

**APPENDIX B - NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
DOCUMENTATION**

Environmental Assessment for the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022

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



August 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 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022 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 will be involved in the Proposed Action.
- 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 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022 (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 MP. Therefore, the 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 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 1983 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 2048. 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.

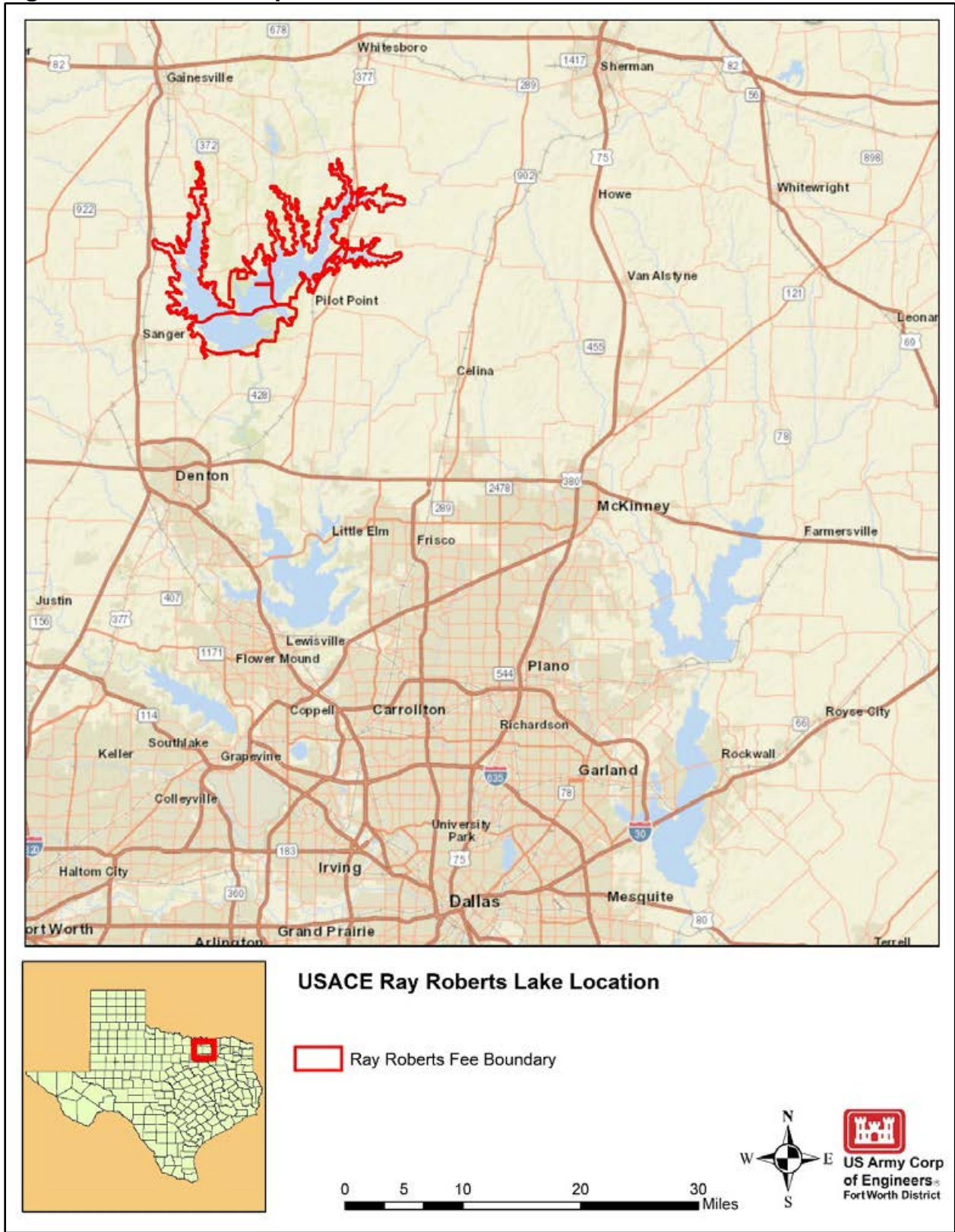
The following factors may influence reevaluation of management practices and land uses:

- 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 Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan 2022 (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 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 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 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 MP and are incorporated herein by reference (USACE, 2022).

The goals for the 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 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 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 MP 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 2048.

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 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 MP will 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 will 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 MP proposes to classify all Federal land lying above elevation 645.0 NGVD29 into management classification categories. These management classification categories will 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 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.
 - Restricted: Water areas restricted for Ray Roberts Lake operations, safety, and security.

- Designated No-Wake: Water areas to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and recreational water access areas from disturbance and areas to protect public safety.
- Open Recreation: Water areas available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

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

Table 2-1 Ray Roberts Lake Land Classifications

Prior Land Classifications (1983 Plan)	Acres*	New Land Classifications (2022)	Acres
Operations	325	Project Operations	503
Recreational – Intensive Use	2,778	High Density Recreation	2,031
--	--	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	8,633
Recreational – Low Density Use	1,510	Multiple Resource Management – Low Density Recreation	1,659
Wildlife Management	14,603	Multiple Resource Management – Wildlife Management	5,601
TOTAL Land Acres	19,216*	TOTAL Land Acres	18,426

Table 2-2. Ray Roberts Lake Surface Water Classifications

Prior Water Surface Classifications (1983 Plan)	Acres	New Water Surface Classifications (2022)	Acres
Permanent Pool	29,350	Permanent Pool	27,801
--	--	– Restricted	6
--	--	– Designated No Wake	91
--	--	– 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 MP 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 Land Reclassifications

Reclassification	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	248 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 7,845 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.
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.

