

Lake O' the Pines Master Plan Revision Public Information Meeting April 25 & 27, 2017

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Purpose of this Meeting

- Describe Purpose of Master Plan
- Describe the Revision Process
- Answer Questions
- Seek Your Participation & Input
- Explain Why Revision is Needed



Purpose of Master Plans

The Corps defines a Master Plan as...

“The strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.”



Source: Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 available at www.usace.army.mil/library/publications



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The Corps' Vision for Lake O' the Pines

The land, water surface and recreational resources of Lake O' the Pines will be managed to protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that complement overall project purposes for the benefit of present and future generations.



Why Revise the Lake O' the Pines Master Plan?

- Current Master Plan is dated May 1989 and has exceeded its useful life. The way the lake is managed today is different from the way it was managed in 1989.
- Land classifications have not been updated since the 1989 Master Plan
- Some changes that have occurred at LOP since 1989.
 - ▶ Changes in concession lease areas or within parks.
- The Master Plan must be revised to address population changes within the region.



Key Points Regarding Master Plans

- Main focus is stewardship of natural and cultural resources and operation of quality outdoor recreation areas
- Proposed effective life of a Master Plan is 25 years
- Recreational use of the water surface is addressed



Additional Key Points

- Key sections of the Master Plan Revision include
 - ▶ resource management objectives
 - ▶ revised land use classifications
 - ▶ management plan for each land classification
- Potential outcomes could be
 - ▶ Changes to the designation of lands
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas is given priority



National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Applies to federal actions that affect the environment such as Master Plan revisions
- Requires federal agencies to *CONSIDER and DOCUMENT the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's OVERALL planning and decision-making*
- Requires federal agencies to cooperate with other federal, state and local governments as well as with organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses



What Master Plans Are Not

- Master Plans **do not** address in detail the technical aspects of:
 - ▶ Regional water quality
 - ▶ Water management for flood risk management
 - ▶ Water supply or water level management
 - ▶ Shoreline management plan
 - Private boat docks and vegetation management by adjacent landowners



What Will Not be Addressed

- National policy places strict limitations on the proposed construction of new public roads on Corps lands. With few exceptions road proposals that would cross federal land will not be addressed.
- Shoreline policy governing mowing, removal of vegetation and debris as well as pedestrian paths will not be addressed in the Master Plan. This is administered through the shoreline management plan.



Stakeholders

- Stakeholder input is very important to the process. They include:
 - ▶ The general public
 - ▶ Agencies that manage lands, such as State and Federal Wildlife agencies
 - ▶ Concessionaires
 - ▶ Tribes
 - ▶ Historical and Cultural Societies
 - ▶ Visitors and residents of the Lake



What About Drought/Flood?

- Master Plans cannot change how water in the lake is managed – addressed in separate Water Control Plan
- Natural resources and recreation management must be implemented within the constraints of the primary missions of flood risk management and water supply



