



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Tulsa District

**SECTION 216
INITIAL APPRAISAL REPORT**

OPTIMA LAKE

**NORTH CANADIAN RIVER
TEXAS COUNTY
OKLAHOMA**

**TULSA DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

SEPTEMBER 2010

SECTION 216
INITIAL APPRAISAL REPORT

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TEXAS COUNTY
OKLAHOMA

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1.0 PURPOSE.

This report is an initial appraisal of the need for conducting investigations to determine the feasibility of modifying the Optima Lake project operations to meet present and future water and related land resource needs.

The feasibility study, if determined necessary, is a two step process which includes (1) a reconnaissance investigation and report and (2) a feasibility study and report. The reconnaissance study and report usually take 1 year to complete and the feasibility study and report take about 3 years to complete.

2.0 AUTHORITY.

This initial appraisal report is conducted under Section 216 of the River and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), as amended which states:

The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to review the operation of projects the construction of which has been completed and which were constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the interest of navigation, flood control, water supply, and related purposes, when found advisable due the significantly changed physical or economic conditions, and to report thereon to Congress with recommendations on the advisability of modifying the structures or their operation, and for improving the quality of the environment in the overall public interest.

3.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION AS AUTHORIZED.

Optima Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1936 as amended by the Flood Control Act of 1950, as amended, House Document 308, 74th Congress, 1st Session. The Flood Control Act of 1950 required that Optima Lake be designed so as not to interfere with the conservation storage capacity in Canton Lake, as authorized by existing law.

Optima Dam is located on the North Canadian River, also known as Beaver River, in Texas County, Oklahoma, approximately 0.2 miles downstream from the confluence with Coldwater Creek. The North Canadian River is located in a semi-arid region in central and western Oklahoma, northern Texas and northeastern New Mexico, between the basins of the Cimarron River on the north and the Canadian River on the south. The watershed comprises an area of approximately 5,029 square miles of which 2,341 square miles are above Optima Dam.

Optima Lake is a multipurpose project authorized for flood control, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation.

Optima Lake is located approximately 4 ½ miles northeast of Hardesty, Oklahoma and 20 miles east of Guymon, Oklahoma (see Figure 1). Construction on this project began in March 1966 and impoundment began in October 1978.

Optima Lake was to be operated in conjunction with Fort Supply and Canton Lakes for optimum flood control benefits on the North Canadian River downstream to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Optima Lake was designed to be part of the upstream lakes portion of the main flood control plan for the Arkansas River Basin. It was also designed to provide water supply and recreation.

Optima Lake is a compacted earthfill embankment with gated outlet works and an uncontrolled saddle spillway (see Figure 2). The 1,500 foot wide spillway is on the right abutment and has a crest elevation of 2,796.0 feet, NGVD (All elevations in this report are referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD)). The spillway capacity at maximum pool is 359,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The outlet works are located near the right abutment and consist of a concrete gate tower with a 12 by 16 foot 5 inch oblong conduit. Discharge through the conduit is controlled by two 5.67 foot by 16.5 foot, drum hoist-operated tractor-type service gates. A 36 inch low-flow bypass and a 24 inch water supply line are incorporated in the outlet works.

The lake has a total storage capacity of 229,500 acre-feet below elevation 2779.0, feet NGVD, the top of the flood control pool. The existing conservation storage has a total volume of 117,650 acre-feet between elevation 2726.0 and 2763.5, feet NGVD (See Figure 3 – Diagram of a Dam). The conservation storage includes 76,200 acre-feet for water supply, providing a dependable yield of 10 million gallons per day (mgd). Pertinent data for Optima Lake are presented in Table 1.



Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

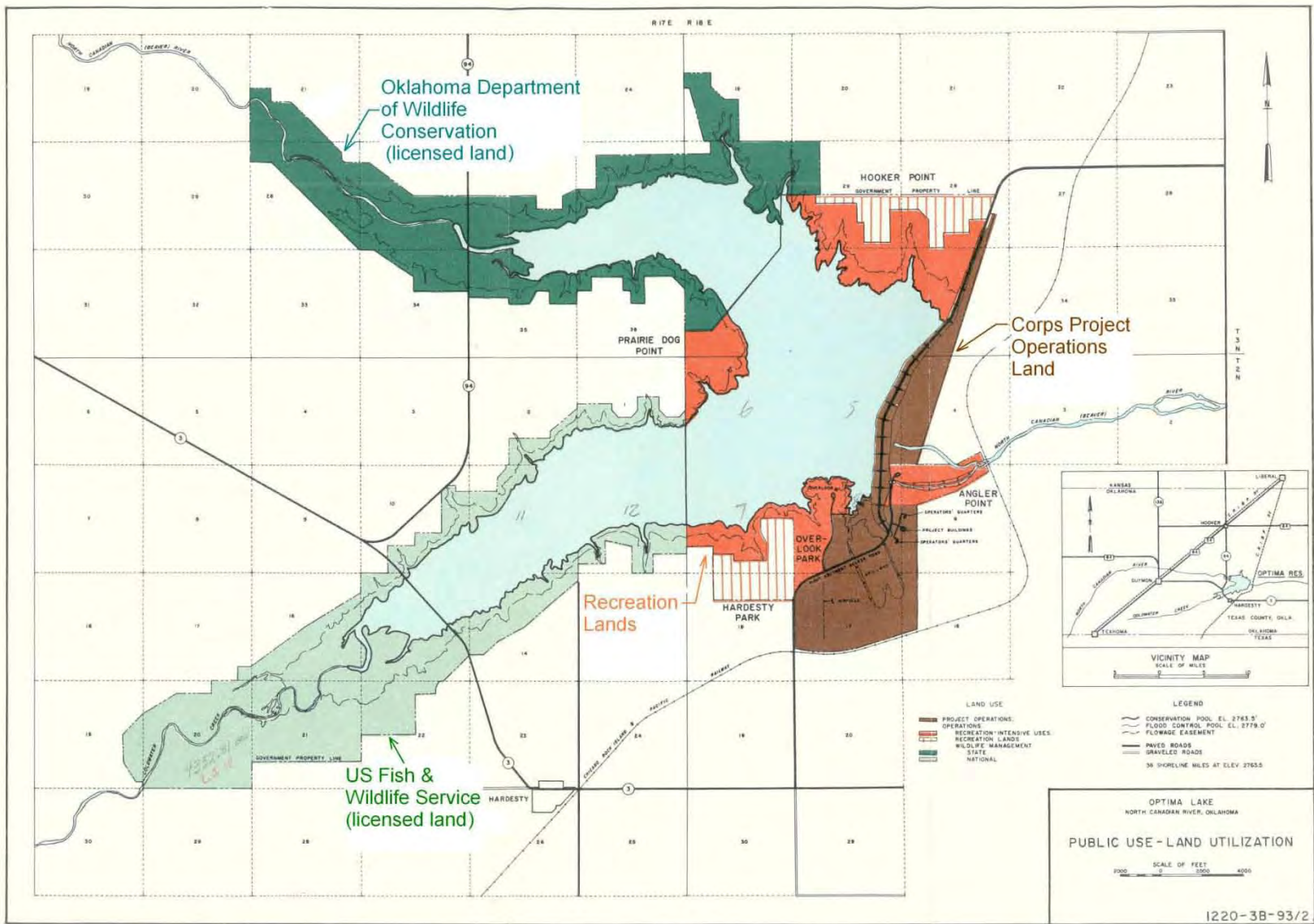


Figure 2 – Lake Map (Original Land Use Map – 1978)

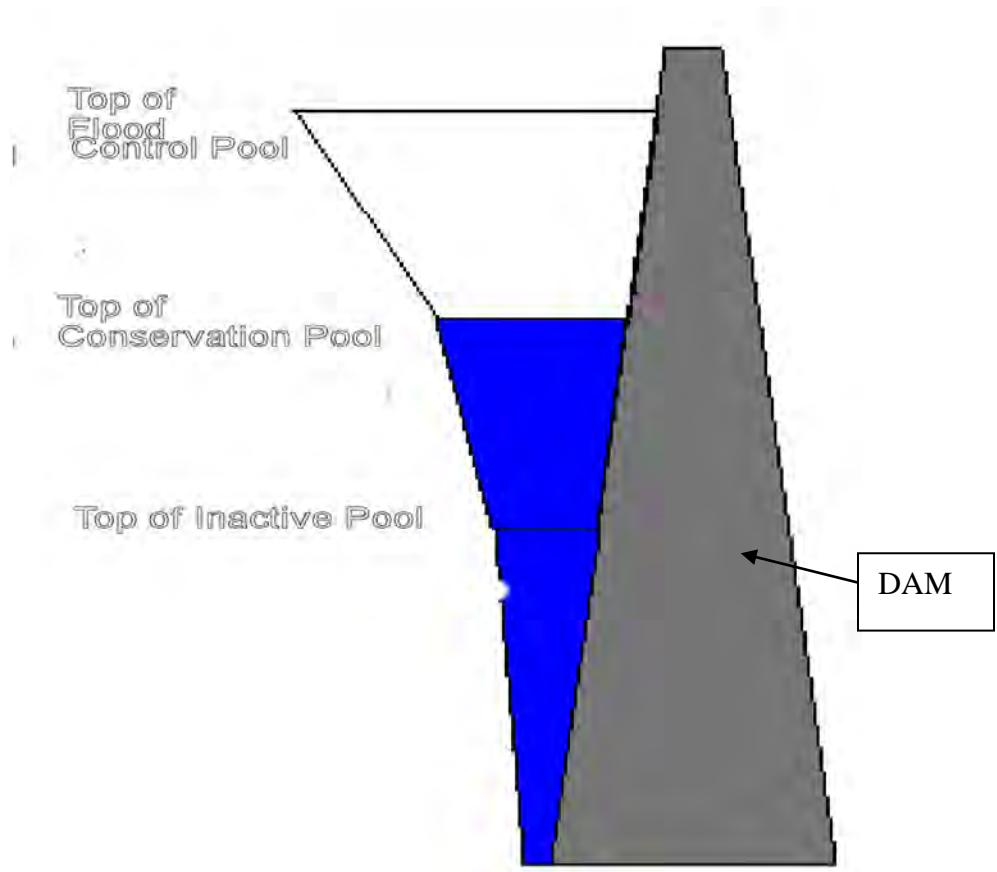


Figure 3 – Diagram of a Dam

TABLE 1
OPTIMA LAKE
PERTINENT DATA

Feature	Elevation (feet)	Area (acres)	Capacity (acre-feet)	Equivalent Runoff ⁽¹⁾ (inches)
Top of Dam	2821.0	-	-	-
Maximum Pool	2814.2	14,800	618,500	4.95
Top of Flood Pool	2779.0	7,640	229,500	1.84
Flood Control Storage	2763.5-2779.0	-	100,500	0.80
Top of Conservation Pool	2763.5 ⁽²⁾	5,340	129,000	1.03
Conservation Storage	2726.0-2763.5	-	117,650	0.94
Top of Inactive Pool	2726.0	1,340	11,350	0.09

(1) From the 2,341 square miles of contributing drainage area above the dam site. The total drainage area is 5,029 square miles.
 (2) Includes 76,200 acre-feet for water supply.
 (3) Conservation pool was never filled. Maximum lake level was 2722.90 on May 31, 1980.

3.1 Flood Control.

The peak flow of 44,200 cfs occurred on the North Canadian River during the September 1941 flood. The largest flood volume of 109,000 acre-feet occurred during the October 1923 flood and is equivalent to 0.87 inches of runoff from the drainage area above the dam site. The last flow of consequence recorded at the Guymon gage occurred on October 1965 and consisted of peak flows of 17,800 cfs.

Flood damage benefits for this project estimated in May 1976, calculated that annual flood damage benefits would be \$661,000. This flood damage benefits estimate used a 100 year period for its analysis (Lake Master Plan, May 1976).

3.2 Water Supply.

Optima Lake was designed to provide 129,000 acre-feet of storage in the conservation pool which would include 76,200 acre-feet for water supply and provide a dependable water supply yield of 10 mgd. Under provision of the Water Supply Act of 1958, local cooperation by municipalities or other interests would be required with regard to the water supply features of the project. This would consist of obtaining all necessary water rights and contracting to pay the costs allocated to water supply prior to use of the storage. The following applicants listed in Table 2 initially made requests for a total of 24,617 acre-feet of water supply storage in Optima Lake.

TABLE 2
OPTIMA LAKE
WATER SUPPLY APPLICANTS

APPLICANT	DATE FILED	STORAGE REQUESTED (acre-feet)
City of Goodwell and Panhandle State University	22 JAN 1976	2,248
Town of Hardesty	13 DEC 1976	277
City of Guymon	4 AUG 1977	8,675
Town of Keys	29 AUG 1977	500
City of Boise City	9 SEP 1977	11,120
Town of Texhoma	31 OCT 1977	100
City of Hooker	22 MAR 1979	810
Beaver County RWD #1	13 AUG 1979	120
Town of Beaver	23 AUG 1979	767
TOTAL		24,617

3.3 Recreation.

Recreational development exists in four public use areas on the lake (Hardesty Park, Hooker Point, Overlook Park and Prairie Dog Point) and in one area below the dam (Angler Point). Camping and/or picnicking facilities were provided at Angler Point, Hardesty Park and Prairie Dog Point. Three boat ramps were built at Hardesty Park, Hooker Point and Prairie Dog Point. Facilities were provided for an initial 420,000 visitors per year. The following paragraphs give more specifics on the recreational areas at each public use area.

a. Hardesty Park.

This area is about 545 acres located on the right bank 1 mile upstream from the dam. Access is by way of the right abutment access road and Oklahoma State Highway 3. The development in the park includes provisions for camping, picnicking, swimming and hiking. The boat ramp provided at this park wasn't extended to the lower pool elevations due to the fact that a channel would have had to be excavated and subject to siltation from wave action along the shoreline.

b. Hooker Point.

This area is about 862 acres located on the left bank immediately upstream from the dam. Access is from the left abutment access road. This road provides excellent access to the picnic sites, camp sites and boat ramp. Development in Hooker Point is limited to the area around the excavated channel.

c. Prairie Dog Point.

