APPENDIX B - NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DOCUMENTATION

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
RAY ROBERTS LAKE MASTER PLAN 2022
TRINITY RIVER BASIN
COOKE, DENTON, AND GRAYSON COUNTIES, TX

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1130-2-550 Change 07, dated January 2013 and Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 Change 05, dated 30 January 2013, require Master Plans for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects having a federally owned land base. The revision of the 1983 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan was conducted pursuant to this ER and EP, and is necessary to bring it up to dateto reflect current ecological, socio-demographic, and outdoor recreation trends that areaffecting the lake, as well as those anticipated to occur within the planning period of 2022 to 2048.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, including guidelines in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 230, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis on the draft Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022. The draft Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022 addresses the need for an updated comprehensive land management document for Ray Roberts Lake in Tarrant and Denton Counties, Texas. The final recommendation will be contained in the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the draft Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022 evaluated an alternative that would revise the 1983 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan to meet current policy, and its assessment of impacts are summarized in Table 1 and are included as reference.

The revision of the *1983 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan* (hereafter Plan or Master Plan) is a framework built collaboratively to serve as a guide toward appropriate stewardshipof USACE administered resources at Ray Roberts Lake over the next 25 years.

In addition to a “no action” plan, one alternative that fully meets the project purpose was evaluated (proposed action/plan). Section 2.0 of the draft Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan EA discusses the alternative formulation and selection as well the summary of thenew goals and objectives. Section 8, Tables 8-1, and 8-2 of the Master Plan summarizes the changes to the land classifications. The proposed plan includes coordination with the public, updates to comply with the USACE regulations and guidance, and reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1983. Land classifications were refined to meet authorized project purposes and current resource objectives that address a mix of natural resources and recreation management objectives that are compatible with regional goals, recognize outdoor recreation trends, and are responsive to public comments.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Plan

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	☐	☐	☒
Air quality	☐	☐	☒
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Invasive species	☐	☐	☒
Fish and wildlife habitat	☒	☐	☐
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☒	☐	☐
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☒	☐	☐
Floodplains	☐	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Hydrology	☐	☐	☒
Land use	☐	☐	☒
Socio-economics	☐	☐	☒
Environmental justice	☐	☐	☒
Soils	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☒	☐	☐
Climate change	☐	☐	☒

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been analyzed and incorporated into the proposed plan. The proposed plan will not entail any ground-disturbing activities. Future ground-disturbing activities on USACE property will be subject to all necessary environmental evaluations and compliance regulations.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the proposed plan.

Public review of the draft Master Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be completed on --. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the final Master Plan.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed plan will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed plan will have no effect on historic properties.

All applicable environmental laws were considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on the draft report, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the proposed plan would not cause significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

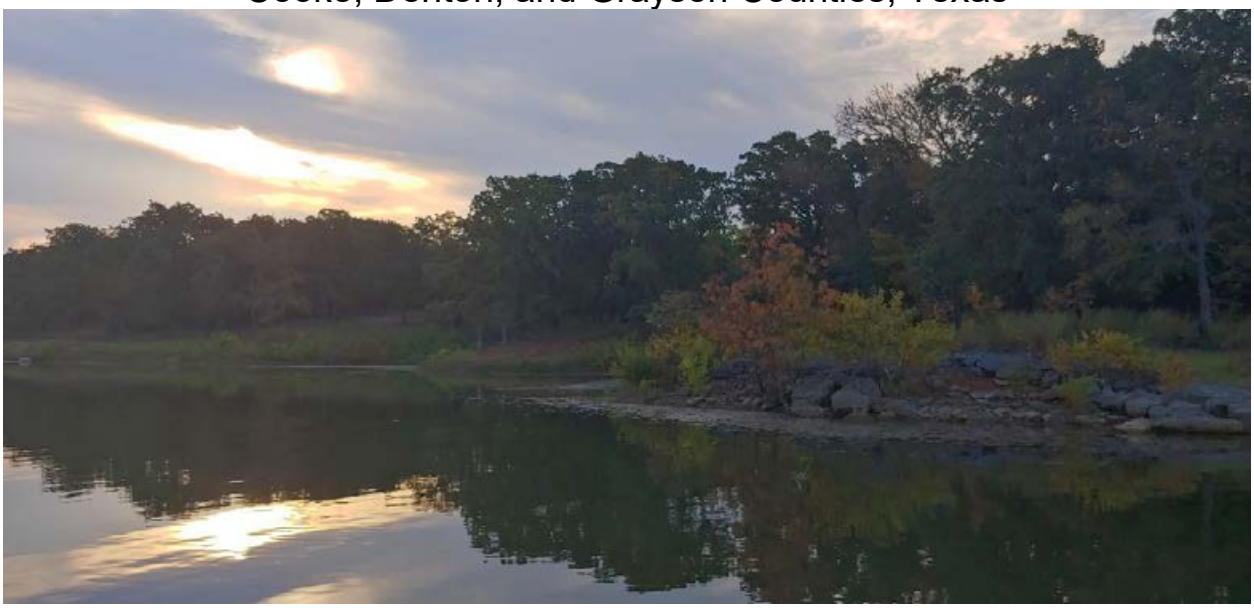
Date

Jonathan S. Stover, P.E., PMP
Colonel, EN
Commanding

Draft

Environmental Assessment for the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan

Trinity River Basin, Elm Fork Watershed
Cooke, Denton, and Grayson Counties, Texas



April 2022

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Fort Worth District

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed 2021 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan revision. This EA will facilitate the decision process regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives.

SECTION 1	*INTRODUCTION* of the Proposed Action summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.
SECTION 2	*PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES* examines alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action and describes the recommended alternative.
SECTION 3	*AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT* describes the existing environmental and socioeconomic setting.
	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES identifies the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives.
	MITIGATION summarizes mitigation actions required to enable a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action.
SECTION 4	*Reasonably Foreseeable Future* describes the impact on the environment that may result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.
SECTION 5	*COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS* provides a listing of environmental protection statutes and other environmental requirements.
SECTION 6	*IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES* identifies any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented.
SECTION 7	*PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION* provides a listing of individuals and agencies consulted during preparation of the EA.
SECTION 8	*REFERENCES* provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
SECTION 9	*ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS*
SECTION 10	*LIST OF PREPARERS* identifies persons who prepared the document and their areas of expertise.
ATTACHMENT A	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordination and Scoping

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Draft ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Master Plan

Ray Roberts Lake
Cooke, Denton, and Grayson Counties, Texas

SECTION 1:INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to evaluate the proposed 2022 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan (MP). The MP is a programmatic document that is subject to evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, (Public Law [PL] 91-190). This EA is an assessment of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of either the No Action or Proposed Action and has been prepared in accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations ((CFR) Part 230 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) as amended in 2020, and as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation, ER 200-2-2.

The MP is a strategic land use management plan that provides direction to the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement, and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of a USACE water resource project, which includes all government-owned lands in and around a reservoir. It is a vital tool for responsible stewardship and sustainability of the project's natural and cultural resources, as well as the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities on Federal lands associated with Ray Roberts Lake for the benefit of present and future generations. The MP identifies conceptual types and levels of activities, but does not include designs, project sites, or estimated costs. All actions carried out by USACE, other agencies, and individuals granted leases to USACE lands must be consistent with the proposed MP. Therefore, the proposed MP must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in USACE decision-making. The original Ray Roberts Lake MP was approved in 1983 and had a major supplemental completed in 2001.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ray Roberts Lake Dam is located on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River at river mile 60.0. The river drops from an elevation of about 1,210 feet at its source to 524 feet at the Ray Roberts Dam site. The Elm Fork continues to drop to elevation 387 feet at its confluence with the West Fork in Irving/Dallas. The average slope of the stream bed is 7.5 feet per mile, and the average slope downstream of Ray Roberts Dam is 2.5 feet per mile.

The principal tributaries contributing to the Elm Fork of the Trinity River are the right bank tributaries; Denton Creek, Hickory Creek and Clear Creek; and the left bank tributaries; Isle Du Bois Creek and Little Elm Creek. Ray Roberts Dam is slightly downstream of the mouth of Isle Du Bois Creek, a major left bank tributary. Wolf Creek,

Indian Creek, Timber Creek, Jordan Creek, Range Creek, and Buck Creek combine to form Isle Du Bois Creek. Spring Creek and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River are on the right arm of the lake. Downstream of Ray Roberts Lake, Little Elm Creek drains the left bank, while Clear Creek, Hickory Creek, and Denton Creek are major right bank tributaries.

Ray Roberts Lake was authorized October 27, 1965 with the primary missions of flood control and navigation as contained in the River and Harbor Act of 1965 (Public Law [PL] 289, 89th Congress, 1st Session). In the planning stages, it was named "Aubrey Lake" for the nearby town of Aubrey, TX, but was renamed "Ray Roberts Lake" in 1980 before construction, in honor of former U.S. Congressman Ray Roberts of Denton. Construction began May 31, 1982, and the dam was completed and operational on June 30, 1987 when deliberate impoundment began. The conservation pool was filled March 25, 1990.

Ray Roberts Dam and Lake Project is an integral part of the USACE plan for flood control and water conservation in the Trinity River Basin. The plan presently consists of eight major flood control projects, known as Benbrook Dam, Bardwell Dam, Grapevine Dam, Joe Pool Dam, Lavon Dam, Lewisville Dam, Navarro Mills Dam, and Ray Roberts Dam. The eight flood control projects in the Trinity River system control approximately 1,591,300 acre-feet of flood control area. The entire drainage area of Ray Roberts Lake is approximately 692 square miles.

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the conservation and sustainability of the land, water, and recreational resources on Ray Roberts Lake are in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and to maintain quality lands for future public use. The proposed MP is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreation management plan with an effective life of approximately 25 years. Please refer to Figure 1-1 for location of the lake as well as proximity to nearby major cities.

The MP must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in decision-making that responds to changing regional and local needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes and pertinent legislation and regulations. The current Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan is over 30 years old and does not currently reflect ecological, socio-political, and socio-demographic changes that are currently affecting Ray Roberts Lake, or those changes anticipated to occur through 2045. Changes in outdoor recreation trends, regional land use, population, current legislative requirements and USACE management policy have indicated the need to revise the plan. Additionally, increasing fragmentation of wildlife habitat, national policies related to climate change, and growing demand for recreational access and protection of natural resources are all factors affecting Ray Roberts Lake and project's region in general. In response to these continually evolving trends, the USACE determined that a full revision of the 1983 Master Plan is needed.

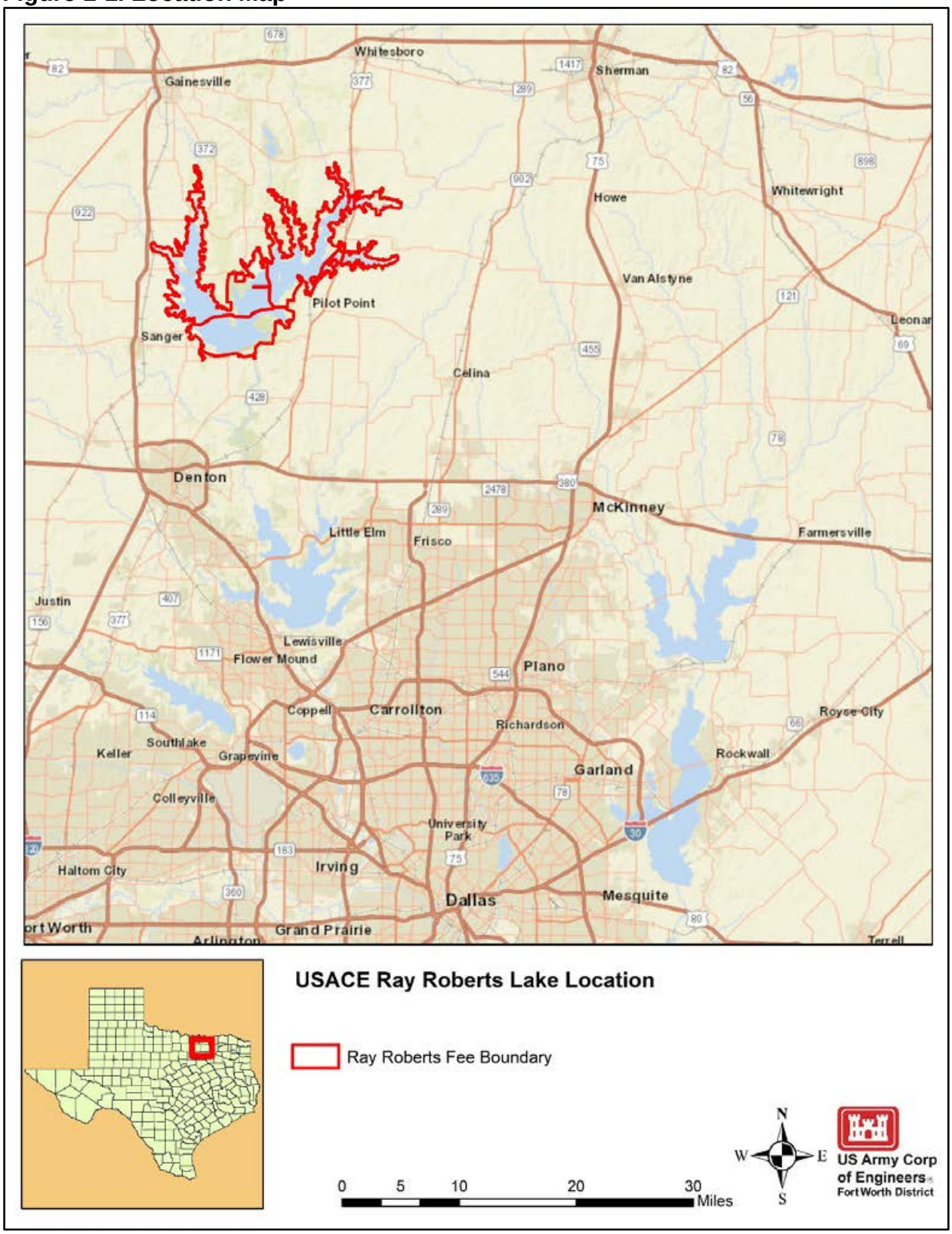
The following factors may influence reevaluation of management practices and land uses:

- Changes in national policies or public law mandates;
- Operations and maintenance budget allocations;
- Recreation area closures;
- Facility and infrastructure improvements;
- Cooperative agreements with stakeholder agencies (such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [TPWD] and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) to operate and maintain public lands; and
- Evolving public concerns.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This EA was prepared to evaluate existing conditions and potential impacts of proposed alternatives associated with the implementation of the proposed Master Plan (MP). The alternative considerations were formulated with special attention given to revised land classifications, new resource management objectives, and a conceptual resource plan for each land classification category. The Draft 2022 MP is currently available and is incorporated into this EA by reference. This EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Figure 1-1. Location Map



The application of NEPA to more strategic decisions not only meets the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (CEQ 2020) and USACE regulations for implementing NEPA (USACE 1988), but also allows the USACE to consider the environmental consequences of its actions long before any physical activity is implemented. Multiple benefits can be derived from such early consideration. Effective and early NEPA integration with the master planning process can significantly increase the usefulness of the proposed MP to the decision maker.

