

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 10, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
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DOLE SEEKS \$900,000 FOR WILSON LAKE;
WINS FIRST ROUND SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) announced today that the full Senate has approved his request for \$900,000 to rehabilitate and upgrade public facilities at Lake Wilson.

The Dole measure, which directs the Army Corps of Engineers to fund the lake improvements, was added to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill during debate on the Senate floor. The bill passed the Senate Wednesday by a 96 to 3 margin and now goes to a joint House and Senate conference for further consideration.

"These improvements, if ultimately approved, will be a welcome addition to this outstanding recreation area. The tens of thousands of Kansans and out-of-state visitors who travel to Lake Wilson every year will enjoy upgraded camping, swimming and boating facilities," Dole said.

The Dole amendment will enable the Corps to implement major portions of its masterplan for Lake Wilson, including:

1) Campground improvements -- new electrical and water hook-ups, rest rooms and an amphitheater; and 2) Construction of a new water recreation area -- boat ramps, docks, fish cleaning stations, a picnic site, a playground, a new swimming area, and public dressing rooms.

"I will continue to look for ways to improve natural and historic attractions in our state, with Wilson Lake being only one of many other deserving projects. I will also continue to work with the Park Service, the Corps of Engineers and state officials to make certain that Kansas gets its fair share of federal attention," said Dole.

"Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing the official findings of the National Park Service's Lake Wilson feasibility study, which I requested on August 9, 1990," Dole said. "There has been a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the study -- Wilson Lake was never viewed by anyone as a candidate to be a National Park, such as Yellowstone or Yosemite, but I am still seeing press reports and editorials to that effect."

"But given the fact that similar lakes and reservoirs in other states have earned National Recreation Area status, I had every reason to believe that Wilson Lake was a legitimate contender."

"Although I have yet to receive the official report, members of the review committee are reportedly telling some Kansas newspapers that the lake, as it exists now, would not qualify for National Recreation Area status."

"One of the key factors apparently is the lake's smaller size," Dole said. "and I would be flatly opposed to additional land acquisition."

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