



GENE FARMER (left) and Cal Moore, both of Eldora, look over the large earthen-fill erosion control structure which will fit into the conservation program for the Pine Lake watershed. The "drop inlet" structure is on land owned by the

Pine Lake Wildlife club near Eldora. Farmer is chairman of the club committee which started the project, and Moore, who works for the Soil Conservation Service, is also a member of the club.

Widespread Benefits Seer From Pine Lake Project

By STEWART HAAS
Courier Staff Writer

ELDORA — An improvement project which would make Pine Lake State Park the largest complete vacation area in Central Iowa is also benefitting farm land in Hardin and Grundy counties.

For the project has helped step up conservation work on the 10,176 acres comprising the vast Pine Lake watershed.

PINE LAKE officials see the project as an example of how the individuals of two counties can work together to bring improvements into their general area.

The project when completed will increase the size of Upper Pine Lake to 106 acres and increase its depth about six feet. This will mean small motor boats can cruise on the lake for the first time. More tourist business will be attracted to the area.

But aside from that, the project has helped boost conservation efforts in the hills and gullies from Pine Lake to Grundy county. This new conservation work will have the double benefit of keeping silt out of the lake, and of keeping soil losses at a minimum on the farms of both counties.

The project got rolling when the state legislature appropriated \$93,500 for enlarging Upper Pine Lake. This lake was built in 1934 by CCC workers primarily as a sediment

trap to protect the popular lower lake and its swimming and recreation areas.

THE UPPER Lake itself was potentially a good recreation area, but its effectiveness has been marred by heavy siltation.

Cal Moore of the Hardin County Soil Conservation Service says that siltation has reduced the effective lake area from 70 to about 50 acres.

"Most of the silting has been at the upper end of the lake, but it is creeping down," he asserts.

At one point, the silting was so heavy that the deposits piled up above the old waterline, he points out.

TO REDUCE future siltation, the legislature made the condition that its appropriation would be available only when 75 per cent of the land in the watershed is under a conservation program.

"We went door-to-door to sign up everyone," Moore said.

As a result both counties went over the top in their drives to sign up conservation work.

The Grundy County Soil Conservation Service reported 80.1 per cent of its watershed land under conservation agreements. Hardin county reported about 87 per cent of the watershed land in the program.

ELDORA'S C. O. Rubow of the Pine Lake Improvement Committee, said that the legis-

lature also required a certain amount of money be raised by Hardin county groups before the appropriation would be made available.

The Eldora community was to raise an estimated \$10,000 to purchase 50 acres of land needed to enlarge the lake. The committee in cooperation with the Pine Lake Wildlife club launched a drive for the amount.

The county conservation board met a requirement that it earmark \$5,000 for the project. This will be matched by an additional \$5,000 from the state for conservation work in the park area.

In addition, the state will provide another \$2,000 for construction of a boat ramp.

THE COUNTY put in a new bridge on the north-south road east of the lake where the water level will be raised.

Brush and buildings were cleared from the area.

Now the local groups have done their part. They are waiting on the state to start work.

"No work has started on construction of the new dam," Rubow said.

BUT OFFICIALS are hoping the project will get started this year.

Meanwhile the erosion control work goes on out on the farms. Drop inlet structures for controlling erosion are planned on the Hardin county farms. John Janssen, Chris Schaa and Rosa Riley.

The farmers aren't the only ones to get into the act. A similar earthen fill erosion control structure has been completed by the Pine Lake Wildlife club on its land between Eldora and Steamboat Rock.

ALL OF THESE projects have meant a lot of work.

But Hardin and Grundy residents see it as an investment in the future of the Pine Lake watershed.