SECTION 2:PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The purpose and need of the proposed action is to revise the 1983 Master Plan so that it is compliant with current USACE regulations and guidance, incorporates public needs, and recognizes surrounding land use and recreational trends. As part of this process, which includes public outreach and comment, two alternatives were developed for evaluation, including a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The alternatives were developed using land classifications that indicate the primary use for which project lands would be managed. USACE regulations specify five possible categories of land classification: Project Operations (PO), High Density Recreation (HDR), Mitigation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), and Multiple Resource Managed Lands (MRML). MRML are divided into four subcategories: Low Density Recreation (MRML-LDR), Wildlife Management (MRML-WM), Vegetation Management (MRML-VM), and Inactive/Future Recreation (MRML-IFR) Areas.

The USACE guidance recommends the establishment of resource goals and objectives for purposes of development, conservation, and management of natural, cultural, and man-made resources at a project. Goals describe the desired end state of overall management efforts, whereas resource objectives are specific task-oriented actions necessary to achieve the overall proposed MP goals. Goals and objectives are guidelines for obtaining maximum public benefits while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and are developed in accordance with 1) authorized project purposes, 2) applicable laws and regulations; 3) resource capabilities and suitabilities; 4) regional needs; 5) other governmental plans and programs; and 6) expressed public desires. The five project-wide management goals established for Ray Roberts Lake that were used in determining the Proposed Action, as well as the nationwide USACE Environmental Operating Principles, are discussed in detail Chapter 3: Resource Goals and Objectives of the proposed MP and are incorporated herein by reference (USACE, 2022).

The goals for the proposed MP include the following:

GOAL A. Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and capacities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.

GOAL B. Protect and manage the project’s natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.

GOAL C. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public interests while sustaining the project's natural resources.

GOAL D. Recognize the project's unique qualities, characteristics, and potentials.

GOAL E. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other State and regional goals and programs.

In addition to the above goals, USACE management activities are guided by USACE-wide Environmental Operating Principles as follows:

- Foster sustainability as a way of life throughout the organization.
- Proactively consider environmental consequences of all USACE activities and act accordingly.
- Create mutually supporting economic and environmentally sustainable solutions.
- Continue to meet our corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities undertaken by USACE, which may impact human and natural environments.
- Consider the environment in employing a risk management and systems approach throughout the life cycles of projects and programs.
- Leverage scientific, economic and social knowledge to understand the environmental context and effects of USACE actions in a collaborative manner.
- Employ an open, transparent process that respects views of individuals and groups interested in USACE activities.

Specific resource objectives to accomplish these goals can be found in Chapter 3 of the proposed MP.

USACE would not address dam operations or water management of Ray Roberts Lake under either the No Action or Proposed Action alternatives. Water management, which includes flood risk management and dam operations, is established in the Trinity River Basin Master Reservoir Regulation Manual and the Ray Roberts Lake Water Control Manual.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, the USACE would not approve the adoption or implementation of the proposed 2022 MP. Instead, the USACE would continue to manage Ray Roberts Lake's natural resources as set forth in the 1983 MP and the 2001 supplement. The 1983 Master Plan would continue to provide the only source of comprehensive management guidelines and philosophy. However, the 1983 Master Plan is out of date and does not reflect the current ecological, socio-political, or socio-demographic conditions of Ray Roberts Lake or those that are anticipated to occur through 2045.

The No Action Alternative, while it does not meet the purpose and need, serves as a benchmark of existing conditions against which Federal actions can be evaluated, and is therefore included in this EA pursuant to CEQ regulations 40 CFR § 1502.14(c).

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, the USACE proposes to adopt and implement the proposed MP, which guides and articulates USACE responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the land, water, and associated resources. The proposed MP would replace the 1983 MP and provide an up-to-date management plan that follows current Federal laws and regulations while sustaining the project's natural resources and providing recreational opportunities for the next 25 years. The Proposed Action would meet regional goals associated with good stewardship of land, water, and recreational resources; address identified recreational trends; and allow for continued use and development of project lands without violating national policies or public laws.

The proposed 2022 MP proposes to classify all Federal land lying above elevation 645.0 NGVD29 into management classification categories. These management classification categories would allow uses of Federal property that meet the definition of the assigned category and ensure the protection of natural resources and environmental stewardship while allowing maximum public enjoyment of the lake's resources.

The proposed land classification categories are defined as follows:

- Project Operations: Lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas used solely for the operation of Ray Roberts Lake.
- High Density Recreation: Lands developed for the intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use and campgrounds. These areas could also be for commercial concessions and quasi-public development.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas: Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified.
- Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Allows for the designation of a predominate use with the understanding that other compatible uses may also occur on these lands.
    - MRML–Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive recreational use (primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).
    - MRML–Wildlife Management: Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
    - MRML–Vegetation Management**:** Lands designated for stewardship of vegetative resources.
- Surface Water: Allows for surface water zones.

- o Restricted: Water areas restricted for Ray Roberts Lake operations, safety, and security.
- o Designated No-Wake: Water areas to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and recreational water access areas from disturbance and areas to protect public safety.
- o Open Recreation: Water areas available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

Table 2-1 shows the proposed classifications and acres contained in each classification, Table 2-2 shows the water surface classifications, and Table 2-3 provides the justification for the proposed reclassification.

Table 2-1 Proposed Ray Roberts Lake Land Classifications

Prior Land Classifications (1983 Plan)	Acres*	Proposed New Land Classifications (2022)	Acres
Operations	325	Project Operations	503
Recreational – Intensive Use	3,135	High Density Recreation	1,841
--	--	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	8,633
Recreational – Low Density Use	1,510	Multiple Resource Management – Low Density Recreation	1,659
Wildlife Management	14,246	Multiple Resource Management – Wildlife Management	5,790
TOTAL Land Acres	**19,216***	**TOTAL Land Acres**	**18,426**

Table 2-2. Proposed Ray Roberts Lake Surface Water Classifications

Prior Water Surface Classifications (1983 Plan)	Acres	Proposed Water Surface Classifications (2022)	Acres
Permanent Pool	29,350	Permanent Pool	27,801
--	--	– Restricted	6
--	--	– Designated No Wake	119
--	--	– Open Recreation	27,676
TOTAL Water Surface	**29,350**	**TOTAL Water Surface**	**27,801**

* Land classification acres and total land acres in the 1983 Master Plan includes both flowage easement and fee simple acres.
* Some acreage differences are due to improvements in mapping and measurement technology, deposition/siltation, and erosion.

There are several major differences in the acres between the 1983 Master Plan and the proposed Master Plan which are not accounted for in Table 8.1, Table 8.2, or the maps in Appendix A. These differences are due to the following:

- In the 1983 Master Plan, the land classification maps and land classification table include both fee simple and flowage easement land without differentiating them on either the table or maps. This makes a direct comparison of land classification acres between the 1983 Plan and proposed Plan impossible.
- After the 1983 Master Plan, some flowage easement acres were converted to fee acres, and the changed acres were not included in a supplement to the original Master Plan or changes to the maps.
- After the 1983 Master Plan, some flowage easement acres were disposed of (sold), and the changed acres were not included in a supplement to the original Master Plan or changes to the maps.
- Current mapping and measuring technology have improved since the 1983 Master Plan, providing more precise measurements. The current Plan uses GIS computer software, LiDAR spatial mapping, and updated boundary surveys.
- Since the 1983 Master Plan, erosion and deposition/siltation have led to changes in the water surface acres and land acres, with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing the total acres.

Table 2-3. Justification for the Proposed Land Reclassifications

Proposal	Reclassification Description Justification
Wildlife Management to Project Operations	73 acres of land that were previously classified as WMA have been reclassified as PO. This change reflects the area currently being used for maintaining project operations activities as well as safety and security.
Wildlife Management to High Density Recreation	58 acres of land that were classified as WMA have been reclassified as HDR. This change reflects areas that have historically been used for intensive recreation as well as areas that could see additional intensive recreation amenities and facilities. Some areas have also been changed to HDR to allow the installation of hard-surface trails (such as asphalt or concrete) which are typically not permitted in other land classifications.
Wildlife Management to Environmentally Sensitive Areas	The largest change includes 6,517 acres of land from WMA to ESA. Since the ESA land classification did not exist when the previous Plan was written, all areas were considered when deciding which areas should become ESAs. The WMA areas that changed includes native prairies, bottomland hardwood and riparian corridors, upland Cross-Timber hardwood forests, wetlands, and locations frequently used by migratory birds. The change also includes the protection of known historical and cultural sites which have not been identified in the Master Plan to protect those resources.

Proposal	Reclassification Description Justification
Recreational – Low Density Use (similar to LDR) to High Density Recreation	32 acres Recreational – Low Density Use has been reclassified to HDR due to existing intensive recreational uses and possible future changes. Some areas have also been changed to HDR to allow the installation of hard-surface trails (such as asphalt or concrete) which are typically not permitted in other land classifications.
Recreational – Intensive Use (similar to HDR) to Multiple Resource Management – Low Density Recreation	550 acres have been reclassified from Recreational – Intensive Use to LDR. Most of these acres are not ideal for intensive recreation due to steep or changing topography. These areas include soft surface trails and public access points and will be managed for passive, less-intensive recreation.
Recreational – Intensive Use (similar to HDR) to Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1,015 acres have been classified from Recreational – Intensive Use to ESA. Since the ESA land classification did not exist when the previous Plan was written, all areas were considered when deciding which areas should become ESAs. The HDR areas that changed included areas that were either not ideal for intensive recreation, such as steep slopes or wetlands, and those that contained prime habitat that the USACE wants to preserve including native prairies, bottomland hardwood and riparian corridors, upland Cross-Timber hardwood forests, wetlands, and locations frequently used by migratory birds. The change also includes the protection of known historical and cultural sites which have not been identified in the Master Plan to protect those resources.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Other alternatives to the Proposed Action were initially considered as part of the scoping process for this EA. However, none met the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action or the current USACE regulations and guidance. Furthermore, no other alternatives addressed public concerns. Therefore, no other alternatives are being carried forward for analysis in this EA. The following resources were excluded from further impact analysis because the No Action nor the Proposed Action would not have any impact on them: hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste.

SECTION 3:AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

This section of the EA describes the potential impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives, outlined in Section 2 of this document. For descriptions of existing conditions of various resources within the USACE Ray Roberts Fee Boundary please refer to Chapter 2 of the proposed MP. Based on resources described in the proposed MP Chapter 2, each resource with potential to be impacted as a result of the No Action alternative, or by the Proposed Alternative is evaluated below.

Impacts (consequence or effect) can be either beneficial or adverse and can be either short- or long-term caused by the action(40 CFR § 1501.3). As discussed in this section, the alternatives may create temporary (less than 1 year), short-term (up to 3 years), long-term (3 to 10 years following the master plan revision), or permanent effects.

In considering whether the effects of the Proposed Action are significant, agencies shall analyze the potentially affected environment and degree of the effects of the action (40 CFR 1501.3). Impacts on each resource can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For this analysis, the intensity of impacts would be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- Negligible: A resource would not be affected or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence.
- Minor: Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- Moderate: Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and measurable. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely achievable.
- Major: Effects on a resource would be obvious and long-term, and would have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required and extensive, and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

3.1 Land Use

Please refer to sections 2.5 and 2.6 of the proposed MP for existing land use information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the USACE would not implement the proposed MP, and thus the land use management would not be updated to current needs and demands. The operation and maintenance of USACE lands at Ray Roberts Lake would continue as outlined in the existing MP to the existent that current and future laws and regulations will permit. Management would continue to lag behind the current and future recreational needs and public preferences. As the regulatory environment continues to change, management at Ray Roberts Lake would diverge from the plan. This divergence would create a patchwork of management requirements that would be inefficient for Ray Roberts Lake staff to implement. The management would also increasingly lack transparency to the public, or alternately create more of a burden to staff to communicate how the lake management differs from that in the management plan. Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have moderate, adverse, short- and long-term impacts on land use within and on USACE Ray Roberts Lake project lands due to conflicting guidance and management of USACE lands.

3.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The objectives for revising the proposed MP were to describe current and foreseeable land uses, taking into account expressed public opinion, regional trends, and USACE policies that have evolved to meet day-to-day operational needs. The proposed reclassifications in the proposed MP were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land and water resources that would allow for continued use and development of project lands.

