

Ringgold Reservoir Frequently Asked Questions

Has Wichita Falls coordinated with the leadership of Clay County in planning Ringgold Reservoir?

There has been no appearance by Wichita Falls city officials or by proponents of Ringgold Reservoir before the Clay County commissioners court or the Henrietta city council. Proponents of the reservoir have not held any public meetings in Clay County about the project.

Has Wichita Falls coordinated with the landowners whose land will be inundated?

Other than requests by the engineering firm to go on people's land to do environmental surveys, the City of Wichita Falls has made no effort to reach out to the landowners who will be forced to sell their land for Ringgold Reservoir.

Does Wichita Falls really need to build Ringgold in order to have an adequate future water supply?

Wichita Falls has done an outstanding job of developing adequate water supply, so much so that the city's current supply is more than enough to meet its projected demand through at least the year 2070.

Is building Ringgold Reservoir important for economic development?

Having an adequate water supply is important to encourage economic development, but Wichita Falls' water supply is already substantially more than enough water to supply all the City's expected growth over the next fifty years. Building additional excess would not encourage economic development. Indeed, it might discourage companies from coming to the region by placing an unnecessary debt load on the City's residents.

Who would pay for Ringgold?

The taxpayers of Wichita Falls are already paying for expensive engineering plans and environmental studies to be used in the permit application process. These studies will ultimately cost tens of millions of dollars. The actual construction of the reservoir, which will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, will mostly likely be paid for out of increased water rates.

The numbers circulated by Texoma Stewardship Coalition for how much water Wichita Falls has available are different from the numbers on the charts in the Region B Water Plan. What is the reason for this difference and which numbers are correct?

The numbers circulated by Texoma Stewardship Coalition represent the "firm yield" of Wichita Falls' water sources; that is, the actual amounts of water that the City of Wichita Falls has available.

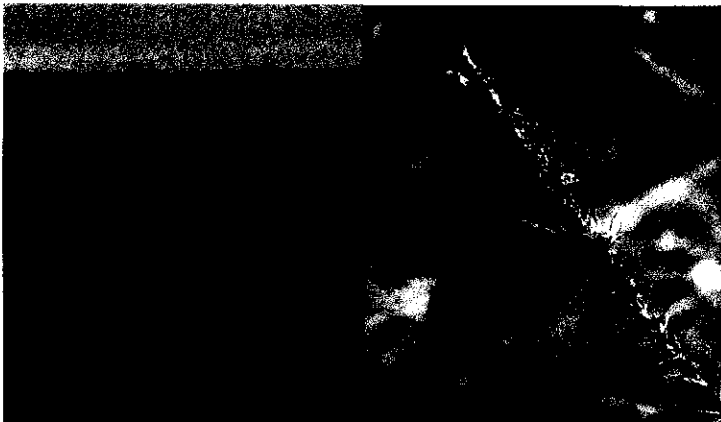
The Region B Water Plan is a planning document that includes a number of "what if..." scenarios. Instead of the firm yield water supply, it uses a concept known as "safe yield". A one-year safe yield is the amount of water that would be available each year if enough water was at all times left in its reservoirs to meet a full year's demands. The two-year safe yield is the amount of water that would be available each year if an amount equal to two years of the city's water supply was left standing in reservoirs.

Developing water sources is very expensive for taxpayers and water ratepayers. While it is sensible to develop somewhat more water than the city is expected to need, the amount of overage should be a reasonable percentage to avoid wasting the local citizens' money. The total amount of water Wichita Falls has rights to is more than twice its projected future demand over the next fifty years. It would be expensive overkill to also build a reservoir to meet the safe yield when the firm yield is so far in excess of expected need.

There have been rumors that the City of Wichita Falls is partnering with the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) and that some of the water will be piped to Fort Worth. Is this true?

A year or so ago, there was apparently some discussion of having TRWD and Wichita Falls do the Ringgold project together. But the application for a permit to build Ringgold is in the name only of Wichita Falls. And the Director of Public Works for Wichita Falls recently stated that no entity from the DFW Metroplex was involved in the decision to move forward with Lake Ringgold.

There is nothing to stop Wichita Falls from selling some of the water to Fort Worth after the reservoir is built (if it is built). The fact that Wichita Falls was considering sharing the water with Fort Worth indicates that Wichita Falls doesn't need the amount of water Ringgold would produce.



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