Cheney Reservoir was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation and completed in 1964. Its main 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, 5,349 acres of wildlife area, and 1,913 acres of state park.

WILDLIFE AREA

Cheney Wildlife Area provides public hunting during open seasons. Primary game species are pheasants, quail, rabbit, waterfowl, dove, turkey and deer. Furbearers such as raccoon, red fox, opossum, skunk, muskrat, beaver, bobcat and coyote are common in the area. Due to habitat development, the wildlife area supports excellent wildlife populations.

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.

RETFUGE

A refuge has been set aside on the wildlife area for migratory waterfowl. This area is closed to all activities from September 1 to March 31. The refuge is clearly marked with fences, signs, and buoys in the water area. It is reopened each April for fishing and non-hunting day-use activities. It is closed to hunting year-round.

The waters around the refuge area are marked by the buoy line and is closed to fishing and boating September 1 to March 31.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

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

Vehicles are limited to maintained roads and parking areas only.

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

Target practice is prohibited outside the designated shooting range.

FISHING

Fish species in Cheney Reservoir include wiper, channel catfish, crappie, white bass, walleye, blue catfish and White perch*. Popular seasons for species include crappie in deep water during the winter, walleye along the dam in early spring, crappie along the shoreline April-May, trolling for wipers in the spring and summer, catfish in the shallows during the spring and deep water during the summer. Fishing from the shore is usually better during the spring and fall when fish are spawning or feeding. Most fish are deeper during the summer and winter months.

*White perch are an invasive species. It is illegal to possess live white perch. They compete with other predators in the lake limiting the numbers of sport fish. White perch make good table fare and can be easily caught. Anglers have the most success near rocky shores during the month of May.

A handicapped-accessible fishing jetty is located at the West Treadstock Loop jetty. There is also a covered dock by the East Treadstock Loop jetty that has brush piles to attract fish. Brush piles have been placed in many areas throughout the lake. Newsletters containing information about the Cheney Reservoir fishery and locations of fish attractors can be found at ksoutdoors.com.

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.

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 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 direction, 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 the campgrounds. No Hunting Allowed in campgrounds.