While HDR is technically a new management classification, the bulk of the proposed 1,841 acres of HDR land is from areas previously classified as Recreational Intensive Use. MRML-LDR is also a new land classification with the bulk coming from areas previously classified as Recreation Low Density Use. Even though the acres are decreasing for HDR from 3,135 to 1,841 acres recreational opportunities would not decrease. The change in acreages reflects current and foreseeable recreational trends for the area.

MRML-LDR are lands that have minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public use such as hiking, nature photography, bank fishing, and hunting. Future uses may include designating additional natural surface hike/bike trails. Even though these areas are managed for recreational purposes, this designation still provides more protection for wildlife and vegetation than HDR but less than ESA, but the same amount as MRML-WM.

The inability to accurately account for past acreages has made it impossible to determine how many acres are being kept for MRML-WM and LDR. Which is why the

discussion of these land classifications would be kept to their proposed land classification usage. The associated land management with these two classes would not change from the 1983 MP.

HDR and MRML-LDR are not the only new management classifications introduced in the proposed MP. The establishment and reclassification of 8,633 acres as ESA would allow for greater protection of sensitive habitats or cultural resources. Additional conservation efforts within USACE Ray Roberts Lake fee owned boundary would be further aided by the proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM land classifications.

On the waters of Ray Roberts Lake, the proposed MP would add established surface water use categories in addition to the current management of the lake. The proposed establishment of 6 acres of Restricted, 119 acres of No Wake, and 27,676 acres of Open Recreation to the water surface, respectively, would allow for delineated, and safer management of the lake's waters when the lake is at conservation pool. These classifications would help to improve safety of those recreating on and around Ray Roberts Lake. This would be done by restricting boat access and speeds around certain parts of the lake, as well as establishing areas that boating can occur in. The Ray Roberts Lake office would still maintain the authority to make ad hoc adjustments as needed by lake level, which would prevent the proposed classifications from being overly rigid or even ineffectual in various lake level conditions.

The 19 proposed utility corridors as explained in section 6.2 and in Table 6.1 of the proposed MP would have major, positive short-and long-term impacts on land use within Ray Roberts Lake. The positive impacts come from the consolidating of future disturbances associated with utility operations to limited areas which then frees up more land for other land uses. Their establishment would not necessarily increase the usage of nearby corridors.

The majority of the land use classifications proposed in the MP would maintain the functional management that is currently occurring. While the terminology updates appear substantial, they have been proposed after considerable public input, and seek to maintain the values the public holds highest at Ray Roberts Lake. Additionally, the land reclassifications provide a balance between public use, both intensive and passive, and natural resources conservation. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Action would have major, long-term beneficial impacts to land use as the proposed land classes and utility corridors further refine areas for appropriate activities.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.1.6 of the proposed MP for existing water resource information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no impacts on water resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, since there would be no change to the existing Master Plan. There are no known water resource related problems that the 1983 MP are helping to increase or maintain.

3.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The reclassifications and resource management objectives required for implementing the proposed MP the Proposed Action would allow land management and land uses to be adjusted for current and reasonable, foreseeable future changes in water resources. For example, the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA lands would help stabilize soils through the promotion of and restoration native habitat. In turn, the habitat would help buffer and filter storm runoff before making its way into the lake. Minor, beneficial impacts to water quality may be realized during storm events as the natural areas may help to reduce erosion and subsequent water turbidity. The establishment of 8,633 acres of ESA lands, proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM land classifications would result in more upland areas and wetlands being protected from erosion and sedimentation. Resource objectives makes it mandatory that all decision-making processes take into consideration their impacts to Ray Roberts Lake watershed, lake water supply, and water quality.

Additionally, 119 acres of surface waters are proposed to be classified as designated No Wake. These areas are near shorelines where wave action can increase erosion. This proposed Designated No Wake classification would be expected to help prevent further erosion and further reduce water turbidity.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed MP would have negligible positive short- and long-term impacts on water resources within and on USACE project lands.

3.3 CLIMATE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GREENHOUSE GASSES (GHG)

Please refer to section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the proposed MP for existing climate, climate change and greenhouse gas information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would not result in any change in management of Ray Roberts Lake project land. Implementation of the 1983 MP would have no impact (beneficial or adverse) on existing or future climate conditions. Current policy (Executive Orders [EO] 13783 and 13990 , and related USACE policy) requires project lands and recreational programs be managed in a way that advances broad national climate change mitigation goals including, but not limited to, climate change resilience and carbon sequestration. These policies would continue to be implemented under this Alternative which are not addressed in the 1983 MP goals and objectives, which is further proof of the 1983 MP inability to meet current laws and regulations.

3.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed MP would have negligible positive impacts to climate, climate change, and GHG emissions in the region. The impacts would come from the MP promotion of land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability. Management under the proposed MP would also follow current policy to meet climate change goals as described for the No Action Alternative. Ground disturbing activities that arise from guidance from this document would go through the NEPA and design

process prior to implementation. It is during that time, that impacts to the climate would be analyzed for those ground disturbing activities. The proposed MP would then promote land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability which would have negligible impacts.

3.4 AIR QUALITY

Please refer to section 2.1.4 of the proposed MP for existing air quality information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.4.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not result in any change to air quality in the region. The 1983 MP would remain compliant with the Clean Air Act because the MP includes only guidelines and does not incorporate actions which produce criteria pollutants.

3.4.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The continual implementation of the 1983 MP would not result in any changes to current and reasonably foreseeable future air quality in the region. No new increase in vehicular traffic, mass permanent vegetation removal, or the building of mass industrial facilities occur. The No Action Alternative would remain compliant with the Clean Air Act because the MP includes only guidelines and does not incorporate actions which produce criteria pollutants as explained in the previous sentence.

3.5 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

Please refer to section 2.1.5 of the proposed MP for existing topography, geology, and soils information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.5.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, so there would be no short-or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on topography, geology, soils, or prime farmland as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.5.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed MP takes into consideration of the various topographical, geological, and soils aspects of USACE Ray Roberts Lake project lands. The reduction of HDR lands (3,135 acres to 1,841 acres), the proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA would help to increase the long-term preservation and stabilization of the soils within USACE Ray Roberts Lake project lands. In addition, resource objectives make it mandatory that erosion control and sedimentation issues are being monitored and alternatives be developed and implemented to resolve those issues. The 19 proposed utility corridors would consolidate disturbances associated with utility operations to limited areas, further helping to reduce soil exposure to erosive wind and water forces. Based on this

analysis and discussion the proposed action would have minor, positive, long-term impacts on soil conservation and topography, and geology at Ray Roberts Lake.

3.6 NATURAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.1 of the proposed MP for existing natural resources information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.6.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions; therefore, no short-or long-term, major, moderate, or minor, beneficial, or adverse impacts on natural resources would be anticipated as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.6.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the proposed MP would allow natural resources within USACE Ray Roberts federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management would be from implementing the knowledge gained from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) (Appendix C of the proposed MP) done for Ray Roberts Lake, which helps to establish the high quality and unique areas. The implementation of proposed land reclassifications would allow project lands to continue and further support the USFWS and the TPWD missions associated with wildlife conservation and implementation of operational practices that would protect and enhance wildlife and fishery populations and habitat. The new resource objectives also allow for natural resources to be managed with consideration of how they would be impacted from the retention of flood waters. The reduction of HDR land (3,135 acres to 1,841 acres), the proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA, especially in prime ecological areas, helps to protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation. The 19 proposed utility corridors described in section 6.2 and Table 6.1 of the proposed MP would help to increase the acreage of habitat that would not be disturbed in the future by consolidating future utilities. This would be achieved from the restriction of all new utilities being built along existing right-of-ways and proposed corridors. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be major short-and long-term major, beneficial impacts on natural resources as a result of implementing the proposed MP.

3.7 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.4 of the proposed MP for existing information on threatened and endangered species within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.7.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions; therefore, no short-or long-term, major, moderate, or

minor, beneficial, or adverse impacts on threatened and endangered species would be anticipated as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.7.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP would allow for better cooperative management plans with the USFWS and TPWD that will help to preserve, enhance, and protect vegetation and wildlife habitat resources that are essential to various endangered and threatened species that may be found within USACE Ray Roberts Lake federal project lands. To further management opportunities and beneficially impact habitat diversity, the reclassifications proposed in the proposed MP include 8,633 acres as ESAs. Under this reclassification, several land parcels previously classified as Recreational Areas and Aesthetics Areas and Multiple Use Recreation Areas were converted to ESA in order to recognize those areas having the highest ecological value and to ensure they are given the highest order of protection among possible land classifications. Resource objectives makes it mandatory that threatened and endangered species are managed by various ecosystem management principles. In addition, all new utilities would be built along existing right-of-ways and the 19 proposed utility corridors. This would help to reduce future loss of natural resources that could potentially occur from placement of utility lines on project lands. Any future activities that could potentially result in impacts on federally listed species would be coordinated with USFWS through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. There are negligible impacts on federally threatened and endangered species anticipated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative. Any future activities that could potentially result in impacts on federally listed species would be coordinated with USFWS through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, the USACE has determined that the proposed Hugo Lake Master Plan would have No Effect on all federally threatened and endangered species within the study area.

3.8 INVASIVE SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.5 of the proposed MP for existing information on invasive species within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.8.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, so Ray Roberts Lake would continue to be managed according to the existing invasive species management practices. There would be no short-or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts from invasive species as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.8.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the proposed MP would allow invasive species within USACE Ray Roberts federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management would be from implementing the knowledge gained from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) survey conducted at Ray Roberts Lake, which helps to identify high value and

unique areas that needs further protection from invasive species so as to protect their value and uniqueness that invasive species may destroy or degrade. The reduction of HDR land (3,135 acres to 1,841 acres), the proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA, especially in prime ecological areas would help to protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation. This in turn would decrease the spread of invasive species as well as from the changes to their respective land management classifications. The resource objectives also promotes the monitoring and reporting of invasive species as well as the ability to take action to prevent and/or reduce the spread of these species. The 19 utility proposed corridors would help to further reduce the spread of invasive species by removing avenues of entry that they can be introduced and spread by consolidating all new utilities within the utility corridors. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be short-and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on invasive species as a result of implementing the proposed MP.

3.9 CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.3 of the proposed MP for existing information on cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.9.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no additional short-or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there would be no changes to the existing Master Plan.

3.9.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the proposed MP would allow cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within USACE Ray Roberts federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. Based on previous surveys at Ray Roberts Lake, the required reclassifications, proposed utility corridors, resource objectives, and resource plan would not change current cultural resource management plans or alter areas where these resources exist. All future activities would be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized Tribes to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources would occur as a result of implementing the proposed MP. Beneficial impacts may occur as a result of the proposed MP as lands classified as PO, ESA, or MRML- WM would generally protect any historic properties within those lands against ground disturbing activities.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Please refer to section 2.4 of the proposed Ray Roberts Lake MP for existing socioeconomic and environmental justice information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.10.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The continual implementation of the 1983 MP would result in the existing beneficial socioeconomic impacts to continue, as visitors would continue to come to the lake from surrounding areas. In addition to camping, many visitors purchase goods such as groceries, fuel, and camping supplies locally, eat in local restaurants, stay in local hotels and resorts, play golf at local golf courses, and shop in local retail establishments. These activities would continue to bring revenues to local companies, provide jobs for local residents, and generate local and state tax revenues. There would be no disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations or children with the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.10.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP land reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan reflect changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1983 and 2001. Ray Roberts Lake offers a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors. It is beneficial to the local economy through direct and indirect job creation and local spending by visitors. Beneficial impacts would be similar to the No Action Alternative. There would be no adverse impacts on economy in the area and no disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations or children as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.11 RECREATION

Please refer to section 2.5 of the proposed MP for existing recreation information in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.11.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no short-or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on recreational resources, as there would be no changes to the existing MP. The USACE would continue to lease recreation lands at Ray Roberts Lake to non-federal partners, who are anticipated to maintain and improve existing facilities with potential plans for future expansion.

3.11.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Ray Roberts Lake is beneficial to the local visitors and also offers a variety of free recreation opportunities to the public. The proposed action would still allow for current leases to exist and for future lease proposals. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation would decrease (3,135 acres to 1,841 acres) with implementation of the proposed MP, this land reclassification reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1983 and 2001 at Ray Roberts Lake. Existing passive recreational activities would still be allowed within all lands regardless of the land classification. The resource objectives make it mandatory that all decisions made in regard to the lake take into consideration their impacts to recreation and make adjustments be needed. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would

be no adverse, short-or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous existing recreation opportunities would remain in and around Ray Roberts Lake to accommodate various outdoor based recreation activities and provides opportunities for future improvements by non-federal partners.

3.12 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.6 of the proposed MP for existing aesthetic resource conditions in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.12.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no short-or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on visual resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there would be no changes to the existing MP.

3.12.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Ray Roberts Lake currently plays a pivotal role in availability of parks and open space in Cooke, Denton, and Grayson Counties as well as the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation would decrease (3,135 acres to 1,841 acres) with implementation of the proposed MP, this land reclassification reflects changes in existing land management and land uses that have occurred since 1983 and 2001 at Ray Roberts Lake. Existing passive recreational activities would still be allowed within all lands regardless of the land classification. The resource objectives make it mandatory that all decisions made in regards to the lake take into consideration their impacts to recreation and monitored should adjustments be needed. The conversion of these lands would have no effect on current or projected public use or visual aesthetics, since views from natural and recreation areas would remain in place. Furthermore, the proposed usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA would protect lands that are aesthetically pleasing and available for passive recreation activity at Ray Roberts Lake and limit future development. All new utilities would be built along existing right of ways and the 19 proposed new utility corridors to limit aesthetics impacts to natural landscapes. Additionally, proposed resource objectives place an emphasis on increasing public education on recreation, nature, cultural resources, and ecology resources at Ray Roberts Lake. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no adverse, short-or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous recreation opportunities would remain in and around Ray Roberts Lake to accommodate various outdoor based recreation activities.

3.13 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTE

Please refer to section 2.1.7 of the proposed MP for information concerning hazardous materials and solid waste in and around Ray Roberts Lake fee owned boundary.

3.14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please refer to section 2.1.8 of the proposed MP for information concerning health and safety in and around Ray Roberts Lake fee owned boundary.

3.14.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the Ray Roberts MP would not be revised. No significant adverse impacts on human health or safety would be anticipated.

3.14.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP would result in the classification of Restricted Surface Water (6 acres), Designated No-Wake areas (119 acres), and Open-Recreation (27,676). These classifications maintain and, in some cases, improve boating, non-motorized recreation, and swimming safety near the Ray Roberts Lake Dam, water intake structures, and key recreational water access areas such as boat ramps and designated swimming areas.

The project would continue to have reporting guidelines in place should water quality become a threat to public health. Existing regulations and safety programs throughout the Ray Roberts Lake project area would continue to be enforced to ensure public safety. The resource objectives make it mandatory that various factors that impact human safety at the lake are monitored and that actions are taken to address, eliminate, or reduce those factors. Additionally, the objectives place an emphasis on educating the public on water safety and on flood risk management efforts at Ray Roberts Lake. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be short-and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on health and safety as a result of implementing the proposed MP.

3.15 SUMMARY OF CONSEQUENCES AND BENEFITS

Table 3-8 provides a tabular summary of the consequences and benefits for the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives for each of the 13 assessed resource categories.

Table 3-1. Summary of Consequences and Benefits

Resource	Change Resulting from Revised Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Land Use	No effect on private lands. Emphasis is on protection of wildlife and environmental values on USACE land and maintaining current level of developed recreation facilities.	Fails to recognize recreation trends and regional natural resource priorities.	Recognizes recreation trends and regional natural resource priorities identified by TPWD and public comments.	Land classification changes and new resource objectives fully recognize passive use recreation trends and regional environmental values such as protection of prairies.
Water Resources Including Groundwater, Wetlands, and Water Quality	Small change to recognize value of wetlands.	Fails to recognize the water quality benefits of good land stewardship and need to protect wetlands.	Promotes restoration and protection of wetlands and good land stewardship.	Specific resource objective promotes restoration and protection of wetlands.
Climate, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases	Minor change to recognize need for sustainable, energy efficient design.	Fails to promote sustainable, energy efficient design.	Promotes land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability.	Specific resource objectives promote national climate change mitigation goal. LEED standards for green design, construction, and operation activities would be employed to the extent practicable.
Air Quality	No change	No effect	No effect	No added benefit
Topography, Geology and Soils	Minor change to place emphasis on good stewardship of land and water resources.	Fails to specifically recognize known and potential soil erosion problems.	Encourages good stewardship that would reduce existing and potential erosion.	Specific resource objectives call for stopping erosion from overuse and land disturbing activities.
Natural Resources	Moderate benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	Fails to recognize ESAs, and regional priorities calling for protection of wildlife habitat.	Gives full recognition of sensitive resources and regional trends and priorities related to natural resources.	Reclassification of lands included 8,633 acres of ESA which resulted in an increase in lands protecting natural resources.

Resource	Change Resulting from Revised Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Threatened and Endangered Species, including TXNDD species.	Minor change to recognize both federal and state-listed species.	Fails to recognize current federal and state-listed species.	Fully recognizes federal and state-listed species as well as SGCN listed by TPWD and Rare species listed by TPWD.	The MP sets forth the most recent listing of federal and state-listed species and addresses on-going commitments associated with USFWS Biological Opinions.
Invasive Species	Minor change to recognize several recent and potentially aggressive invasive species.	Fails to recognize current invasive species and associated problems.	Fully recognizes current species and the need to be vigilant as new species may occur.	Specific resource objectives specify that invasive species shall be monitored and controlled as needed.
Cultural Resources	Minor change to recognize current status of cultural resources.	Included cursory information about cultural resources that is inadequate for future management and protection.	Recognizes the presence of cultural resources and places emphasis on protection and management.	Reclassification of lands included 8,633 acres as ESA and specific resource objectives were included for protection of cultural resources.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	No change	No effect	No effect	No added benefit
Recreation	Moderate benefits to outdoor recreation programs.	Fails to recognize current outdoor recreation trends.	Fully recognizes current outdoor recreation trends and places special emphasis on trails.	Specific management objectives focused on outdoor recreation opportunities and trends are included.
Aesthetic Resources	Minor benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	Fails to minimize activities that disturb the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.	Promotes activities that limit disturbance to the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.	No added benefit. Specific management objectives to minimize activities that disturb the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.

Resource	Change Resulting from Revised Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Health and Safety	Minor change to promote public safety awareness.	Fails to emphasize public safety programs.	Recognizes the need for public safety programs.	Includes specific management objectives to increase water safety outreach efforts. Also, classifies 6 acres of water surface as restricted and 119 acres designated no-wake for public safety purposes.

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SECTION 4:REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE

The most severe environmental degradation may not result from the direct effects of any particular action, but from the reasonably foreseeable future. As defined in 40 CFR 1508.1 (aa) (CEQ Regulations) as amended in 2020, “reasonably foreseeable means sufficiently likely to occur such that a person of ordinary prudence would take it into account in reaching a decision.” Which is further clarified in 1508.1(g) under effects or impacts as to applying to “changes to the human environment from the proposed action or alternatives that are reasonably foreseeable and have a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed action or alternatives, including those effects that occur at the same time and place as the proposed action or alternatives and may include effects that are later in time or farther removed in distance from the proposed action or alternatives.”

4.1 PAST IMPACTS WITHIN THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Ray Roberts Lake was originally authorized for construction in 1965 as a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Construction of Ray Roberts Lake Dam began on May 31, 1982 and was completed on June 30, 1987. Deliberate impoundment began on June 30, 1987, and the conservation pool was filled in on March 25, 1990. The total project area at Ray Roberts Lake encompasses 48,204 acres, including the 27,801 acres of surface water at normal pool elevation of 632.5. Of the total project area, 46,064 acres were acquired in fee simple title by the USACE, while a total of 4,960 acres were initially acquired for a perpetual Flowage Easement of which 2,150 acres remain.

4.2 CURRENT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS WITHIN AND NEAR THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Future management of the 4,960 acres of Flowage Easement Lands at Ray Roberts Lake includes routine inspection of these areas to ensure that the Government’s rights specified in the easement deeds are protected. In almost all cases, the Government acquired the right to prevent placement of fill material or habitable structures on the easement area. Placement of any structure that may interfere with the USACE flood risk management and water conservation missions may also be prohibited.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) coordinates with cities, counties, and transportation partners to plan road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation improvements for 16 counties comprising the NCTCOG and serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. Only the southern portion of Ray Roberts Lake within Denton County falls within NCTCOG’s planning areas. NCTCOG’s Mobility 2045 plan was used as a reference document for this Master Plan. Items recommended for implementation in the Mobility 2045 plan that are of significance to the area surrounding Ray Roberts Lake include the following:

- Multiple updates to I 35 including highway widening and dedicated cargo truck lanes.
- Make general improvements to FM 455 including intersection at US 377.

- Make improvements to US 377 including widening, intersections, and interchange at I 35.
- Trail improvements along greenway towards Lewisville Lake.
- High speed rail recommended from the Dallas-Fort Worth Area to Oklahoma west of Ray Roberts Lake.

The 2017 Denton County Thoroughfare Plan include that are significant to Ray Roberts Lake include the following:

- Widen I 35 to six or more lanes.
- Widen portions of FM 455 around I 35 to four lanes.
- Make improvements to US 377 including intersections, railroad crossings, turning lanes, and general repairs.

The 2017 Cook County Thoroughfare Plan identified several projected needs around Ray Roberts Lake including the following:

- Access improvements along FM 922 including intersections at I 35.
- Improvements to I 35 including adding collector/service roads and intersections at FM 922 and FM 3002.
- High speed rail west of the lake.

The 2014 Grayson County Thoroughfare Plan and 2018 Update identified the following transportation need around Ray Roberts Lake:

- Improvements to US 377.

National USACE policy set forth in ER 1130-2-550, Appendix H, states that USACE lands will, in most cases, only be made available for roads that are regional arterials or freeways (as defined in ER 1130-2-550). All other types of proposed roads, including driveways and alleys, are generally not permitted on USACE lands. The proposed expansion or widening of existing roadways on USACE lands would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS WITHIN THE REASONABLE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

Impacts on each resource were analyzed according to how other actions and projects within the zone of interest might be affected by the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action. Impacts can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis the intensity of impacts would be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. These intensity thresholds were previously defined in Section 3.0. Moderate and in some cases high growth and development are expected to continue in the vicinity of Ray Roberts Lake within the reasonably foreseeable future and adverse impacts on resources would not be expected when added to the impacts of activities associated with the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. A summary of the anticipated impacts into the reasonably on each resource is presented below.

4.3.1 Land Use

A major impact would occur if any action is inconsistent with adopted land use plans or if an action would substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. Land use around Ray Roberts Lake has experienced a significant change in the past 30 years, from an area that was primarily farmland and pastures to what it is now rural development. Under the No Action Alternative, land use would not change. Although the Proposed Action would result in the reclassification of project lands, the reclassifications were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land resources that would allow for continued use of project lands.

Section 6.1 of the proposed MP also identifies the need and location for proposed utility corridors. The purpose of utility corridors is to condense the footprint and associate impacts of any future roads and utilities crossings on USACE lands. Therefore, impacts from the reasonably future on land use within the area surrounding Ray Roberts Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.2 Water Resources

A major impact would occur if any action is inconsistent with adopted surface water classifications or water use plans, or if an action would substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. When originally built, the dam and lake's purposes were water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and later added flood risk management and hydropower to the project's mission. However, the hydropower mission was not economically viable and was decommissioned in 2003, and major equipment related to hydropower was removed in 2014. Today, the lake and dam provide a multi-purpose reservoir for flood risk management, water supply, fish and wildlife management, and recreation within the Trinity River Basin. The reclassifications and resource objectives required to revise the Ray Roberts Lake MP are compatible with water use plans and surface water classification; further, they were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of water resources that would allow for continued use of water resources associated with Ray Roberts Lake. Therefore, impacts from the reasonably future impacts on water resources within the area surrounding Ray Roberts Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be minor.

4.3.3 Climate

The Proposed Action would neither affect nor be affected by the climate. Therefore, implementation of the revised land use classifications in the proposed MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would not result in impacts from the reasonably foreseeable future on the climate.

4.3.4 Climate Change and GHG

Under the Proposed Action, current Ray Roberts Lake project management plans and monitoring programs would not be changed. In the event that GHG emission issues become significant enough to impact the current operations at Ray Roberts Lake, the 2022 MP and all associated documents would be reviewed and revised as necessary.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would result in negligible reasonably foreseeable future impacts on climate change or GHG.

4.3.5 Air Quality

There are a few major highway and roadway projects that are scheduled near the zone of interest for Ray Roberts Lake as explained Section 1.7 of the proposed MP; therefore, increasing the amount of new emissions that could potentially affect air quality within the region. The Proposed Action would not adversely impact air quality within the area. Vehicle traffic along park and area roadways and routine daily activities in nearby communities contribute to current and future emission sources; however, the impacts associated with the reclassification of lands at Ray Roberts Lake under the Proposed Action would be negligible. Seasonal prescribed burning could occur on Ray Roberts Lake to help maintain the various prairies, but would have minor, negative impacts on air quality through elevated ground-level O_3 and particulate matter concentrations; however, these seasonal burns would be scheduled so that impacts are minimized. Implementation of the proposed MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would result in minor adverse and beneficial reasonably foreseeable future impacts on air quality.

4.3.6 Topography, Geology, and Soils

A major impact could occur if a proposed future action exacerbates or promotes long-term erosion, if the soils are inappropriate for the proposed construction and would create a risk to life or property, or if there would be a substantial reduction in agricultural production or loss of Prime Farmland soils. Reasonably foreseeable future impacts on topography, geology, and soils within the area surrounding Ray Roberts Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.7 Natural Resources

The significance threshold for natural resources would include a substantial reduction in ecological processes, communities, or populations that would threaten the long-term viability of a species or result in the substantial loss of a sensitive community that could not be offset or otherwise compensated. Past, present, and future projects are not anticipated to impact the viability of any plant species or community, rare or sensitive habitats, or wildlife. The establishment of ESA, MRML-WM, and MRML-VM areas, as well as resource objectives that favor protection and restoration of valuable natural resources would have beneficial reasonably foreseeable future impacts . No identified projects would threaten the viability of natural resources. Therefore, there would be major long-term beneficial impacts to natural resources resulting from the revision of the proposed Ray Roberts MP when combined with past and proposed actions in the area.

4.3.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative would not adversely impact threatened, endangered and TXNDD species within the area. Should federally listed species change in the future (e.g., delisting of the American Burying Beatle or other

species or listing of new species), associated requirements would be reflected in revised land management practices in coordination with the USFWS. The USACE would continue cooperative management plans with the USFWS and TPWD to preserve, enhance, and protect critical wildlife habitat resources.

No new projects are proposed for USACE lands within the Ray Roberts Lake project area, and past, present, and future projects are not anticipated to impact threatened and endangered species as they would be coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable future impacts on threatened and endangered species resulting from the revision of the existing Ray Roberts MP, when combined with past and proposed actions in the area, would be the same as direct impacts which are long-term, negligible, and beneficial due to the increase in protection of lands classified as ESA.

4.3.9 Invasive Species

To the extent that funding would allow, USACE would continue its proactive mechanical and targeted pesticide treatments to control invasive species that affect not only the natural biological resources, but also recreational opportunities.

