



RECREATION AREA • TEXAS

LAKE MEREDITH
RECREATION AREA

On the Canadian River in the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle, about 35 miles northeast of Amarillo, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, constructed Sanford Dam, an earthfill structure 198 feet high and 6,380 feet long. It was built above one of the world's largest natural gasfields. To protect petroleum facilities in the reservoir area from inundation, 44 producing gas wells were relocated above the conservation pool.

The reservoir, Lake Meredith, was built for the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to furnish water for municipal and industrial uses in towns as far as 200 miles away, to control floods and sediment, and to provide a 16,500-acre boating and fishing area. At maximum capacity the lake will have a surface about 3,000 feet above sea level and will be 20 miles long and have a 100-mile shoreline.

In 1965, Sanford Recreation Area, administered by the National Park Service, also of the U.S. Department of the Interior, was established. Basic facilities at designated public-use sites along the lakeshore are nearly completed and additional improvements are planned.

CLIMATE

Temperatures range from 105° in summer to -10° in winter. Annual precipitation is about 21 inches. Spring is usually windy, and sudden violent windstorms are not uncommon.

TERRAIN

Lake Meredith is surrounded by the breaks of the Canadian River, which are composed of 200-foot-deep steep-walled canyons and broken grassland.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

In the bottom lands, the trees include cottonwoods, plums, hackberries, chinaberries, and tamarisks (salt cedars). In the uplands, the vegetation is typical of the High Plains: mixed grasses, mesquite, and yucca.

Among the animals of the Canadian River country are deer, pronghorn, coyotes, rabbits, porcupines, skunks, turkeys, quail, and doves; and in winter, ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes.

Fishes include bass, crappie, wall-eye, and four species of catfish.

REGULATIONS AND SAFETY MEASURES

All prehistoric and historic objects and structures are protected by Federal law. The collection, removal, defacement, or destruction of such irreplaceable features is not allowed.

The intentional or wanton destruction, defacement, or removal of any natural feature or non-renewable natural resource or any public property or improvement is not allowed—except for the gathering or collecting by hand of small quantities of pebbles or small rocks for personal (non-commercial) use.

Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with laws of Texas and the Federal Government and as modified by special regulations. Hunting is not allowed within Alibates Flint Quarries and Texas Panhandle Pueblo Culture National Monument.

The possession of loaded firearms or other missile-discharging implements in developed and/or concentrated public-use areas is not allowed. Such firearms or implements shall be used only in accordance with applicable State and Fed-

eral laws and in no case shall be used in a manner so as to endanger persons or property.

Pets are allowed only if they are under physical restraint at all times. Pets are not allowed in public eating places, in food stores, and on swimming beaches. Hunting dogs may be used during legal hunting seasons in accordance with State law or special regulations.

Public entry into the water or land areas within posted limits around the water-intake works or other engineering structures is not allowed.

Motor vehicles shall be operated in accordance with State law and special regulations.

Throwing or dropping a lighted match, cigarette, cigar, pipe heel, or other burning material is not allowed.

Campfires and warming fires may be kindled provided they are in a safe location and are used in such a manner that no tree, shrub, grass or other combustible matter will be set on fire. All fires must be completely extinguished when no longer needed. Do not leave a fire unattended. **HELP PREVENT RANGE FIRES.**

BOAT REQUIREMENTS

Boats must be numbered according to State requirements.

Lights must be used from sunset to sunrise.

All vessels must carry a Coast Guard-approved life preserver in serviceable condition and readily accessible for each person on board.

Motorboats, except those of open construction less than 26 feet long and propelled by outboard motors, must carry U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers.

Vessels less than 26 feet must be equipped with oars or paddles.

Ventilators are required on enclosed compartments.

All vessels must carry a suitable bailing bucket.

No vessel, while underway, shall carry more than a safe capacity load.

INSPECTIONS

Park rangers may board vessels at any time to examine documents, licenses, and/or permits, or to inspect the vessels.

BOATING AND SKIING REGULATIONS

Reckless and negligent boat operation is not allowed nor is the operation of a vessel while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics.

Water-skiing is permitted only during daylight hours, and there must be both an operator and a competent observer in the towing vessel.

Water-skiers must wear an approved life-saving device.

Skiing is not permitted in channels, within 500 feet of harbors, swimming beaches, mooring areas, and within 100 feet of any person in the water.

The turning direction of all skiing must be counterclockwise in bays or inlets and in any generally confined area where skiing is permitted.

Vessels must not be operated at more than 5 miles an hour within designated harbors and must proceed slowly and with due caution when in the vicinity of any diver's marker or person in the water.