Reclassification	Reclassification Description Justification
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	658 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 will 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 MP. Based on resources described in the 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 will 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 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 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 extent 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 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 reclassifications in the MP were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land and water resources that will allow for continued use and development of project lands.

While HDR is technically a new management classification, the bulk of the 2,031 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 2,778 to 2,031 acres recreational opportunities will 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 will be kept to their land classification usage.

The associated land management with these two classes will not change from the 1983 MP.

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

On the waters of Ray Roberts Lake, the MP will add established surface water use categories in addition to the current management of the lake. The establishment of 6 acres of Restricted, 91 acres of No Wake, and 27,676 acres of Open Recreation to the water surface, respectively, will 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 will 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 will still maintain the authority to make ad hoc adjustments as needed by lake level, which will prevent the classifications from being overly rigid or even ineffectual in various lake level conditions.

The 19 utility corridors as explained in section 6.2 and in Table 6.1 of the MP will 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 will not necessarily increase the usage of nearby corridors.

The majority of the land use classifications in the MP will maintain the functional management that is currently occurring. While the terminology updates appear substantial, they have been implemented 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 will have major, long-term beneficial impacts to land use as the land classes and utility corridors further refine areas for appropriate activities.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.1.6 of the 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 1983 MP. 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 MP the Proposed Action will 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 will help stabilize soils through the promotion of and restoration native habitat. In turn, the habitat will 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, and continual usage of MRML-LDR and WM land classifications will 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, 91 acres of surface waters are to be classified as designated No Wake. These areas are near shorelines where wave action can increase erosion. This Designated No Wake classification will be expected to help prevent further erosion and further reduce water turbidity.

Therefore, implementation of the MP will 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 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 MP will have negligible positive impacts to climate, climate change, and GHG emissions in the region. The impacts will come from the MP promotion of land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability. Management under the MP will 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 will go through the NEPA and design process prior to implementation. It

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

3.4 AIR QUALITY

Please refer to section 2.1.4 of the 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

As with the No Action Alternative, the MP will not result in any change to current and reasonably foreseeable air quality in the region. The Proposed Action does not propose any actions (i.e. ground disturbing activities) that directly or indirectly produce criteria pollutants (i.e. total emissions is 0); therefore, this action is compliant with the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan and is not subject to a conformity determination. Negligible air quality benefits may be realized through the reduction of HDR land (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres), the continual usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA, especially in prime ecological areas. These areas contain natural vegetation communities that filter and sequester air pollutants.

3.5 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

Please refer to section 2.1.5 of the 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 MP takes into consideration of the various topographical, geological, and soils aspects of USACE Ray Roberts Lake project lands. The reduction of HDR lands (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres), the usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA will 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 utility corridors will 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 will 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 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 MP will allow natural resources within USACE Ray Roberts federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management will be from implementing the knowledge gained from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) (Appendix C of the MP) done for Ray Roberts Lake, which helps to establish the high quality and unique areas. The implementation of land reclassifications will allow project lands to continue and further support the USFWS and the TPWD missions associated with wildlife conservation and implementation of operational practices that will 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 will be impacted from the retention of flood waters. The reduction of HDR land (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres), the 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 utility corridors described in section 6.2 and Table 6.1 of the MP will help to increase the acreage of habitat that will not be disturbed in the future by consolidating future utilities. This will be achieved from the restriction of all new utilities being built along existing right-of-ways and corridors. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will be major short-and long-term major, beneficial impacts on natural resources as a result of implementing the MP.

3.7 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.4 of the 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 MP will 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 in the 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 will be built along existing right-of-ways and the 19 utility corridors. This will 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 will 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. Therefore, the USACE has determined that the MP will 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 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 MP will allow invasive species within USACE Ray Roberts federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management will 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 (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres), the usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the

establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA, especially in prime ecological areas will help to protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation. This in turn will 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 corridors will 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 will be short-and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on invasive species as a result of implementing the MP.

3.9 CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.3 of the 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 1983 MP.

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 MP will 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, utility corridors, resource objectives, and resource plan will not change current cultural resource management plans or alter areas where these resources exist. All future activities will 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 will occur as a result of implementing the MP. Beneficial impacts may occur as a result of the MP as lands classified as PO, ESA, or MRML- WM will 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 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 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 will be similar to the No Action Alternative. There will 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 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 will still allow for current leases to exist and for future lease proposals. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation will decrease (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres) with implementation of the 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 will 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 will be no adverse, short-or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous existing recreation opportunities will 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 MP for existing aesthetic resource conditions in and around Ray Roberts Lake.

3.12.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There will 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 will 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 will decrease (2,778 acres to 2,031 acres) with implementation of the 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 will 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 will have no effect on current or projected public use or visual aesthetics, since views from natural and recreation areas will remain in place. Furthermore, the continual usage of MRML-LDR and WM classifications, and the establishment of 8,633 acres as ESA will protect lands that are aesthetically pleasing and available for passive recreation activity at Ray Roberts Lake and limit future development. All new utilities will be built along existing right of ways and the 19 new utility corridors to limit aesthetics impacts to natural landscapes. Additionally, 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 will be no adverse, short-or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous recreation opportunities will 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 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 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 MP will result in the classification of Restricted Surface Water (6 acres), Designated No-Wake areas (91 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 will 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 will 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 will be short-and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on health and safety as a result of implementing the 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 will 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 will 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 91 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 Cooke 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 will 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 will 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 will result in the reclassification of project lands, the reclassifications were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land resources that will allow for continued use of project lands.

