



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

News Release

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Environmental Assessment on O.C. Fisher Lake Ecosystem Restoration available

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has conducted an ecosystem restoration study to identify the environmental degradation caused by the construction and operation of O.C. Fisher Lake in San Angelo, Texas. The study evaluated measures to improve the functional stability and integrity of important ecological resources, identify opportunities to improve the quality of these ecological resources, and recommend a cost effective ecosystem restoration project.

In order to restore and sustain the hydrological function to the ecosystem, the study dictates the removal and reduction of the existing invasive brushy species across the study area. Various removal methods were evaluated for each invasive brushy species. Several vegetative planting alternatives, including woody and herbaceous vegetation, were evaluated, as well as a “no action” plan. The proposed plan includes removing of saltcedar, significantly reducing mesquite and willow baccharis, and conducting prescribed burns to sustain the restoration project.

The study results and environmental impacts of the proposed restoration plan are presented in the Detailed Project Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment for the O.C. Fisher Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project. A draft Finding of No Significant Impact has also been prepared, which, pending receipt of comments to the contrary, will be finalized at the end of the comment period, August 8.

The DPR, with Integrated Environmental Assessment, and draft FONSI are available for public review on the USACE website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/> or may be reviewed in San Angelo at the O.C. Fisher Lake Office, 3900 Mercedes St. or Tom Green County Library at 113 W. Beauregard, 3013 Vista del Arroyo, and 3001 N. Chadbourne locations. Signed comments should be sent to USACE Rm 3A28 attn: PM-C-Hyden, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or faxed to (817) 886-6442 by 20 August 2005. For further information contact Brent Hyden, the project manager, at (817) 886-1370.