

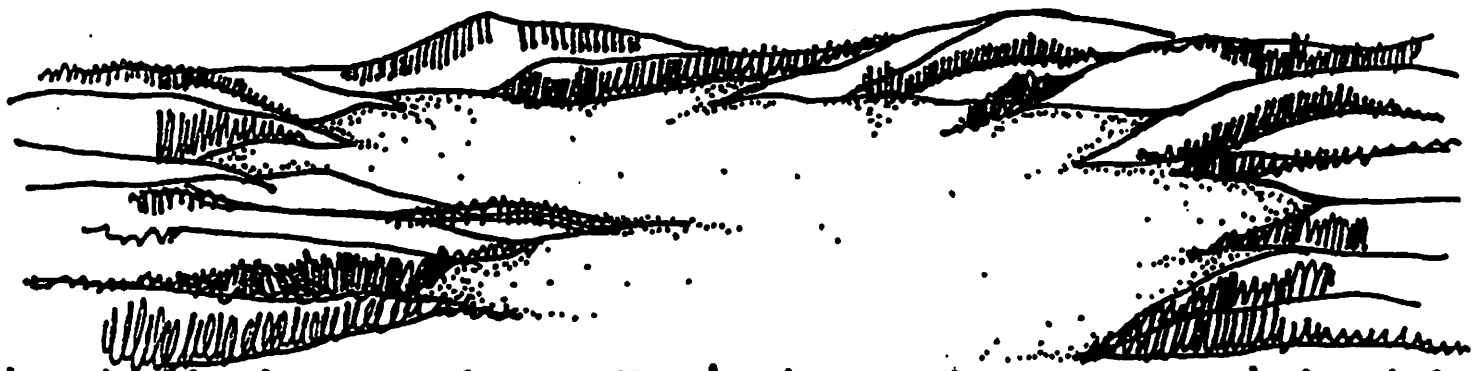
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# NEW AREA STUDY OF SIGNIFICANCE, SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY

Wilson Lake  
Russell County, Kansas

July, 1991



W·I·L·S·O·N · L·A·K·E

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**Wilson Lake Reconnaissance Report**

Wilson Lake is a 9,000 acre reservoir with approximately 100 miles of shoreline. The reservoir was created following the completion in 1964 of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) flood control dam on the Saline River in north-central Kansas. The site contains a total of 21,107 acres and is available for public use.

The National Park Service (NPS) was directed to prepare a feasibility study for a possible Wilson Lake National Recreation Area by Public Law 101-52 (1990), the Appropriations Act for Interior and Related Agencies for 1991.

National Park Service studies of possible new units contain two major steps, a reconnaissance evaluation and a management alternatives analysis. The reconnaissance evaluation, which is documented in this report, includes analysis of the relative significance of the site, and the suitability and feasibility of administering the site as a unit of the National Park System (NPSy) using criteria established by 1988 Management Policies. A management alternatives analysis examines possible methods for the protection, use, and operation of the site. If a site is not found to be nationally significant, under the criteria, an NPS management alternative will not be considered.

Between December, 1990 and June, 1991, NPS staff compiled information about Wilson Lake from existing sources, such as the State of Kansas, universities, and Federal agencies. This information was analyzed using established NPS criteria for national significance to determine if Wilson Lake possessed nationally significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources.

The NPS analysis did not identify any nationally significant natural resources at Wilson Lake. One cultural site, Circle Rock, does contribute to a nationally significant National Register of Historic Places listing. However, the site is listed as being in "poor" condition and does not retain a high degree of integrity necessary for recognition in its own right. The recreational potential of this lake is restricted because of the current limited land base and would require the Federal Government to begin an aggressive land acquisition program outside the current government ownership boundaries. The resources at Wilson Lake are not unique, rare or disappearing, nor do they retain a high degree of integrity as a natural or cultural resource. Therefore, while Wilson Lake is a significant recreational resource in the Smoky Hills Region, and the state of Kansas, it is not nationally significant.