This recreational area is on the peninsula formed by the North Canadian River (Beaver River) and the Coldwater Creek arms of the lake encompassing about 235 acres. Initial development of this area included sanitary facilities and parking for visitors who wished to see the large prairie dog colony existing in the area. Future development was to include a boat ramp, beach, picnic sites and shelters, and camping sites.

d. Angler Point.

This 175 acre area includes most of the fee lands below the dam. Access to this area is from the stilling basin access road. Within the limits of this area, the North Canadian and Coldwater Creek converge. Vegetation along the banks of these streams provides food, cover and protection for the abundant wildlife in this area. Furthermore, beavers have formed several small dams on Coldwater Creek, providing a dependable water supply source for the wildlife. Other developments in this scenic area include provisions for fishing and picnicking.

e. Overlook Park.

This 77 acre area was a part of Hardesty Park. Access to this segment of the development is from the overlook access road. Overlook Park is a day-use area managed in conjunction with the camping facilities for Hardesty Park. This area has an excellent view of the lake.

f. Visitation.

(1) Initial Annual Visitation. As the results of Tulsa District surveys, it was determined that 7 percent of the total visitation would be from camping. Therefore the total initial yearly visitation (1979) was calculated to be approximately 406,000 people. The recreational benefits were expected to be \$256,400 annually based on a 100 year period of analysis.

(2) Optimum Visitation. Future visitation was based on the assumption that recreational use will increase from the base year (1979) at the same rate of growth as the surrounding population multiplied times the anticipated rate of increase in participation rates. The optimum visitation for the project is 600,000 annual visitors and will be reached in 2014. The visitation should remain at this level throughout the remaining life of the project. Additional facilities (picnic sites, camp sites and boat ramps) at the project will have to be built to accommodate all of the visitors expected in the future.

3.4 Fish and Wildlife.

Two areas were originally set aside for wildlife: Optima National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, consisting of 2,605 acres located along Coldwater Creek and a public hunting area managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation consisting of 2,141 acres located along the North Canadian River. Suitable plots of land planted with milo, wheat or corn provided food for wildlife. In addition, both trees and shrubs were planted to increase the amount of food, cover and the number of resting, nesting and roosting sites. Species to be managed included turkey, quail, dove, pheasant, waterfowl and deer. Many non-game species also benefit from this food and cover.

3.5 Project Operations.

This project was closed for water impoundment in 1978. Project personnel required to operate this project consisted of a project manager, an administrative assistant, 2 maintenance workers (full time), 2 maintenance workers (seasonal), a park ranger and a park technician.

These employees had the responsibility for: (1) the dam, outlet works, spillway and appurtenant structures; (2) roads, fences, surface drainage and landscaping within the Government property lines; (3) Government owned buildings; (4) all utilities, including water, electrical and sewage systems; (5) direction of activities

during flood and other emergencies; (6) reservoir utilization and recreational facilities; (7) keeping logs and records and submission of reports as required; (8) operation, maintenance and usage of Government vehicles, tools and equipment; and (9) custodial service of all Government property at the project.

3.6 Other Project Structures.

The major project structures/facilities at this project which are operated and maintained are the gate tower, dam stilling basin, uncontrolled spillway, outlet works, roads project buildings and all park areas. The list of structures is not all inclusive, but contains the major structures of the project.

4.0 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The Optima Lake project is located in U.S. Congressman Frank Lucas' District (OK-3).

5.0 DISCUSSION OF PRIOR STUDIES, REPORTS AND EXISTING WATER PROJECTS.

An Initial Appraisal Report for Optima Lake was completed in July 1991, but did not receive funding for the recommended reconnaissance study. The initial appraisal study conducted under Section 216 of the River and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970, made an initial appraisal of the Optima Project to determine if the authorized purposes of the project were being used as authorized.

A Final Environmental Assessment for the Optima Lake Road Closure and Recreational Facility Demolition, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Project was completed in March of 2010. This environmental assessment dealt with the demolition of picnic tables, restrooms, dump stations and pavilions which had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe to the public. The road across the dam was also included in this assessment. The road across the dam will have gates placed across it at either end with locks on the gates.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.

At the initiation of this study, a public workshop was held to invite Federal, state and local agencies and the interested public to attend and find out about the study (See attached appendix). The workshop was held at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon, Oklahoma on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

There were 15 people that attended the workshop and one comment form was turned in at that time. In the coming days (June 29 – August 2, 2010) an additional 44 comment forms, letters and emails were received from 38 individuals. Some individuals thought it was important enough that they sent

both comment forms and letters or letters and emails. The comments were received from individuals in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. There were 6 comments from unknown locations. There were not any comments received from any local, county, state or Federal agencies.

Most of the comment forms, letters and emails had more than one suggestion for the Optima Project. There were a total of 79 different suggestions. These suggestions ranged from sell the land back to the original landowners (some wanted this done at the original price); keep Optima open; let the state buy the land; and don't de-authorize the project. The top 4 suggestions for the project were: (1) sell the land back to the original landowners; (2) don't install the gates on the road across the dam – leave it open; (3) maintain the parks; and (4) sell the land to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

A lot of the commenter's suggested that all of the funds appropriated for this project be spent to keep the Optima Project operating and maintained.

7.0 PLAN FORMULATION.

7.1 Existing Project Conditions.

7.1.1 Flood Control.

The flood control pool is empty and no release of water is occurring (Photograph 1). The authorized purpose of flood control for this project has not been used as it was authorized. The flood control pool has not filled during the life of this project. Flood damage benefits projected for this project have not approached the original estimates forecast for this purpose. This project has only had flood damage benefits for 2 years during its approximately 30 year life.



Photograph 1 – Lack of Water in Optima Lake

7.1.2 Water Supply.

The conservation pool is also empty and no water is available to local communities that signed water rights agreements for municipal consumption. Yield analysis studies have shown that Optima Lake cannot provide any dependable yield. The 8 communities, one rural water district and one university that signed water rights agreements for water from this project have had to use alternate sources.

7.1.3 Recreation.

All park areas at Optima remain open to the public, but are not maintained by the Corps. The roads to all of the park areas are available for public access. There are three boat ramps that were built for water activities one each at Hardesty, Hooker and Prairie Dog Point Parks. The water related activities (boating, skiing and swimming) are not presently in use on the lake due to lack of water except possibly some fishing. The parks were closed in 1995 due to lack of visitation and funding. The recreational benefits for these parks are only minimal (Photograph 2). Due to brush fires, weathering, vandalism and non-maintenance most of the park features are in unsafe conditions and unavailable for use.

Because of the current conditions of the park areas, an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project was completed at the Optima Project which removed these unsafe structures. The project consisted of the demolition and removal of about 161 structures which include picnic structures and campsites, restrooms, dump stations and numerous power poles. Specific structures demolished in each park will be addressed in the paragraphs that follow. An

additional part of this ARRA project was the gating and locking of the road across the dam. This road needs the guardrail replaced and is unsafe for vehicular traffic. The most cost effective alternative for the road was to place gates and locks at either end. Local law enforcement, and fire and emergency vehicles have keys to the locks on the gates for access as needed. This ARRA project was complete in September 2010 (Final Environmental Assessment, March 2010).



Photograph 2 – Current Condition of a Picnic Site at Optima Lake

a. Hardesty Park.

This park area is in the process of having camp sites, restrooms, a chimney structure and trailer dump station demolished and removed due to safety concerns. The remaining picnic tables are available to the public. Lack of expected visitation by the public and funding to maintain this park area have caused this park to be un-mowed and un-kept. The 545 acres of this park are now licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

b. Hooker Point.

This park area is in the process of having numerous camp sites and a restroom demolished and removed due to safety concerns. The remaining picnic tables are available to the public. Lack of expected visitation by the public and funding to maintain this park area have caused this park to be un-mowed and un-kept. The 862 acres of this park are now licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

c. Prairie Dog Point.

This park area is in the process of having camp sites, restrooms and a trailer dump station demolished and removed due to safety concerns. The remaining picnic tables are available to the public. Lack of expected visitation by the public and funding to maintain this park area have caused this park to be un-mowed and un-kept. The 235 acres of this park are now licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

d. Angler Point.

This park area is in the process of having camp sites and restrooms demolished and removed due to safety concerns. The park area itself remains available to the public. Lack of expected visitation by the public and funding to maintain this park area have caused this park to be un-mowed and un-kept. This is the only park at this project that the Corps of Engineers retains sole control of.

e. Overlook Park.

This park area is in the process of having the overlook building demolished and removed due to safety concerns. The park itself remains available to the public. Lack of expected visitation by the public and funding to maintain this park area have caused this park to be un-mowed and un-kept. This 77 acre park is now licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

f. Visitation.

Annual Visitation. The visitation of the parks is well below the anticipated visitors expected for this time of the project's life. The parks receive some use by the city of Guymon, Oklahoma in dog trials that are held in the parks several times a year. Some visitors still come to the parks throughout the year from Oklahoma or other neighboring states to hunt, camp, picnic and bird watch.

7.1.4 Fish and Wildlife.

Two areas are currently set aside for wildlife: Optima National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, consisting of 4,334 acres located along Coldwater Creek and a public hunting area managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation consisting of 8,062 acres located along the North Canadian River. The licensing of the park areas and lake area has increased the current acreages for both of these wildlife areas. Suitable plots of land planted with milo, wheat or corn provides food for wildlife. In addition, both trees and shrubs have been planted to increase the amount of food, cover and the number of resting, nesting and roosting sites. Species being managed include turkey, quail, dove, pheasant, waterfowl and deer. Many non-game species also benefit from this food and cover. Grazing has not occurred for several years on most project lands, including the wildlife refuge which has created better food and habitat for wildlife than exists on adjacent lands. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, implemented a plan in the wildlife areas for the environmental improvement of project lands by establishing vegetation suitable for recreation use, wildlife habitat and soil stabilization.

7.1.5 Project Operations.

Since the Corps of Engineers closed the parks areas in 1995, all personnel to manage Optima have been located at the Canton and Fort Supply project offices. The Fort Supply personnel now have dual roles to manage Optima and Fort Supply. There aren't any Corps of Engineers personnel at Canton or Fort Supply that have specific duties to oversee Optima. Normal project operations as described in the lake operations manual (Operations & Maintenance Manual, June 1983) are not currently implemented.

7.1.6 Project Structures.

The existing structures (gate tower, stilling basin, uncontrolled spillway and outlet works) are in operational condition presently, but due to lack of water are not normally used (Photograph 3). The structures needed for flood control are inspected annually with maintenance and repairs made as budget allows. The project buildings are retained by the Corps of Engineers, but receive no annual maintenance. The park areas have not received any maintenance or repairs since their closures in 1995.



Photograph 3 – Current Condition of the Optima Lake Project

The road and guardrail across the crest of the dam are in need of re-surfacing and guardrail replacement or repair (Photographs 4 & 5). The completed ARRA project installed gates with locks at either end of the road. This was the most cost effective alternative for the road considering its daily use. The road is closed to public traffic and local emergency personnel have keys to the locks for access to the road.



Photograph 4 – Current Condition of the Road and Guardrail Across Top of Dam



Photograph 5 – Present Condition of Some Guardrail Posts

7.2 Description of Problems.

Optima Lake was constructed for flood control, water supply, recreation and fish and wildlife conservation. Since the completion of the dam in 1978, the water level of the lake has never risen to the bottom of the conservation pool, elevation 2726.0 ft., NGVD. The highest water level recorded in the lake was elevation 2722.9 ft., NGVD on May 31, 1980. During another flood event in May 1996, the lake filled to elevation 2720 ft., NGVD and the project operated as designed. There were no water releases made from the dam and the water elevation decreased from 2720 ft in 1996 to 2717.7 ft. in 1998. By 2003, the lake pool had receded back to below the bottom of the flood gates at elevation 2708 ft., NGVD. During the life of the Optima Lake project, 1978 to 2009, the purposes this project was constructed for have only minimally been used.

7.2.1 Flood Control.

The flood control pool has never contained any water. The largest volume of water on the North Canadian River in the Optima Lake area was 109,000 acre-feet and occurred in October 1923. This would have filled a major portion of the conservation pool (117,650 acre-feet), but would not have filled any of the flood control pool. The Optima project has provided very small amounts of downstream area flood damage protection benefits to date and these benefits have been supplied without maintaining any water in the flood control pool. In only two fiscal years of this project's life, 1979 and 1986 has Optima provided flood damage benefits which were estimated together at approximately \$28,300 in 2008 price levels. The flood damage benefits were probably due to the storage of rainfall runoff in the inactive pool area.

The reason that the flood control feature has not been used is due in part to the fact that the area is a very arid region receiving on average about 17 inches of rain per year and the project area has had major land use changes over the life of the project. The major water source in the area is the Ogallala Aquifer which has been declining over the life of this project due to wells pumped for water supply and agricultural uses. The average rainfall has not changed during the life of this project. Therefore any significant runoff in the area is either recharging the aquifer, taken up by vegetation or evaporates and significant amounts of water are not available for storage in Optima Lake.

Since 1968, the drainage basin above Optima Dam has experienced a continued decline in stream flow with no apparent reduction in annual rainfall. The conclusion reached by Wahl and Wahl (August 1988) was that the flow of the North Canadian (Beaver) River in the Oklahoma Panhandle has been decreasing since the mid 1960s. According to this study, "The North Canadian River drains most of the Oklahoma Panhandle and has been gaged near Guymon, Oklahoma

since 1937. Although changes in the use of the surface water have been minimal during this period, trend tests confirm that the discharge of the river has decreased substantially. There has been no corresponding change in precipitation. Average annual discharge at Guymon for 23 years through 1960 was 32.2 cubic feet per second (cfs); the average annual discharge for the last 10 years (1977-86) has been about 7 cfs. Prior to the mid 1960's, the river at Guymon was generally perennial; flow ceased only during droughts and then never for more than 60 days in any given year. Since 1968, the river at Guymon has been dry for extended periods every year and presently (1988) averages about 300 days of no flow per year." The decrease in streamflow can be attributed to two factors, a decline of the Ogallala Aquifer water table and changes in land use. According to the study, "Prior to the start of large scale pumping for irrigation in the 1960's, the aquifer was in equilibrium. The estimated recharge rate for the Ogallala Aquifer in the North Canadian River Basin upstream from Guymon is 0.056 inches per year; this represents less than 1 percent of the mean annual precipitation. With the start of extensive irrigation pumping and no increase in natural recharge, the water table in the southern part of the Ogallala Aquifer began to decline. This decline in groundwater levels in combination with changes in land use practices has been recognized to be a primary cause of decreases in stream discharge in the Solomon and Republican River Basins in Kansas. These same factors are attributed to the decreases in stream discharge in the western panhandle of Oklahoma." (Appraisal Report, July 1991.)

7.2.2 Water Supply.

Since only portions of the inactive pool have partially filled a very few times, the project has never had any water in the conservation pool and functioned as a water supply source as it was authorized. The reasons for this feature's non-use are the same as the flood control purpose. The conservation pool has never sustained a pool and therefore the water supply has been unusable.

Water supply benefits for the lake were calculated in the 1970s to be \$105,500 annually based on a 100 year period of analysis. The water supply benefits come from the conservation pool and since this pool has never filled up or even maintained any water, the benefits to date for water supply have annually been \$0. The water rights agreements signed between the Federal Government and local municipalities have never been able to be implemented because of the lack of a conservation pool.

7.2.3 Recreation.

Without a sustained lake (conservation pool), the recreation feature for this project has not been able to function as it was authorized. One boat ramp each was built for Hooker Point, Prairie Dog Point and Hardesty Park around the lake. These three boat ramps have never had water on them. The various forms of water recreation (boating, skiing and swimming) have never occurred at this lake.

This lake was built with an initial estimate of approximately 400,000 visitors using this lake on a yearly basis. The ultimate number of visitors expected at the lake was estimated to be 600,000 per year and would be reached in 2014. To date the most visitors recorded for a year has been approximately 6,000. The recreational benefits (visitors) for the lake have never approached this benefit number.

All of the areas used for camping and picnicking have been closed (not maintained by the Corps of Engineers) since 1995. This non-maintenance by the Corps was a national decision made by the Corps which based their decision on visitation and use of the lake facilities. All lakes nationally maintained by the Corps were included in this determination that was driven by the Corps operations budget for maintenance of the lakes. Because of this reason and park areas low visitation rates, the park areas were closed and no maintenance of these areas has occurred over the past 15 years.

7.2.4 Fish and Wildlife.

A normal pool (lake) is very beneficial to the support of the fish and wildlife feature at Optima Lake. Before the lake was built, the fish and wildlife habitat within the North Canadian River and Coldwater Creek was very limited. The expectation of the lake construction was that the fish and wildlife habitat would be greatly increased. The lake was intended to offer an excellent habitat for fish and wildlife conservation and development area. The fish habitat has not been fully realized because of the lack of the authorized conservation pool which would support this. The wildlife habitat has had better success within the U.S Fish & Wildlife's National Wildlife Management Area and the State of Oklahoma's state game management area. These agencies have increased the habitats for game animals and fowl and have created an area conducive for migratory birds on their north-south flyways.

7.2.5 Project Operations.

The plan of development for this project was contingent upon a conservation pool with an elevation of 2763.5 ft., NGVD. The conservation pool has never filled during the life of this project. The project does not have any Corps of Engineers personnel onsite. The project is primarily managed from the Fort Supply project

office with employees making visits to Optima to check on the conditions of the facilities. Annually, there is an inspection made by employees from the Tulsa District office and Canton and Fort Supply project offices to assess the conditions of the facilities. Every 5th year there is a periodic inspection of Optima which is a more detailed inspection of the facilities. This project has never maintained a conservation or flood control pool therefore personnel to operate this project were re-assigned to other projects.

7.2.6 Project Structures.

The road across the top of the dam needs to be resurfaced, but more importantly the guardrail for this road which protects vehicles from running down the embankment is in need of repair. The guardrail in its present condition has numerous support posts that are rotten or split and the guardrail does not meet the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration standards for roads of its type (Guardrail Evaluation, 2001. and Final Environmental Assessment, 2010). This road is used by an estimated 50-75 vehicles per day. Another problem with the road is due to the vegetation in the area. In the past, from time to time during the year Fort Supply project employees have removed tumble weed from the road. This tumble weed becomes lodged between the guardrails and becomes a fire hazard and an obstruction to local traffic. The ARRA project, currently underway, will close the road to all local traffic using gates and locks. Emergency vehicles will still have access to the road using keys that have been given to them. The general public in the study area would like to see the road remain open.

The other structures (gate tower, stilling basin, uncontrolled spillway and outlet works) at the project are in good condition at the present time. These structures are inspected on a yearly basis and periodically (every 5 years) as well as Fort Supply project employees observing the structures throughout the year (Periodic Inspection Report, 2008). The structures will continue to age and lack of operation as authorized will likely have a greater effect on the operability of the equipment than normal use. Funds to repair these structures will be harder to obtain because of the lack of water to support the lake and low visitation numbers.

7.3 Future Conditions of the Project.

The drainage basin above Optima Dam will continue to experience a decline in stream flow with no apparent reduction in annual rainfall. There will continue to be only slight changes in the use of the surface water and the discharge of the river will continue to be only minimal (probably 7cubic feet per second (cfs) or less). The precipitation for the area will remain unchanged. The North Canadian River will continue to be a very, very intermittent stream with many days of no flow at all. The future will continue to see the Ogallala Aquifer remain extremely

low and land use will remain as it presently is. Pumping of water for irrigation will continue on a large scale in this area.

Inflow from the new Guymon sewage treatment plant will add some flow to the North Canadian River, but will not cause Optima Lake to fill its conservation pool. Inflow from the sewage treatment plant is expected to be almost 1 billion gallons per year (4.24 cfs). This flow added to the existing flow of the river will still only make the North Canadian River an intermittent stream.

7.3.1 Flood Control.

With the very sporadic flows coming from the North Canadian River, the flood control will continue to be an unused feature of this project. The Ogallala aquifer will continue to use the rainfall of the area for recharge and runoff to Optima will be little to none. Land use changes in the area which occurred after the completion of the project and throughout its life will remain the same in the future and well pumping will continue. Flood control benefits will continue to be very minimal and not approach the projected \$600,000 per year estimated in the 1970s.

7.3.2 Water Supply.

The water supply feature will not be realized either because the minimal runoff from the river and surrounding area will not be enough to fill the conservation pool. There will continue to be no benefits for water supply. Local municipalities which signed up for water supplied from Optima will continue to not be able to obtain any water. Other water alternatives for these communities will have to continue to be used in the absence of water from the lake.

7.3.3 Recreation.

The intended recreation at this project has never materialized. The boat ramps have never had water on them and will not in the future. The conservation pool will not retain water; therefore, boating, fishing and camping will not approach full use. The visitors expected and predicted of 600,000 yearly by 2014 will not be attained and future visitation will be very low. The approximate 6,000 visitors that have annually come to Optima will roughly be the continued visitors for the project in the future. Some increase in visitation could occur if the project is marketed more for non-water based recreation. The city of Guymon will continue to hold dog trials and some visitors from Oklahoma and surrounding states will continue to come and camp, picnic, hunt, and bird watch. The recreational usage of this project will continue to be extremely low without a full conservation pool. Recreational benefits at the project will be low.

7.3.4 Fish and Wildlife.

The fish and wildlife expected by the creation of this project has been lower than planned for because of the lack of a lake. The fish and wildlife benefits in the Federal wildlife management refuge and the state game management area will continue to have benefits for the area. The wildlife areas will be an important stop over for migrating birds. Wildlife will continue to enjoy the wildlife areas. Individuals involved in birding or other wildlife activities will benefit from the wildlife areas. The intended Optima Lake area will be less attractive to fish and wildlife because of the lack of water.

7.3.5 Project Operations.

The total operation of this project will not likely occur in its lifetime. The runoff from the drainage area has never been enough to sustain a lake. The personnel needed (1 project manager, 1 administrative assistant, 4 maintenance workers 2 full time and 2 seasonal), 1 park ranger and 1 park technician) for this project will continue to not be needed in the future. This project will continue to be overseen by personnel from the Canton and Fort Supply project offices. The operating conditions of this project are not expected to change. The budget for the operation and maintenance of this project will continue to approximately \$160,000 per year. This cost does not allow for inflation.

7.3.6 Project Structures.

The project structures (gate tower, stilling basin, uncontrolled spillway and outlet works) should remain in good condition for the near future. The flood control structures will continue to be inspected on a yearly and periodic (5 years) basis. The repairs needed to the structures will be prioritized with the other Tulsa District's lakes repair needs and fixed accordingly. The District's operations budget for repair of flood control structures at the lakes is very limited. Projects with the most usage or critical repairs will be given priority over projects less used or with less critical repairs.

The road and across the dam will remain gated and locked. Emergency vehicles will have keys for the locks and be able to respond to emergencies. The public would like to see the road reopen, but without future Federal funding and a local sponsor to repair the guardrail and road this will not occur.

7.4 Alternative Formulation.

All potential alternatives have to be evaluated against the "No Action Plan". The "No Action Plan" is the future condition of the project without any changes to its physical or environmental features. The "No Action Plan" would be the following:

The Corps would maintain the existing Corps lands (park areas are not a part of this), flood control structures and road across dam. The future maintenance of the road will be the inspection of the gates and locks only. The Corps will

continue to inspect the flood control structures on a yearly basis with every 5th year being a periodic (more detailed inspection). The park areas would remain open to the public, but not maintained by the Corps. The roads to the park areas would continue to be accessible to the public. The remaining picnic tables would be open to the public in an “as is” condition. The future budget to minimally maintain the Corps flood control structures with the inspections would cost approximately \$160,000 in the near future with some inflation figured in for the distant future.

Any of the potential measures or alternatives formulated for Optima that contain either land transfer or sales would require either Congressional legislation or would have to first be declared excess by the Corps and the Department of Defense. Then, the lands would have to be offered to the General Services Administration for disposal and would have to follow the guidance provided in the Public Buildings, Property and Works Act of 2002, as amended. Also the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requirements would also have to be followed which requires an Environmental Impact Statement for the project site.

7.4.1 Potential Measures.

All alternatives begin by determining different measures which may be taken as a solution to the problem under study. A measure may become an alternative by itself or may be combined with another measure or several measures to become an alternative.

Several measures for modification of the authorized project which can stand alone as alternatives or be combined into alternatives for implementation are listed below and are compared and evaluated against the “No Action Plan” and each other in the following sections.

These measures offer possible solutions for Optima Lake. In this initial appraisal study the measures are just listed without a lot of detail. The cost estimated for some measures are only relative costs and more detailed costs would be developed in future studies. The costs for most measures are estimated at minimal, low, medium and high which is due to lack of detail at this study stage. The measures’ description will be developed in greater detail in future study efforts. Several of these initial study measures do meet with favorable public opinion, but if they will be feasible is yet to be determined. The measures considered for this initial appraisal study are:

- **Measure #1.** Pipe inflow of the new Guymon sewage treatment plant directly to Optima Lake (approximately 17 miles). Based on costs estimated for a similar pipeline (water conveyance) project, the costs for the pipeline, associated structures, easements and other miscellaneous activities would be approximately \$30 million.

- **Measure #2.** Transfer Corps lands currently licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (8062 acres) to them. Estimated costs for this alternative would be very minimal.
- **Measure #3.** Transfer Corps lands currently licensed to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (4334 acres) to them. Estimated costs for this alternative would be very minimal.
- **Measure #4.** Transfer a portion of Corps lands to the city of Guymon. The acreage would be determined by negotiations between the city of Guymon and the Corps. Estimated costs for this alternative would be very minimal.
- **Measure #5.** Transfer a portion of Corps lands to Texas County. The acreage would be determined by negotiations between the Texas County and the Corps. Estimated costs for this alternative would be very minimal.
- **Measure #6.** Allow the state of Oklahoma to lease the road across the dam and re-open it to through traffic. The state would release the Corps of any liability for the road. Estimated costs would be low.
- **Measure #7.** Sell all Corps project lands to the original landowners. This would include lands currently licensed to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The estimated costs for this alternative would be placed at high because of the cost to perform an Environment Impact Statement for all the acres to be sold, the cultural resources study (archaeology) and mitigation, and the cost incurred for all of the real estate transactions.
- **Measure #8.** Auction all Corps project lands to the highest bidders in increments to be determined at a later time in the study process. This would include lands currently licensed to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The cost estimated costs for this alternative be placed at high because of the cost to perform an Environment Impact Statement for all the acres to be sold, the cultural resources study (archaeology) and mitigation, and the cost incurred for all of the real estate transactions.

- **Measure #9.** Demolish dam and appurtenant structures. Construct a new road and bridge over the North Canadian River. Lease the road and bridge to either Texas County or the state of Oklahoma. Texas County or the state of Oklahoma will assume all liability and maintenance for the road and bridge. This alternative would be extremely expensive because of the magnitude of work.
- **Measure #10.** The Corps will re-open parks (Hardesty, Hooker, Prairie Point, Overlook and Angler) and will operate and maintain these parks for non-water based recreational activities. Cost could be moderate for this alternative.
- **Measure #11.** Sell or transfer park areas to the Oklahoma Department Tourism and Recreation. This area would then become a state park for camping and hunting much like other state parks across the state. The cost for this estimate would probably be moderate.
- **Measure #12.** De-authorize the project. The dam and road and all the appurtenant structures for the project would be demolished and the area would be returned as close as possible to its pre-project conditions
- **Measure #13.** Park areas will be leased by local groups and volunteers. Cost for this alternative should low. Details will be developed in future studies of how local organizations could lease this land.

This list of potential measures is not an all inclusive list of measures. Other potential measures may be added during the course of future studies. Several other potential measures were discussed initially for consideration in the potential measures, but were deleted by using professional judgment. Some of these measures were making the dam a toll road; imposing a tax (sales or property) to help pay for project property upkeep; limit the pumping of the Ogallala Aquifer and add a tax on well pumping.

7.4.2 Comparison and Evaluation of Measures.

All of the measures previously listed and the “No Action Plan” were compared and evaluated by criteria that were specifically picked for this initial appraisal. The criteria is not all inclusive of rating or ranking criteria for measures, but was an attempt to see if any measure definitely is more predominate than the others. The criteria used for this comparison was relative cost, public acceptance, environmental impacts, possible Federal interest and potential local sponsor. The rankings are very subjective based on the little information that is available for this initial appraisal phase. Table 3 shows the results of the measure comparisons for the initial appraisal.