Section 6.1 of the MP also identifies the need and location for 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 will neither affect nor be affected by the climate. Therefore, implementation of the revised land use classifications in the MP, when combined with other existing and projects in the region, will 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 will not be changed. In the event that GHG emission issues become significant enough to impact the current operations at Ray Roberts Lake, the MP and all associated documents will be reviewed and revised as necessary. Therefore, implementation of the MP, when combined with other existing and proposed

projects in the region, will 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 MP; therefore, increasing the amount of new emissions that could potentially affect air quality within the region. The Proposed Action will 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 will be negligible. Seasonal prescribed burning could occur on Ray Roberts Lake to help maintain the various prairies, but will have minor, negative impacts on air quality through elevated ground-level O₃ and particulate matter concentrations; however, these seasonal burns will be scheduled so that impacts are minimized. Implementation of the MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, will 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 will create a risk to life or property, or if there will 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, and MRML-WM 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 will threaten the viability of natural resources. Therefore, there will be major long-term beneficial impacts to natural resources resulting from the revision of the 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 Beetle or other species or listing of new species), associated requirements will be reflected in revised land management practices in coordination with the USFWS. The USACE will 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 will 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, will 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 will allow, USACE will 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 will continue to be conducted on various areas across the project lands. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) will help reduce the introduction and distribution of invasive species, ensuring that proposed actions in the region will 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 will 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 will 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 Utility Corridors will 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, will not result in major reasonably foreseeable future impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.

4.3.11 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action will 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 in the 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, will 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 will decrease as a

result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the 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 will have no effect on current or projected public use. Therefore, the Proposed Action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, will result in negligible beneficial reasonably foreseeable future impacts on area recreational resources.

4.3.13 Aesthetic Resources

No impacts on visual resources will occur as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the MP. The Proposed Action, especially the classification of ESAs, in conjunction with other projects in the region, will 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 will be expected with implementation of the MP; therefore, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Ray Roberts Lake area, there will be no major reasonably foreseeable future impacts on hazardous materials and solid waste.

4.3.15 Health and Safety

No health or safety risks will be created by the Proposed Action. The effects of implementing the MP, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Ray Roberts Lake area, will 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 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 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 MP.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended – Current lists of threatened or endangered species were compiled for the MP. There will 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 MP by classification of ESA and Wildlife 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 will not result in adverse impacts on migratory birds or their habitat. Beneficial impacts could occur through protection of habitat as a result of the 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 will 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 MP. There will be no change in the existing management of the reservoir that will 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 will 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 will not change with the 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 will 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 will 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 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 will 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 will 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 was the meeting to introduce the draft MP and EA to the public. However, it was replaced by a similar online style of presentation as the public scoping meeting, and there were other information resources that summarized the proposed MP. Public review and comment period on the draft proposed MP and EA began on May 19, 2022 and ended on June 20, 2022.

At the close of the 30-day public review period, public comments received were 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.

Attachment 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 Digitally signed by
A.M.1399923332
DN: cn=A.M.1399923332, o=USACE, ou=Fort Worth District

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



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

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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?

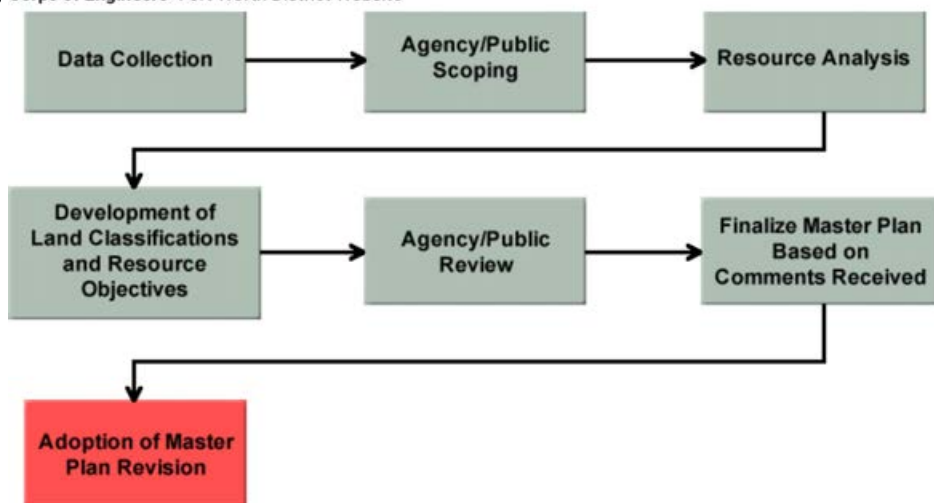
The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical 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.**



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website



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



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**RAY ROBERTS LAKE
MASTER PLAN REVISION:
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
PRESENTATION**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Ray Roberts Lake

PRESENTER: Eric Irwin,
Regional Planning
& Environmental Center
Southwest Division,
Lake Master Plan Program Lead

MISSION / PEOPLE / TEAMWORK


US Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. ARMY

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.

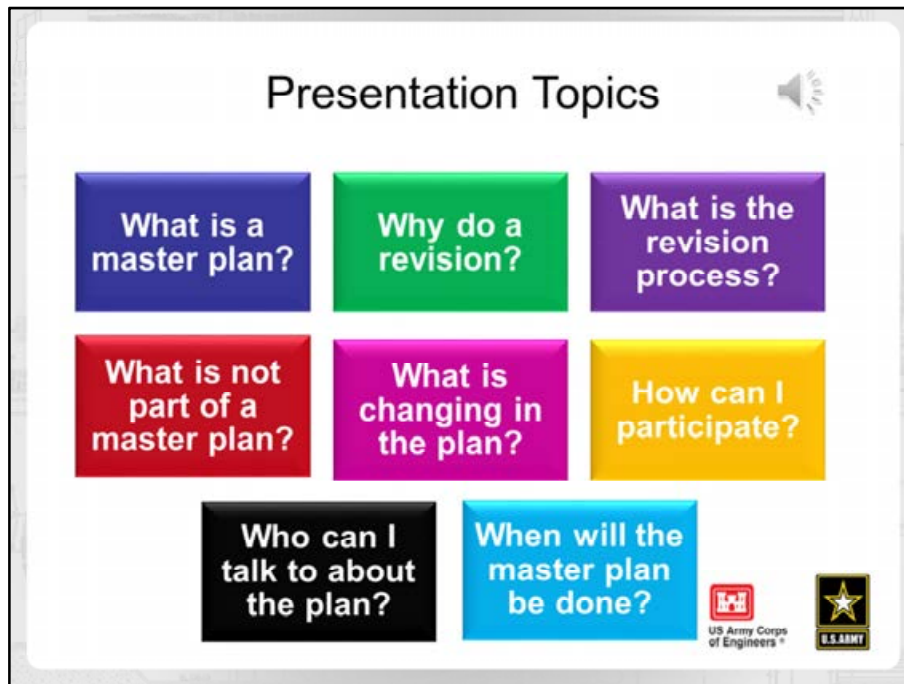
Purpose of Presentation

- Inform the public and stakeholders that a master plan revision has started
- **Define** a master plan
- **Describe** the master plan **revision process**
- **Provide instructions** on how to participate in the revision process
- **Encourage** participation
- **Provide links** to documents



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.

What is a master plan?

- The master plan is a **25 year comprehensive land use management guide** for recreational, natural, and cultural resources
- **Adheres to Federal laws** to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop project lands, waters, and associated resources, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation
- Provides **land classifications** and **resource management objectives** that are broad and adaptive over time
- Requires and encourages **public involvement**



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 do a revision?

- The current master plan is **out of date** and is **no longer compliant** with new regulations
- **Substantial changes in** environmental, cultural, social, and recreational **conditions have occurred** since the current master plan was approved
- **Re-examine land classification** due to these substantial changes
- The master plan **provides long-term goals** and **consistent management objectives** to guide balanced management of resources and public recreation



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.

What is the revision process?

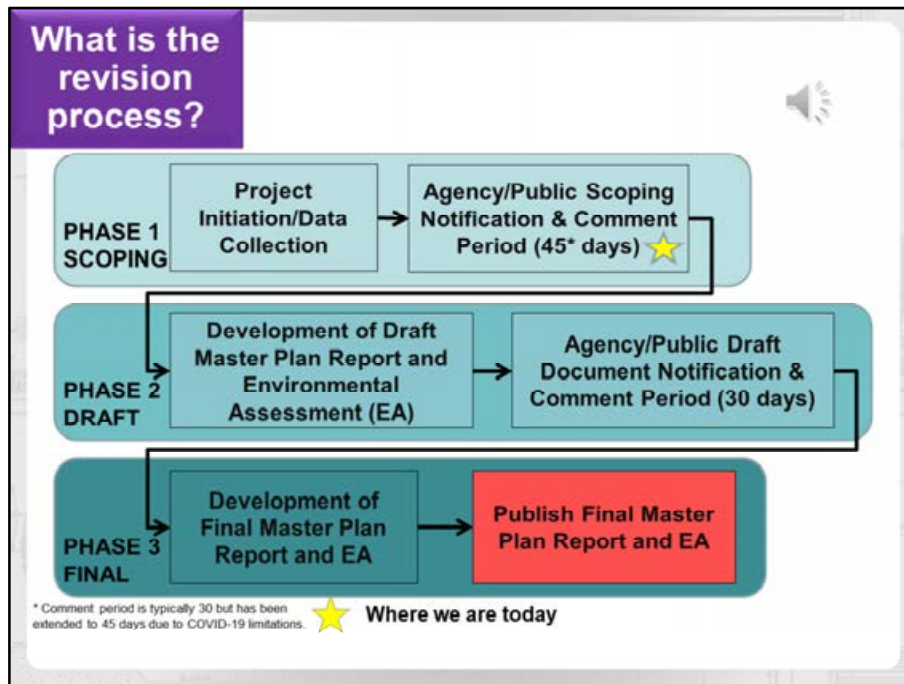


The process is a cover-to-cover **review and revision of the entire plan** and is accomplished by:

- **A team of Corps employees** including Operations, Real Estate, Master Planning, and Environmental Compliance subject matter experts
- **Receive input from** and **collaboration with** partners, neighbors, stakeholders, elected officials, resource agencies, and the public
- A thorough review and update of **land and water surface classifications**
- Developing appropriate **NEPA compliance** documents



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	
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



Source: Engineering Pamphlet or EP 1130-2-550

Water Surface Classification	Definition
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.
Restricted	Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.
Designated No-Wake	To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety.
Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary	Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.

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 Compliance



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Purpose of NEPA is to:

- Ensure federal agencies give proper **consideration to the environment** prior to undertaking a federal action
- **Involve the Public** (scoping) in the decision-making process
- **Document the process** by which agencies make informed decisions

NEPA Scoping Process:

- Opportunity for **Public comments and questions** on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions
- Includes comments from other federal, state, and local governments, and Tribal Nations



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.

What is NOT part of a master plan?



- Facility **design details**
- Details of **daily project administration**
- Technical aspects of:
 - Water management for **flood risk management**
 - Regional **water quality**
 - **Water supply**
 - **Shoreline management**
 - **Water level management**
 - **Hydropower**
 - **Navigation**



US Army Corps
of Engineers



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.

What is changing in the plan?



At this point in the revision process **there are no proposed changes**

The Corps is **requesting written comments for RECOMMENDED changes** to the existing master plan



US Army Corps
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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.

How can I participate?



Submit written comments!

Review all documents available on the USACE website:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>

Documents available for review on the website include:

- Master Plan documents
- Project maps
- Comment form
- Presentation



Spread the word by telling your colleagues, friends and neighbors to participate



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.

How can I participate?