In case of accidents, operators shall render such assistance as is practical and necessary for the injured. Accidents are to be reported to a park ranger as soon as possible and at least within 24 hours.

RULES OF THE ROAD

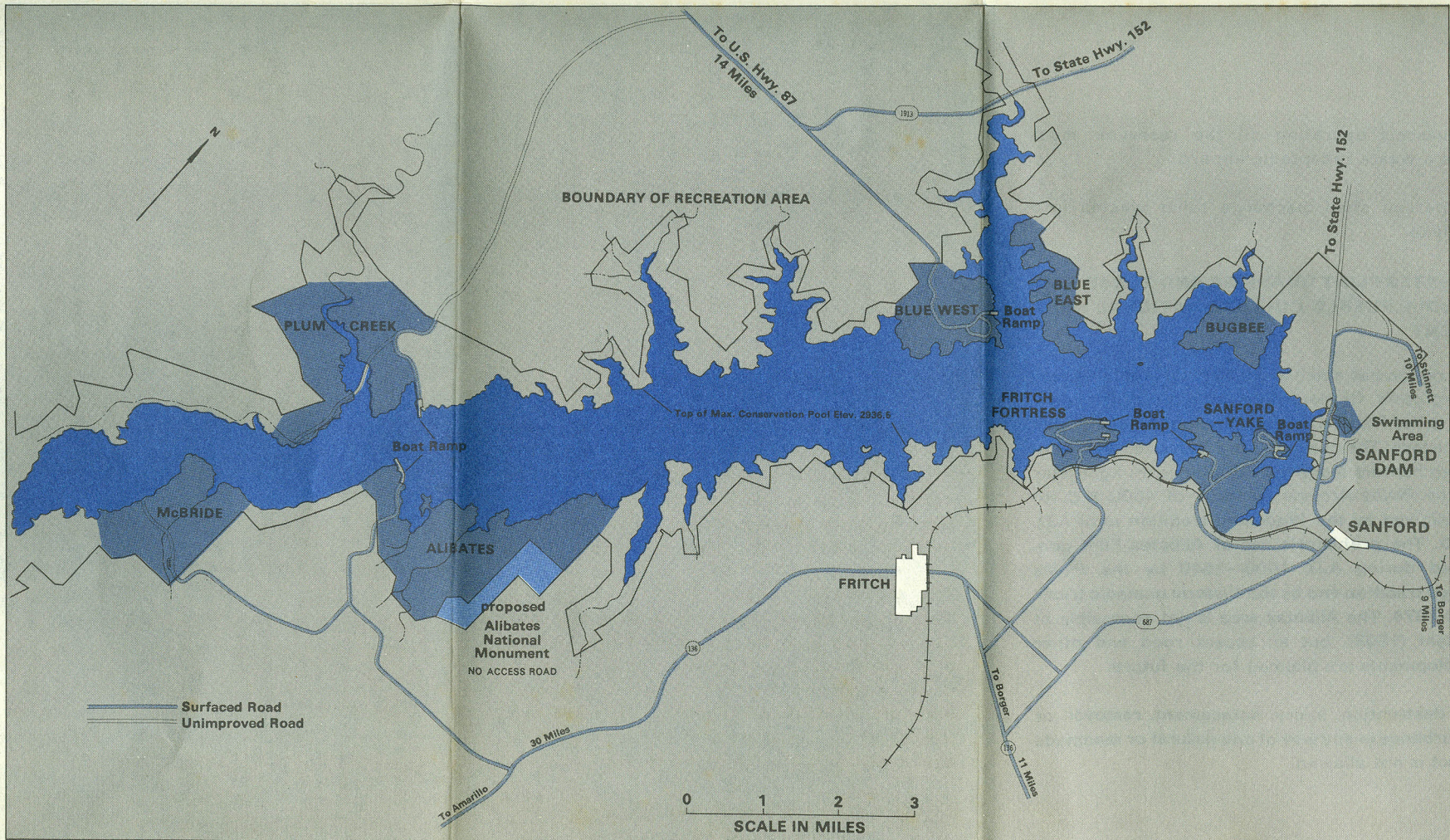
The Statutory Rules of the Road, which have been enacted by Congress to prevent collision of vessels, must be observed by operators of vessels on this lake.