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Lake O' the Pines Missions

- Flood Risk Management
- Water Supply
- Environmental Stewardship
- Recreation

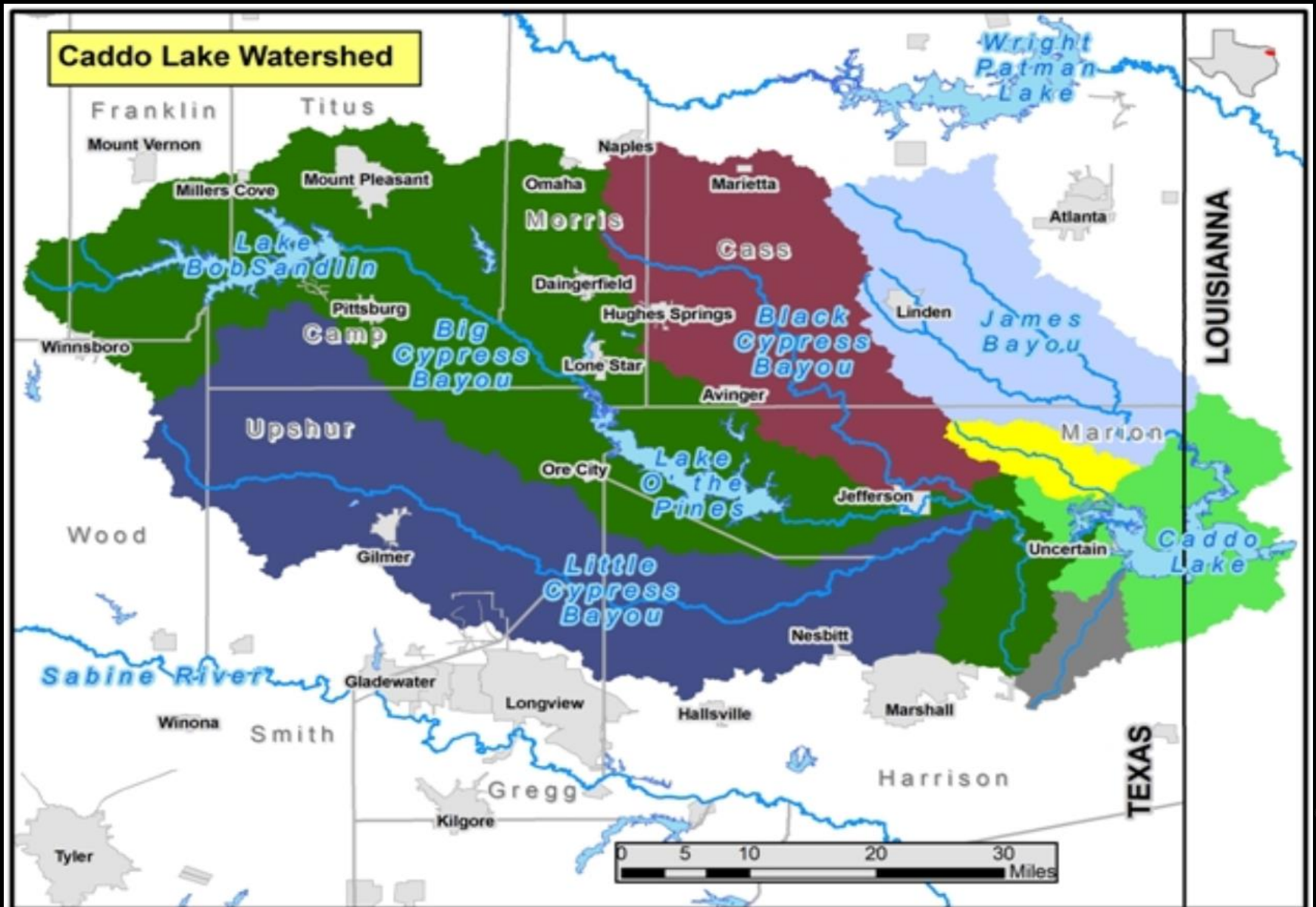


Fast Facts about Lake O' the Pines

- Created by the construction of the Ferrell's Bridge Dam on the Big Cypress Creek.
- Construction began in 1955
- Impoundment began in 1957 when cofferdam was closed
- Construction completed in 1958. Approaching 60 years old!
- Non-Federal Partner, Water Supply Contract
 - Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
 - 100% conservation pool



Caddo Watershed



Fast Facts continued...

- Visitation: 750k-1 million per year
- Gross revenues (returned to the treasury): 600k-900k per year
- 4 Campgrounds, 359 campsites
- 3 major day-use areas
- 7 swim beaches and 19 boat ramps

