

Dallas Morning News

Letters: Marvin Nichols Reservoir

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Marvin Nichols reservoir

Conservation's right, but issue is more complex

Re: "Marvin Nichols Myths – Don't fall prey to these points in reservoir debate,"
Wednesday Editorials.

This editorial makes some valid points about the myths surrounding the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir, but it also perpetuates the most blatant reservoir myth of all.

Reservoir water is not cheap, readily available or without real problems. Texas already faces serious fresh-water shortages, and more reservoir building is not the simple answer.

The Gulf Coast bay ecosystems require a reliable inflow of fresh water to support shellfish and finfish, and dams already limit this inflow. Lack of inflow could diminish, even ruin, existing fisheries and make the bays unproductive.

Additional reservoirs may create more economic and social problems than they solve.

This is not a local issue.

The editorial is right to note the need for conservation strategies, but the most pressing need is for comprehensive, long term, eco-knowledgeable planning for all Texas water resources.

Texas cannot continue to grow without planning or control of "unintended" consequences.

Ralph Manns, Rockwall

Loss of hardwood forests would be hard to bear

This editorial does not so much disclose myths as propagate them. The loss of rare hardwood forests cannot be offset by establishing forests elsewhere, as the editorial claims. The existing forest has trees up to 100 years old. Further, the location of the existing forest, in bottomlands, is precisely what makes its preservation so important. Riparian forests provide vital habitat to wildlife, including migrating birds. They also play a vastly underappreciated role in protecting water quality from sediments, wastes and pollutants from runoff.

Joan Ravkind Susman, Dallas