Invasive species control has and would continue to be conducted on various areas across the project lands. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) would help reduce the introduction and distribution of invasive species, ensuring that proposed actions in the region would not contribute to the overall reasonably foreseeable future impacts related to invasive species.

The land reclassifications required to revise the 1983 MP are compatible with Ray Roberts Lake invasive species management practices. Therefore, there would be minor long-term beneficial impacts on reducing and preventing invasive species within the area surrounding Ray Roberts Lake.

4.3.10 Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources

The Proposed Action would not affect cultural resources or historic properties, as the MP revision does not involve any ground disturbing activities. However, ESA and Wildlife Management lands provide additional protection against ground disturbances. Additionally, the proposed Utility Corridors would restrict any future pipelines, roads, or other infrastructure to already disturbed areas, further limiting impacts on cultural resources. Therefore, this action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would not result in major reasonably foreseeable future impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.

4.3.11 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action would not result in the displacement of persons (minority, low-income, children, or otherwise) as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan proposed in the proposed MP. Therefore, the effects of the Proposed Action on environmental justice and the protection of children, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Ray Roberts Lake area, would not be considered a major reasonably foreseeable future effect .

4.3.12 Recreation

Ray Roberts Lake provides regionally significant outdoor recreation benefits including a variety of recreation opportunities. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation and Low Density Recreation would decrease as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan proposed in the 2022 MP, these changes reflect changes in existing land management and historic recreation use patterns that have occurred since 1981 at Ray Roberts Lake. The conversion of these lands would have no effect on current or projected public use. Therefore, the Proposed Action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would result in negligible beneficial reasonably foreseeable future impacts on area recreational resources.

4.3.13 Aesthetic Resources

No impacts on visual resources would occur as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan proposed in the 2022 MP. The Proposed Action, especially the classification of ESAs, in conjunction with other projects in the region, would result in minor beneficial reasonably foreseeable future impacts on the visual resources in the Ray Roberts Lake area.

4.3.14 Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

No hazardous material or solid waste concerns would be expected with implementation of the proposed MP; therefore, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Ray Roberts Lake area, there would be no major reasonably foreseeable future impacts on hazardous materials and solid waste.

4.3.15 Health and Safety

No health or safety risks would be created by the Proposed Action. The effects of implementing the proposed MP, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Ray Roberts Lake area, would not be considered a major reasonably foreseeable future impacts.

SECTION 5: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

This EA has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations and has been prepared in accordance with the CEQ's implementing regulations for NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508, and the USACE ER 200-2-2, *Environmental Quality: Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. The revision of the proposed MP is consistent with the USACE's Environmental Operating Principles. The following is a list of applicable environmental laws and regulations that were considered in the planning of this project and the status of compliance with each:

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended – The USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the proposed MP revision process, as well as identify reclassification proposals, and identify significant issues related to the Proposed Action. Information provided by USFWS and TPWD on fish and wildlife resources has been utilized in the development of the proposed MP.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended – Current lists of threatened or endangered species were compiled for the proposed MP. There would be no adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species resulting from the revision of the 1983 MP. However, beneficial impacts, such as habitat protection, could occur as a result of the revision of the proposed MP by classification of ESA and Vegetation Management lands.

Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Bird Habitat Protection) – Sections 3a and 3e of EO 13186 direct Federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of their actions on migratory birds, with emphasis on species of concern, and inform the USFWS of potential negative impacts on migratory birds. The 1983 MP revision would not result in adverse impacts on migratory birds or their habitat. Beneficial impacts could occur through protection of habitat as a result of the proposed MP revision.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended – The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 extends Federal protection to migratory bird species. The nonregulated "take" of migratory birds is prohibited under this act in a manner similar to the prohibition of "take" of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The timing of resource management activities would be coordinated to avoid impacts on migratory and nesting birds.

CWA of 1977, as amended – The Proposed Action is in compliance with all state and Federal CWA regulations and requirements and is regularly monitored by the USACE and TCEQ for water quality. A state water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is not required for the proposed MP. There would be no change in the existing management of the reservoir that would impact water quality.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended – Compliance with the NHPA of 1966, as amended, requires identification of all properties in the project area listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP. All previous surveys and site salvages were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. Known sites are mapped and avoided by maintenance activities. Areas that have not undergone cultural resources surveys or evaluations would need to do so prior to any earthmoving or other potentially impacting activities.

Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended – The USEPA established nationwide air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. Existing operation and management of the reservoir is compliant with the Clean Air Act and would not change with the proposed MP revision.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1980 and 1995 – The FPPA's purpose is to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. There are Prime Farmland and farmland of state importance on Ray Roberts Lake project lands, but these would not be significantly impacted.

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, as amended – EO 11990 requires Federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in executing Federal projects. The Proposed Action complies with EO 11990.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, as amended – This EO directs Federal agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed actions in floodplains. The operation and management of the existing project complies with EO 11988.

CEQ Memorandum dated August 11, 1980, Prime or Unique Farmlands – Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. The Proposed Action would not impact Prime Farmland present on Ray Roberts Lake project lands.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice – This EO directs Federal agencies to achieve environmental justice to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review. Agencies are required to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The revisions in the proposed MP will not result in a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income population groups.

SECTION 6: IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

NEPA requires that Federal agencies identify "any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented" (42 U.S.C. § 4332). An irreversible commitment of resources occurs when the primary or secondary impacts of an action result in the loss of future options for a resource. Usually, this is when the action affects the use of a nonrenewable resource, or it affects a renewable resource that takes a long time to regenerate. The impacts for this project from the reclassification of land would not be considered an irreversible commitment because subsequent MP revisions could result in some lands being reclassified to a prior, similar land classification. An irretrievable commitment of resources is typically associated with the loss of productivity or use of a natural resource (e.g., loss of production or harvest). No irreversible or irretrievable impacts on Federally protected species or their habitat is anticipated from implementing revisions to the Ray Roberts Lake MP.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

In accordance with 1501.9, and 1506.6, the USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the revision of the 1983 MP, as well as identifying reclassification proposals and significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The USACE began its public involvement process with a public scoping meeting to provide an avenue for public and agency stakeholders to ask questions and provide comments. This public scoping meeting was held virtually on May 11, 2020. The meeting was done in this manner because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic and concerns over public safety. The USACE, Fort Worth District, placed advertisements on the USACE webpage, social media, and print publications prior to the public scoping meeting.

In addition to the public scoping meeting being cancelled because of concerns over COVID-19, so will the meeting to introduce the draft proposed MP and EA to the public. However, it will be replaced by a similar online style of presentation as the public scoping meeting, and there will be other information resources that will summarize the proposed MP. Public review and comment period on the draft proposed MP and EA will begin on May 19, 2022 and end on June 20, 2022.

At the close of the 30-day public review period, public comments received will be incorporated and formally addressed in Appendix F of the MP. Attachment A includes the ads published in the local newspaper, the agency coordination letters, and the distribution list for the coordination letters. The EA was coordinated with agencies having legislative and administrative responsibilities for environmental protection. A copy of the correspondence from the agencies that provided comments and planning assistance for preparation of the EA are included in Attachment A.

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SECTION 8: REFERENCES

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). 2020. Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act

NCTCOG. 2018. Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Mobility 2040. https://www.nctcog.org/trans/mtp/2040/

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2022. Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan, Trinity River Basin: Elm Fork Watershed, Cooke, Denton, and Grayson Counties, Texas. USACE, Fort Worth District.

USACE. 1988. *Engineering Regulation 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. Washington, DC.

USACE. 2018. Ray Roberts Dam Water Control Manual.

SECTION 9: ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
°	Degrees
ac-ft	acre-feet
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHSP	Cedar Hill State Park
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
DSHS	Department of State Health Services (Texas)
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMS	Ecological Mapping System (TPWD)
EO	Executive Order
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
ERS	Environmental Radiation Surveillance
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
F	Fahrenheit
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
gpm	gallons per minute
HDR	High Density Recreation
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Wastes
IFR	Inactive/Future Recreation
IPAC	Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS)
LDR	Low Density Recreation
MP	Master Plan
MRML	Multiple Resource Management Lands
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCTCOG	North Central Texas Council of Governments
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRRS	National Recreation Reservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS)
O_3	Ozone
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Pb	Lead
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Incomes
PL	Public Law
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns

PM_{10}	Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns
PO	Project Operations
RM	River Mile
ROD	Record of Decision
RPEC	Regional Planning and Environmental Center
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
TCAP	Texas Conservation Action Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSWQS	Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
TXNDD	Texas Natural Diversity Database
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	U.S. Global Change Research Group
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WHAP	Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedures
WM	Wildlife Management
VM	Vegetation Management
ZOI	Zone of Interest

SECTION 10: LIST OF PREPARERS

Paul E. Roberts - Biologist, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Fort Worth District- 5 years of USACE experience.

Attachement A: NEPA Coordination and Public Scoping

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

May 7, 2020

Public Notice

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision, Ray Roberts Lake, Trinity River Basin, Cooke, Denton, and Grayson Counties, Texas

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), hereby informs the public of the initiation of the process to revise the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan. The public is invited to view information discussing the revision process and instructions for public participation in the revision at: https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/. The website contains a brief presentation describing the revision process, a copy of the current master plan, a map of the current land use classifications, and instructions for submitting comments to USACE. The public involvement process will be conducted online in lieu of face-to-face workshops until the COVID-19 virus pandemic subsides. All members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments and suggestions from May 11, 2020 to June 26, 2020.

USACE defines the master plan as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. The master plan is a vital tool produced and used by USACE to guide the responsible stewardship of USACE-administered lands and resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.

The current master plan for Ray Roberts Lake was completed in 1983 with a supplement published in 2001 and is in need of revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy. Key topics to be addressed in the revised master plan include revised land classifications, revised natural, cultural, and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat.

Questions on the proposed revision can be emailed to CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil or mailed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Robert Jordan - Lake Manager, 1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 76057.

Sincerely,

MCGUIRE.AMAND A.M.1399923332

Amanda M. McGuire
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision

Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Presentation for Public and Agency Input

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is hosting an online review to provide information and receive public input on the proposed Draft Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake. Please review the presentation linked below to learn about the proposed Draft Master Plan and the revision process. The existing and proposed Master Plan documents and maps will be available to download at the bottom of the page as well as a comment form with instructions on how to send comments.

Link to the Virtual Presentation for the Draft Ray Roberts Master Plan will be available by May 18, 2022.

About Ray Roberts Lake

Ray Roberts Lake is located on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River portions of Denton, Cooke, and Grayson Counties, Texas. The region around the lake has experienced rapid growth in recent years, mostly due to suburban growth within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Ray Roberts Dam and Lake are a multi-purpose project used for flood control, water supply, hydropower, fish and wildlife, and recreation. In addition to these primary missions, USACE has an inherent mission of environmental stewardship of project lands and works closely with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department neighboring cities and counties to provide regionally important outdoor recreation opportunities.

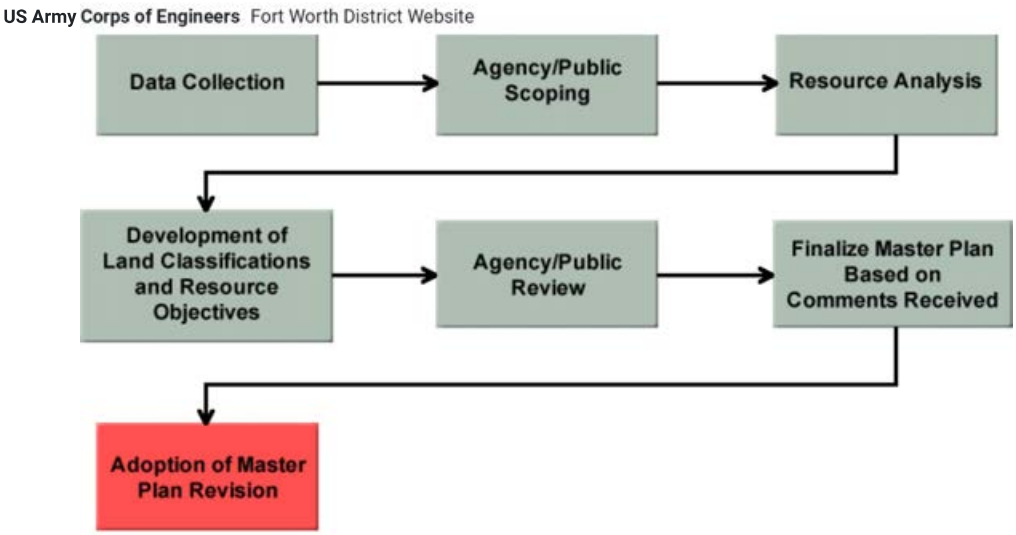
The cities of Dallas and Denton have contracted with the USACE for the use of Ray Roberts Lake water supply. Construction on the dam was started in 1982 and was completed in 1987. At the conservation (normal) pool elevation of 632.5 feet NGVD, the lake surface covers 28,646 acres. Ray Roberts Lake is home to many parks and recreation areas and includes boat ramps, trails, hiking, fishing, and other recreation opportunities.

What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is 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 resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply or flood risk management missions of the project.

Why Revise the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan?

The current Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake was published in 1983 with a supplement published in 2001. Since then, many changes have taken place including major utility and highway construction, urbanization, and evolving recreational uses. The Plan and the land classifications are in need of revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy. Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management and protection of sensitive wildlife habitat. **Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.**



Provide Comments or Questions

Comments may be submitted online by filling out the Comment Form below and clicking the link provided on the comment form, or by mailing the comments to the address below. Only written comments will be accepted. The comment period begins May 11, 2020 and ends June 26, 2020. Comments and questions pertaining to the master plan revision can be addressed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Robert Jordan, Ray Roberts Lake Manager
1801 N. Mill St.
Lewisville, TX 75057

Phone: (469) 645-9100
OR
Email: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Related Files

May 2022

Ray Roberts Lake Draft Master Plan, presentation, and associated files will be added by May 18, 2022.

