



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

News Release

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Corps of Engineers, local partners to spray invasive vegetation at O.C. Fisher Lake

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District is partnering with the Upper Colorado River Authority, San Angelo State University, the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the City of San Angelo and Texas Parks and Wildlife to begin work on the Ecosystem Restoration project at O.C. Fisher Lake. The ecosystem has been severely degraded by invasive vegetation.

The first species to be addressed is the willow baccharis that covers over 1600 acres in the lake basin. Although the area would have been submerged by the target conservation pool of the lake, prolonged low lake levels have allowed the willow baccharis to grow rapidly and choke out most native vegetation. The willow baccharis will be addressed by aerial application of herbicide. This joint effort between the cooperative agencies will begin a five year work plan to restore more balance and function to the habitats in the lake area. Goals of the project are to increase the quantity and quality of riverine habitat, riparian woodland habitat, and lacustrine habitat, as well as increased stream flow and ground water levels.

Spraying will begin on May 28 and be completed by May 30, pending favorable weather conditions. Application will start adjacent to San Angelo State Park on May 28, moving to more remote regions of the lake. San Angelo State park will close boat ramps and its trails network during the three day application period. The walking/jogging trail on the dam will also be closed to public access during this time period. For a more complete listing of closures, please contact the San Angelo State park at 325-949-8935.

For further information about this project, please contact Whitney Lake Manager Brady Dempsey at 254-622-3332, or email brady.dempsey@usace.army.mil , or Scott McWilliams, Upper Colorado River Authority, Project Manager at 325-655-0565, or email scottm@ucratx.org .

- 30 -

About the Fort Worth District : The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and military design and construction in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil .