



Work Is Now in progress on the spillway and interconnect structure for the Cypress Lake near Benton with hopes of advertising for bids on the dam itself in the next few months. A report compiled by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission indicates the lake could be a top fishing spot when it is developed. (Times Photo by Billy Upshaw)

The strongest criticism in the Wild Life report was aimed at the project's plans that call for 55 miles of channel improvement on Willow Chute, Flat River and Benoit Bayou. They are presently in a channelized state and are dry except during wet periods.

The district plans to improve the channels and install low level piers to keep water in the channels year-round for irrigation use.

The report said, "This part of the project seems useless in that present channels are adequate for flood protection and project sponsors indicate very little interest from local landowners for purchasing water for irrigation or municipal purposes."

Report Disputed

Donn G. Thompson, executive secretary of the district, disputed this part of the report.

Thompson said there are few concrete plans or funds for municipal or irrigation water use at present but said there is much interest in this part of the project. Clyde W. Fowler, Bossier City commissioner of finance and utilities and also a Cypress-Black board member has already expressed an interest in using water from the lakes for Bossier City.

Cypress Lake will be the first completed and work is now in progress on part of the lake's dam. The district cannot advertise for the contract for the main portion of the dam until all disputed land title cases are settled in the courts.

The district hopes that the land cases can be resolved in the near future and that work on the first dam will be well under way by the end of 1972. Work on the other projects will follow construction of the Cypress dam.