

Lake Red Rock Drawdown 2007

The Reason

The US Army Corps of Engineers will draw down the reservoir ten feet in the fall of 2007 to dewater the tainter gate bays. The tainter gates serve as the emergency spillway for the dam and are lifted up and down by cables. During the flood of 1993, several of these cables snapped. All the cables were replaced immediately following the flood and put on a 15-year replacement schedule. At the conservation pool elevation of 742 feet above sea level, the cable attachment brackets are permanently submerged. The lowered reservoir level will allow direct access to the brackets.

The Process

The drawdown will begin after Labor Day, 2007. The reservoir will be lowered at a rate of 0.5 feet per day, requiring approximately 20 days to reach the target elevation of 732 msl (mean sea level). The drawdown is expected to last into the first week of December, allowing time for cable replacement and other projects. Following the drawdown, the reservoir will be raised to the conservation pool as quickly as possible, while maintaining a minimum outflow of 300 cubic feet per second.



The lifting cables for the dam's tainter gates will be replaced during the drawdown.

Other Drawdown Projects

In addition to working on the Red Rock Dam, several other projects are planned during the drawdown:

Fish "Reef" Construction: Two areas are being considered for creation of a rip rap fish "reef" to improve fish habitat: The shoreline upstream from the Marina Cove and the shoreline around Whitebreast Point. Estimated cost of the construction is \$250,000 (Iowa Department of Natural Resources sponsored project).

Elk Rock Boat Ramp Renovations: The boat ramp at Elk Rock State Park (Teter Creek Ramp) will be upgraded to a four-lane, multi-level ramp usable at all lake levels. The parking area will also be expanded to hold approximately 150 vehicles with trailers. The updated facility is expected to be completed in time for the 2008 summer recreation season. Estimated cost of the renovation is \$800,000 (Iowa Department of Natural Resources sponsored project).

Lake Use

The lake will not be closed to public use during the drawdown. Boat ramps will be evaluated for accessibility on a case-by-case basis.



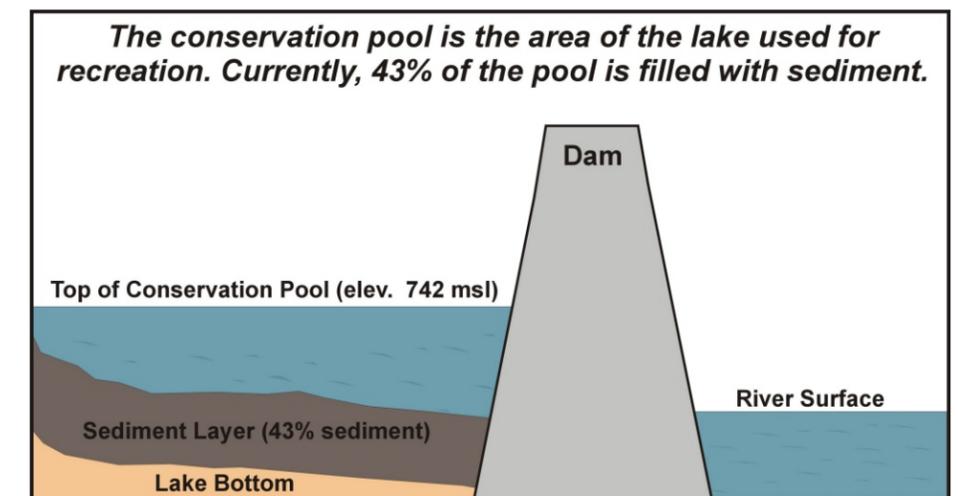
No Off-Roading Permitted



The operation and/or parking of a vehicle off authorized roadways is prohibited. Vehicles shall also be operated in accordance with posted restrictions and regulations. No ATVs are allowed on the project.

Sedimentation: A Muddy Problem

While the reservoir is drawn down, shallow areas and mud flats will be exposed. The reservoir was designed to store this sediment in the conservation pool while still allowing downstream flood control. Unfortunately, this stored sediment begins to impact recreational opportunities. People recreate on the conservation pool and it is shrinking. The equivalent of 465,000 dump truck loads of soil come into the conservation pool every year. At that rate, dredging is not cost effective. The conservation pool elevation was raised in 1992 to cover up the mud. The conservation pool cannot be raised again without impacting flood storage.



Questions?

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