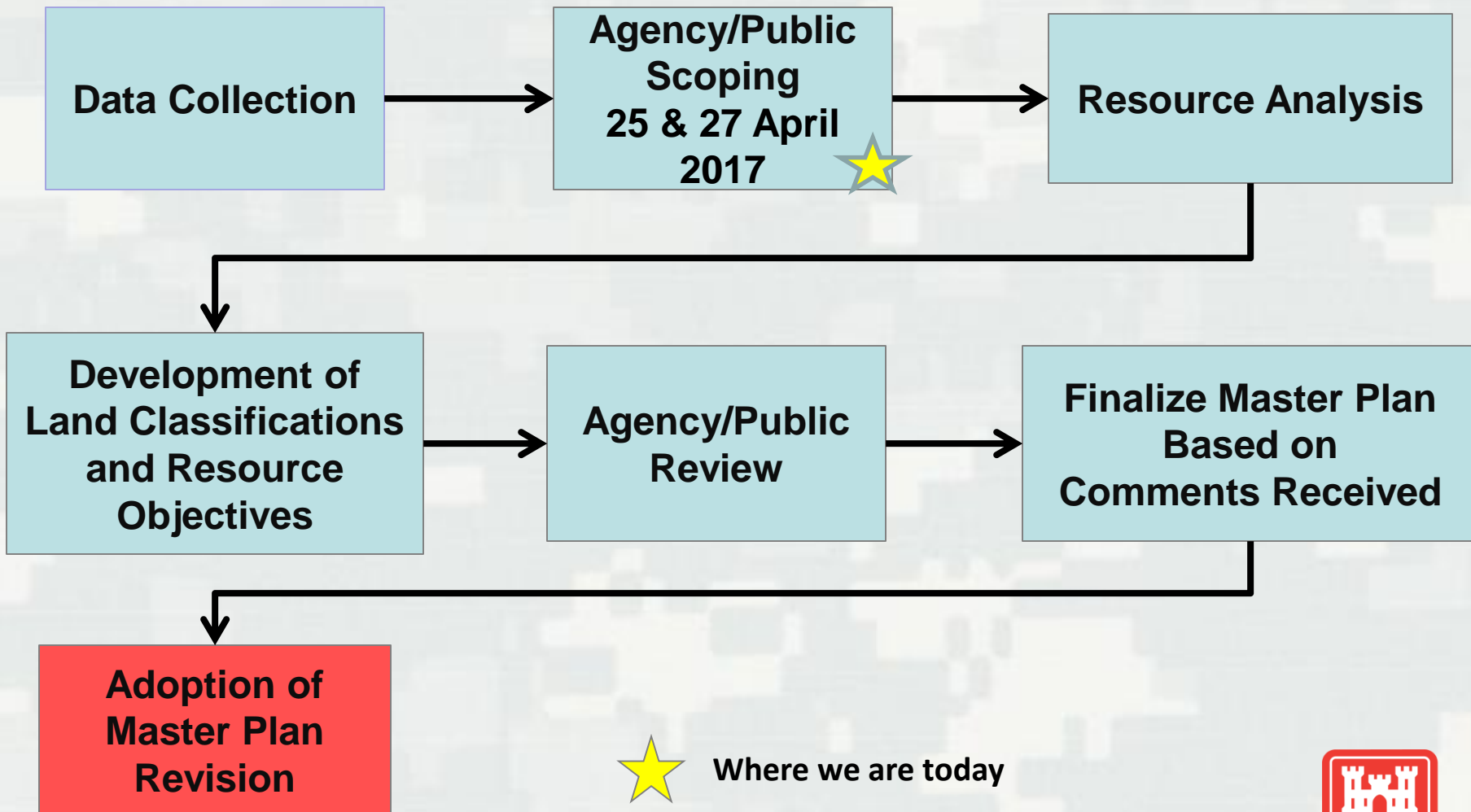


Master Plan Revision Process

- Accomplished by a team of Corps employees with input from other agencies
- Public and stakeholder input will be carefully considered
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared and included as an appendix



The Master Planning Process



Where we are today



Possible Major Changes Needed in the Current Master Plan

- Re-examine the classification of project lands and the water surface
 - ▶ Portions of currently designated parks and even non-park areas could be reclassified as environmentally sensitive areas
 - ▶ Reclassify lands formerly occupied by commercial concessions
- Prepare New Resource Management Objectives



Additional Major Changes

- Prepare new Resource Objectives
 - ▶ Need current recreation objectives that reflect major trends identified by TPWD and through public input
 - ▶ Need current natural resource objectives that reflect major habitat and open space needs identified by TPWD, USFWS and public input



Lake O' the Pines Land Classification

- Project Operations
- Recreation
- Multiple Resource Management
 - ▶ Low density recreation
 - ▶ Vegetation management
 - ▶ Inactive or future recreation area
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Easement Lands