Comments will be accepted only in writing, some of the methods for submitting a comment include:

- You may **download the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out electronically, and email it to the Corps using the submit button on the comment form
- Or you may **print the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out by hand, and mail it to the Corps at the address on the comment form
- Or you may **write a comment or send an email** without using the comment form, and mail or email it to the Corps at the address provided on the website
- Comments are due by close of business on **June 26, 2020**



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.

Who can I talk to about the plan?



Questions about the master plan can be addressed by:

Ray Roberts Lake Office at:

Robert Jordan, Lake Manager

Email: Robert.S.Jordan@usace.army.mil

Phone: 469-645-9100

Fort Worth District Office at:

Joshua Quiring, Project Manager

Email: Joshua.A.Quiring@usace.army.mil

Phone: 817-886-1622

- OR -

Emailing the Corps at:

Email: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil



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.

When will the master plan be done?



- The master plan will take **18-24 months** to complete
- Projected milestones/schedule

Milestones	Schedule
Public Notification for Scoping	11 MAY 2020
Public Comment Period (45 days)	11 MAY to 26 JUN 2020
Draft Master Plan/EA Public Notification	MAY 2021
Public Comment Period (30 days)	JUN 2021
Final Master Plan/EA Approved	SEP 2021

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.



Website address:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>



Send comments to:

Email:

CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Ray Roberts Lake Office Address:

1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 75057



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!

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>



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/OJ2PTXR1_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.

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.

-30-

Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and social media at: <https://about.me/usacefortworth>

Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

public.affairs@usace.army.mil

usacefortworth

USACE_FortWorth

USACE Fort Worth

swf.usace.army.mil

Always open

Photos See all photos

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.

AI 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.



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

April 29, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DRAFT MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
RAY ROBERTS LAKE 2022 MASTER PLAN
COOKE, DENTON, AND GRAYSON COUNTIES, TEXAS**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, hereby informs the public of the release of the draft Ray Roberts Lake 2022 Master Plan (hereafter Plan), draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Plan is a vital tool produced and used by the USACE to guide the responsible stewardship of the USACE-administered lands and resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Plan provides direction for appropriate management, use, development, enhancement, protection, and conservation of the natural, cultural, and manmade resources at Ray Roberts Lake. The Plan presents an inventory and analysis of land resources, resource management objectives, land use classifications, resource use plan for each land use classification, current and projected park facility needs, an analysis of existing and anticipated resource use, and anticipated influences on overall project operation and management. The most current Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake was approved in January of 1983 and was supplemented in 2001 with changes to land classification at Culp Branch Park.

In lieu of a face-to-face public meeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the USACE will provide a virtual presentation that gives an overview of the proposed changes to the current Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan and instructions on how to submit comments. A 30-day public comment period will begin on May 19, 2022, and end on June 20, 2022. The draft Plan, FONSI, EA, and comment instructions will be available for download starting May 18, 2022, at the following Fort Worth District website:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>

Comments, suggestions, and 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, Texas, 75057.

Sincerely,

Brandon Wadlington on behalf of

Jeffrey F. Pinsky
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

[Home](#) / [About](#) / [Lakes and Recreation Information](#) / [Master Plan Updates](#) / Ray Roberts Lake

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision



Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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?

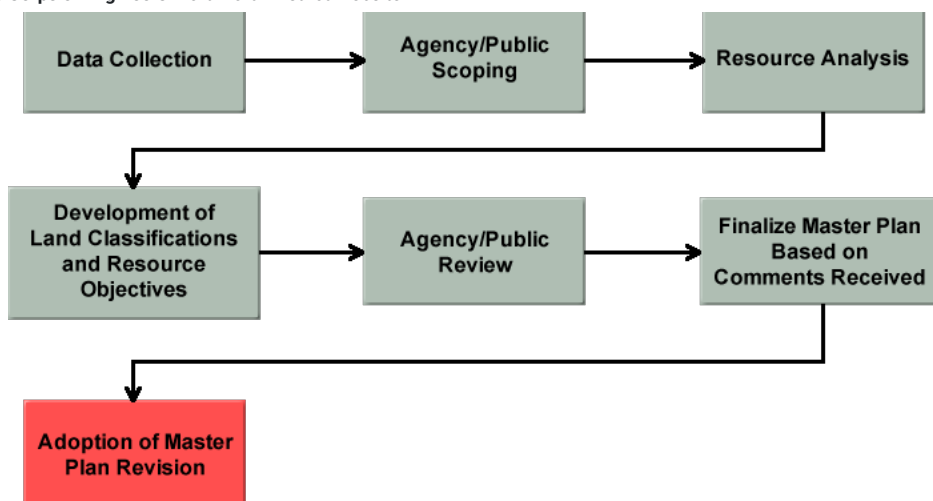
The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical 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.



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website



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 19, 2022 and ends June 20, 2022 .

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

- [Draft Master Plan](#) (3MB)
- [Appendix A - Land Classification, Managing Agencies, and Recreation Maps](#) (29MB)
- [Appendix B - National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Documentation](#) (4MB)
- [Appendix C - Wildlife Documents](#) (17.6MB)
- [Appendix D - Fort Worth District Notice to Seaplane Pilots](#) (1.1MB)
- [Appendix E - Acronyms](#) (78KB)
- [Virtual Story Map Presentation](#)
- [Comment Form and Instructions](#) (946KB)
- [Public Notice Release](#) (203KB)

May 2020

Our Mission

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



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Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan

Draft Master Plan Report - Public Comment Period
Announcement

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District



Introduction

Welcome to the website announcing the public comment period for the draft Master Plan Report at Ray Roberts Lake, Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been

working to revise the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan and have a draft document available for public review and comment.

The purpose of this website is to publicly announce the availability of the draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment and highlight the process to submit comments.

