

TEXARKANA GAZETTE

In Brief

April 19th, 2007

NWF releases water report

The National Wildlife Federation has released a report focusing on water conservation by cities in Texas.

The report, "Save Water, Save Rivers, Save Money: The Potential of Municipal Water Conservation," is aimed at showing how reasonable conservation efforts could equal the amount of water projected to come from reservoirs proposed in the state water plan.

Officials call conservation the "common-sense" approach.

"It would be far better to make efficient use of the water that is right under our nose than to spend billions of dollars damming rivers and drowning valuable wildlife habitat," said Dr. Norman Johns, a water resources scientist with the NWF and lead researcher on the report.

"Conservation is not just easier on our rivers and streams, it's also easier on our ratepayers' wallets."

In the 2007 state water plan, 613,000 acre-feet of municipal water conservation savings are proposed by 2060. One acrefoot equal about 326,000 gallons.

But the NWF report shows adding 1 million acre-feet of savings beyond the 613,000 can be done, based on the conservation success of San Antonio and progress being made elsewhere in Texas.

The report also includes three case studies that focus on how municipal conservation could help to get rid of the need for three controversial reservoirs in the state plan—Marvin Nichols, Fastrill and the Brownsville Weir.

"We are saying Texans need to take the recommendation to build 16 new reservoirs over the next 50 years with a grain of salt," said Myron Hess, manager of the National Wildlife Federation's Texas Water Program. "If we're smart about it, we can have the water we need without unnecessarily sacrificing Texas' natural heritage—and we can save money in the process."

The report also addresses the importance of conservation considering the drought conditions Texas will face in the future.

To download a copy of the report, go to www.texaswatermatters.org.



