Cheney Reservoir was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, completed in 1964. Its major uses include fish and wildlife management, recreation, flood control and a water supply for the City of Wichita. The reservoir is located 17 miles west of Wichita on 21st Street. The north end is 12 miles south of Hutchinson. The reservoir complex consists of 9,537 acres of water at conservation pool, 5,249 acres of wildlife area, and 1,913 acres of state park.

WILDLIFE AREA

The wildlife area provides public hunting during open seasons. Primary game species are pheasant, quail, rabbit, waterfowl, dove, and turkey. Furbearers such as raccoon, red fox, opossum, skunk, muskrat, beaver, and bobcat are common in the area. Due to habitat development, the wildlife area supports an excellent wildlife population.

Nature watching is popular on the wildlife area, and the road along the north side of the refuge is a good place to observe waterfowl.

Camping is permitted only in designated areas.

REFUGE

A refuge has been set aside on the wildlife area for migratory waterfowl. This area is closed to all activities from September 15 to March 15. The refuge is clearly marked with fences, signs, and buoys in the water area. It is reopened each March for fishing and non-hunting day-use activities.

Fisherman should remember that the waters around the refuge area are marked by the buoy line and are closed to fishing and boating from September 15 to March 15.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Regulations are posted at all information centers, entrances, and are available at all offices.

Vehicles are limited to maintained roads and parking areas.

A no-trash policy is in effect on the wildlife area. Enjoy your area but leave only your footprints behind. Please take your trash with you.

Alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content above 3.2% are prohibited.

Target practice is prohibited outside the designated shooting range.
FISHING

Fishing is good for channel catfish, white bass, crappie, striped bass, wipers, and walleye. Popular species and seasons include walleye along the dam in late winter and early spring, channel catfish at the feeders during the summer, and trolling for wipers in spring and summer.

A handicap-accessible fishing complex is located at the Toadstool Loop Jetty (see map for locations) and consists of a fishing pier and brushpile fish attractors for crappie.

Courtesy docks and boat ramps are available at Red Bluffs, Fish Cove, and Wenzel Cove areas. A boat ramp at DeWeese Park area is for launching small vessels only.

Three deep-water fish attractors have been constructed to attract sportfish, especially crappie (see map). These sunken trees are marked by buoys and are especially productive at times of the year when crappie are not typically in shallow water, such as midsummer and winter.

Fish feeders are placed at Red Bluffs and Wenzel Cove in the spring and removed in early fall.

SHOOTING RANGE

The Cheney Shooting Range, located at the north end of the wildlife area, is open and operated by certified range officers Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The range is closed on all state designated holidays.

A shooting permit is required to shoot at the range and can be obtained at the range during operating hours. Read all posted range rules before shooting.

Only paper targets are allowed on the range.

Target practice outside the shooting range is unlawful and prohibited.

SPECIAL HUNTS

Each September, one or more food plots on the wildlife area may be designated for dove hunting. Call the wildlife area office listed on the front of this brochure for field designations and directions, as well as other special hunts that may be held on the wildlife area.

CAMPING

Primitive camping is allowed at Fish Cove and DeWeese Park areas. Camping is prohibited on the rest of Cheney Wildlife Area.

Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Only contained fires are allowed in campgrounds.