party upon thirty (30) days notice in writing to the other of his intention to do so. Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties hereto cause this Memorandum or Understanding to be executed as of the date when last signed below.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Date July 16, 1968

By [Signature]
Deputy Executive Director

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date AUG 1 1968

By [Signature]
Assistant Director
B: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following statement by the superintendent of Lake Meredith Recreation Area reflects park management's needs and goals relative to this master plan.

General Management Objectives
The operation of the recreation area will be on a year-round basis, twenty-four hours a day.

Management of the area will be vested in a superintendent with a staff knowledgeable and experienced in the various fields of operation that dictate administration of the area. Due to the area's isolation from other Park Service areas and the potential for its growth to a large park, it will not be included in a cluster or group.

Fees will be adopted for the various uses of the area as developments occur.

Close liaison will be maintained with the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation, due to their vested interest in the recreation area.

The protection of visitors, resources, and developments will require quarters within the area.

Administrative headquarters for the park will be located where convenient for onsite operations and the needs of visitors.

Contracts and/or agreements will be established with local governments for accomplishing certain of the essential services connected with maintenance and physical-protection requirements.

Consultation and cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies will be effected that will develop suitable zoning and sanitation standards for lands adjacent to the recreation area.

An effective research program will be developed, aimed at providing facts upon which the visitor-use, resource-use, and resource-management programs can be based.

Informational and directional signing programs will be improved and expanded, and cooperative efforts will be undertaken to accomplish similar ends outside the boundaries.
Navigational aids will be provided for the safety of the boating visitor.

Resource-Management Objectives

Cooperative relationships will be established with the petroleum industry and State regulatory agencies to develop standards on petroleum production in ways that will improve the environment, remove pollution and safety hazards, and aid in the administration of the area.

Grazing within the recreation area will be terminated as soon as existing agreements and commitments allow.

Management of the fish and wildlife resources will be done in close cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Once research and survey requirements are met concerning the historical and archeological resources of the area, their management will evolve around what will be used for public display.

Native vegetation will be fostered whenever possible to provide for a stable ground cover to assist in erosion control.

All development will be planned and carried out with the basic fact kept in mind that Lake Meredith is first and foremost a municipal water supply.

Management should be continually aware of the presence of prehistoric and historic sites so that routine maintenance and construction jobs involving disturbance of the ground will not destroy sites that the National Park Service is charged with preserving.

Visitor-Use Objectives

Primary emphasis will be placed on simply providing access to the lake and surrounding land, relying on private development outside the boundaries to accommodate needs supplemental or incidental to basic outdoor recreation activities.

The number and capacity of access points to the recreation area will be carefully controlled to ensure that the optimum carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded. On the other hand, sufficient additional access points will be developed to help relieve heavy pressure in popular areas by dispersing the use.

Temporary facilities will be developed that will provide for adequate visitor use during the time period when the lake is achieving the maximum conservation pool.
The creation of a recreation area in this land so devoid of such sites has attracted visitors of all ages and types; thus, development of recreational facilities must not leave out the consideration of the elderly and those with physical handicaps.

Cooperation with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission will be effected in developing the recreation area so as to achieve compatibility with other plans for recreational use.

Methods will be explored through which visitor circulation from parking areas located an excessive distance above launching ramps will be facilitated.

**Interpretation Objectives**

Provide information on recreation pursuits, to encourage participation, facilitate greater enjoyment, and develop a better understanding of the resource and its value.

Interpretation should emphasize the recreation potential of the area, but should also capitalize upon the fundamental natural and historical (including prehistoric) values where appropriate. Consideration should be given to interpreting the ranching and petroleum industries.

Establish suitable interpretive facilities at each major access point to the recreation area in a location offering good visual orientation and exposure to the greatest number of visitors.

The location of the recreation area in a region where the environment has been constantly exploited makes it an ideal location to develop one or more environmental study areas, available for use on a year-round basis. The feasibility of establishing a permanent camp for environmental education should be investigated.
C. DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Because use-pressures exist on both sides of the lake and development sites are evenly distributed, it is recommended that priorities for development be based upon the overall need for specific facilities, rather than on an area-by-area approach, which would be difficult to determine and justify.

The following are top-priority needs for the entire area, listed in order of importance:

1. Signing
2. Navigational aids
3. Access roads and trails to water
4. Temporary campgrounds and picnic areas
5. Fishing docks
6. Launching ramps with courtesy docks and adequate parking
7. Campgrounds
8. Swimming beaches
9. Shooting ranges

D: TEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT LOCATIONS

The suggested locations for temporary development, including temporary road surfacing, chemical toilets, picnic tables, garbage cans, and trails, are as follows:

Bates Canyon
Bugbee/North Canyon
Plum Creek
Harbor Bay
Cedar Canyon
E. REFERENCES

A. H. BELO CORPORATION.

ALLRED, B. W., AND HOMER C. MITCHELL.

ARCHAMBAU, E. R.

BAILEY, VERNON.

BLAIR, W. FRANK.


BROWN, BRYCE.

BROWN, WILLIAM H.

BURR, J. G., ET AL.

CORY, V. L., AND H. B. PARKS.

CRUICKSHANK, HELEN G.

DAVIS, W. A.

DAVIS, WILLIAM B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

... 1963. *A Public Use Plan, Sanford Reservoir, Canadian Project, Texas*. Santa Fe.


... 1965. *Sanford Recreation Area, Texas*. Santa Fe.

DUFFIELD, L. F.


FOUQUETTE, M. G., JR., AND H. L. DINSAY, JR.

GOULD, CHARLES N.

GOULD, F. W.

GREEN, F. E.

HUBBS, CLARK.
1958. *A Checklist of Texas Fresh-water Fishes*. Austin, Texas: Game and Fish Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries.

KNAPP, FRANK T.

LUNDELL, C. L.

MATTOON, W. R., AND C. B. WEBSTER.

MOOREHEAD, W. K.

PANHANDLE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.
PARKS, H. B.

PATTON, LEROY T.

PETE RSON, ROGER TORY.

RAUN, GERALD G.

RICKETT, HAROLD WILLIAM.

RYDBERG, PER AXEL.

SCHROEDER, A. H.

SCHULZ, E. D.

SMITH, HOBART M., AND OTTYS SANDERS.

STEBBINS, ROBERT C.

STEVENSON, JAMES O.
STUDER, FLOYD V.


TAYLOR, WALTER P., AND WILLIAM B. DAVIS.

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

TEXAS GAME, FISH AND OYSTER COMMISSION.

THARP, B. C.

THOMPSON, WILLIAM L.

TURNER, BILLIE LEE.
### PLANNING TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. Douglass Nadeau</td>
<td>Team Captain/Landscape Architect</td>
<td>Denver Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James M. Thompson</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Lake Meredith Recreation Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Hopkins</td>
<td>Park Planner</td>
<td>Denver Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Francis Ziegenfus</td>
<td>Sociologist</td>
<td>Denver Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David K. Morris</td>
<td>Ecologist</td>
<td>Denver Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith M. Anderson</td>
<td>Archeologist</td>
<td>Southwest Archeological Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs of the Denver Service Center. March 1973