



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
933 EAST COURT STREET · SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155 · FAX [830] 379-9718

Canyon Reservoir 200 cfs release set for Memorial Day

This information is provided as a public service by GBRA.

CONTACT: Judy Gardner, GBRA Public Communications, (830) 379-5822, or jgardner@gbra.org

For specifics regarding this release rate and other Corps of Engineers release requirements:

CONTACT: Ron Ruffenach, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth, (817) 978-2196

To inquire about recreation conditions:

CONTACT: Michael Meek, New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-572-2626
Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce, (830) 964-2223

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEGUIN- For the second year in a row, releases from Canyon Reservoir over the Memorial Day Weekend will be enhanced by additional water from a 'seasonal pool variance,' the result of a cooperative effort by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, (GBRA), the Comal County Commissioners Court, the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD), the New Braunfels and Canyon Lake Area Chambers of Commerce and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Visitors for the opening of the summer recreation season will enjoy a 200 cubic foot per second (cfs) release beginning Friday, May 24 and continuing through Monday afternoon, May 27. "This release rate works for everyone, including families and children, and is very good for tubing and general river recreation," said New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce president Michael Meek.

Enhanced recreation releases that benefit users of Canyon Reservoir, as well as river recreation, are made possible by an interim agreement with the Corps of Engineers. This agreement allows GBRA to store up to one foot of flood flows, when available, in the Canyon Reservoir flood pool through Labor Day 2002. "This seasonal pool variance uses water that may result from spring rainfall, and raises the reservoir's elevation above the normal conservation pool of 909 feet mean sea level (msl), to 910 feet msl during the variance period. This season has been unusually dry, but we have managed to store some water," said GBRA general manager W. E. "Bill" West, Jr.

The Water Strategies Committee, with representatives from Comal County, the City of New Braunfels, New Braunfels Utilities, the New Braunfels and Canyon Lake Chambers of Commerce, WORD, the Corps of Engineers and GBRA, is responsible for making recommendations on how to use any water in the seasonal variance for the longest time possible while providing good release rates.

According to West, GBRA and the Corps are working toward a revision to Canyon Reservoir's flood operating procedures that would create a permanent seasonal variance. "With this in place, it would no longer be necessary to negotiate annual agreements with the Corps. It would also provide greater assurance that water would be available for summer recreation enhancement as long as there are early season inflows that can be temporarily stored in the reservoir flood pool."