



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WILDLIFE FOOD AND COVER PLANTING STARTED

The first of a series of projects to restore wildlife on water-utilization developments in the Missouri River Basin have gotten under way at three Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs now in their final stages of construction, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

The first planting of vegetative cover was started on the Angostura Reservoir in South Dakota with the coming of spring weather and similar work was initiated a few days later on the Enders and Medicine Creek Reservoirs in Nebraska's Republican River Basin.

These and other comparable developments consist of specially-designed plantations of trees and shrubs to replace vegetation flooded by reservoirs built by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Army Engineers. The new growths are expected to furnish winter cover and year-around habitat for game species, principally upland game.

The work was planned cooperatively by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State conservation departments, and the latter agencies will maintain and operate the habitat plots after complete development. Funds necessary for these plantings were provided by the Bureau of Reclamation as a part of the project construction cost.

Plantings at Angostura Reservoir, which were intentionally restricted in size, will consist of five plots comprising 27 acres with 34,000 trees and shrubs. At Enders Reservoir, 45 acres will be covered by 45,000 trees and shrubs while 37,000 will be planted on the 37-acre tract at Medicine Creek Reservoir. All wildlife plantings will be fenced for protection against livestock intrusion and will require about five years of cultivation and maintenance to become established.

In addition to these three cover projects of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the first two of more than 60 wildlife habitat plantations on the Fort Randall Reservoir of the Corps of Engineers in South Dakota will be started this spring, Secretary Chapman said. These plantings will range in size from 5 to 13 acres and will total about 575 acres scattered along both sides of the 15¹/₂-mile-long reservoir. Five large Fort Randall areas averaging about 300 acres each will be fenced and developed as wildlife management units to be administered by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

Other developments in the interest of wildlife, and similar to those being started this year, will be made at most of the 105 reservoirs included in the Missouri River Basin program. Through coordination between the agencies concerned, actual work can be undertaken while construction contracts are in effect, so that manpower and equipment will be available, Secretary Chapman said.

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