May 2020

- YouTube Video link of Presentation
- Download a PDF copy to read the presentation.
- Ray Roberts Comment Form with Instructions
- 1983 Ray Roberts Master Plan (23MB)
- 2001 Ray Roberts Master Plan Supplement - Text
- 2001 Ray Roberts Master Plan Supplement - Map
- Existing Land Classification Map from 2001 Supplement

US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

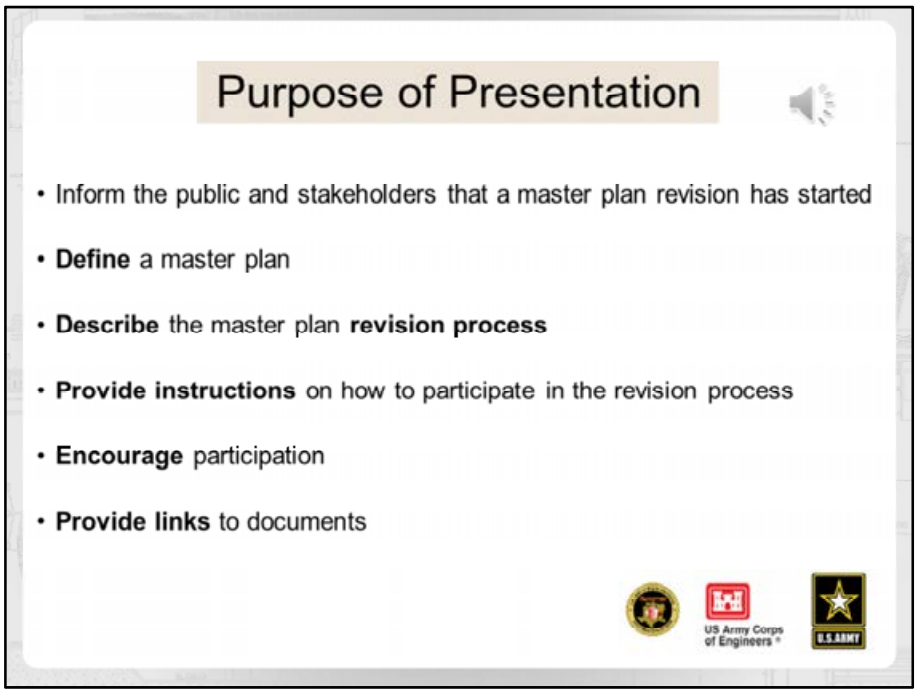
Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.

About the Fort Worth District Website

The official public website of the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For website corrections, write to public.affairs@usace.army.mil

Hello, my name is Eric Irwin and I work for the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Regional Planning & Environmental Center where I am the Program Lead for the Lake Master Plan Program in Southwest Division.

On behalf **Rob Jordan** the Lake Manager, and myself welcome to the Public Involvement Presentation for the master plan revision at **Ray Roberts Lake.** As the country is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, public meetings and workshops which accompany a master plan revision are all cancelled. The presentation you are viewing is the alternative to the Corps hosting face-to-face public meetings or workshops. Public and stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of the master plan revision. Thank you for taking the time to participate.



The purpose of this presentation is to inform the public and stakeholders that a master plan revision has started at **Ray Roberts Lake**. This presentation will define a master plan, describe the master plan revision process, provide instructions on how to participate in the process, and encourage participation. It will also provide links to documents and details about how to contact the Corps to ask questions.

The information provided through public and stakeholder comments is essential to the decision making process of how project lands and water surfaces will be classified and managed. The Corps wants your ideas and comments. After watching this presentation, review the other material on the project website and send in comments and participate in planning the future of **Ray Roberts Lake**.

Topics to be covered in this presentation are summed up under these 8 questions that are often asked in a public meeting or workshop:

- What is a Master Plan?
- Why do a revision?
- What is the revision process?
- What is not part of a Master Plan?
- What is changing in the Plan?
- How can I participate?
- Who can I talk to about the plan?
- When will the Master Plan be done?

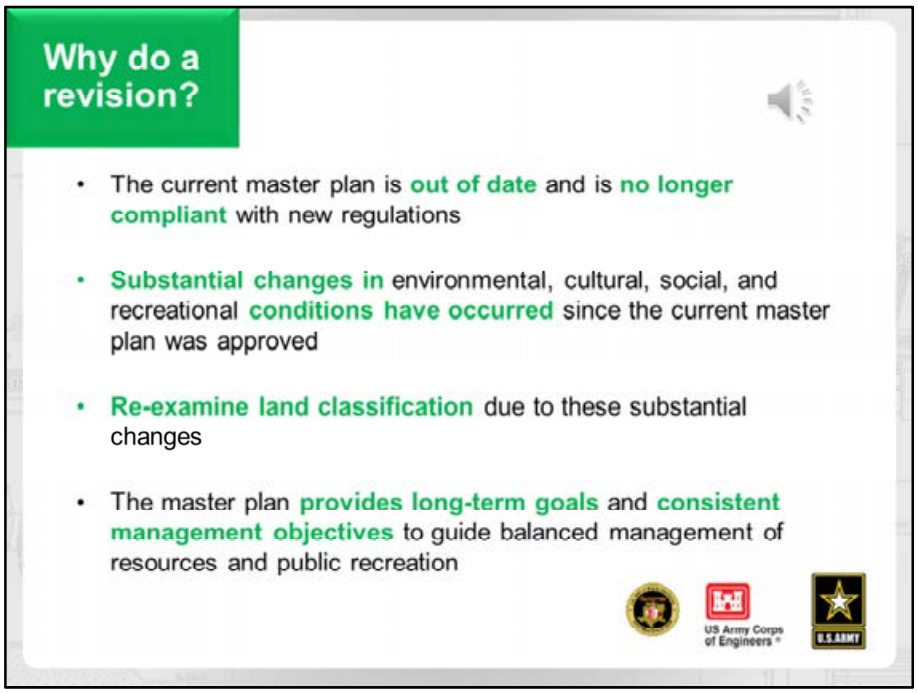
Under each of these 8 topics, this presentation will provide details to help you better understand the master plan project and your role in the process.

You might be wondering, what is a master plan?

The master plan is the document that will guide the land use and management of the project for the next 25 years, while adhering to all applicable Federal laws including the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The focus of the plan is the designation of land classifications with corresponding management plans, as well as establishing resource management objectives.

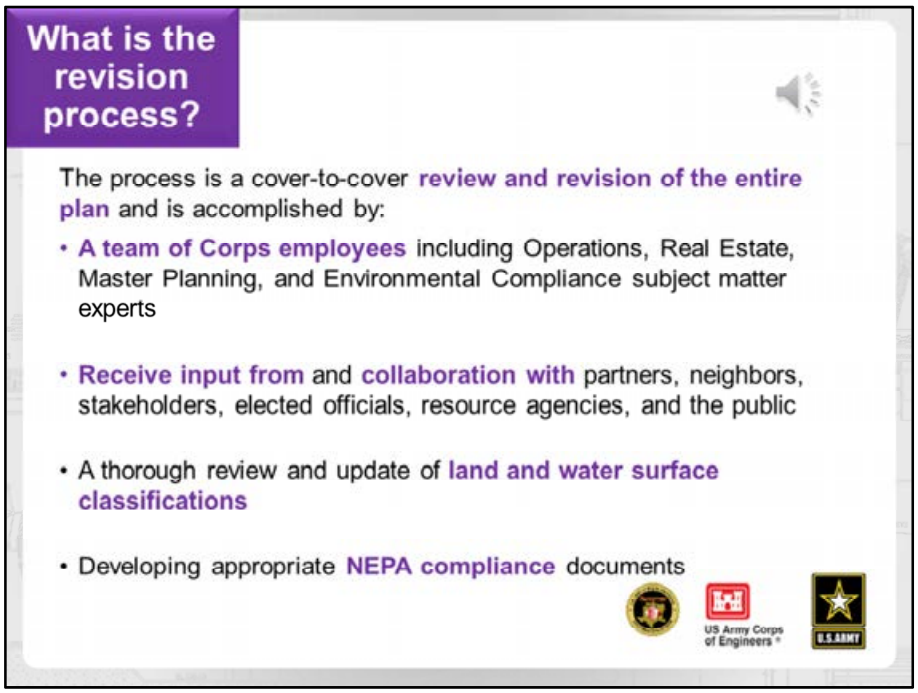
The key to a successful master plan is public involvement.

Participation, in the form of providing written comments, is how you can help.

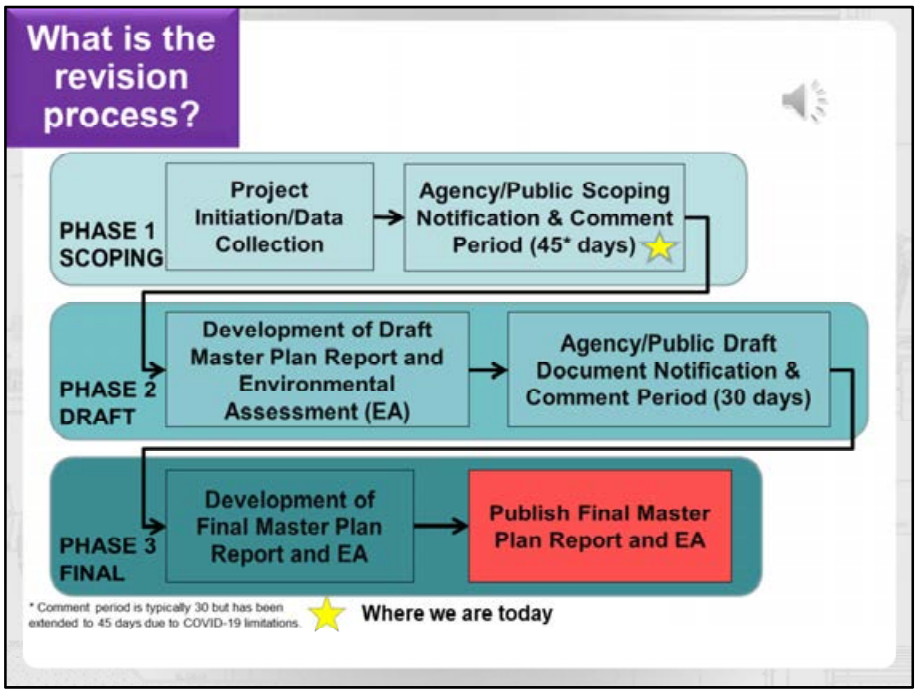


Why is the Corps doing a revision to the master plan at this time?

The Corps is undergoing master plan revisions at many of their projects nationwide as existing plans are no long compliant with current regulations. Many projects have also been influenced by changes in the surrounding environment, either by increased urbanization and growth, or changes in rural patterns of land use. As change is ever constant, an update to the plan is needed to capture how the project land classifications meet the current and future projected uses. Not only does land use change, but also management resources in terms of personnel over time, the master plan provides stability, with long-term goals, and a consistent management strategy, for project resources.



The revision process includes a cover-to-cover review and update of the entire plan. The revision involves input from the public and stakeholders, but is compiled and completed by a team of Corps employees from a wide array of disciplines. Operations, Real Estate, Master Planning and Environmental Compliance are a few of the subjects where expertise is needed. The revision process will review all of the land and water surface classifications and recommend changes as appropriate. The revision process is a federal action that requires compliance with NEPA, and the appropriate documentation will be a part of the plan.



The revision process includes 3 phases: (scoping, draft and final)

- The scoping phase is when the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses. This is the phase we are currently in, as noted by the yellow star on the chart.
- The draft phase is when the Corps asks for public comments on the proposed recommendations in the draft master plan document.
- The final phase is when the Corps incorporates public comments from the draft review into a final master plan document.
- The plan is published after formal approval by the District Commander.

Land Classifications

Source: Engineering Pamphlet or EP 1130-2-550

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Lands required for the dam, spillway, levees, office, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and campgrounds also areas for commercial concessions, and quasi-public development.
Multiple Resource Management Lands	**Recreation - Low Density**: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g. trails, primitive camping, wildlife observation, fishing and hunting)
	Wildlife Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
	Vegetative Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.

The Corps defines land classification as the primary use for which project lands are managed. All Federally owned lands are zoned for development and resource management consistent with project purposes.

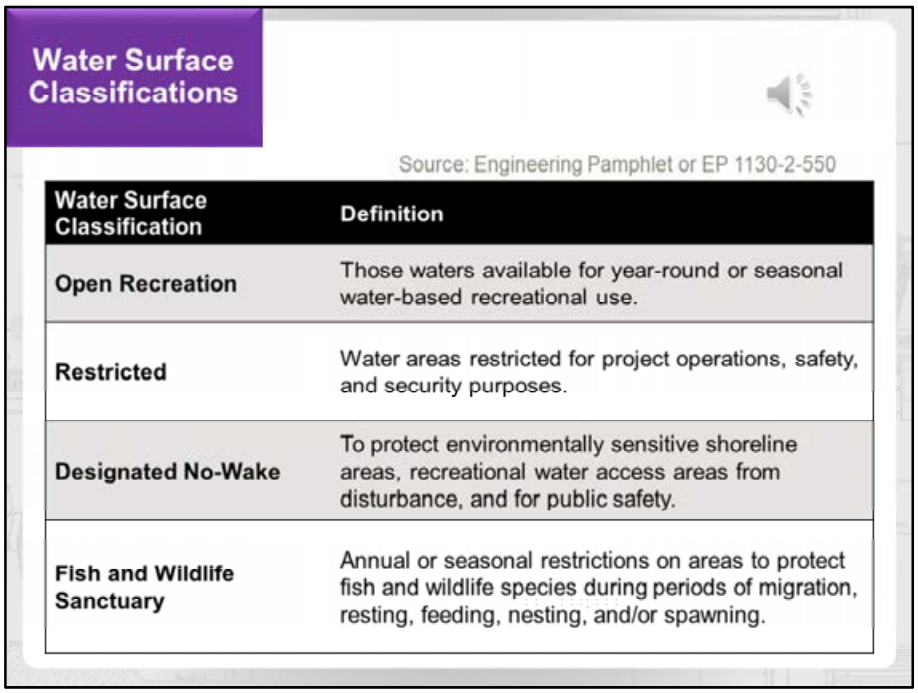
Utilizing the current Federal guidance, the land classifications are defined as shown in this table.