This table is very subjective and the criteria were only picked at random, but it was an attempt to compare the “No Action Plan” and the measures. Based on very limited knowledge of the measures, it is unlikely at this initial appraisal phase that any measures could be eliminated. Some of these measures at this stage may have Federal interest, be feasible and potentially could have a local sponsor. A more detailed study would be needed to determine this.

Table 3 – Comparison of Measures

Alternative	Relative Cost*	Public Acceptability**	Environmental Impacts***	Possible Federal Interest****	Potential for Local Sponsor*****	Total Rating
No Action Plan	\$160,000 (5)	1	5	3	1	15
Measure #1	\$30,000,000 (1)	1	3	1	1	7
Measure #2	5	3	5	3	4	20
Measure #3	5	3	5	3	4	20
Measure #4	5	2	5	3	3	18
Measure #5	5	2	5	3	3	18
Measure #6	4	2	4	2	2	14
Measure #7	1	5	1	2	2	11
Measure #8	1	1	1	2	2	7
Measure #9	1	1	3	1	1	7
Measure #10	3	3	5	2	3	16
Measure #11	1	2	5	3	2	13
Measure #12	2	1	1	2	2	8
Measure #13	3	1	3	2	2	11

All criteria are rated 1 to 5.

* - Relative Cost: 1 is a high cost and 5 is a low cost.

** - Public Acceptability: 1 is low and 5 is high.

*** - Environmental Impacts: 1 is high envr impacts and 5 is low envr impacts.

**** - Possible Federal Interest: 1 is low and 5 is high.

***** - Potential for Local Sponsor: 1 is low and 5 is high.

The next step of this initial appraisal is to determine alternatives which could be proposed from the measures that would be possible solutions to the problem or problems under study. The next several sections of this initial appraisal report describe, compare and evaluate the proposed alternatives.

7.4.3 Potential Alternatives.

The following potential alternatives were developed from the potential measures.

- **Alternative #1.** This alternative will use Measure #1 as a proposed solution to the problem under study. This alternative will use the effluent from the new Guymon wastewater treatment plant and pipe it to Optima Lake. The piping distance is approximately 17 miles and costs for this alternative will be extremely high (comparison of other piping projects within the District). If water from the pipeline remains in the lake and does not infiltrate to the Ogallala Aquifer, then positive benefits for water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife may be realized.
- **Alternative #2.** This alternative will be the combination of Measures #2 and 3. Land currently licensed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be transferred to them. The Corps will continue to maintain the dam and appurtenant structures. Costs for this alternative should be minimal.
- **Alternative #3.** This alternative is a combination of Measures 2, 3 and 12. This alternative will be the same as Alternative #2, but the dam and all appurtenant structures will be de-authorized. The costs associated with this alternative are expected to be high because of the demolition involved with the dam and appurtenant structures.
- **Alternative #4.** This alternative will be a combination of Measures #2, 3, 4, 5 and 12. This alternative would transfer most of the lands currently licensed to the ODWC and USF&WS to them. Some the Optima project lands would be selected and offered to be transferred to the city of Guymon and Texas County, Oklahoma. These lands transferred to Guymon and Texas County will give each of them areas to use for recreation. The city of Guymon in the past has used some of the park areas for dog trials. With this alternate, Guymon will continue to have a place for the dog trials which has a yearly impact on the local economy. The alternative would still have a high cost for implementation because the dam and appurtenant structures would be de-authorized and demolished.
- **Alternative #5.** This alternative will be a combination of Measures #2, 3, 7 and 8. This alternative would transfer most of the lands currently licensed to the ODWC and USF&WS to them. Some of Optima project lands would be selected to sell to the original landowners or their heirs and some project lands would be selected for sale to the general public. Details for the land sale of Federal property would have to follow the first right of refusal protocol set up for any sale of Federal property. The dam and appurtenant structures will continue to be managed by the Corps.

Costs associated with this alternative are expected to be extremely high because of the costs associated with the performance of environmental impact statement which is required by the National Environmental Policy Act before land can be sold.

The potential alternatives developed for this initial appraisal did not use all of the measures previously discussed. There are other alternatives which could be proposed for this initial appraisal, but due to the limited detail information available and using professional judgment only 5 potential alternatives were proposed.

7.4.4 Comparison and Evaluation of Alternatives.

The 5 potential alternatives were compared and evaluated against the “No Action” plan previously discussed and against each other.

The criteria used to compared and evaluated the “No Action Plan and the 5 potential alternatives was the same criteria that was used for the measures. Once again, the criteria is not all inclusive of rating or ranking criteria for alternatives, but was an attempt to see if any alternative definitely is more predominate than the others. The criteria used for this comparison was relative cost, public acceptance, environmental impacts, possible Federal interest and potential local sponsor. The rankings are very subjective based on the little information that is available for this initial appraisal phase. Table 4 shows the results of the alternative comparisons for the initial appraisal.

Table 4 – Comparison of Alternatives

Alternative	Relative Cost*	Public Acceptability**	Environmental Impacts***	Possible Federal Interest****	Potential for Local Sponsor*****	Total Rating
No Action Plan	\$160,000 (5)	1	5	3	1	15
Alternative #1	\$30,000,000 (1)	1	3	1	1	7
Alternative #2	5	3	5	3	4	20
Alternative #3	4	2	4	3	3	16
Alternative #4	4	2	4	3	3	16
Alternative #5	3	3	3	3	3	15

All criteria are rated 1 to 5.

* - Relative Cost: 1 is a high cost and 5 is a low cost.

** - Public Acceptability: 1 is low and 5 is high.

*** - Environmental Impacts: 1 is high envr impacts and 5 is low envr impacts.

**** - Possible Federal Interest: 1 is low and 5 is high.

***** - Potential for Local Sponsor: 1 is low and 5 is high.

This table is very subjective and the criteria were only picked at random, but it was an attempt to compare the “No Action Plan” and the alternatives. Based on very limited knowledge of the alternatives, it is unlikely at this initial appraisal phase that any alternative should be eliminated. Some of these alternatives, at this stage, may have Federal interest, be feasible and potentially could have a local sponsor. A more detailed study would be needed to determine this.

7.4.5 Selection of Alternatives for Further Development.

At the level of detail that is offered by this initial appraisal phase, it cannot be determined which alternatives should be chosen for further development or eliminated. Therefore all alternatives should be further studied to determine if any will meet the criteria for having a Federal interest, be feasible and have a sponsor willing to support them. The thought is that at least one of the alternatives will meet all of the factors just listed and be the recommended alternative, but this cannot be determined without further study.

8.0 FEDERAL INTEREST.

The Federal interest for this project cannot be fully determined at this stage of the study process.

9.0 PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL ANALYSIS.

A preliminary financial analysis will be conducted after a local sponsor is determined.

10.0 SUMMARY OF RECONNAISSANCE STUDY ASSUMPTIONS.

The main assumption for the reconnaissance study is, if recommended, Federal funding for the study will be available for fiscal year 2011.

11.0 RECONNAISSANCE STUDY MILESTONE.

The reconnaissance study milestone is the completion of a 905(b) report by October 2011. The milestone is based on a recommendation for a reconnaissance phase study and the total Federal funding of the reconnaissance study in fiscal year 2011.

12.0 RECONNAISSANCE PHASE COST ESTIMATE.

The estimated cost of the reconnaissance study will be \$100,000.

13.0 POTENTIAL ISSUES EFFECTING INITIATION OF RECONNAISSANCE PHASE.

The main issue affecting the initiation of the reconnaissance study is the availability of Federal funds for the study.

14.0 VIEWS OF OTHER RESOURCE AGENCIES.

The views of other resource agencies for this initial appraisal at this time are hard to assess like the potential alternatives are. If this project proceeds to the reconnaissance phase, more communication and interaction with other agencies will occur and their views will be better known. During the initial appraisal process, there were not any negative comments received on the initial appraisal from resource agencies.

15.0 CONCLUSIONS.

The benefits for which the Optima Lake project was designed and constructed have not been fully realized because of changes in the upstream hydrology which reduced flows into the lake. The lake has never filled to its designed conservation pool capacity. It is unlikely that future conditions upstream of Optima Lake will change so significantly as to allow Optima to provide the benefits for which it was designed and constructed. Although the flood risk management benefits provided by the project have been minimal and the water supply benefits have never been realized, the lands acquired for Optima Lake have been effectively managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and public access to those lands is seen as a critical need by local stakeholders. This Initial Appraisal identified a number of alternatives for consideration in future studies, however, it is inconclusive at this time as to what the best plan of action is for the project. Further analysis is needed to develop the potential alternatives and to determine the best plan for this project.

16.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.

The purpose of the Initial Appraisal is to determine whether a reconnaissance study should be recommended. Based on the findings of this Initial Appraisal, the changes in physical, economic, and environmental conditions, it is recommended that a reconnaissance study be conducted at Optima Lake to meet the requirements of Section 905b of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The purpose of the reconnaissance (905b) report is to confirm Federal interest in a Feasibility study. The reconnaissance phase also includes development of a scope of studies, project management plan, a cost estimate for the Feasibility phase, identification of a non-Federal cost-share sponsor and preparation of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement. Based on the public involvement and coordination with state agencies conducted during the Initial Appraisal, it is very unlikely that a cost-share sponsor for a Feasibility study will be identified. Without the feasibility study, there will be no changes to the existing management of Optima Lake and the project lands. Federal funds will continue to be utilized for the operation and maintenance of features that do not serve the purposes for which they were originally designed. Federal policy allows for recommendation of a 100% Federally funded Feasibility study if the study may result in disposal of or reduce costs at existing Federal projects. While the ultimate outcome of the Feasibility study is unknown until the study is completed, it would identify the most effective approach for optimal management of Federal resources and property at Optima Lake. Alternatives to be considered would include identification of surplus Federal lands and, potentially, de-authorization of the project. If recommended and funded, the feasibility study would also identify the most effective use of Optima Lake, including the dam, appurtenant works, and project lands and would make a recommendation to the US Congress for authorization, if necessary.

17.0 REFERENCES.

Design Memorandum No. 3B, Master Plan, Optima Lake, North Canadian River, Oklahoma, dated 18 November 1975.

Operation and Maintenance Manual Volume I, Dam and Structures, Optima Lake, North Canadian River, Oklahoma, Original Edition - June 1983. Compiled by Breisch Engineering Company, Inc., Sand Springs, Oklahoma for Department of Army, Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma.

Final Environmental Assessment, Optima Lake Road Closure and Recreational Facility Demolition, Texas County, Oklahoma, U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, March 2010.

Optima Lake, North Canadian River, Oklahoma, Periodic Inspection Report No. 8, April 2008.

Guardrail Evaluation, Optima Lake, Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, 12 July 2001.

Appraisal Report, Optima Lake, North Canadian River, Oklahoma, Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, July 1991.

Effects of Regional Ground-Water Level Declines on Streamflow in the Oklahoma Panhandle., Kenneth L. Wahl and Tony L. Wahl, August 1988.

APPENDIX

**Section 216 Study
Initial Appraisal Study
Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Public involvement workshop**

Public Involvement Workshop Purpose: On Tuesday June 29th the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a public workshop at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon Oklahoma. The purpose of this workshop was to inform the public about the initiation of the Section 216 Study Initial Appraisal Study, Optima Lake, North Canadian River, Texas County Oklahoma being conducted by The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to enlist their input. Public involvement workshops allow the public to ask questions of Corps staff and make written comments about potential alternatives to the deauthorization of Optima Lake. The written comments will be implemented into the Initial Appraisal Report.

Public Notification and Participation: Prior to the workshop, the Tulsa District placed paid advertisements in the Hooker Advance, Hooker, Oklahoma. Paid advertisements were also placed in the Southwest Daily Times in Liberal Kansas and the Guymon Daily in Guymon Oklahoma. The ad in the Hooker Advance ran on June 17th and 24th 2010 announcing the June 29th workshop. The ad in the Southwest Daily Time and Guymon Daily ran on June 15th and 24th 2010 also announcing the June 29th workshop. Copies of the advertisements are attached (Attachment 1). The Tulsa District Public Affairs Office also sent a press release (Attachment 2) concerning the public involvement workshop to area media outlets and posted press release on the Tulsa District's website during the week of June 15th 2010 so that the workshop audience would be well informed of the upcoming events. The Tulsa District also mailed a public involvement workshop announcement (Attachment 3) regarding the public involvement workshop to local, State, and Federal agencies; and other potential stakeholders on the public involvement mailing list (Attachment 4). The workshop was set up in an open house format with table top displays located around the rooms showing different aspects of the study. There were four table top displays which covered: (1) Study Overview (2) Existing Conditions (3) Future Conditions and Potential Alternatives and (4) Study Process, and Public Involvement/Workshop Purpose. Corps' representatives were available at each workstation to discuss the study topics with the public. A welcome table was set up at the workshop entrance where a sign-in sheet (Attachment 5) was provided for record of attendance. Also, an informational brochure (Attachment 6) and comment forms (Attachment 7) along with pre-addressed postage-paid envelopes were available to the workshop attendees.

Attendees: The list of persons attending the public involvement workshop is shown by the completed sign-in sheets (Attachment 8). The lists are the people who signed in at the welcome table. The lists include interested citizens; City, County and State officials. A total of thirteen people signed the sign-in sheets and an additional couple of people attended the public involvement workshop who did not sign-in. Only one comment was received at the workshop, thirty were mailed in and we received thirteen emails. Five of the emails received were by citizens who also sent a written comment. Several of the

comment forms and self addressed envelopes were picked up at the workshop. The individual listed on the sign-in sheets who requested to be added to the mailing list were added. The new mailing list (Attachment 9) is included with this memorandum.

Issues Raised. Some very good discussions between individuals and Corps' representatives were held at each station. Many individuals were concerned with the road closure over the dam. Others expressed what could be done with the public lands. These comments ranged from keeping it open for public hunting even the dam is decommissioned to keeping the dam and operating it as is. The issue was raised of what would become of the land if they were decommissioned. What is the process of returning the land, would they return to the previous land owners, go to a local municipality or be operated by the state wildlife department. Copies of these written questions or comments received are provided (Attachment 10).The following is a summary of the issues raised by these comments.

