

OAHE PROJECT



Looking South at Beaver Creek Recreation Area - Sept 2008 – Reservoir Elevation 1593.9 msl

Talking Points

The following information is being presented to inform Commissioner Goehring of the Oahe Project's Agriculture Leases, Noxious Weed Program and Land Use in ND

SUMMARY OF RESERVOIR DATA

- Drainage 243,490 square miles
- Water surface area 374,000 acres
- Length of pool 231 miles
ND 75 miles
- Shoreline length 2,250 miles
ND 340 miles
- Maximum depth 205 feet
- Full storage cap. 23.5 million acre ft.

Summary of Reservoir Data in North Dakota

- 94,006 acres
 - 19,662 acres above 1620 msl (elev. 1620 msl is the top of the flood gates)
 - 74,344 acres below 1620 msl (includes water surfaces areas)
 - Note there is the potential for Approx 70,000 acres to be exposed during a drought. At elevation 1570.0 msl the Oahe Reservoir in ND is in river conditions. The last time we were at that elevation was Aug 31st, 2006.

Summary of Reservoir Data above Elevation 1620 msl

- 19,662 acres
 - 5,028 acres leased to SRST
 - 6,978 acres leased to ND Game & Fish – Note that NDG&F also lease another 9,296 acres between Elev 1607.5 -1620.0 msl. Total lease is 16,274 acres.
 - 5,261 acres are used for Recreation both Leased and CoE
 - 2,395 acres are Ag Leases (38 lease with 20 containing grazing)
 - 1238 acres in Emmons Co
 - 894 acres grazing
 - 344 acres haying/cropping
 - 1,059 acres in Morton Co
 - 768 acres grazing
 - 291 acres haying/cropping
 - 98 acres in Sioux Co.
 - 98 acres haying/cropping
 - Grazing is covered under PL 85-915
 - 0 acres in ~~Morton~~ Co

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AUTHORIZED PROJECT PURPOSES

- Water Supply
 - Does not include distribution
- Water Quality
- Flood Control
- Hydroelectric Power
- Recreation
- Navigation
- Fish/Wildlife
- Irrigation

1958 FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT

- 1958 FW Coordination Act required coordination between the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and ND Game and Fish for wildlife management of the lands.
 - General plan 1983 - “Management of Project lands covered by this General Plan, and not contemplated for immediate management by the Game and Fish Department, will continue under Corps management. These lands will be managed for wildlife by the Corps to the extent that limited funds and personnel for this purpose permit”
 - Management Plan included in the General Plan for Oahe Dam-Lake Oahe, North Dakota states - “Management of Project lands covered by this General Plan, and not contemplated for immediate management by the Game and Fish Department, will continue under Corps administration. These lands **will be managed for wildlife by the Corps** to the extent that limited funds and personnel for this purpose permit. Management practices in the past have included tree and food plantings, protection from unauthorized grazing and other encroachments. Grazing and haying are permitted on grasslands as vegetative tools. Lack of fencing precludes active management on many areas. **The Game and Fish Department will provide technical assistance to the Corps on Wildlife land the Corps will manage.**

NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

- **Purpose:** This Oahe Project Noxious weed management plan is established to coordinate and concentrate available resources and capital on the noxious weed problem. This plan should give Oahe Project staff guidelines for the implementation of a coordinated noxious weed control program. This plan describes goals, objectives, and methods of controlling noxious weeds. Through coordination with other agencies, boards, and stakeholders, it is the objective of this plan to effectively implement a program of prevention and control.

- **Control Plan:**

- Prioritization of effort
- Nat. Res. lessee participation
- Bio-control
- Education
- Coordination with Endangered species and cultural resources
- Pool talents and resources

- | Funding Expended | Lowest Reservoir in FY |
|---|------------------------|
| - FY03 \$128,307 | 1576.20 msl – Dec 17th |
| - FY04 \$ 84,544 | 1572.03 msl – Sep 6th |
| - FY05 \$371,171 | 1572.83 msl – Oct 7th |
| - FY06 \$379,544 | 1569.98 msl – Aug 31st |
| - FY07 \$399,677 | 1571.95 msl – Feb 16th |
| - FY08 \$248,000 | 1581.90 msl – Jan 3rd |
| - FY09 \$275,000 | 1592.54 msl – Jan 9th |
| - FY10 \$470,000 (includes 180K from FY09 & 40K FY08) | |

- \$1,730,297 expended on noxious weeds since the drought draw down and task force started.