The Project Operations classification is used solely for lands dedicated for the operation of the project, including the dam, spillway, levees, project office, and other operational features.

The classification High Density Recreation is assigned to lands that are being used for intensive recreational activities, including day use and campground areas.

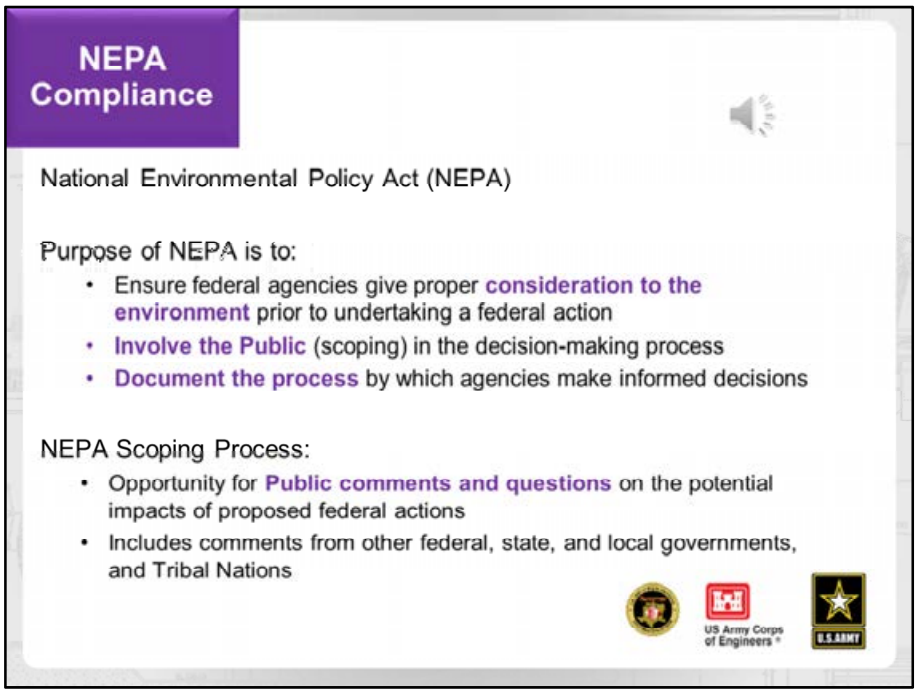
The Multiple Resource Management Lands allows for the designation of a predominate use and are subdivided into 4 classifications. All 4 classifications essentially allow for similar activities to occur, but are managed with a particular emphasis, including low density recreation, wildlife management, vegetative management, and inactive or future recreation areas.

The protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas is given priority, and are for lands with unique scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features. Examples include endangered species habitat, scenic shorelines, and rare and unique plant communities to mention a few.



Water surface classifications are defined much like land classifications in that they reflect how the water surface is to be managed.

The water surface will be reviewed and classified using 4 classifications. The dominate classification is typically open recreation which allows year round use of the water surface. The other 3 classifications place restrictions on the water surface based on safety, access, shoreline protection, and wildlife needs. Restricted water surfaces do not allow access due to safety and security purposes. No-wake water surfaces limit vessel speeds to protect shorelines from wake damage, and are used near marina and boat ramps for public safety. Fish and wildlife sanctuary water surfaces can be employed on an annual or seasonal basis to restrict access to protect fish and wildlife species.

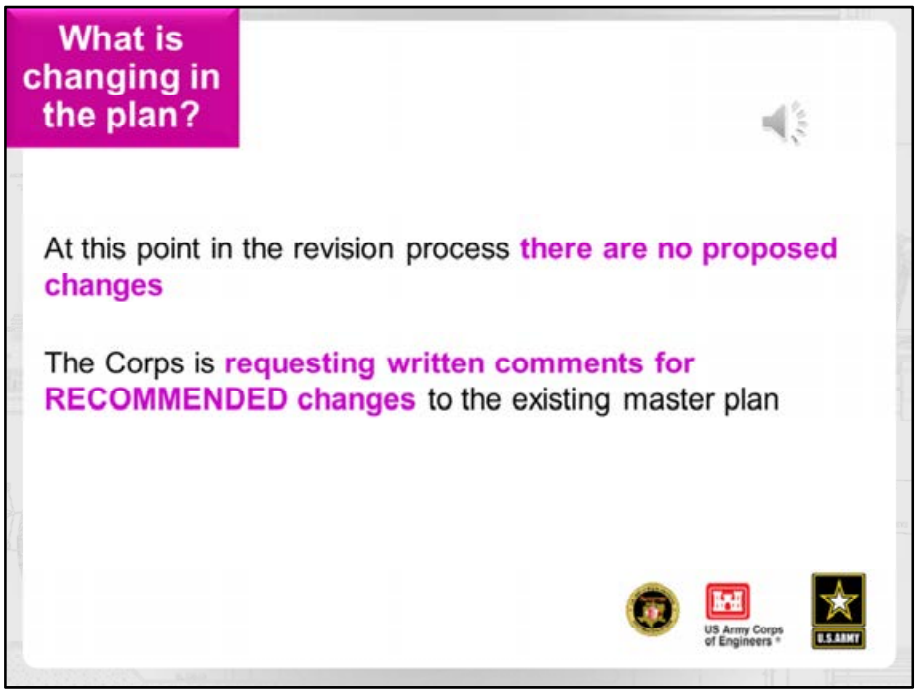


NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act.

Compliance with NEPA is required during the master plan revision process. NEPA is required so that federal agencies give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking a federal action. Scoping during NEPA involves the public in the decision-making process, while documenting the process by which federal agencies make informed decision.

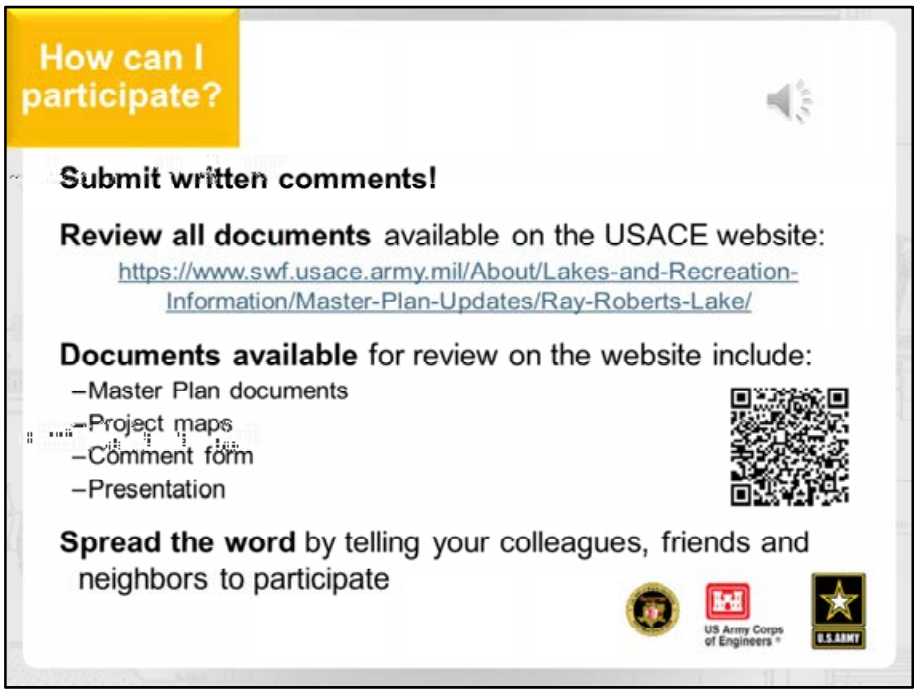
The NEPA process provides the public with the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions. It also includes comments from other federal, state and local governments, and Tribal Nations.

There are topics of public interest that will not be part of the master plan. The master plan does not include facility designs, daily project administration details, or any technical discussion regarding flood risk management, water quality, water supply, shoreline management, water level management, hydropower, or navigation.



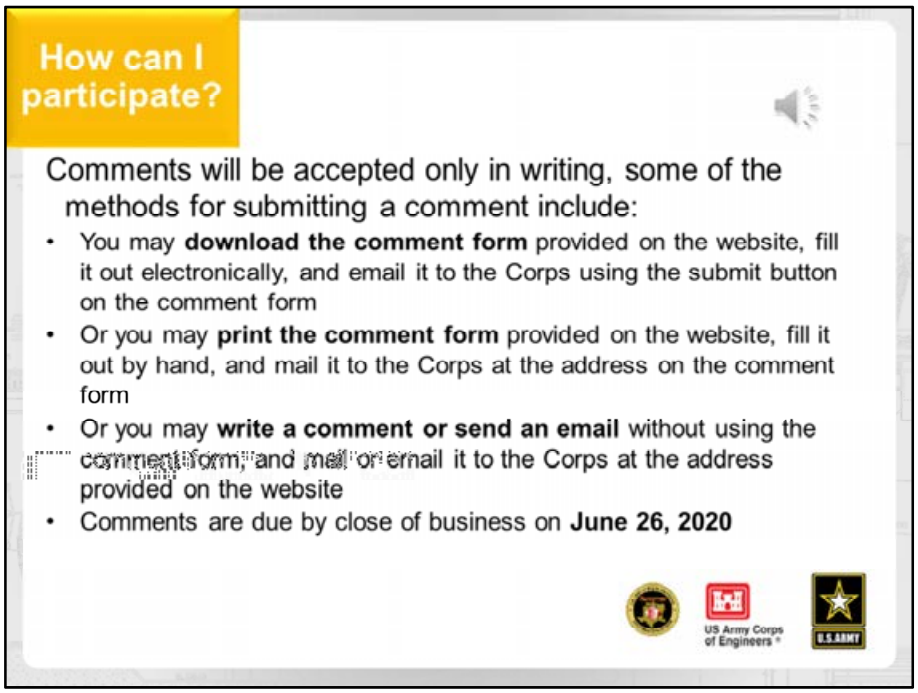
The master plan will be changing from the current master plan.

However, at this point in the Scoping Phase of the process, nothing has been proposed to change. Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens, and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses. The purpose of this public involvement presentation is to inform the Public that the master plan revision has started, and collect suggestions and written comment for possible changes to the master plan.



You can participate in the process by reviewing the documents available on the website and submit written comments. The Corps will only accept comments in written format. The project website is hosting all the documents relevant to the master plan revision, including the current master plan documents, project maps, comment forms with instructions on how to submit a comment, and copies of this presentation for your review. As the project progresses, and new information is developed, it will be posted to this project website, so you may want to bookmark the site for future reference.

We are asking for your help to spread the word to others, letting them know the master plan revision has been initiated, and this is the opportunity to participate in the process.



The Corps can accept any form of written comments and we have provided a few methods that may make it easier to submit.

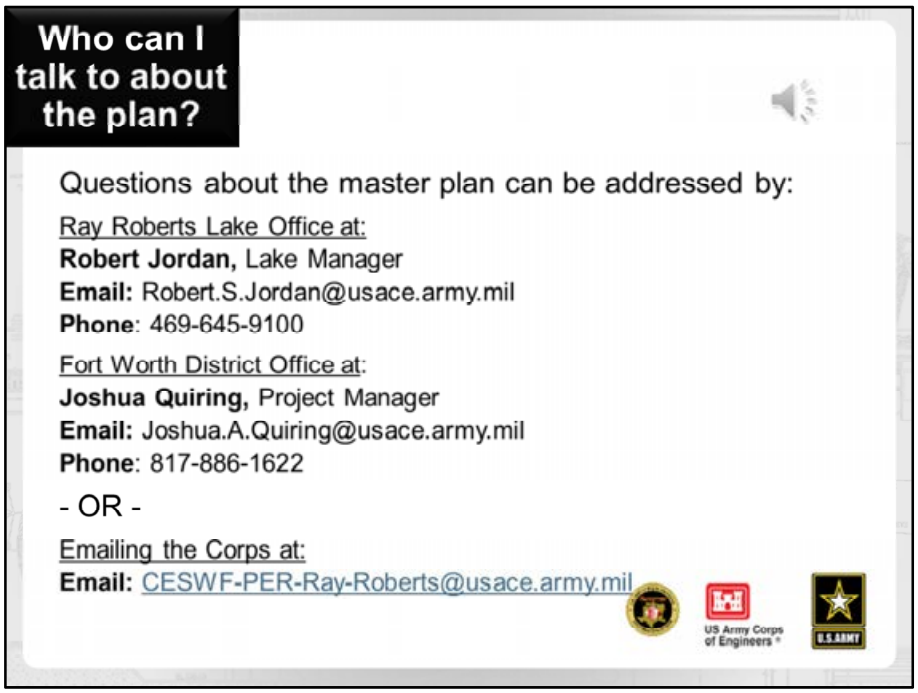
A comment form has been prepared and is available on the website which you can download and fill out electronically. Hit the submit button on the form, and it will autofill the email address, and you can send it in.

Another method is to print the comment form provided on the website and fill it out by hand, or electronically, and mail it in to the Corps.

Or you can write a comment in a letter, or email, and send it in. You don't have to use the comment form.

We will except all of these methods, and any other, as long as it's a written comment.