- Many had ideas of where to better spend the maintenance dollars on recreation.
- Different variations of comments led to eighteen asking for it to be offered back to the original land owners and fourteen feeling it needed to remain public
- Of the fourteen comments for the land to remain public seven suggested leaving the dam operational for flood control, and seven suggested give to wildlife agencies.
- One comment for keeping the lake extended to running a pipe from Guymon for waste water.

Summary of Attachments

1. Newspaper Advertisement
2. Press Release
3. Public Involvement Workshop Announcement
4. Public Involvement Workshop Mailing List
5. Public Involvement Workshop Sign-in Sheet
6. Public Involvement Workshop Informational Brochure
7. Public Involvement Workshop Comment Form
8. Public Involvement Workshop Completed Sign-in Sheet
9. Public Involvement Workshop Updated Mailing List
10. Public Involvement Workshop Comments Received

Attachment 1

Newspaper Advertisements

Hooker Advance

Date ran: June 17th & 24th, 2009

Proof of Publication

THE HOOKER ADVANCE

108 W. Glaydas, P.O. Box 367, Hooker, OK 73945 -- 580-652-2476

IN THE _____ COURT OF
TEXAS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP

OPTIMA LAKE

Case No. _____

STATE OF OKLAHOMA SS:
COUNTY OF TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

I, Sheila Blankenship, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says: That I am the Publisher and Editor of The Hooker Advance, a weekly newspaper printed and published in the City of Hooker, County of Texas, and State of Oklahoma, and that the notice above referred to, a true and printed copy of which is here unto attached, was published in said newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates to-wit:

Thursdays, June 17th & 24th, 2010

That said newspaper has been published continuously and uninterruptedly in said county during a period of one-hundred and four consecutive weeks prior to the publication of the attached notice or advertisement; that it has been admitted to the United States mail as periodical mail matter, that it has a general paid circulation, and publishes news of general interest, and otherwise conforms with all of the statutes of the state of Oklahoma governing legal publications.

Measurement 2col x 6"

Publication Fee 45.00 + 45.00 = \$90.00

Sheila Blankenship
Publisher

SUBSCRIBED and sworn to before me this 24th
day of June, 2010

Billy Fischer #02020348
Notary Public

My commission expires January 13, 2011

~Announcing~
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP
as related to the
Optima Lake, Texas County, Oklahoma
Initial Appraisal Study
conducted under
Section 216 of the Rivers and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970
Workshop

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public workshop in inform, receive comments and answer questions about the initiation of the Optima Lake Initial Appraisal Study.

The workshop will be an open house format, with no set or formal presentation. Interested persons may arrive any time between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., visit the information tables, discuss the study with Corps personnel and make comments. Comments gathered will be considered in the Initial Appraisal report. The workshop will be held at the following location:

Texas County Activity Center
5th and Sunset Lane
Guymon, OK
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
Any time between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Initial Appraisal Study Process

The Corps of Engineers has authority under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 to review the operation of completed Corps of Engineers projects when found advisable due to significantly changed physical or economic conditions. The review will result in the completion of an Initial Appraisal report which will be submitted to Congress and will include a discussion of alternative measures which could be implemented at the project. Measures will include a broad range of alternatives, including changes in the way the project lands are managed and deauthorization of the project. If warranted, the report will recommend that a reconnaissance study be conducted and funds will be requested through the Corps of Engineers normal budgeting process. A reconnaissance study is the next step in the process required to modify the structures or operation of the project. Comments and questions can be forwarded to:

Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
1645 S. 101st East Avenue ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

Guymon Daily

Date Ran: June 15th & 24th, 2009

**~Announcing~
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP**

as related to the
Optima Lake, Texas County, Oklahoma
Initial Appraisal Study

conducted under
Section 216 of the Rivers and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970
Workshop

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public workshop to inform, receive comments and answer questions from the public about the initiation of the Optima Lake Initial Appraisal Study. The workshop will be an open house format, with no set or formal presentation. Interested persons may arrive any time between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., visit the information tables, discuss the study with Corps personnel and make comments. Comments gathered will be considered in the Initial Appraisal report. The workshop will be held at the following location:

**Texas County Activity Center
5th and Sunset Lane
Guymon, OK**

**Tuesday, June 29, 2010
Any time between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
Initial Appraisal Study Process**

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16

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16

Southwest Daily Times

Date Ran: June 15th & 24th, 2009

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versity in Oxford, Georgia, to the honor list.
for the 2010 spring semester.

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Cowboys & Marshall Tucker Band.
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July 9-10, Yates Center
Fireworks, Entertainment, Bike, Car &
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Sunflower State Games
July 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, Topeka
Statewide amateur sports festival featur-
ing a variety of athletic competition for
ages young, old and in between.
(785) 235-2295, sunflowergames.com

Pinks All Out Racing
July 16-17, Topeka
SPEED channel program PINKS All Out
returns to Heartland Park. 2 days of
on-track activity. Two time trial sessions
and more!
Visit hpt.com for race times & ticket
prices.

**Mid-America All-Indian
Center Annual PowWow**
July 31-August 1, Wichita
39th Annual MAAIC PowWow features
Native American ceremonies and dances.
(316) 950-3340, theindiancenter.org

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~Announcing~

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP
as related to the
Optima Lake, Texas County, Oklahoma
Initial Appraisal Study
conducted under

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e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

↑ 6/23

Attachment 2

Press Release



NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TULSA DISTRICT**

BUILDING STRONG®

Release No. 24
For Immediate Release:
June 15, 2010

Contact:
Ross Adkins, 918-669-7365
Ross.adkins@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts public information workshop to discuss Optima Lake Initial Appraisal Study

TULSA – The Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will host a public information workshop Tuesday, June 29, 2010, to inform, receive comments, and answer questions from the public about the Optima Lake, Texas County, Oklahoma, Initial Appraisal Study. The Initial Appraisal Study will evaluate the physical and economic conditions at the Optima Lake project looking for significant changes.

The workshop will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Texas County Activity Center, Fifth and Sunset Lane, in Guymon, Okla. The workshop will be an open-house format with no formal presentations. Interested parties are invited to visit information tables and discuss the Initial Appraisal Study with Corps of Engineers personnel.

This Corps of Engineers Initial Appraisal study will review the operation of the Optima Lake project which was constructed by the Corps for the purposes of flood control, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife. The purpose of the Initial Appraisal Study is to determine whether there have been changes in the physical or economic conditions at the project since its completion sufficient to warrant modifications to the project structures or operating procedures. The Initial Appraisal Study findings will be submitted to Congress and will include a discussion of alternative measures which could be implemented at the project. Measures will include a broad range of alternatives, including changes in the way the project lands are managed and deauthorization of the project. If warranted, the Initial Appraisal Report will recommend that a reconnaissance study be conducted and funds will be requested through the Corps of Engineers normal budgeting process. A reconnaissance study is the next step in the process required to modify the structures or operation of the project.

This Initial Appraisal Study is conducted under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as amended. This Initial Appraisal Study is 100 percent funded by the federal government and is scheduled for completion in late 2010.

Comments received during the workshop will be used to help develop the Initial Appraisal Report. Representatives from the Corps' Tulsa District office will be available to answer questions and listen to those who attend.

Attachment 3

Public Involvement Workshop Announcement

~Announcing~

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP

as related to the

**Optima Lake, Texas County, Oklahoma
Initial Appraisal Study**

conducted under

Section 216 of the Rivers and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970

Workshop

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**Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
1645 S. 101st East Avenue ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil**

Attachment 4

Public Involvement Workshop Mailing List

Attachment 5

Public Involvement Workshop Sign-in Sheet



Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Guymon, Oklahoma, Public Workshop Sign-In Sheet
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., 29 June 2010

Please place your name address and affiliation on the space provided below. All information is voluntary and will be used only for the purposes of keeping interested parties informed about this project. **Please PRINT all of your information.**

Name and Address	Affiliation	Email Address	Mailing List	
			Yes	No

Attachment 6

Public Involvement Workshop

Informational Brochure

The park roads will remain open to the public, but the remaining park facilities conditions will continue to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance. The parks will likely continue to have less than expected visitation.



Unsafe Picnic Structure

The project facilities (dam, outlet works and uncontrolled spillway) will remain in good working condition since the project is not being operated as authorized.

The road across the top of the dam will be closed and only be available to emergency vehicle traffic.

Problems and Opportunities – Some of the problems and opportunities at the project include: unrealized flood control benefits, water supply from the project is unavailable, visitors to the lake are less than expected, boating is unusable, road across dam is unsafe, land use of the surrounding area has changed and budget does not allow for maintenance of the park areas.

Potential Alternatives - Alternatives may include:

- a. *Pipe effluent from new Guymon wastewater treatment plant to supply water for Optima*
- b. *Lease Corps lands to city, county, state or other Federal agency*
- c. *Corps continues to maintain dam, outlet works, emergency spillway and park areas*
- d. *Corps lands are sold to the public*

- e. *Congress deauthorizes project and decommissions the structures*



Dry Optima Lake

Public Workshop - The public workshop is a method of soliciting suggestions, comments, and questions about the Initial Appraisal study. The Corps sponsors public workshops to keep the public informed about the Initial Appraisal study and to gather valuable input from concerned citizens. Notices about the June 29, 2010 public workshop were published in local papers, sent to news media and mailed to individuals on the mailing list.

We want and encourage your questions and comments at this time.



U.S. Army, Tulsa District, PE-P

Attn: Rick Thomas
1645 S. 101st East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74128
918-669-7022

Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

Dated: June 2010



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Tulsa District

Optima Lake North Canadian River Texas County, Oklahoma Section 216 Initial Appraisal Study



**Tulsa District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Public Workshop**

**Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216
Initial Appraisal Study
Public Workshop**

Initial Appraisal Study Background – This Initial Appraisal Study is authorized by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as amended. This study will review the operation of Optima Lake in the interest of its authorized purposes: flood control, water supply, recreation and fish and wildlife. The study will determine if any physical or economic conditions have changed since completion of the project. The Corps of Engineers will complete an Initial Appraisal report and submit it to Congress. The Initial Appraisal report will include a broad array of potential alternatives which could be implemented at Optima. The potential alternatives will include changes in the way project lands are managed and deauthorization of the project. Funding for this Initial Appraisal study is part of the Tulsa District's operation and maintenance budget for fiscal year 2010. This Initial Appraisal study is 100 percent Federally funded. The Initial Appraisal Study will be completed in September 2010.

The study area for the Initial Appraisal study includes all Corps of Engineers' lands and structures (dam, outlet works, lake, stilling basin, uncontrolled spillway and park lands) associated with the Optima project.



Outlet Works and Gate Tower

The Initial Appraisal will determine the need for conducting or not conducting further studies (reconnaissance and feasibility) at Optima.

If recommended and funded, the reconnaissance study would identify and evaluate potential alternatives and would identify non-Federal feasibility study sponsors for the feasibility study. The reconnaissance study is 100 percent Federally funded and is usually completed in 1 year.

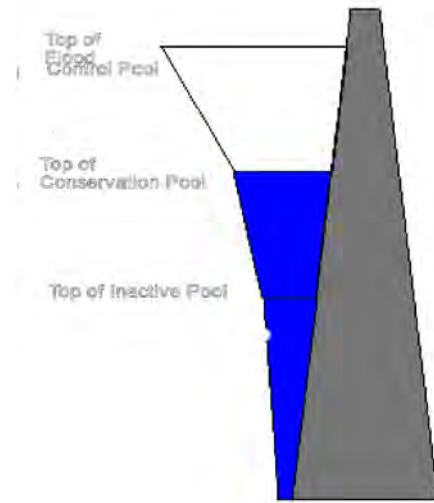
If the feasibility study is recommended and funded, alternatives will be evaluated in detail and if findings warrant, make a recommendation to Congress regarding operational changes to Optima. The feasibility study would be cost shared 50/50 by the Federal government and a non-Federal study sponsor. The time allotted for the completion of the feasibility study is about 3 years.

Authorized Project Overview - The Optima project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1936 and amended by the Flood Control Act of 1950. The project purposes are for flood control, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Construction began on the project March 1966 and was completed in October 1978. This project has a total of 13,734 acres of which 1,270 acres are for project operations, 68 acres are for recreation and 12,396 acres are for fish and wildlife.

The dam is a 16,900 foot rolled earth-filled embankment with a maximum height of 120 feet. The project has a 1500 foot uncontrolled spillway, 229, 500 acre-feet of storage for flood control, 117,500 acre-feet for the conservation pool (normal lake area) of which 76,200 acre-feet are for water supply and 5 recreation areas (parks).



Guardrail Post



Dam and Pool Schematic

Existing Conditions at Optima – The Flood Control Pool is currently empty. This pool has never filled during the life of this project. The Conservation Pool is also currently empty and has never filled. The water supply feature has never been used. The Inactive Pool contains some water, but is not full.

The parks have been officially closed since 1995. The park roads remain open to the public, but a majority of the structures are rundown and scheduled for demolition this summer. The parks have never had as many visitors as was expected during the planning of Optima.

The project facilities (dam, outlet works and uncontrolled spillway are in good working condition).

The road and guardrail across the top of the dam are in need of repair. The road is currently scheduled for closure later this summer.

Future Conditions at Optima – Future rainfall and runoff upstream of the dam are not expected to change significantly and the budget to operate Optima is not expected to increase. The Flood Control Pool and Conservation Pool will likely continue to be empty. The Inactive Pool will continue to contain some water.

Attachment 7

Public Involvement Workshop

Comment form

Attachment 8

Public Involvement Workshops

Completed Sign-in Sheet

Attachment 9

Public Involvement Workshop

Updated Mailing List

Attachment 10
Public Involvement Workshop
Comments Received



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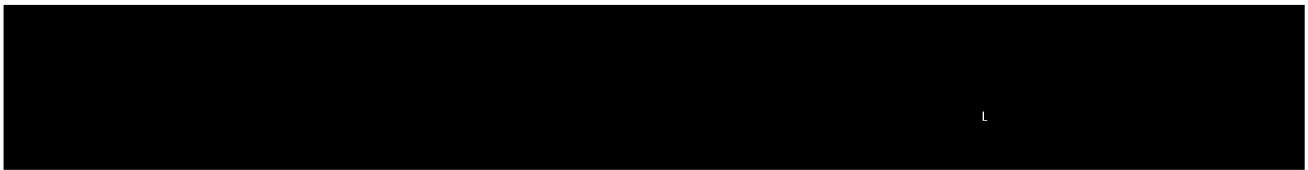
**Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Public Workshop
Guymon, Oklahoma
Question, Comments, or Suggestions**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 June 2010

The Corps of Engineers is interested in addressing your concerns and questions regarding this study. The Corps encourages suggestions as well. Your input is an important part of the Corps study process. Please write your question, comment, or suggestion in the space provided below. Feel free to use the back of this form or add pages if needed. You may also take this form with you and return it to the address below.