In order to fully review and comment on the draft report it is important to read the 2022 draft Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan and the related appendices which are available for download. All of the documents you will need for the review are posted on the USACE Fort Worth District website at the link provided later in this presentation. Thank you for taking the time to view the webpage and review the 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 USACE project. The Master Plan guides efficient and cost-effective management, development, and use of project lands. It is a vital tool for the responsible stewardship and sustainability of project resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Master Plan guides and articulates the USACE's responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the project lands, waters, and associated resources.



Process Followed to Date

- The processes completed to date included the following activities:
 - Initial public involvement presentation became available on 11 May 2020.
 - During the 30 day public comment period, a total of 6 comments were received they were considered in preparing the draft revised Master Plan.
 - Habitat assessments were conducted by USACE using Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) protocol with the results included in the Mater Plan Appendix.
 - A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and is available along with the Master Plan document.



What is a Master Plan?

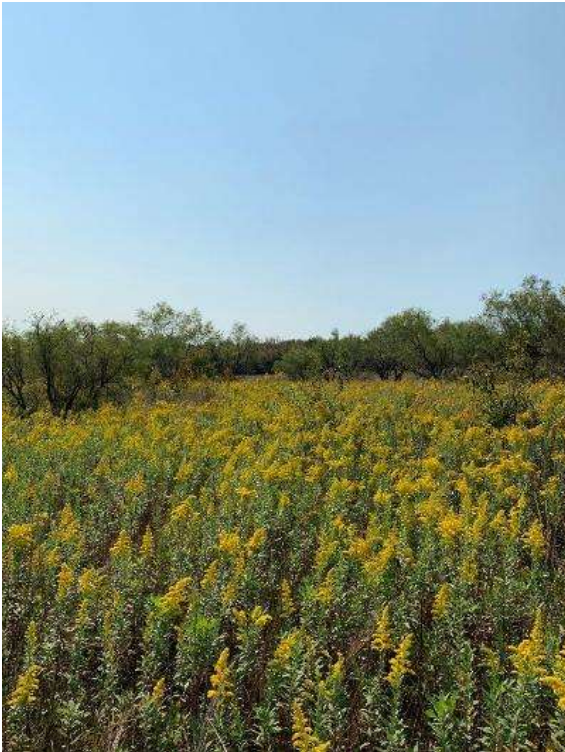
- The master plan is a **25 year comprehensive land use management guide** for recreational, natural, and cultural resource.
- **Adheres to Federal Laws** to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop project land, waters, and associated resources,



including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation.

- Provides **land and water surface classifications** that support **resource management objectives** that are broad and adaptive over time.
- Requires and encourages **public involvement**.

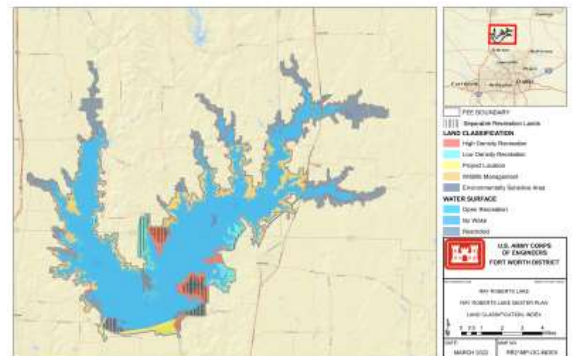
What Master Plans Are Not



- Master plans **do not address** the technical aspects of:
 - Water management for **flood risk management**
 - Regional **water quality**
 - **Water supply**
 - **Shoreline management**
 - **Water level management**
 - **Navigation**
 - **Facility design** details
 - Details of daily **project administration**

Principle Changes in Revised Master Plan

- Establishment of new land and water surface classifications where approximately 18,426 land acres and 27,801 water surface acres at Ray Roberts Lake were designated to the new classifications.
- Resource management plans were created for each of the land



classifications

- Developed resource objectives specific to the following categories:
 - Recreational
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Visitor Information, Education, and Outreach
 - General Management
 - Cultural Resource Management



Where are we in the Process?

- The revision process includes 3 phases:
 - Scoping phase is when the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources, and uses. **This phase was completed 11 May- 26 June 2020**
 - Draft phase is when the USACE asks for public comments on the proposed recommendations in the draft Master Plan. This is the phase we are currently in, as noted by the yellow star on the chart.
 - The final phase is when the USACE incorporates public comments from the draft phase into the final Master Plan. The plan is published after formal approval by the Fort Worth District Commander.



How to Participate

You can participate in the process by reviewing the documents available on the project website and submit written comments. The USACE will **only accept comments in written format**. The project website (link below) is hosting all the documents relevant to the Master Plan revision, including the draft Master Plan document, project maps, and comment forms with instructions on how to submit a comment.

Comments are Due on: June 30, 2022

Send Comments to...

Email: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Or

Mail:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Robert Jordan- Lake Manager
1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 76057

Website Link

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision

Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army...

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>

If you have Questions...

Questions regarding the Master Plan can be addressed by contacting the Ray Roberts Lake Project Office at the email address:

CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Or by calling (469) 645-9100

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





Contact Information

CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

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



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Comment Form Instructions

Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan Revision

Comments Due By June 20, 2022

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has drafted a revision to the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan in accordance with current laws and regulations, public stakeholder comments, and expert advice. 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 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, Ray Roberts Lake Manager
1801 N. Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 75057



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 June 20, 2022

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!