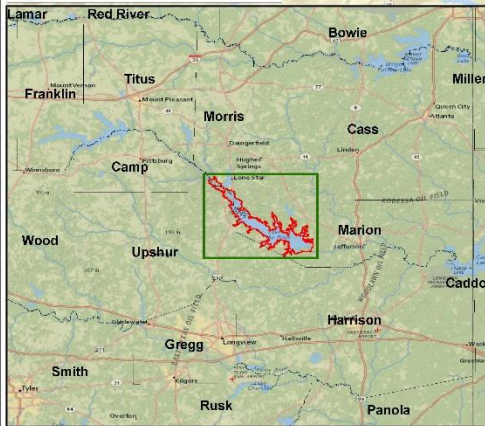
Lake O' The Pines

General Statistics

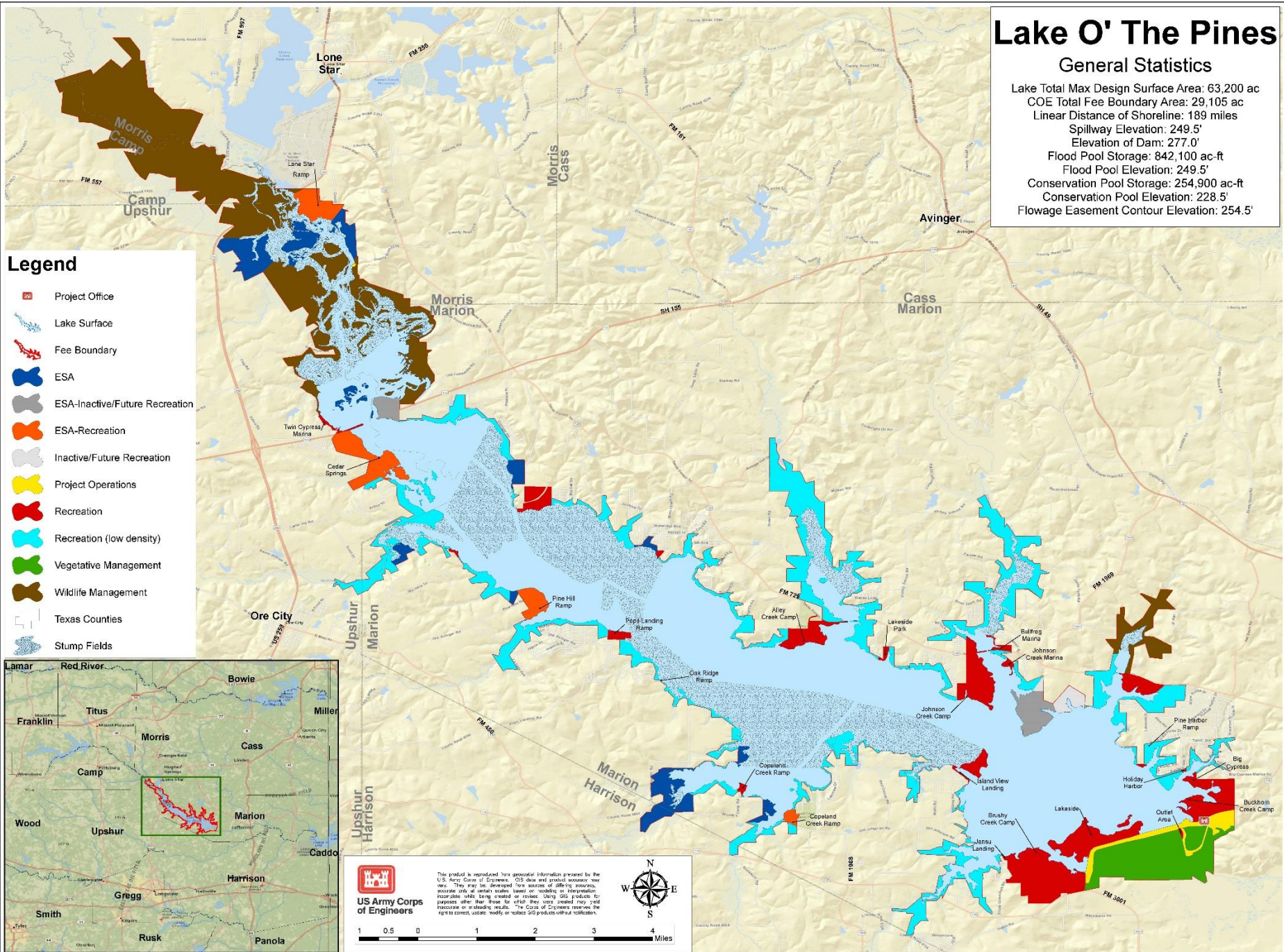
Lake Total Max Design Surface Area: 63,200 ac
 COE Total Fee Boundary Area: 29,105 ac
 Linear Distance of Shoreline: 189 miles
 Spillway Elevation: 249.5'
 Elevation of Dam: 277.0'
 Flood Pool Storage: 842,100 ac-ft
 Flood Pool Elevation: 249.5'
 Conservation Pool Storage: 254,900 ac-ft
 Conservation Pool Elevation: 228.5'
 Flowage Easement Contour Elevation: 254.5'