- Plus 25% of lease appraisal reduction for lessees annually to be applied towards noxious weeds

Y	EMMONS		SIOUX		SRST		CORPS CONTRACT		YEARLY TOTAL
	DOLLARS	ACRES	DOLLARS	ACRES	DOLLARS	ACRES	DOLLARS	ACRES	
003	0.00		0.00		\$15,000.00		\$31,000.00	salt cedar	\$46,000.00
004	0.00		0.00		0.00		\$25,000.00	salt cedar	\$25,000.00
005	\$10,000.00	salt cedar	\$29,000.00	salt cedar	0.00		\$75,000.00	salt cedar	\$114,000.00
006	\$10,000.00	salt cedar	\$29,000.00	salt cedar	\$19,200.00		\$103,000.00	salt cedar	\$161,200.00
007	\$35,000.00	salt cedar	\$35,000.00	salt cedar	\$20,300.00		\$25,000.00	salt cedar	\$115,300.00
008	\$43,000.00	73	\$35,000.00	salt cedar	\$27,300.00		\$25,000.00	219	\$130,300.00
009	\$10,000.00	112	\$25,000.00		\$28,800.00		\$50,000.00		\$113,800.00
totals	\$108,000.00	185	\$153,000.00		\$110,600.00		\$334,000.00	219	\$705,600.00

COMPARISON OF OAHE AND GARRISON PROJECTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oahe Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management plan - BPA with Counties - Contractors for others - Aerial spraying by counties - Task Force guidance - Biological control releases - Spraying funding carried over from 2009 and 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrison Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management Plan - BPA with Counties - Contractors for others - Aerial spraying by counties - Task Force guidance - Biological control releases - ARRA funding 2009 |
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HISTORY

- 1993
 - Sept 29 ND Game and Fish returns 7219.24 acres of leased lands due to no further management practices to implement VS. cost of noxious weed control. This lease had been in place since March 1st 1966.
- 1996
 - Received a letter from ND G&F about over grazing in the draws on CoE lands
- 1998
 - Started to put the grazing July 15th date in leases.
- 2003
 - Started requiring 5 year noxious weed management plan by lessee. Leases always required lessees to control noxious weeds and for better compliance added this requirement.
 - Surveyed and controlled Salt Cedar plants by Contract in Emmons County to help verify extent of Salt Cedar problem.
- 2004
 - First year for Lake Oahe Task Force
 - District Office received a ltr from ND Ag Commissioner Roger Johnson asking the CoE to focus on Salt Cedar
- 2005
 - First year with substantial Noxious weed budget, Pulling Together grant was denied
- 2006
 - Pulling together grant denied for second time and other grants denied
 - Potter County aerial sprays large remote location of Canadian Thistle in Sept.
 - APHIS and SD Dept. of Agric. test plot established for Salt Cedar bio-control Beetle in Campbell County, SD.
 - Potter county sprayed large remote Canada Thistle patches
- 2007
 - Task force contractors asked to shift priority to Canada Thistle with money left after Salt Cedar Survey and control.
 - Bio-control agents released 7000 gall flies and 735 weevils for Canada Thistle.
 - Campbell County sprayed large remote Canada Thistle Patches in Sept.
 - Received email concerning overgrazing on CoE lands “hungry cow photograph”
- 2008
 - Feb 12, Lake Oahe Task Force meeting notes stated we requested lessees attending to submit plans for proposed grazing of noxious weeds. Weed supervisors suggest grazing as just another tool in the mechanical tool box. Keep spraying.

- Feb. and March Task Force members send in articles on how to use grazing to control Canada Thistle Corps compiles guidelines for implementation.
- Feb 28th we received a letter complaining about fence line contrast and over utilization by cattle of bottom lands, personal and financial gain by ranchers from public lands and center pivot operation removing shrubs. This isn't first time we have received letter or telephone calls complaining of over grazing.
- March 12th Meeting with NRCS and ND GF
 - Game and Fish was not in favor of moving the grazing date up just for Noxious weed management. Bio mass on lake bottom needed for fisheries as the lake elevations rise.
 - NRCS state specialist agreed to assist us in helping anyone wanting to develop a grazing system to benefit both wildlife interests and ranchers. Rest rotation would benefit native vegetation which will compete with Noxious weeds.
- April 3rd the Oahe Project was requested to testify before Ag Commission Roger Johnson on Noxious Weeds
- May 6 Task Force meeting- grazing guidelines were presented to group that we found in all the literature they sent in for our evaluation. Lessee plans submitted would be evaluated using these guidelines.
- June 17 Governor's office sponsored meeting with County offices, Ranchers, Corps.
- 1700 gall flies and 3000 stem weevils released in Emmons County, ND for Canada Thistle
- Corson County sprayed large remote Canada Thistle Patches.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District



ND COE Lands