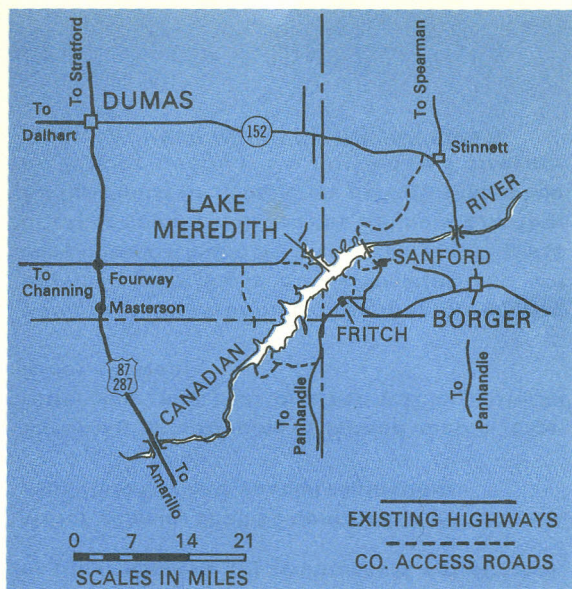
In narrow channels, when safe and practicable, every vessel must keep to the right of mid-channel.

Vessels approaching each other head-on must pass in such a manner that each vessel is to the port side of the other (pass to the right).

In a crossing situation, the vessel which has the other on her own port side must hold her course and speed; and the vessel which has the other on her own starboard side must keep out of the way of the other by directing her course to starboard so as to cross the stern of the other vessel, or stop and reverse if necessary to avoid collision.

All motor vessels must keep clear of any vessel under sail or propelled by oars or paddles.





PUBLIC-USE SITES

Around the lake, the National Park Service has designated the following sites for public-use development:

Sanford-Yake. Two deep-water launching ramps; courtesy docks; parking areas; drinking water; restrooms; picnic areas with shelters, tables and fireplaces; marina with store, dry land boat storage and other facilities.

Fritch Fortress. Deep-water launching ramp; courtesy dock; parking areas; picnic area with shelters, tables, and fireplaces; drinking water; and restrooms.

Alibates. Shallow-water launching ramp, parking area, semi-improved picnic and camping area, and chemical toilets.

McBride Canyon. Semi-improved picnic and camping area and chemical toilets.

Plum Creek. Shallow-water launching ramp, parking area, semi-improved picnic and camping area, chemical toilets, and hunter-access truck trail to upper reservoir area.

Blue West. Deep-water launching ramp, courtesy dock, parking area, chemical toilets; and picnic area with shelters, tables, and fireplaces.

Blue East. No development or public access.

Bugbee Canyon. Very difficult access, semi-improved picnic and camping area, and chemical toilets.

NOTICE

ADVERSE WEATHER, RATTLESNAKES, STEEP CLIFFS, AND LOOSE ROCKS ARE ALL PART OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS. PLEASE BE AWARE OF THESE AND OTHER NATURAL HAZARDS WHILE ENJOYING LAKE MEREDITH RECREATION AREA. COMMON SENSE AND ALERTNESS WILL HELP MAKE YOUR VISIT SAFE AND PLEASANT.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Camping. There are no improved campgrounds within the area. Semi-improved campsites are at Alibates, McBride Canyon, Plum Creek, and Bugbee Canyon. Primitive campsites are available in other areas. Most sites are not accessible to trailer campers, and all campers are urged to make local inquiry regarding access to specific camping places.

Lodging and meals. Motels, hotels, and restaurants are available in nearby towns and along some approach roads.

Groceries can be purchased in nearby towns.

SANITATION

Please help keep Lake Meredith clean and beautiful. It is a municipal water supply.

Refuse must not be discarded into the lake or on the land—discard it in receptacles.

All vessels operating on the reservoir must have a waste receptacle aboard.

No person shall discharge toilet wastes into the lake.

ALIBATES FLINT QUARRIES AND TEXAS PANHANDLE PUEBLO CULTURE NATIONAL MONUMENT

This region has a rich archeological and historical background. Of major interest are the flint quarries at the National Monument, on the south side of the lake. The quarries were first used by *Paleo-Indian* hunters more than 12,000 years ago; later by the *Plains Archaic* tradition of 4000 B.C. to 0; followed by the *Woodland* tradition until A.D. 1000. The prehistoric use of Alibates Flint continued during A.D. 1000—1540 by the *Plains Village* tradition and by the *Historic* nomadic tribes until 1874. The Alibates area is not accessible at present (1969), but an access road and other developments are planned for the future.

The destruction, injury, defacement, removal, or disturbance in any way of any natural or manmade object is not allowed.

ADMINISTRATION

Sanford Recreation Area, established under a National Park Service-Bureau of Reclamation agreement, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 325, Sanford, Tex. 79078, is in immediate charge.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