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 75057
E-MAIL: CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil

Additional information and comment sheets can be found at the following:
<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>

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- [2011 \(3\)](#)
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USACE to host online public review of the Ray Roberts Lake Master Plan revision

FORT WORTH DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Published May 19, 2022

2

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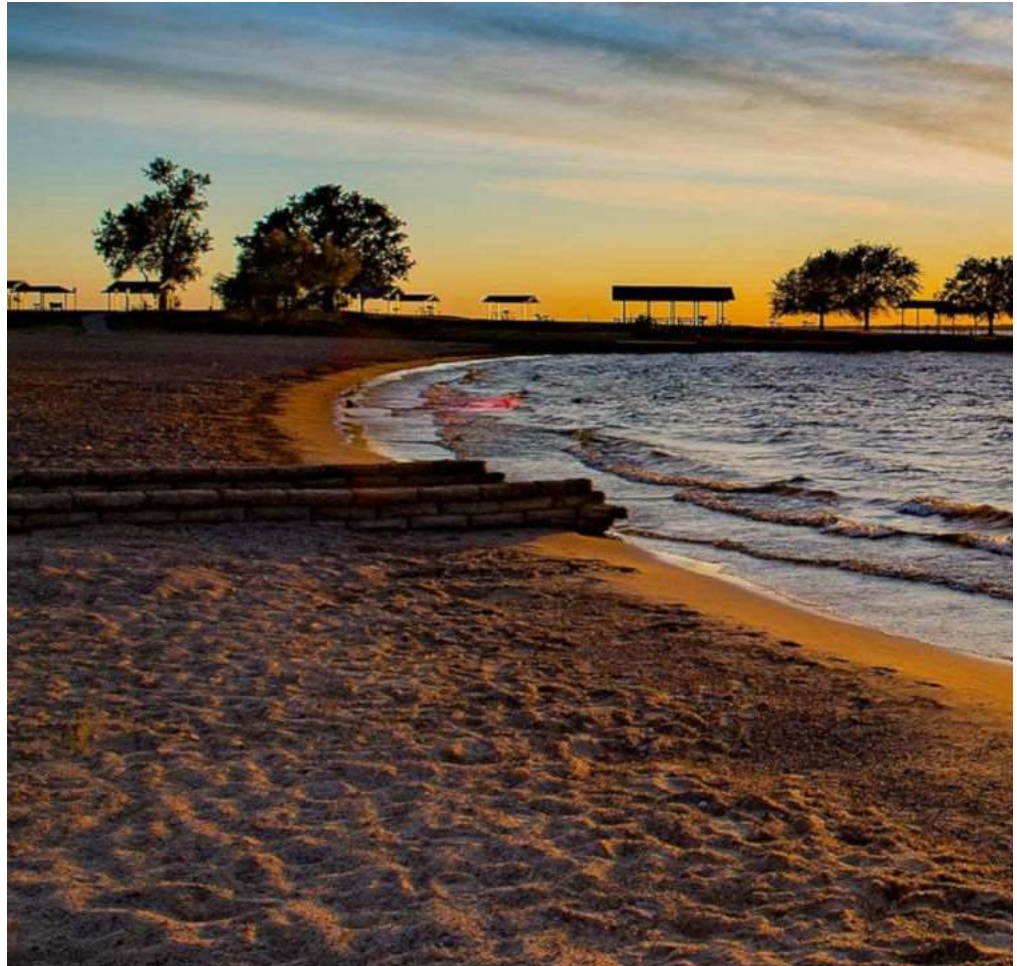


Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

FORT WORTH, Texas - The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be hosting an online involvement video presentation to provide information and receive public input toward the draft revision of the Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake. Normally, USACE would conduct a live public workshop to announce the availability of the draft revised Master Plan, but continued precautions associated with the COVID-19 virus have made it necessary to conduct the public involvement process online instead of hosting a live workshop.

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Ray-Roberts-Lake/>

Documents posted for online public review Include:

- **Draft Revised Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake**
- **1971 Master Plan for Ray Roberts Lake with 2001 Supplement**
- **Virtual StoryMap Presentation**
- **Comment Form**



The Master Plan study area includes Ray Roberts Lake proper and all adjacent recreational and natural resource properties under USACE administration. Ray Roberts 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 Ray Roberts Lake is dated January 1983. 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 public hunting. 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 19, and ends June 20, 2022.

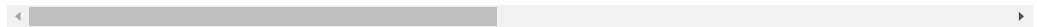
Questions pertaining to the proposed revision can be addressed to: Joshua Quiring, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300 or sent via email to CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil.

Visit the Fort Worth District Web social media at: <https://about.me/usacefortworth>

Contact

Clay Church
817-886-1314
clayton.a.church@usace.army.mil

Release no. 22-012





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Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

May 19 · 🌐



The Fort Worth District is hosting virtual involvement to provide information and receive public input toward the draft revision of the Master Plan for #RayRobertsLake.

Read the full news release here: <https://go.usa.gov/xuSm7>

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FEATURED

Ray Roberts Lake master plan being updated for first time since 2001

By Paul Witwer For the Denton Record-Chronicle

Jun 12, 2022



Fishermen test the waters near the dam at Ray Roberts Lake in December. The Ray Roberts Lake master plan will guide land use management for recreational, natural and cultural resources for the next 25 years.

AI Key/DRC file photo

The cities of Denton and Dallas have contracted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update the master plan for Ray Roberts Lake to stay compliant with new federal laws regarding land classifications and resource management.