Legend

-  Project Office
-  Lake Surface
-  Fee Boundary
-  ESA
-  ESA-Inactive/Future Recreation
-  ESA-Recreation
-  Inactive/Future Recreation
-  Project Operations
-  Recreation
-  Recreation (low density)
-  Vegetative Management
-  Wildlife Management
-  Texas Counties
-  Stump Fields



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Land Classifications

Project Operations - This category includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, powerhouse, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project or water supply activities.



Land Classifications

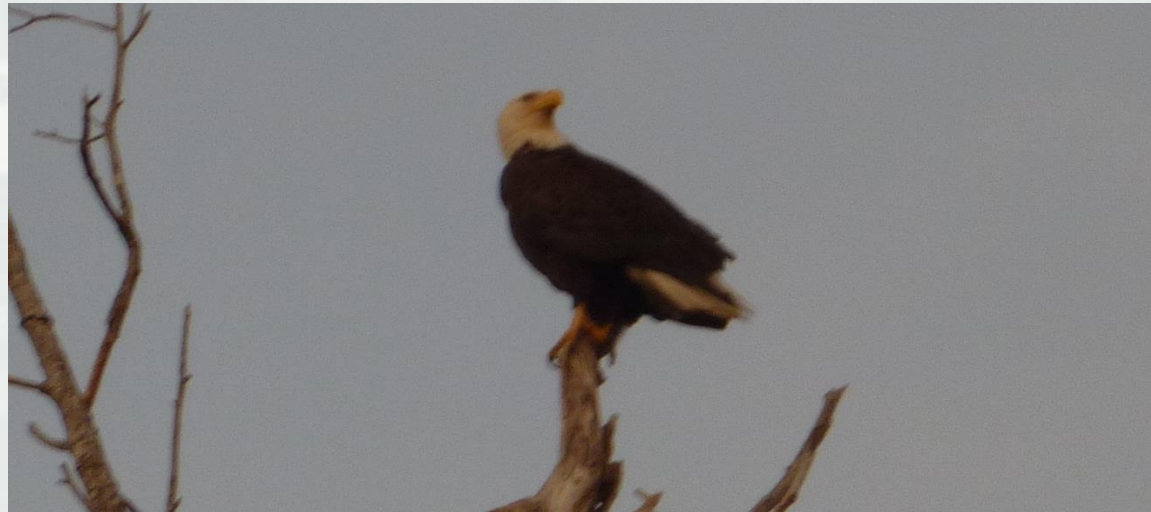
High Density Recreation - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public such as day use parks, campgrounds as well as concessions like marinas and resorts.



Land Classifications

Environmentally Sensitive Areas - Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to just lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act or applicable State statutes. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.

Examples may include mature bottomland forests, river and stream corridors, scenic bluffs, and native prairie.



Land Classifications

Low Density Recreation - Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use such as primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails and wildlife viewing areas.



Land Classifications

Wildlife Management - Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources



Land Classifications

Vegetative Management - Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover



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Water Classifications

- Water Surface- Restricted
- Water Surface-Designated No Wake
- Water Surface-Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Water Surface- Open Recreation



Utility Corridors

- Linear strips of federal land used for consolidation of multiple utility lines
- Establish only where no viable alternative to crossing Federal land exists
- Main purpose is to reduce negative environmental impacts
- Generally follow existing roads or utility lines



How Can I Participate?

- Attend Meetings
- Visit our website at:
(<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates/LakeOThePines.aspx>)
- Send us an e-mail:
(CESWF-OD-LP@usace.army.mil)
- Visit with Corps personnel
- Tell your friends
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later
(30 days)



Master Plan Next Steps

- Typical lake master plan update will take 24-36 months to finalize. The Lake O' the Pines Master Plan update is in the early stage of development
- First 30 day public comment – 25 April thru 28 May
- Draft MP / EA public meeting in Summer of 2018, followed by another 30 day Public/Agency comment period
- Final document: 6 - 8 months (Winter 2018-2019)



The End

Please feel free to visit with staff members, view the maps, ask questions and help us produce an excellent Master Plan



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