The site also was analyzed to determine if it was suitable and feasible for NPS management. Suitability for NPS management is based largely on whether the resources present at the site are

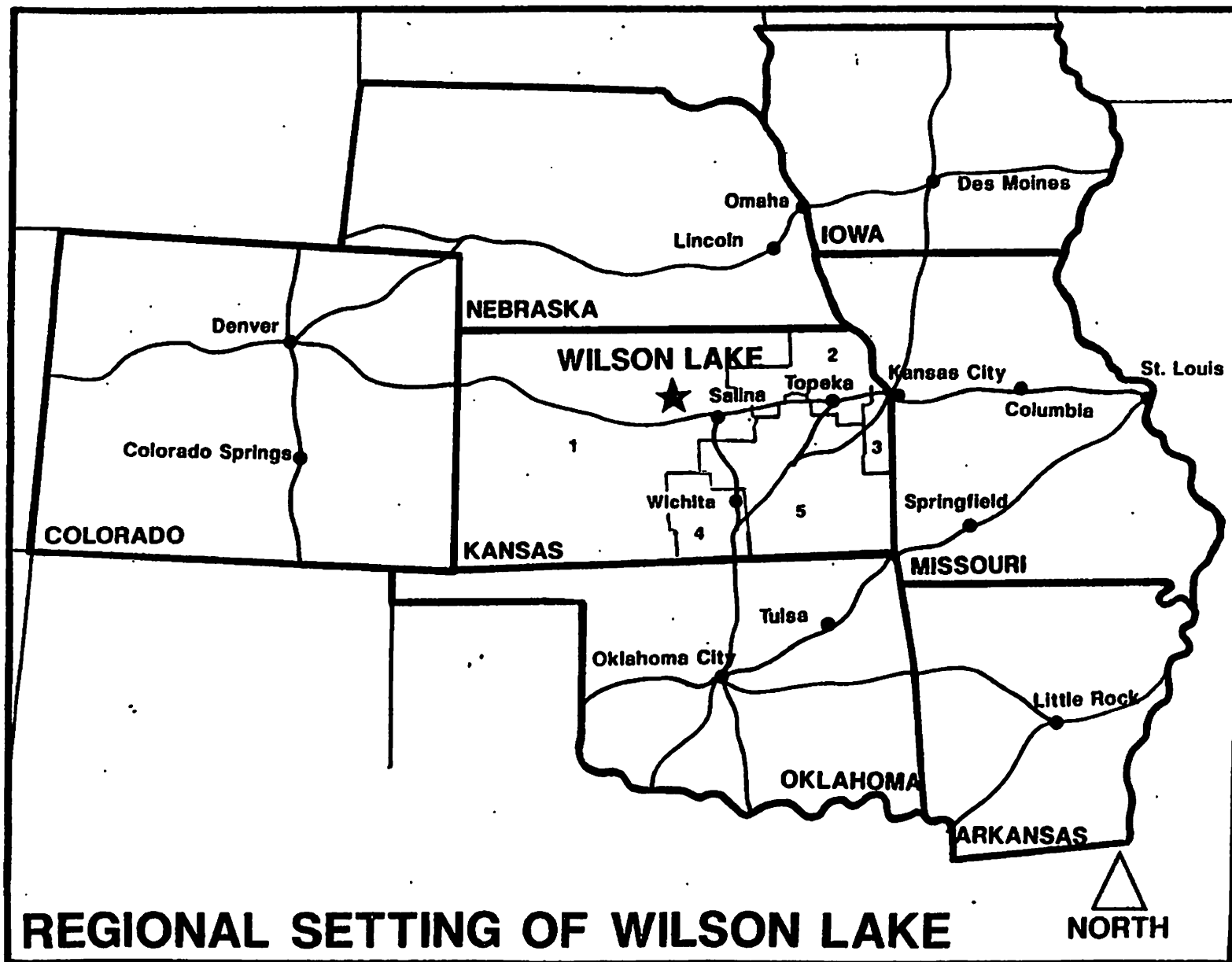


FIGURE 1

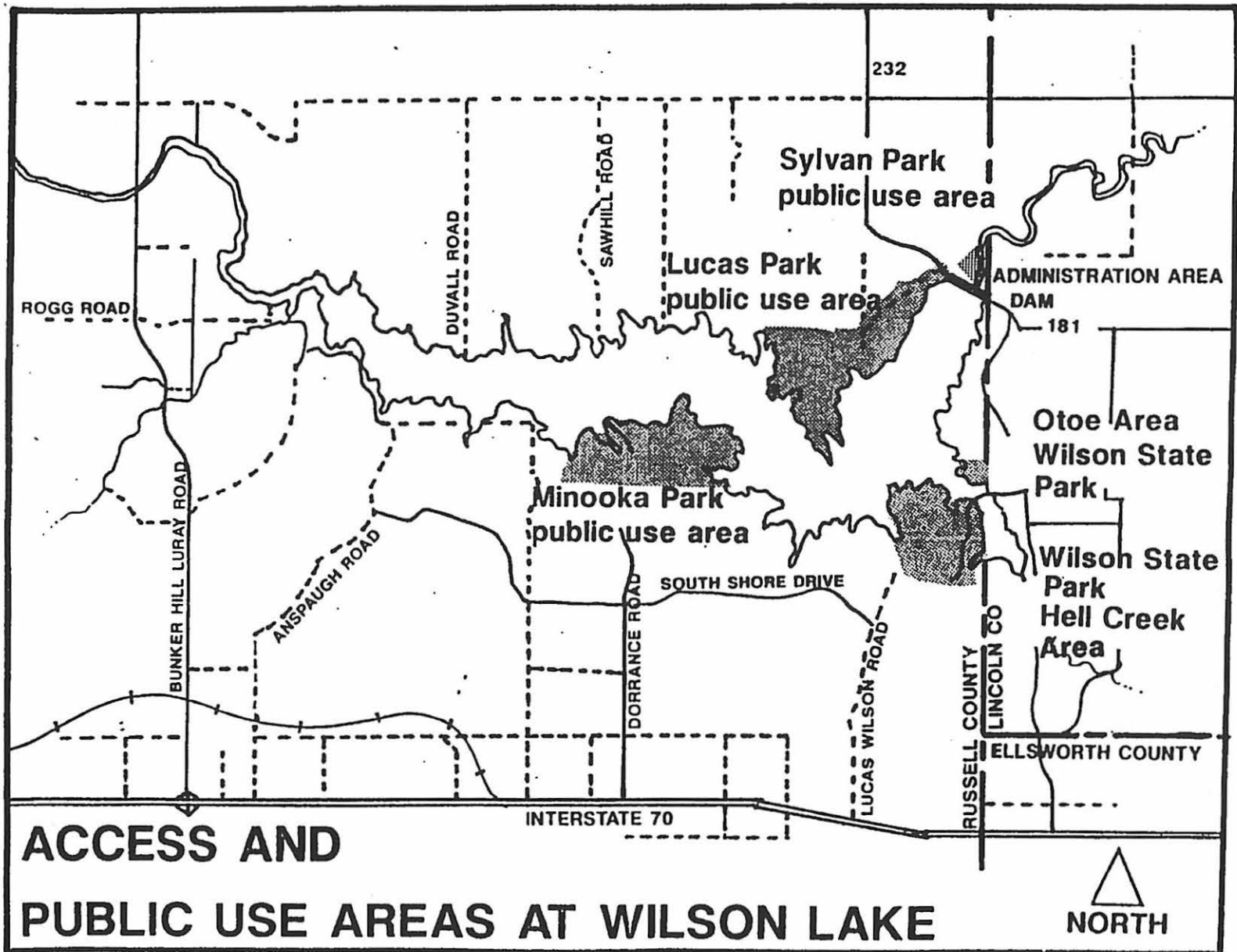


FIGURE 2