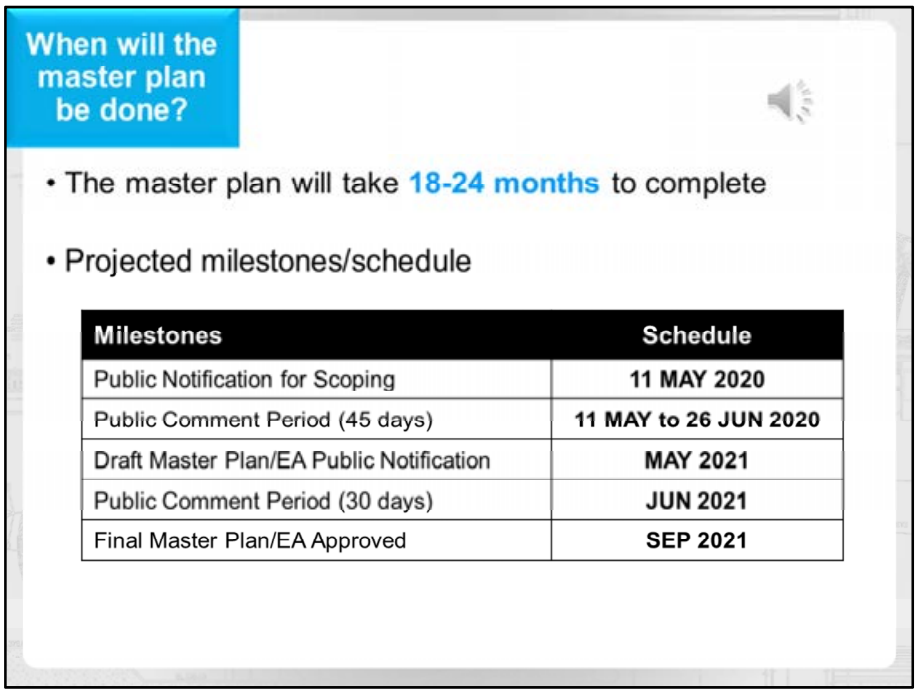
The comment period is open for 45 calendar days from the initial announcement.



If you have questions regarding the master plan, please call or email the following Corps project office or district staff.

You can also send questions to the Email address setup for this project as listed on this slide.

If you need to review a printed copy of the information please contact the lake office to make your request.

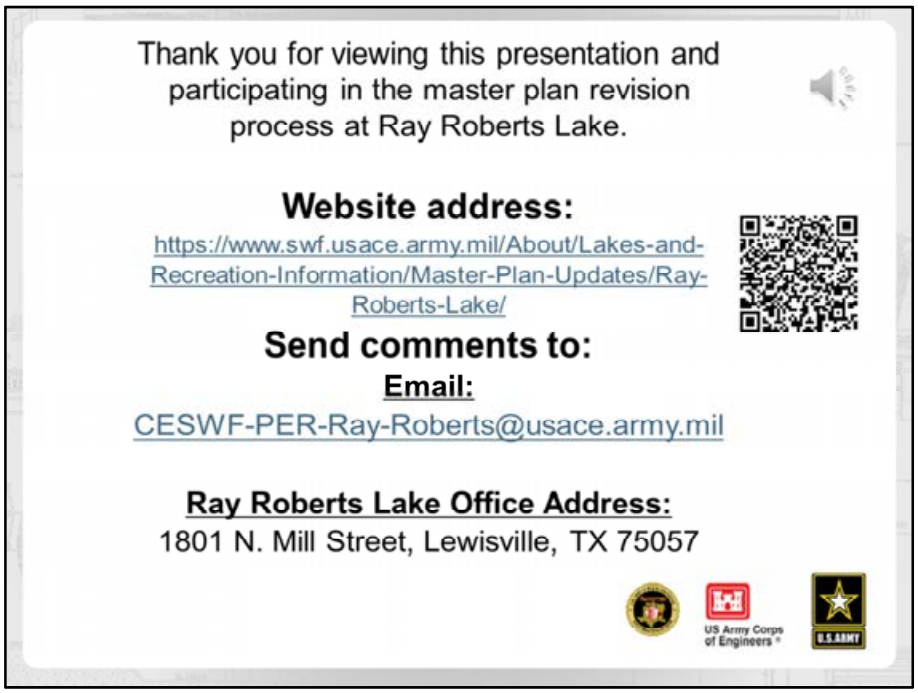


The master plan will take 18-24 months to complete.

Public notification for scoping initiated on 11 May 2020. The 45-day comment period when written comment are accepted will remain open until 26 Jun 2020.

The draft document is scheduled to be available for public review by May 2021 followed by a public comment period.

The final approved master plan and EA is scheduled for September 2021



Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the master plan revision process at Ray Roberts Lake.

Project documents are available at this website.

Please send your comments to the Email address, or Ray Roberts Lake Office Address listed here.

Thank you.

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Comment Form Instructions

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision

Comments Due By 26 June 2020

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of revising the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan. The master plan revision will guide the land and recreational management of the federally owned property that make up the lake and its shoreline for the next 25 years. Management activities include protecting natural and cultural resources, providing public land and water recreation, protecting the public, and ensuring reservoir and dam operations. Pertinent information and a copy of the current land use map can be found on the USACE website listed below.

To add your comments, ideas, or concerns about the future land and recreational management for Ray Roberts Lake, please submit comments using any of the following methods:

- fill out and return a comment form available below or at: https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/
- provide comments in an email message or use comment form and send to: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil
- provide comments in a letter or use comment form and mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Robert Jordan- Lake Manager
1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 76057

Thank you for your participation in helping develop the Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake.

US Army Corps of Engineers ®

Public Workshop

Comment Form

Ray Roberts Lake, Texas

Master Plan Revision

Comments Due By 26 June 2020

Questions, comments, or suggestions?

Your input into the master plan revision and related environmental concerns under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is key to developing a successful master plan for the lake project. Please write your questions, comments, or suggestions in the space provided here and mail or e-mail them to the address below no later than the date of this form. Thank you for your participation!

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Optional Information (used for mailing list to keep you informed and will not be used for any other purpose):

Name:_____ Affiliation:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____

Zip code:_____ Phone: _____ Email:_____

Mail or email comment sheet to the following Point of Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Robert Jordan- Lake Manager
1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 76057
E-MAIL: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Additional information and comment sheets can be found at the following:
http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates.aspx

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News Release

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BUILDING STRONG®

USACE to host virtual public review of the Lewisville Lake Master Plan Revision

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host an online review to provide information and receive public input on the final draft revision of the Master Plan for Lewisville Lake. Normally, USACE would conduct a face-to-face public workshop to announce the availability of the draft revised master plan, but precautions associated with the COVID-19 virus have made it necessary to conduct the public involvement process online instead of hosting a face-to-face workshop.

Several documents are posted for easy review on the following website: https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Lewisville-Lake/. For those who do not have internet access, a printed copy of the draft revised master plan will be available for in-office review when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and the lake office is reopened to the public. If review of a printed copy is needed, please call (469) 645-9100 and ask to speak with a staff member familiar with the master plan revision. The Corps will create a list of those wanting to review a printed copy and will contact those individuals when the lake office is reopened to the public. Printed copies will not be available for public distribution. The Lewisville Lake office is located at 1801 North Mill Street, Lewisville, Texas 75057.

Documents posted for online public review include:

- A YouTube video of the Online Presentation is available at: https://youtu.be/0J2PTXR1_4Y
- A pdf copy of the Online Public Review Presentation
- The 2020 Draft Revised Master Plan for Lewisville Lake
- The 2004 Master Plan Supplement for Lewisville Lake
- Comment Form

Please note that the pdf copy and the narrated PowerPoint provide the same information.

USACE defines the master plan as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the master plan.

-more-

2-2-2-2 virtual review

The master plan study area includes Lewisville Lake proper to include the Ray Roberts Lake Greenbelt Corridor and all adjacent recreational and natural resource properties under USACE administration. Lewisville Lake is a multi-purpose reservoir constructed and managed for flood risk management, water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreation. The current Master Plan for Lewisville Lake is dated June 1985, and a major supplement to the master plan was completed in May 2004. The 2004 supplement provides the current land classifications and management objectives. No other changes to the Master Plan have been implemented since the 2004 supplement. The revision is needed to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy.

Key topics to be addressed in the revised master plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as utility corridors and recreational boating. Revision of the master plan does not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply, flood risk management, or shoreline management permitting missions of the project.

Comments may be submitted online by filling out the Comment Form and clicking on the link provided on the comment form, or mailing comments to the address below. Only written comments will be accepted. The comment period begins May 8 and ends June 22, 2020.

Questions pertaining to the proposed revision can be addressed to: Donald Wiese, Project Manager, CESWF-PEC-TP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, (817) 886-1568.

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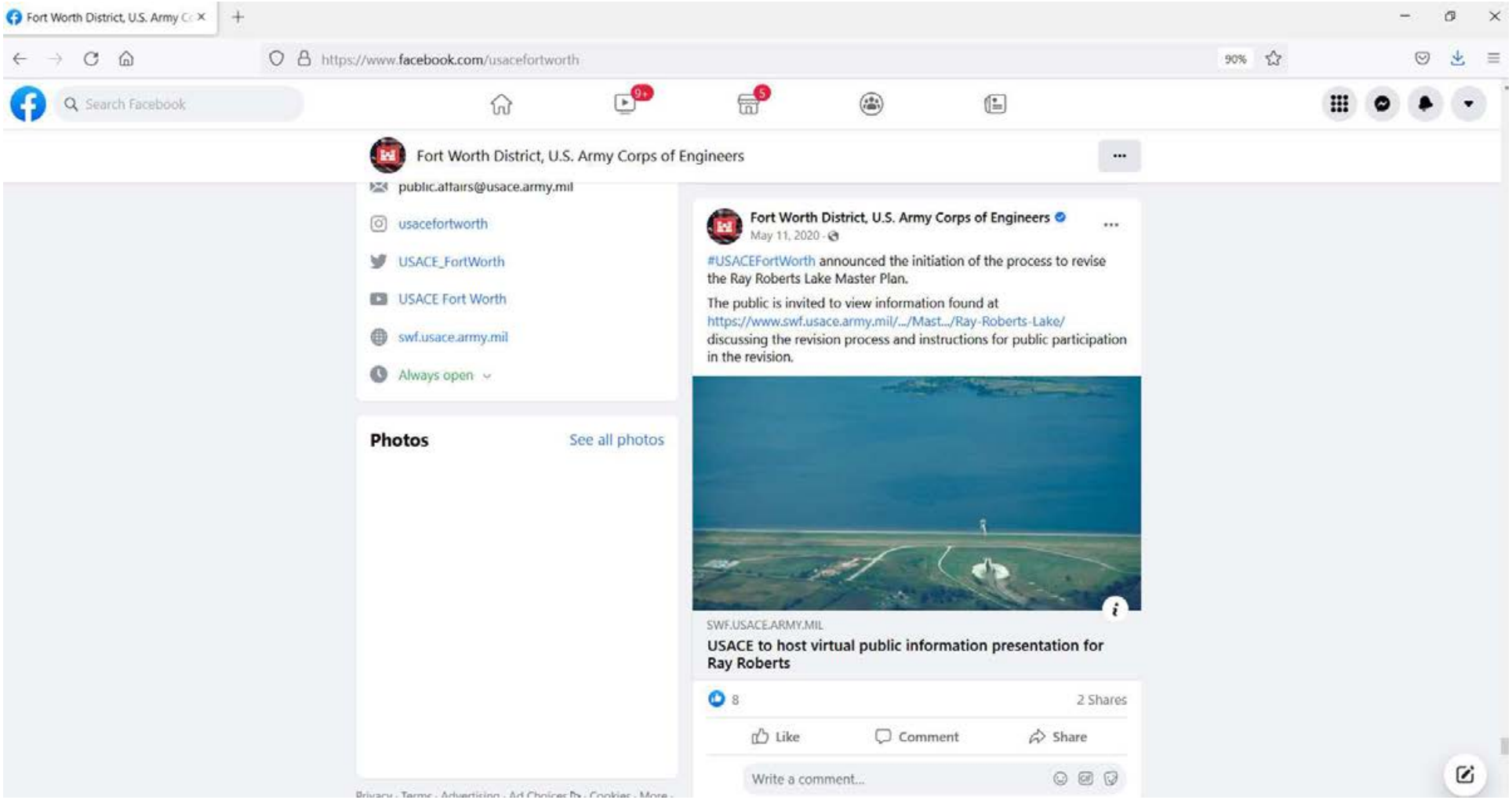
Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and social media at: https://about.me/usacefortworth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Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
May 11, 2020
#USACEFortWorth announced the initiation of the process to revise the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan.
The public is invited to view information found at https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/.../Mast.../Ray-Roberts-Lake/ discussing the revision process and instructions for public participation in the revision.
SWF.USACE.ARMY.MIL
USACE to host virtual public information presentation for Ray Roberts
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https://dentonrc.com/news/army-corps-seeks-online-public-comment-to-update-ray-roberts-lake-master-plan/article_4a402126-29d2-5a08-841c-3d585a96cd34.html

Army Corps seeks online public comment to update Ray Roberts Lake master plan

May 8, 2020

Ray Roberts Lake State Park was open for people to fish, boat, hike and other activities on April 20.

Al Key/DRC

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth office seeks public feedback on its updates to the master plan for Ray Roberts Lake.

Information about proposed revisions are online at bit.ly/2yEsOtk.

The website includes a presentation, copies of the current plan and land use classifications, as well as information on how to comment. The deadline to virtually review and comment on the plan is June 26.

The plan helps federal officials manage the recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the lake and the land around it. The plan was first drafted in 1983 and was last updated in 2001.

Questions can be emailed to CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil, or mailed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Robert Jordon Lake Manager, 1801 N. Mill St., Lewisville, TX 76057.

— Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe

PEGGY HEINKEL-WOLFE can be reached at 940-566-6881 and via Twitter at @phwolfeDRC.

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