



Connecticut

West Thompson Lake Dam

The dam at West Thompson Lake is located in Thompson on the Quinebaug River, about 1,000 feet upstream from the junction of the Quinebaug and French rivers. It is three miles north of Putnam on Route 12. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 2,550 feet long and 70 feet high; an earthfill dike with stone slope protection measuring 1,650 feet long and 30 feet high; a gated horseshoe shaped concrete conduit 254 feet long and 12 feet in diameter; and a side channel concrete chute spillway with a 320-foot-long L-shaped concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 19 feet lower than the top of the dam.

Construction started in August 1963 and was completed in October 1965. The relocation of 3.3 miles of town roads was required. The cost of the project was \$7 million.

West Thompson Lake contains a 200-acre conservation pool that has a maximum depth of 13 feet. The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and is only utilized to store floodwaters, totals 1,250 acres and extends seven miles upstream. The project and associated lands cover 2,033 acres in both Thompson and Dudley, Massachusetts. West Thompson Lake can store up to 8.34 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 6.5 inches of water covering its drainage area of 173.5 square miles.

Reservoir lands support a variety of recreational activities. Facilities include a picnic area and two group shelters, boat ramp, nature trail, fireplaces, hot showers, drinking water, an amphitheater for weekend campfire programs, and parking and sanitary facilities. One of the main features of West Thompson Lake is a rustic camping area with 22 camp sites, two Adirondack shelters, and a trailer sanitary disposal station. Reservoir lands are also available for snowmobiling and crosscountry skiing.

West Thompson Lake offers an excellent spot for hunting and fishing in the scenic upper Quinebaug Valley. The lake contains bass, perch, pickerel, and horned pout. Northern pike, which have been moving down the Quinebaug River, may also be found. In-season hunting of pheasant, quail, partridge, and small game animals is available.