

PERFORMANCE REPORT

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FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

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FEDERAL AID PROJECT F-30-R-31

STATEWIDE FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2005 Survey Report

**Daniel Reservoir**

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## SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Fish populations in Daniel Reservoir have not been surveyed since 2001 because of low-water conditions. This report contains a management plan for the reservoir.

- **Reservoir Description:** Daniel Reservoir is a 950-acre impoundment located on Gonzales Creek. It is located in Stephens County approximately 65 miles northeast of Abilene and is operated and controlled by the city of Breckenridge. The reservoir provided municipal water supply for the city of Breckenridge. Land use around the reservoir is primarily agricultural. Water level began dropping in 1998, and the reservoir was dry or nearly dry by fall 2003. It has been too low to sample since fall 2001. There has been no boat or fishing access for several years because of low-water conditions.
- **Management History:** Water level has been monitored with visual inspections to assess extent of drought conditions. Conditions have not allowed prey and game fish to be stocked.
- **Fish Community:** Status of all prey and sport fish is unknown, however, it is likely that very few if any desirable fish remain in the reservoir.
- **Management Strategies:** Stock forage and sport fish species when the water level reaches 1,270 ft. above mean sea level. Monitor fish populations in 2009/2010 if boat ramps are usable.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the document is to provide fisheries information and make management recommendations to protect and improve the sport fishery at Daniel Reservoir.

### *Reservoir Description*

Daniel Reservoir is a 950-acre impoundment constructed in 1948 on Gonzales Creek. It is located in Stephens County approximately 65 miles northeast of Abilene and is operated and controlled by the city of Breckenridge. The reservoir provided municipal water supply for the city of Breckenridge. Land use around the reservoir is primarily agricultural.

Water level began dropping in 1998, and the reservoir was dry or nearly dry by fall 2003 (Figure 1). It has been too low to sample since fall 2001. There has been no boat or fishing access for several years; the city of Breckenridge has restricted access to the lake because of low-water conditions.

Other descriptive characteristics for Daniel Reservoir are in Table 1.

### *Management History*

**Previous management strategies and actions:** Management strategies and actions from the previous survey report (Dumont and Jons 2002) included:

1. Monitor water levels and periodically visually monitor reservoir for fish kills and, in the event that the reservoir catches a meaningful amount of water, stock forage and sport fish.

**Action:** Several visual inspections have been made at Daniel Reservoir. It has not caught enough water to justify any fish stockings and has not been sampled since 2001.

**Harvest regulation history:** Sportfishes in Daniel Reservoir are currently managed, and have always been managed, with statewide regulations (Table 2).

**Stocking history:** Daniel Reservoir has been stocked with Florida largemouth bass in 1983, 1991 and 1997. No other fish species have been officially stocked. Previous stockings of Florida largemouth bass are irrelevant at this point in the reservoir's history.

**Vegetation/habitat history:** Daniel Reservoir has no significant vegetation/habitat management history.

## METHODS

No surveys were conducted in 2005 or 2006 because of low-water conditions. Source for water level data was the United States Geological Survey website.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Habitat:** A habitat survey was last conducted in 1997 (Jons and Dumont 1998). No manmade changes have occurred since the 1997 habitat survey.

**Fish Community:** No results are presented because reservoir was not surveyed in 2005 or 2006.

**Fisheries management plan for Daniel Reservoir, Texas**

Prepared – July 2006.

**ISSUE 1:** Daniel reservoir has nearly dried up on more than one occasion since 2000. There is likely very few forage or sport fish present in the reservoir.

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

1. Stock forage and sport fish species when the water level reaches 1,270 ft. above mean sea level.

**SAMPLING SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:**

Standard surveys and report are scheduled for 2009/2010, unless drought continues.

## LITERATURE CITED

Jons, G., and S. Dumont. 1998. Statewide freshwater fisheries monitoring and management program survey report for Daniel Reservoir, 1997. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Federal Aid Report F-30-R, Austin.

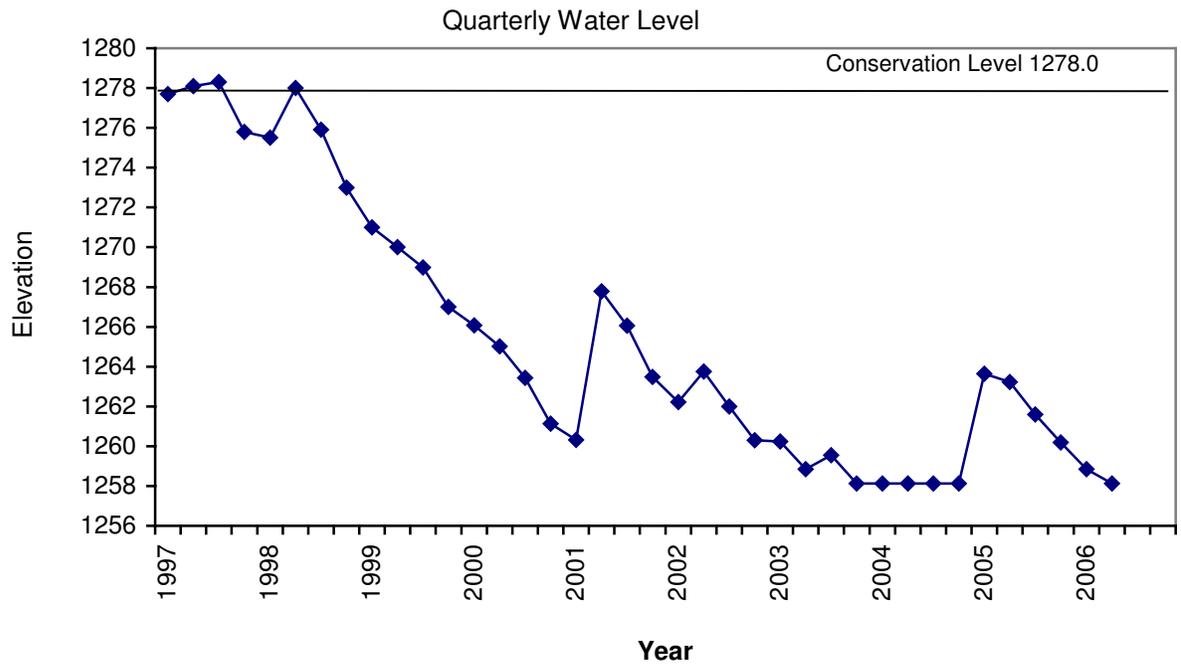


Figure 1. Quarterly water level elevations in feet above mean sea level recorded for Daniel Reservoir, Texas.

Table 1. Characteristics of Daniel Reservoir, Texas.

Characteristic	Description
Year constructed	1948
Controlling authority	City of Breckenridge
County	Stephens
Reservoir type	Tributary stream

Table 2. Harvest regulations for Daniel Reservoir, Texas

Species	Bag Limit	Minimum-Maximum Length (inches)
Catfish: channel and blue catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	12 – No Limit
Catfish, flathead	5	18 – No Limit
Bass: largemouth	5	14 – No Limit
Crappie: white and black crappie, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	10 – No Limit

Table 4. Proposed sampling schedule for Daniel Reservoir, Texas. Gill netting surveys are conducted in the spring, while electrofishing and trap netting surveys are conducted in the fall. Standard survey denoted by S and additional survey denoted by A.

Survey Year	Electrofisher	Trap Net	Gill Net	Creel Survey	Report
Fall 2006-Spring 2007					
Fall 2007-Spring 2008					
Fall 2008-Spring 2009					
Fall 2009-Spring 2010	S	S	S		S