Don't install gates - use money to maintain parks
Fix angler point park - refund them
~~DDWC~~ - need to sell to ~~DDWC~~ DDWC to enhance wildlife area
LISTEN TO US & LET TX CO RESIDENTS MAINTAIN ANGLER PARK
~~DDWC~~ LOOK INTO NON WATER BASED RECREATION, HUNTING
 CAMPING, ETC.
PARKS NEED TO BE OPENED & GOOD SIGNS, IT WILL FILL UP
OFFER PARKS TO OKLAHOMA PARKS DEPT
IF DECOMMISSIONED LET WILDLIFE DEPT & WILDLIFE FISHERY WILDLIFE PURCHASE LAND
NOT !!! ORIGINAL LAND OWNERS!!!!!!!
GUYMON HAS A PERMIT FOR 3 MIL GAL A DAY TREATED WATER TO GO INTO BEAVER RIVER
USE FUNDS TO HELP INSTALL PIPE TO LAKE AND USE WILL BE AS INTENDED

Optional Information:



Point of Contact:

Mr. Rick Thomas

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District

ATTN: CESWT-PE-P

1645 S. 101st East Avenue

Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022

e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

OPTIMA LAKE
NORTH CANADIAN RIVER
TEXAS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
SECTION 216, INITIAL APPRAISAL STUDY

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR SUGGESTIONS:

A number of years ago, I visited Optima Lake and was shocked to find that the picnic areas had been reduced to piles of rubble. It was such a waste of the investment made in the project. Visitors that may have used the facilities were probably turned off by what they saw and did not return to the Lake. I know I was. I always wondered what suit made that decision.

When I was growing up, water ran in the Beaver River almost year round. I saw many times when the Beaver was over its banks due to heavy rains. I drove over the Coldwater Creek many times when the water was over its banks, as well. It seems like the minute the project was completed and the gates were closed, the rains stopped. The rivers seldom run; we don't seem to have the gully washers like we used to, and so Optima Lake is virtually dry.

That doesn't mean Optima Lake is useless. It has a lot of potential for recreational use, as well as floodwater protection. We will get the rains again. The project is currently used for hunting. There is the potential for 4-wheeler use, mountain bike trails, bird watching, hiking, camping, nature activities, off-road motorcycling, etc. This area has an economic impact to this area, and that impact could be much greater with the proper use of this resource. I know that we, as users and potential users, will have to physically develop some of these assets, e.g. mountain bike trails and 4-wheeler trails, in order to have these assets available.

I drove over to Optima Lake a couple of years ago to visit the camping area below the dam as a possible camping area for the Goodwell Boy Scouts, of which I am the Scoutmaster. I was again shocked to see how that once beautiful camping area had been reduced to weeds, with the camping areas and roadway taken over by the weeds. I haven't been back.

You see, you guys have told me I'm not welcome at Optima Lake. The first time I was told I wasn't welcome was when I saw the piles of rubbish from the demolition of the picnic areas. I was told later that I wasn't welcome by the deterioration of the campground below the dam, a campground that was used frequently by campers in the past. You have also told each and every visitor to Optima Lake that they are not welcome.

Something needs to be done with Optima Lake. I agree that we can't keep spending money on a dry lake. However, I don't see where you are spending any of the money that is allocated to the lake. I don't see any maintenance, much less improvements. Let's not spend money on a dry lake, let's spend money on Optima Lake as recreational and economic development vehicles for this area, as well as flood control for when the rains do come.

Page 2.

This is what I believe needs to be done with Optima Lake:

Retain the dam as a flood control device for when the rains do come.

Repair and properly maintain the road and guard rails over the dam. This is a must for access to the area for emergency purposes, to aid in the efficient movement of farm and ranch vehicles, and other vehicles from job site to job site. It will also encourage use of the area for recreational use.

Repair and/or replace the existing picnic areas to encourage use of the area.

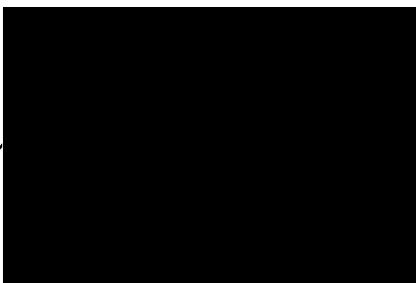
Help us develop guidelines for the development of different recreational opportunities such as mountain bike trails, ATV trail, hiking trails, etc. Help us with funding of the projects, where practicable.

One thing I believe should happen is the land that the original landowners were forced to give up to build Optima Lake should be sold back to the original landowners and, if they are deceased, then to their heirs. I am not talking about land that was voluntarily sold to the government for the project. This was sold by choice, not by force. I understand this will take some of the land out of the project and will reduce the size of the available hunting area. I believe that this impact will be negligible on the hunting benefits to the public. I am not a farmer or a rancher, but I have seen some of this land and I can readily tell it is not being efficiently used. Please understand that I have no economic or other interest in this land. None of my family has any land in this area so I will receive absolutely no benefit from this decision. I just believe it is the right thing to do.

I understand that you have put much study into the possible uses of Optima Lake. However, you are looking at this from afar. If you lived in this area, you would likely look at it for its true value. We have few recreational choices close by and this area could be developed for additional recreational uses. This will in turn improve our quality of lives by giving us more recreational opportunities. These increased recreational opportunities will attract other people from other areas and other states to our area, which will bring more money into our communities. My boys take their 4-wheelers out of state to ride them, taking their money to Texas with them. Let us work together to build opportunities for people to come here to spend their time and money.

Should you continue to demolish the facilities at Optima Lake, please do not bury the debris at Optima Lake. Please transport them to a suitable location for their recycling and/or disposal.

Thank you for listening to me on this matter.



Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Public Workshop
Guymon, Oklahoma
Question, Comments, or Suggestions
6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 June 2010

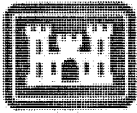
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Dr. Mr. Thomas,

While I am not a resident of Oklahoma, I am one of Texas - which is pretty close. It really doesn't matter though - the point is; My husband and I are very sad that the government is taking over too much of everything. This is America and that means a place - a country where people have a voice. Not just a voice though - we can and should be heard by the public. This country has an educated public who have rights to decide about what happens to their public lands. We all enjoy the lake and lands - and the people of Oklahoma should make the decisions about Optima Lake.

Optional Information:

Point of Contact:
Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
1645 S. 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

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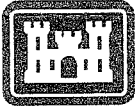
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Please leave Optima open to public use. There is very little public quail hunting available in the parklands and Optima is one of those places. I spend a lot of time hunting there and spend money in the town of Guymon as a result of my travels there to hunt.

Optional Information:



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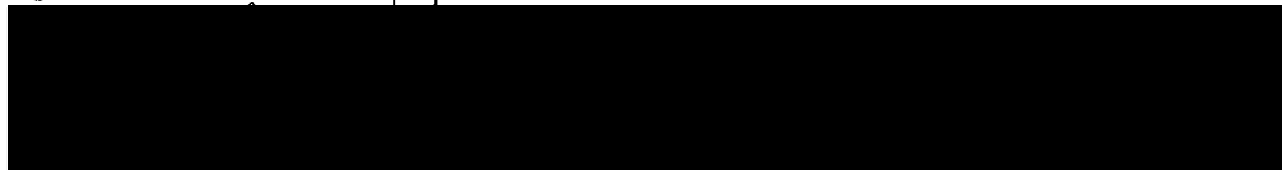
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MR THOMAS - AS A FORMER LAND OWNER, I REQUEST THAT THE
OPTIMA LAND'S BE OFFERED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL LAND OWNERS -

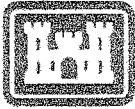
Sincerely,



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US Army Corps
of Engineers

Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Public Workshop
Guymon, Oklahoma
Question, Comments, or Suggestions

6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 June 2010

The Corps of Engineers is interested in addressing your concerns and questions regarding this study. The Corps encourages suggestions as well. Your input is an important part of the Corps study process. Please write your question, comment, or suggestion in the space provided below. Feel free to use the back of this form or add pages if needed. You may also take this form with you and return it to the address below.

I Live North of Optima Dam, since it
has been built, why do away with it?
My company has wells in the area & we
have pipelines there also. If you close it,
we will have to drive a lot further in case of
an emergency or to operate our facilities.
My main concern is fire, we have had 3 grass
fires & if they have to go around, in some one
to open the gates, it may be late. My house
was almost lost by fire. If not for
County Fire Dept we would have lost it.
Please don't close it.

Optional Information:



Point of Contact:
Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
1645 S. 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

**Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
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*Please STOP the shutdown of Optima Lake, dam,
and life refuge!*

Please do NOT continue in this direction!

*Please do not spend \$ to army down, getting up of
the lake. Instead to spend on studies, statements &
stimulus - could have been made into a nice place -
it's all we have & we don't want to lose it!*

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Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma

Station 216, Initial Appraisal Study
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Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am writing you in connection to the Optima Dam area. As a resident of the area, I am very saddened to hear that it could be lost to us. When the area was opened, many picnics and observed many others enjoying the area. I remember the time I was delighted we were to see white pelicans on the water. It is an area rich in wild place families can enjoyed. Please help us here.

To think that the initial jobs that were created from the construction would all be lost and the costs all be wasted if it is closed to the public, would be a great sham government. If the area belonged to Oklahoma, jobs could be created for upk to provide camping once more. It would be such a shame to see it all lost. It is an area for camping, picnicking, horseback riding, bird watching, and much more.

The closing of the road over the dam could be detrimental for first responders doing their job. A fire truck or ambulance stopping to unlock and lock a gate doesn't make good sense when seconds can make a difference to life or property.

This part of our state doesn't have a lake every few miles like down state, so I cannot understand what the area means to us. Please do not take it away.

Thank you for reading my email.

Sincerely yours,



Suggestions

)

study. The Corps
Please write your
his form or add pages if

Optional Information:



Point of Contact:

Mr. Rick Thomas

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District

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MR RICH THOMAS

7-15-10

I DID NOT MAKE THE MEETINGS AT GUYMON ON THE OPTIMA LAND USE AS I AM OLD AND MY NIGHT VISION DON'T ALLOW ME TO DRIVE AT NIGHT

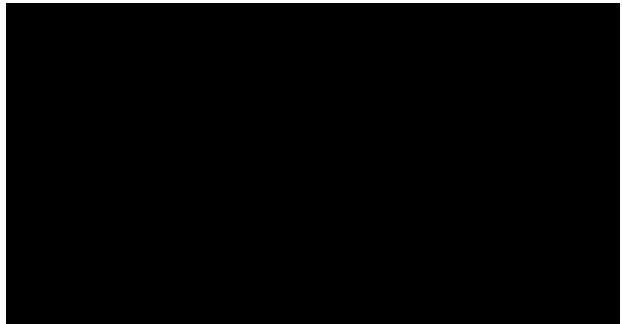
I BELONGED TO THE GUN CLUB AT GUYMON BUT WE HAD TO CLOSE THE RIFLE RANGE BECAUSE SOME ONE BUILT A HOUSE IN LINE WITH THE BACKSTOP

WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT FOR A YEAR & CANNOT FIND ONE

THE STATE RANGE ON THE OPTIMA LAND IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE COUNTY THAT WE CAN SHOOT A RIFLE. I URGE YOU TO LET OKLA KEEP THE RANGE & HUNTING ON THIS LAND

THE QT. THE LAKE IS ON COULD BE SOLD OR LEASED CATTLE-COULD BE RUN ON THE GRASS IF CATTLE GATES WERE USED, THIS IS THE ONLY PUBLIC LAND AROUND HERE & ITS BADLY NEEDED

THANK YOU



July 15, 2010

Mr. Thomas,

My name is [REDACTED] I am a resident of Goodwell, Oklahoma, and a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am writing to express my concern regarding the abandonment of Optima Lake and the adjacent wildlife preserve.

Optima has provided a tremendous resource for the people of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas for decades. The wildlife that can be found at Optima comprises one of the finest natural resources in Texas County, and one of the finest in the Panhandle. Additionally, the recreational opportunities present at Optima promote good health of mind and body for the residents of western Oklahoma. Many of us do take advantage of the resources at Optima.

Though I've only lived in Oklahoma for a few years, I know about the mentality that the government has toward the Panhandle. In the minds of most Oklahomans, including those in our government (both state and federal), nobody lives west of Woodward. But despite that mindset, there are thousands of hard working, honest, decent people living in the Panhandle. These are the people who put food on the nation's tables. We deserve funding equal to the rest of Oklahoma and to the rest of this country.

There is a way to solve this problem. Rather than abandoning ship, the government should be doing more to find ways to keep Optima open. With determination and hard work, it can be done. You'll find that our community is more than willing to help, if you'll only engage in an open and honest dialogue and give us a chance.

I sincerely hope that Optima will not continue to be neglected, and that a sincere effort will be made on the part of the federal and state governments, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the people of Oklahoma to restore Optima and let it reach its true potential.

If for any reason you should need to contact me, I can be reached by telephone at [REDACTED]

Thanks, and God bless! /

[REDACTED]

Optima Lake, Section 2/6,
Initial Appraisal Study

I would like to see the land from the Optima Lake area be given back to the original owners if they can be found.

I don't like the idea of putting gates at both ends of the Dam Road. Some Emergency Vehicles wouldn't have the needed key.

I don't know if it is possible to find funds to repair the guardrails, I believe that would be the best thing if it could be done.