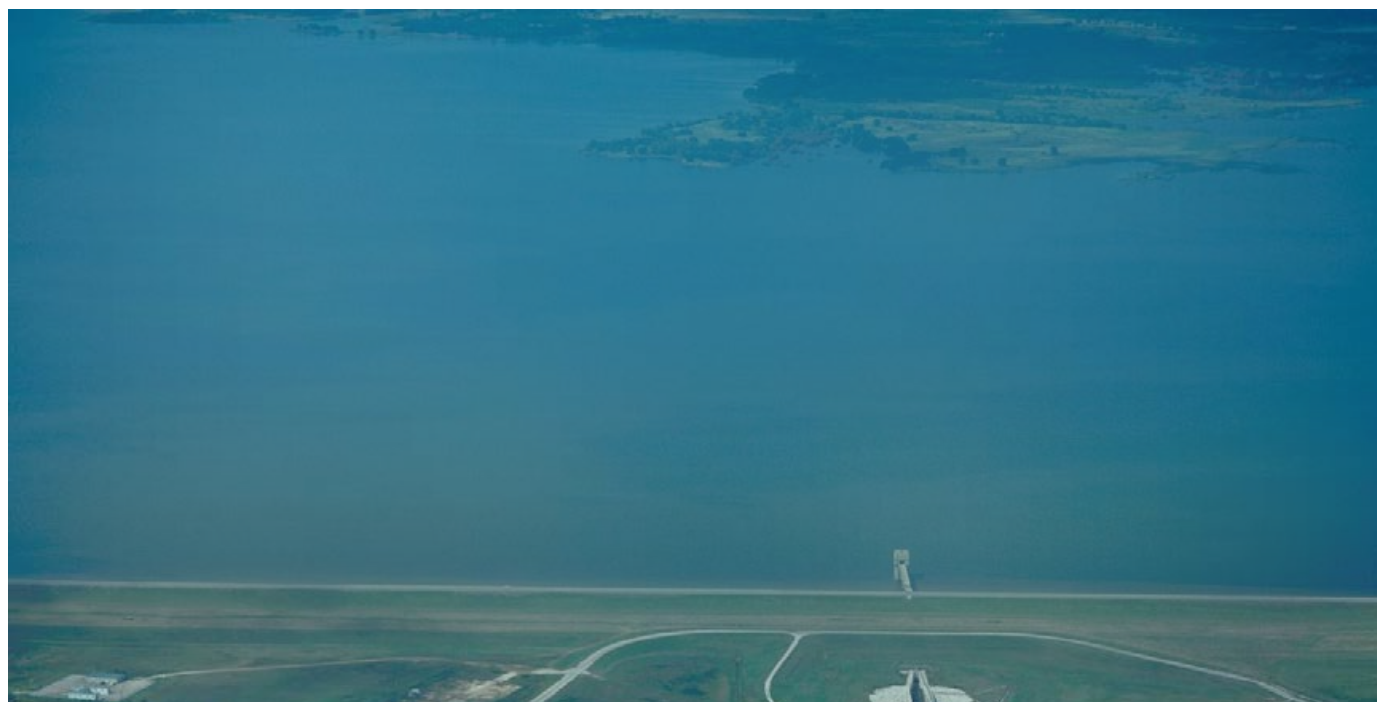
A master plan is a 25-year comprehensive land use management guide for recreational, natural and cultural resources. The master plan guides effective and cost-effective management, development and use of project lands. It helps the Corps of Engineers with its stewardship and sustainability of project resources following federal laws. The master plan does not address technical aspects of water quality, water supply, shoreline management or facility design details.

“We’re not currently operating United States Army Corps Engineers parks, [but] we have fairly large state parks at Ray Roberts,” said Clayton Church, spokesperson for the Fort Worth District of the Corps of Engineers. “The main point of view from the Army Corps is the flood risk management portion of the lake.”

Since the original master plan was formed in 1982, with a supplement published in 2001, the area around Ray Roberts Lake has changed significantly, including major utility and highway construction, urbanization and evolving recreational uses. The revision plans to address changes to regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends and Corps of Engineers management policy.

Ray Roberts Lake and its dam’s original purposes were water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife, flood risk management and hydropower. However, the hydropower mission was not economically viable and was decommissioned in 2003 and later removed in 2014.

“Ray Roberts is primarily a water supply and flood risk management reservoir [that] functions in tandem with and [is] operated as a system with Lewisville Lake,” Church said. “So Lewisville and Ray Roberts, when we look at the operations of those two lakes, they’re kind of done together.”





Since the construction of the original master plan in 1982, with a supplement published in 2001, the area around Ray Roberts Lake has changed significantly, including major utility and highway construction, urbanization and evolving recreational uses.

Courtesy photo

The current purpose and scope of the updated master plan is to protect, conserve and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that complement overall project purposes for the benefit of present and future generations.

The master plan details special topics unique to Ray Roberts Lake and summarizes the changes in land classification from the previous master plan to the present one. In addition to the new master plan, an environmental assessment was developed to analyze alternative management scenarios for Ray Roberts. The environmental assessment detailed whether the 1983 plan needed revisions or could remain the same.

“The master plan provides stability,” lake master plan program lead Eric Irwin said, “with long-term goals and a consistent management strategy for project resources.”

Drafting the new master plan for Ray Roberts Lake is a six-step process starting with data collection; agency/public scoping; resource analysis; development of land classifications and resource objectives; agency/public review; and finalizing the master plan based on comments received and the adoption of the master plan revision. The master plan is currently in the agency/public review process of the finalization step.

The first public input meeting regarding the master plan was scheduled for spring 2020, but due to public health and safety concerns because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the input process changed from a face-to-face meeting to a virtual presentation. The presentation and public input period lasted 45 days, during which the corps received comments from one state agency and five members of the public.

Currently, a draft for the master plan is available on the [Corps of Engineers website](#), where they encourage the community to comment with any questions or concerns regarding the updated plan. The website includes a comment form and instructions on how to submit comments after reading the master plan draft.

Comments will be accepted only in written format and can be submitted either through email at CESWF-PER-Ray-Roberts@usace.army.mil or through the mail. The current comment period ends on June 20.

"If there are inputs or things that they're concerned with, or maybe something that we potentially missed that needs to be addressed and looked at, then certainly we want that input from individuals," Church said. "We'll take those inputs and review those and then see if there's any other inputs before issuing the master plan revision, which will probably be later this calendar year."