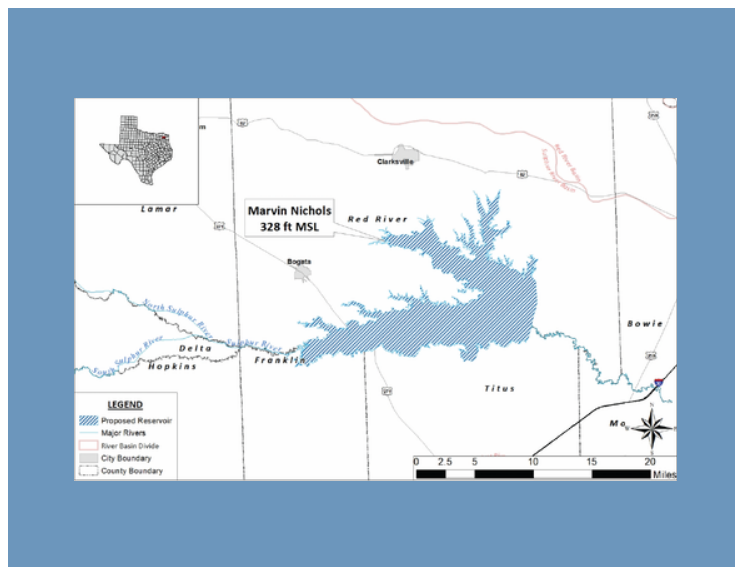# Marvin Nichols Reservoir: Fact Sheet

Overview

The proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir would create a dam and reservoir on the main stem of the Sulphur River in Red River, Titus, and Franklin counties. While the reservoir would be built in Northeast Texas, at least 80% of the water would be pumped to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. This $4.4 billion project would use eminent domain to take 200,000 acres from private ownership to be flooded or used for environmental mitigation. Reservoirs are drought and evaporation prone and are simply not a sustainable long-term solution. One more reservoir will do more harm in Northeast Texas than good, and we must say NO.

> **I think the last option - maybe no option - should be ever taking somebody's land. And so I think the first thing that needs to be done is to explore all the other potential options.**

Governor Greg Abbott

How would this impact Northeast Texas?

This project would use eminent domain to force thousands of property owners off family lands, destroy natural wildlife habitat, drown resources that would devastate the timber and agriculture-based economy in the region, and flood archaeological and historic sites and cemeteries.

Local Economy

If constructed, the Marvin Nichols Reservoir would be devastating to the timber industry and result in loss of local manufacturing capacity. As businesses shut down, local workers will lose their livelihoods. Although construction of the reservoir will require many workers, these jobs will be temporary and much of the design and construction will be done by contractors from outside the area.

Environment

Roughly two-thirds of the land that would be taken for Marvin Nichols Reservoir is bottomland hardwood forest or other forested wetlands and upland forest. This reservoir would destroy irreplaceable natural habitats for local and migratory wildlife and hurt the region's hunting and natural beauty. Replacing this productive land with a reservoir that inefficiently uses our natural resources is bad stewardship.

Local Community

Many residents would be forced to leave their homes and businesses because of the reservoir. As a result of the loss in population and local businesses, the tax base would shrink and those who remain in the community would suffer from underfunded schools and public services.
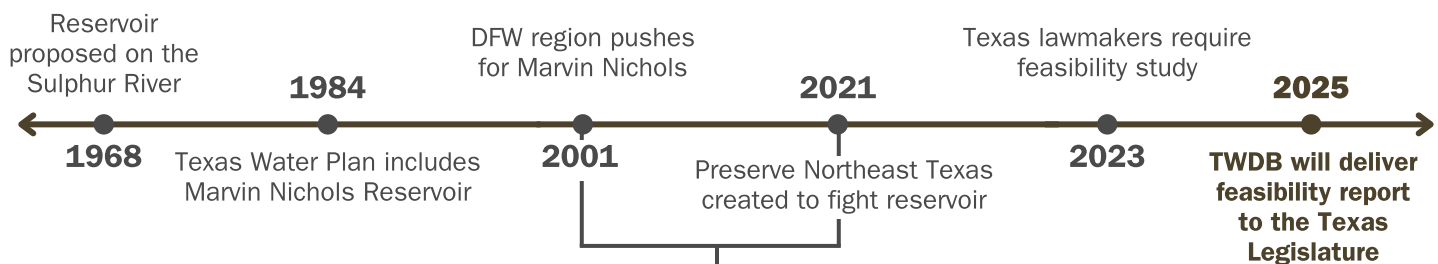
Is this reservoir necessary for Dallas-Fort Worth?

Marvin Nichols Reservoir would be built to provide the DFW Metroplex with additional water resources. However, there are plenty of sustainable solutions for water supply that wouldn't impact the land and people of Northeast Texas. Through municipal water reuse/recycling, conservation and capturing stormwater, the region could make major strides in maximizing the water supply they already have. Water usage reports say that the DFW Metroplex has sufficient resources for household and business needs – they want our water primarily so they can water their lawns and fill their swimming pools.

Eddie Belcher, pictured here with his grandchildren, will lose over 700 acres of property and his great-grandparent's home.

Timeline

1968 — Reservoir proposed on the Sulphur River

1984 — Texas Water Plan includes Marvin Nichols Reservoir

2001 — DFW region pushes for Marvin Nichols

2021 — Preserve Northeast Texas created to fight reservoir

2023 — Texas lawmakers require feasibility study

2025 — TWDB will deliver feasibility report to the Texas Legislature

Since 2001, the Northeast Texas community has been vocally opposed to Marvin Nichols and actively engaged in pushing back against it, helping keep the reservoir at bay.

> ... Marvin Nichols Reservoir ... would not only be catastrophic for Northeast Texas businesses, but for the families that have called this land home for so long. As we move into the next legislative session, I will continue to oppose Marvin Nichols at every turn, and work towards finding a solution that doesn't harm countless Northeast Texas families.

Representative Gary VanDeaver

Get Involved in Preserve Northeast Texas

YOU can help to save Northeast Texas. Here are some ways you can get involved and stay up-to-date with news related to the Marvin Nichols Reservoir:

- Share your story with us.
- Reach out to your elected officials in Texas.
- Sign up for our newsletter.
- Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.