Thank You,





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IT IS VERY CONCERNING AND I WRITE THIS WITH DEEP REGARDS
TOWARD THE FAIR AND JUST TREATMENT OF THE ORIGINAL LAND OWNERS.
THE ORIGINAL LAND OWNERS CAN AND WILL MAINTAIN THIS LAND AND
SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE IT BACK. THERE ARE MANY
OTHER CORP PROJECTS THAT WOULD WARRANT THE STIMULUS FUNDS
AVAILABLE INSTEAD OF THE OPTIMA LAKE PROJECT STUDIES AND TIME
HAVE PROVEN THE INABILITY OF FLOODING OR NEED FOR DRAINAGE
CONTROL BY THE CORP IN OWNERSHIP OF THESE LANDS PLEASE
CONSIDER RETURNING THE LAND OBTAINED BY IMMINENT DOMAIN BACK
TO ITS RIGHTFUL AND ORIGINAL OWNERS! THANKS

Optional Information:



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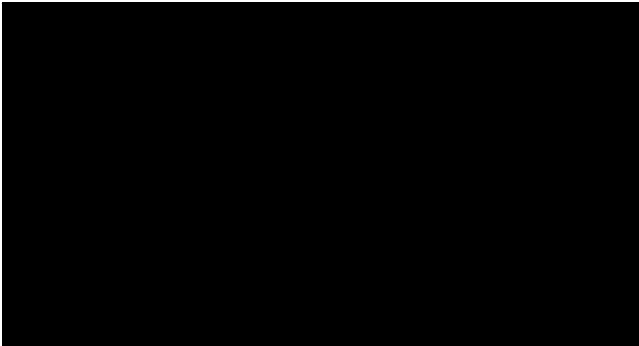
Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my opinion about the Optima Lake Project. We believe there are still great opportunities out there.

Some are:

- 1 Great hunting land, the area teams with deer, pheasant, quail & raccoon...
- 2 Recreation; Angler Point is still a very nice place to camp, play soccer, family outings & picnics...
- 3 Nature Trails, though now in disarray the nature trails are great & could attract schools, clubs, families...
- 4 Bird or wildlife watching...

Thank you very much for the chance to speak our minds about this issue. We would love to see the dam road left open & as many of the facilities used as possible.





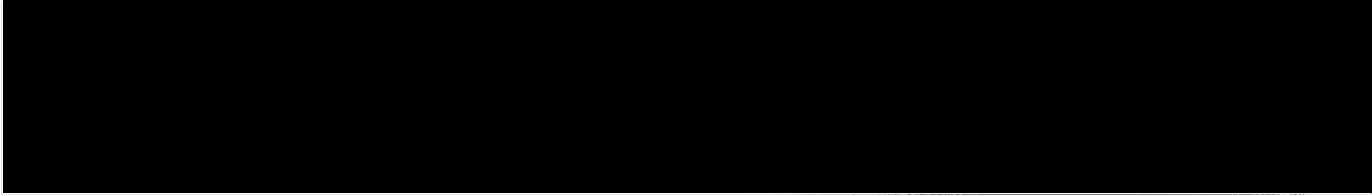
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I FEEL THIS LAND SHOULD BE GIVEN BACK TO ORIGINAL OWNERS TO BE RESTORED FOR PRODUCTIVE USE. IT DOES NO GOOD FOR THE LAND TO NOT BE USED.

Optional Information:



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I am writing in concern of the people of the Texas County area. I have followed the History of this Optima Dam Project all of my life being raised in the area I have a personal interest in this structure. It was originally taken from the landowners at a market value of less than its worth. These landowners gave up there family home and sacrifice of many years. This Dam was built for flood control #1 and has served its purpose but the land back on the Tax Roll and take Responsibility for the injustice that has taken place. Vandalism of the structures were never investigated. Property was stolen and was overlooked. The people in charge should be prosecuted to the fullest and held accountable.

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The Optima Dam is a "Totally Failed Project". there is no "Lake" you have to have a hold water to have a "Lake" this will not hold water!

*As a "Failed Project", this land, especially, the condemned land, should be sold back to the Original Land Owners at a "Fair" price. Much of this land had been in the same families for generations & would go back to those same families. These owners would put the land back into production with either livestock or grains which is good for our local economy. This in turn puts the land "back" on the Tax Role (of which it has been removed from) & our schools have lost that valuable Tax revenue. The annual 4 million dollars of Tax Payer money, that is allocated for this project could be **SAVED!***

Optional Information: *This project is another display of the governments*



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The Wildlife ~~management~~ management service has not been a good steward of this land and it should be returned to the land ~~own~~ owners. Additionally it should be put back on the tax rolls.

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According to the original decree: The condemnation was to back water ^{up} for flood control.

As you well know shortly after the wrongfully unconstitutional taking of these people's private property by eminent domain, the federal government gave the OWD a lease to use the land not for flood control but hunting. This land is not being taken care of. The river bottom hay meadows that used to be so pretty when I would drive across the Colkwate & Beaver River area are a sorry site of weeds & blowing dirt. This land is abandoned & looks it! Now the landowners an opportunity to buy it back if they so choose to pass it up; sell at public Auction to the highest bidder To get it back on the Tax Roll. The federal Government should keep control (over)

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e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

Living here in the Oklahoma Panhandle as I have all my life, we were so happy when Optima Lake opened after the many years it took to build it. Finally we had a place for fishing, swimming & recreation. If you are from other places in the state or even the country, you would have no idea what it is like to not have some place to enjoy the great outdoors.

Then when everything else was abandoned except for Angler Point we joined with the "Good Sam's Club" to mow, water, clean & keep the restroom stocked, plus keeping the trail mowed with our own mower. We really loved the time we got to spend out there. Next they cut off electricity & ended our enjoyment once again. Our understanding was that it was very expensive electricity because of a huge transformer??

So here we are back to not having anywhere close to us to spend our time. We would like to encourage you to at the very least keep Angler Point a place to camp & use the trail. Maybe work out something with Tri-County Electric to put in more efficient electricity. I believe that there are still plenty people that would be willing to volunteer their time to keep it a place for many to enjoy.

The dam road can surely be kept open, there is always alternatives if we all just keep trying. Please consider all of these things. It may not seem much to you, but it is to us.

Thank you



July 18, 2010



US Army Corps
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The land should be deauthorized and returned to the ^{original} owners
at the same price it was bought for for the lake.

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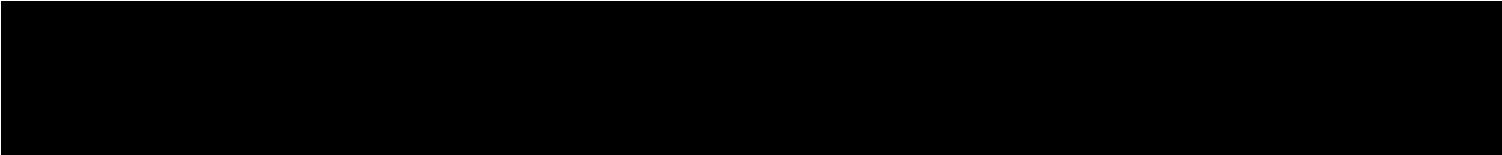
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I think the land should be given back to the original owners at the same price it was bought for.

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The Project should be deauthorized and the land given back to the original owner. The land was taken for flood control and because it is not used for that ~~purpose~~ purpose the land owners should get their land back.

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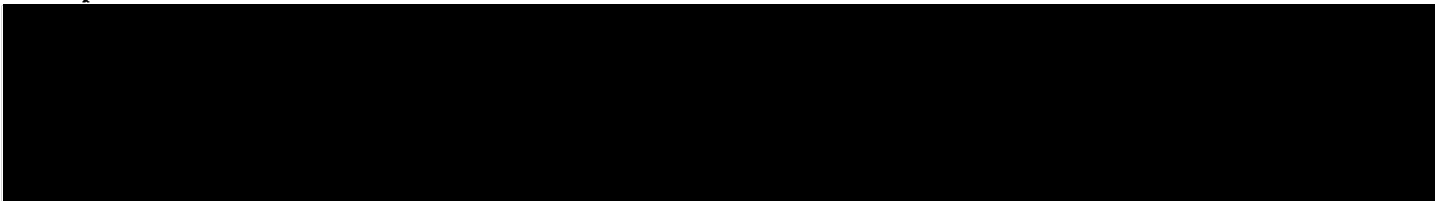
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I believe that Lake Optima had plenty of time to fill. However, it hasn't and is not going to. I personally have been there and I believe it should be sold back to the original landowner at the price it was bought for.

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I feel any land that is taken for a purpose, and
it is not used for that purpose or that purpose
has failed like Lake Optima. the land should
be sold back to the original land owners.
at the original purchase price. The land owners
are the people that lose out when land is taken by
eminent domain or condemned!

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*please sell the land back to the original
~~land~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ owners, to save money.
I would like to deauthorize the ~~the~~ Project!*

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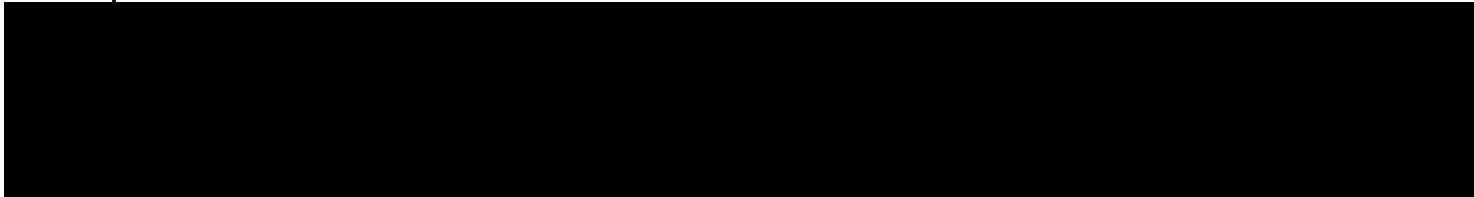
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The project should be deauthorized and given back to the original owner. The appropriations for this project could then be used for other, more productive uses. Proper conservation is not being used and it is in the best interest of the land to be back in production.

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*I feel that the project should be deauthorized.
The property should revert back to the original
owner.*

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The original intent of the Optima Dam and lake has not met its intended purpose, and should be returned to its original owners. The land has been removed from the tax rolls of Texas County, and the millions spent to maintain this property for the U.S. government does not return to the local economy. By returning the land to the original owners the land will be taxed and the money will help the local economy. The land owner is a better steward of the land than the US Government.

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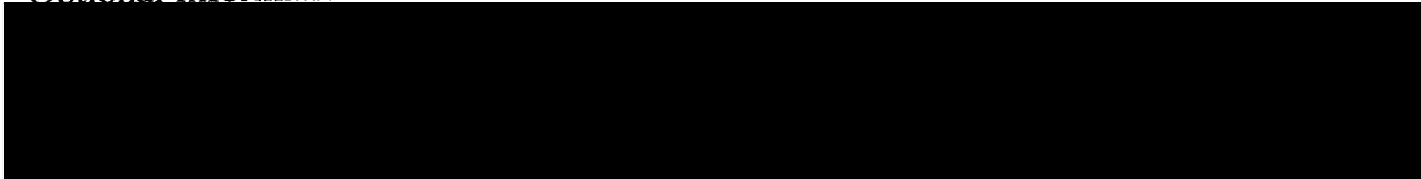
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The Corps of Engineers is interested in addressing your concerns and questions regarding this study. The Corps encourages suggestions as well. Your input is an important part of the Corps study process. Please write your question, comment, or suggestion in the space provided below. Feel free to use the back of this form or add pages if needed. You may also take this form with you and return it to the address below.

I think the land needs to go back to the
land owners at a ~~low~~ price that you give the
land owners when same
you took the land in the 70's

Optional Information:



**Point of Contact:
Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
1645 S. 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil**

July 27, 2016

Optima Lake, Sec. 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Attn: Mr. Rick Thomas:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dear Mr. Thomas

Thank you for hearing what I have to say. I'm an eighty three year old male who was born and raised and still live on this place that my father got the original patent on in 1904. All the time that I was growing up, I never went fishing or boating or camping. The closest place to do those activities was at Ft. Supply Lake and that was a hundred miles down the road, and that was during the depression years of the thirties. Couldn't afford to go that far just to 'play'.

Sometime during the thirties, the U.S. Congress authorized the building of a dam on the Beave river southeast of Guymon. There had been several floods on the Beave river that went all the way from Boise City down to Oklahoma City, and they decided to try and prevent that calamity. However, they didn't act on that construction until the sixties, and then the present dam was built.

As you know, the lake has never filled with water as of yet, but it will one of these days. It may not stay full, but it will prevent a lot of flood damage down stream when it happens.

We had a little lake south of Hardisty, called Shultz Lake. It was State owned and had an earthen dam, which would wash

out and have to be rebuilt every so often. The state got tired of rebuilding and let it go. So, that was the end of a nice little recreation lake for this area.

Lake Carl Etling out in western Cimarron Co. was a good little lake for fishing & camping but it has all but dried up in the last 3 or 4 years.

The only lake close by to the panhandle area is Clear Lake (Chambers) and that lake hasn't been developed and maintained as it should be. It's just as if the state and the Federal want the people of the panhandle to send them our money and then to sit down and shut up! Because they are not going to do anything ~~fast~~ for us.

I believe that if we had someone such as County Commissioner

to head the thing up, that we could get enough volunteers to maintain and sustain, roads, picnic areas, fishing areas etc. all people need to know, is where, when, and how to do what needs to be done. There are enough people with tractors, trucks and earth-mov. equipment to do the job if they just had a supervisor.

If the Fed. wants to get rid of Optima, let them give it to the State or County or wildlife Dept. and let us go from there. But please do not destroy any of it; roads, picnic areas, etc.

Sincerely yours





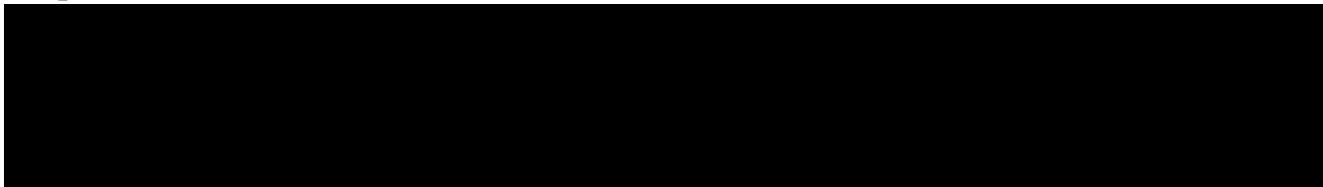
US Army Corps
of Engineers.

**Optima Lake
North Canadian River
Texas County, Oklahoma
Section 216, Initial Appraisal Study
Public Workshop
Guymon, Oklahoma
Question, Comments, or Suggestions
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 June 2010**

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I have lived in the area all my life. I currently am a Lieutenant with the Guymon Police Department. On a daily basis I work with kids who have gotten in trouble for one reason or another. A common factor with these kids are they are "bored" with nothing to do. I have seen several of these kids be introduced to hunting or fishing and be able to escape from the life they were beginning to lead. Optima is the only area where a lot of these kids have to go to enjoy the wildlife or just the outdoors. It would be my recommendation that Optima be turned over to the Department of Wildlife. This would ensure that there is a public outdoor/hunting area for our youth to enjoy.

Optional Information:



Point of Contact:
Mr. Rick Thomas
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
ATTN: CESWT-PE-P
1645 S. 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: 918-669-7022
e-mail: Richard.H.Thomas@usace.army.mil

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Comments for Lake Optima, Texas Co, OK
Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010 5:21:08 PM

Mr. Thomas,

I would like to add my comments in regards to the future of Lake Optima. The lake has been a focal point for the surrounding area for recreation. Before the closing of the Corp Office and afterwards it has continued to provide recreation for an area where there is not the numerous venues you have available in Tulsa. This is about the only thing we have. I can say I am very familiar with the area because my home place is just north of the dam. In fact I can see it from my back deck. Some of the previous landowners are my neighbors or their descendants. The land has been out of the families for so long that some really are set up to take it or buy it back. It has been a public holding for many years and thus is owned by the people of this nation for the use of all.

I find it sad the facilities have been allowed to deteriorate and be vandalized. We of this are have tried to take care of it since being abandoned as best we can because there is a strong belief that one day it will fill again and be able to be used.

Before making any final decision please consider what it means to this area. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has done a excellent job in maintaining the area in the absence of the Corp. Consider turning it over to them for management. There is not much public land left and particularly in this area.

I would like to make one final point concerning the dam and its road. This road is one of the few access areas across the river/lake for about 5 miles on either side of the dam. It as been vital in fighting the numerous range fires in the area the past few years. I have been a recipient of this access as 3 times fire has been stopped less than ¼ mile behind my house due to access firefighting crews have had getting across the lake area. This a vital public safety issue for all of us on the north side of the river/lake.

Please consider these points when making a decision. Sen. Coburn has had well intentions in curbing waste/fraud and abuse and I agree with him but not in this case. Political pressure can get very heavy handed at times. I am a retired Army Officer and a supervisor with the USDA. I have seen it and experienced it. Sometimes our legislators think they have all the facts and the good of the people in mind but don't.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](mailto:Thomas.Richard.H.SWT)
Subject: FW: Optima Public lands
Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010 5:54:59 PM

From: [REDACTED]
To: richard.h.thomas@usace.army.mil
Subject:
Date: Sat, 17 Jul 2010 17:16:07 -0500

Hi my name is [REDACTED] grew up in Hooker Ok. I dont understand why after all these years the damn is now a hazard. It may look to be in bad shape but thats what happens to something when its not took care of its not the publics fault the Corps built it we used it. My family and I have spent lots of time at Optima Lake and we still do. I am a hunter and along with my friends and family we still camp at at the lake and would love to pay a camping fee to help the cause but there again there is a lack of effort on the other end. Ever since the fish died out the only other thing is hunting take that away and we have nothing.

What are we suppose to do out here if Optima public lands is taken away. The poching will increase, automobile accidients involving deer will increase. Angler Ponit could still be a nice campground. There is fish in the spillway the campsites are still there all it needs is for someone to look after it. I would love to help take care of it I have offerd to mow pick up trash fix things that need to be fixed but was told i couldnt cause of the risk of me getting hurt. So it's not a lack of effort on our side we want to help we want a place to go and camp for the weeknd thats not a hundred miles away. I know this letter wont mean anything to you but if you lived here you would understand what we mean by keeping Optima Public Lands Public.

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Hooker,OK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](mailto:Thomas.Richard.H.SWT)
Subject: Optima concerns
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010 4:10:38 PM

Mr. Rick Thomas

My name is [REDACTED] I would like to express my concern about Optima Lake. We (my family) have enjoyed it greatly. We don't hunt on it but do love to adventure around. It is the perfect size to teach my 3 young boys how to hike and learn how to find their way back to starting point. There is lots of learning to teach them out there. It is the perfect spot, especially for us, who live in Guymon. We love just going out there for an evening. We are pleading that this stays public land so we can continue to enjoy the outdoors as a family.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <<http://graphics.hotmail.com/i.p.emsmilep.gif>>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Optima Dam, Optima NWR, and Optima WMA
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:23:52 PM

Mr. Thomas: Living some 460 miles from Optima Dam, I hear and see little of the decisions regarding the area, so I am uncertain of the Corps' plans for the area. However, I still feel very strongly about seeing any portion of it shut down or deserted. The Corps made it bad enough when it decided to abandon the property years ago. But to do anything that would further hinder the access to, or the enjoyment of, such a wonderful area and natural resource would be a shame. If I am lucky, I get to spend some time on the land every 3 -4 years, usually bird hunting. However, when I drove out to the area at Memorial Day this year, I specifically drove over the Dam at Lake Optima to show the family the scenery. They were awed by the views, which are obviously much different than those we have in North Texas. It would be a shame to lose such an area or even the access thereto. That area of Oklahoma has received so little in the way of assistance from the Federal government, it would be a shame to take away more than what has already been taken from this area.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Optima Lake Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 11:12:25 PM

I would like to make a few comments concerning Optima Lake Initial Appraisal Study potential alternatives.

My number one concern is any potential deauthorization of the project by congress. I agree with the fact that the flood control benefits have not been realized to date. However, predicting if a 100-year storm event will occur is not possible. It could happen next week, next year or 100 years from now. Who would have predicted, with any degree of accuracy, an inland hurricane would develop over central Oklahoma a few years ago? I would suspect that the residents of Kingfisher County would agree that any existing flood control structure, no matter where is it located, should be maintained for the designed life. The US Army Corp of Engineers must continue to budget for the maintenance of the Optima Lake structure. The costs are minimal compared to the billions spent on projects across the United States, such as, making it possible for people to live below sea level in the Mississippi Delta region.

The Corp of Engineers needs to actively seek out public agencies or other entities to manage and develop non-water based recreational, scientific and education opportunities of the surrounding public lands.

I enjoy using and having access to the Optima Lake public lands because it is remote and has very few visitors per day. The availability of open space will continue to diminish in the future.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Optima Lake
Date: Monday, July 12, 2010 5:45:37 PM

Keep PUBLIC Land in PUBLIC Hands!

Save Optima!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](mailto:Thomas.Richard.H.SWT)
Subject: Optima Lake
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2010 6:26:28 PM
Attachments: [stampa_girl_line_en.gif](#)

Living here in the Oklahoma Panhandle as I have all my life, we were so happy when Optima Lake opened after the many years it took to build it. Finally we had a place for fishing, swimming & recreation. If you are from other places in the state or even the country, you would have no idea what it is like to not have some place to enjoy the great outdoors.

Then when everything else was abandoned except for Angler Point we joined with the "Good Sam's Club" to mow, water, clean & keep the restroom stocked, plus keeping the trail mowed with our own mower. We really loved the time we got to spend out there. Next they cut off electricity & ended our enjoyment once again. Our understanding was that it was very expensive electricity because of a huge transformer??

So here we are back to not having anywhere close to us to spend our time. We would like to encourage you to at the very least keep Angler Point a place to camp & use the trail. Maybe work out something with Tri-County Electric to put in more efficient electricity. I believe that there are still plenty people that would be willing to volunteer their time to keep it a place for many to enjoy.

The dam road can surely be kept open, there is always alternatives if we all just keep trying. Please consider all of these things. It may not seem much to you, but it is to us.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

July 22, 2010

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Optima Lake
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 7:15:00 PM

Dear Sir: Thank you so much for a chance to comment on the Optima Lake. When water did not come up to expectations the eastern part of the state, and I say that the way it sounds just abandoned the Lake. Now we have had a continuing drought for years, I ain't saying that the lake will ever fill to the overflow but there is so many things that if it was in eastern Oklahoma lots of things would have been done to it for recreation. But you all just abandoned us, now there is several good patches of farmable ground, I would say at least two and you would need sprinklers. Now they was going to ask for several million dollars to raise the road banister, because one person got stuck in the russian thistles on it. Just a small part of that would buy these sprinklers and dig wells.

I have seen it elsewhere where at this Kansas lake the farmer cut his share of the milo and left the rent share standing. One time years ago when I was young we bunch went hunting in Western Ks and on a terrible foggy evening we found a shelter house and camped there overnite. I guess we were just dumb but the next morning we started hunting and quite a few real little milo patches maybe a couple acres in. Well the pheasants would just fly out in droves, maybe 50 at a time. When the weather slackened up a little we drove out and the sign said Sheridan State Lake, no hunting.

But that is just one thing you could do, this is good quail country, people in the know, build water catchers and drips for quail, don't know but also protection from hawks, maybe some feed projects.

Now also with more feed lots of deer would come in, there is a few there now but can be increased a lot. You could have controlled deer hunts, with some feed patches we can raise deer with hugh antlers, just need feed. Revenue could help pay for a lot of this stuff. Just so many things that could be done for this recreation area, and it is the only one for us within a hundred miles. It just takes someone with some knowhow to develop it. Don't take it away from us, just develop it. Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Optima Lake
Date: Sunday, June 20, 2010 7:53:07 PM
Attachments: [DSC02731.JPG](#)

Today I drove down to optima lake and took some pictures. Now from a standpoint of when they built the Dam it has not fulfilled what they thought it would.

But there are other activities besides racing boats and 50 ft deep water to be considered. For instance I could care less about fishing, but I sure like to take my rifle on a snow day and hunt rabbits. I also would like to hunt pheasant, but unless you own a ranch or farm you cannot hunt without joining some organization or lease. What about the person who has a horse but no ranch or own a farm. Here is miles of where you can ride in timber or other places.

Back of the dam is a nice campground but you know now most of the signs are gone and unless you know where it is a non resident could not find it.

There is so much potential for hunters if simply you would plant small patches of grain, milo or whatever and I mean one acre patches. Some will have to be have some kind of irrigation if you raise a crop. But they talked about two million dollars to raise the bannister on the dam for what reason I cannot fathom,, you sure could allow some money for irrigation. Then it would be rentable to farmers. You know that pheasants are a grain eater and in other states I have seen where on the lakes they plant small patches for deer and game birds. There is a few quail there now but with help it could really be magnafied.

Just maybe 10 mile southeast the other day it rained 8 or 10 inches and trash on tops of fences. Now a few years back I was walking upstream from the Hardesty bridge and on the north slope the sagebrush had old trash chest high on them. And we did have a 8 in rain at Guymon one time. Just because the lake did not fill to expectations should not be taken away from the local residents as its the only one within probably a hundred miles. Thanks for my chance to unload.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: optima public lands (PUBLIC)
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2010 1:41:33 PM

Please quit terring down the only thing we have. Do u not have any thing else to do besides wasting money on cantons spillway that is the biggest wast of money this is B.S

The New Busy think 9 to 5 is a cute idea. Combine multiple calendars with Hotmail. Get busy.
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: optima
Date: Friday, July 02, 2010 9:28:26 PM

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am writing you in connection to the Optima Dam area. As a resident of the area, I am very saddened to hear that it could be lost to us. When the area was opened, I attended many picnics and observed many others enjoying the area. I remember the time how delighted we were to see white pelicans on the water. It is an area rich in wild life; a place families can enjoyed. Please help us here.

To think that the initial jobs that were created from the construction would all be in vain and the costs all be wasted if it is closed to the public, would be a great shame on the government. If the area belonged to Oklahoma, jobs could be created for upkeep and to provide camping once more. It would be such a shame to see it all lost. It was used for camping, picnicking, horseback riding, bird watching, and much more.

The closing of the road over the dam could be detrimental for first responders doing their job. A fire truck or ambulance stopping to unlock and lock a gate doesn't make good sense when seconds can make a difference to life or property.

This part of our state doesn't have a lake every few miles like down state, so you cannot understand what the area means to us. Please do not take it away.

Thank you for reading my email.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](#)
Subject: Our lake?
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2010 6:27:16 PM
Attachments: [stampa_girl_line_en.gif](#)

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my opinion about the Optima Lake Project. We believe there are still great opportunities out there.

Some are:

- 1 Great hunting land, the area teams with deer, pheasant, quail & raccoon...
- 2 Recreation; Angler Point is still a very nice place to camp, play soccer, family outings & picnics...
- 3 Nature Trails, though now in disarray the nature trails are great & could attract schools, clubs, families...
- 4 Bird or wildlife watching...

Thank you very much for the chance to speak our minds about this issue. We would love to see the dam road left open & as many of the facilities used as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thomas, Richard H. SWT](mailto:Thomas.Richard.H.SWT)
Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010 5:16:13 PM

Hi my name is [REDACTED] i grew up in Hooker Ok. I dont understand why after all these years the damn is now a hazard. It may look to be in bad shape but thats what happens to somthing when its not took care of its not the publics fault the Corps built it we used it. My family and I have spent lots of time at Optima Lake and we still do. I am a hunter and along with my friends and family we still camp at at the lake and would love to pay a camping fee to help the cause but there again there is a lack of effort on the other end. Ever since the fish died out the only other thing is hunting take that away and we have nothing.

What are we suppose to do out here if Optima public lands is taken away. The poching will increase, automobile accidients involving deer will increase. Angler Ponit could still be a nice campground. There is fish in the spillway the campsites are still there all it needs is for someone to look after it. I would love to help take care of it I have offerd to mow pick up trash fix things that need to be fixed but was told i couldnt couse of the risk of me getting hurt. So it's not a lack of effort on our side we want to help we want a place to go and camp for the weeknd thats not a hundred miles away. I know this letter wont mean anything to you but if you lived here you would understand what we mean by keeping Optima Public Lands Public.

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