Sam Rayburn Reservoir Master Plan Revision Public Information Meeting April 28-29, 2015

Presented By
Floyd Boyett, Lake Manager (Acting)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

Purpose of this Meeting

- Fully describe the purpose and intent of a Master Plan
- Describe the revision process
- Answer questions you may have
- Ask for your participation
- Explain why the Sam Rayburn Master Plan is in need of revision and how it may affect nearby communities and the public at large

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Applies to all Federal Actions, including Master Plan Revisions
- Requires Federal agencies to *CONSIDER and DOCUMENT the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's OVERALL planning and decision-making*
- Requires Federal agencies to cooperate with Federal, state and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the agency asks for initial input from "the public" (agencies, governments, citizens, non-profits) with information about the project area, resources, etc

Purpose and Intent of Master Plans

The Corps defines a Master Plan as…

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

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

Key Points Regarding Master Plans

- Main focus is stewardship of natural and cultural resources and provision of high quality outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities
- Proposed effective life of a Master Plan is 25 years, with reviews every 5 years
- Recreational use of the water surface is addressed
- Master Plans do not address in detail the technical aspects of hydropower, water management for flood risk management or water supply

Additional Key Points

- Key sections of the Master Plan Revision include resource management objectives, revised land use classifications and a conceptual management plan for each land classification
- Potential outcomes could be designation of lands for resort development, new marinas, and utility corridors
- Stakeholder and public input is critical
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas is given priority

What Will Not be Addressed

- By regulation, privately owned boat docks are not allowed at Sam Rayburn Reservoir and will not be addressed in the Master Plan
- The existing Shoreline Management Policy Statement will not be addressed as part of this revision
- National policy places strict limitations on the proposed construction of new public roads on Corps lands. With few exceptions road proposals that would cross Federal land will not be addressed

What About Drought/Flood?

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

Why Revise the Sam Rayburn Master Plan?

- Current Master Plan is dated September 1970… has exceeded its useful life
- Most recent Land Classification change was 1975
- Recent divestments of land by large timber companies has led to an increase in the number of private parcel owners around the lake, leading to increased pressure on the natural resources on Corps lands surrounding the reservoir.
- The Master Plan must be revised to address current and future growth and visitation patterns in the region

The Corps' Vision for *Sam Rayburn Reservoir*

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

Sam Rayburn Project Missions

- Flood Risk Management
- Water Conservation
- Hydro-electric Generation
- Public Outdoor Recreation

* Environmental Stewardship

Fast Facts about Sam Rayburn

- Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir was completed in 1965 - Happy 50th!
- Spillway (labyrinth weir) and parapet wall (on the dam along Hwy 255) was completed in 1996.
- At conservation (normal) pool elevation the lake covers 114,500 acres
- At the flood control pool elevation (173.0 feet NGVD) the reservoir covers 142,700 acres
- Sam Rayburn Powerhouse
  - two 26,000 kilowatt generators
  - flood control gates – two 10ft x 20ft caterpillar slide gates

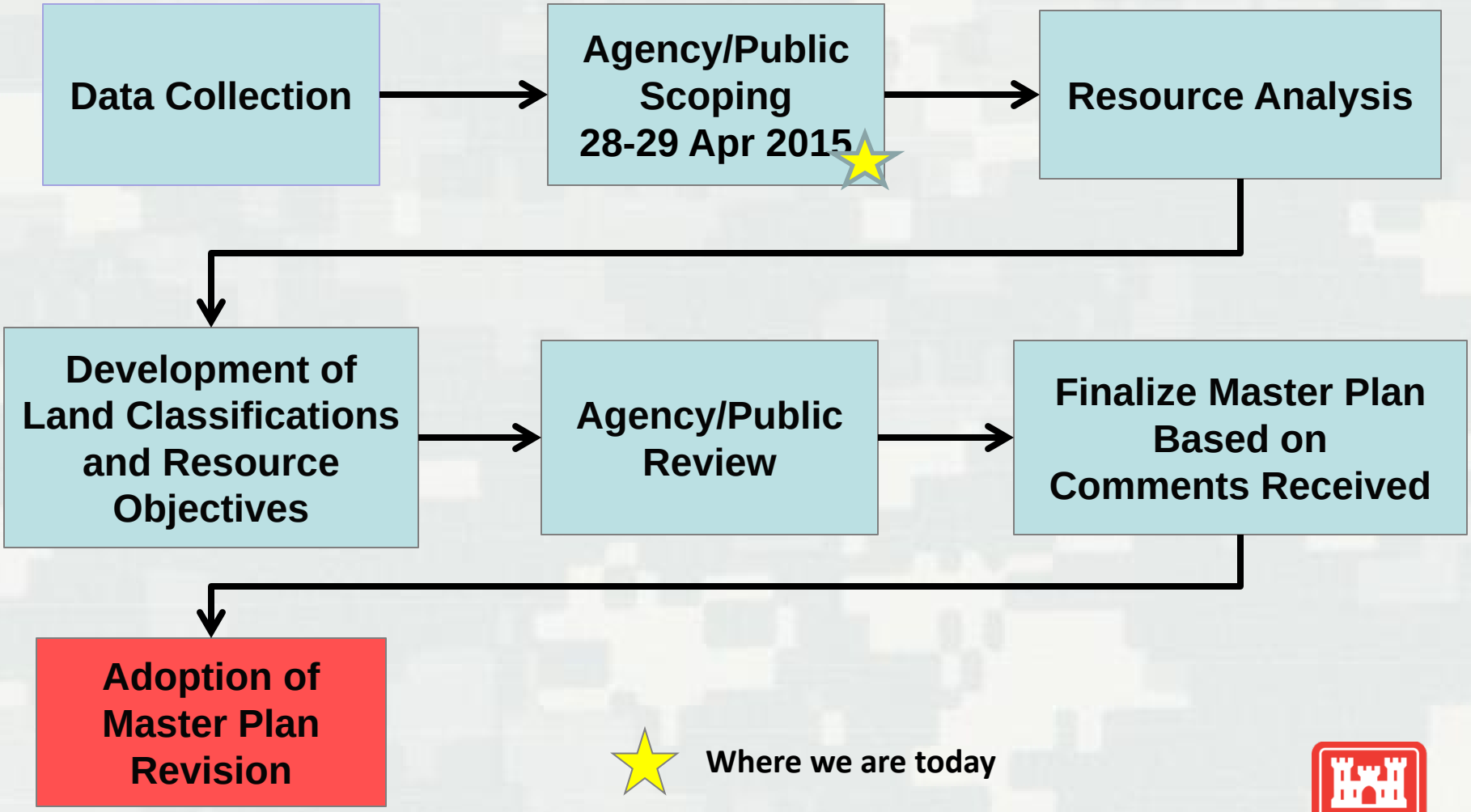
Fast Facts about Sam Rayburn

- Sam Rayburn is the largest lake within the boundaries of Texas
- Almost 750 miles of shoreline, 560 miles managed by USACE.
- $46.7 million local economic impact from recreational fishing – 66% due to tournament angling, including the largest amateur fishing tournament in the world.

Master Plan Revision Process

- Accomplished by a team of Corps employees with input from other agencies
- Public and stakeholder input will be carefully considered
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared and appended to the plan

The Master Planning Process



What Major Changes Are Needed in the Current Master Plan?

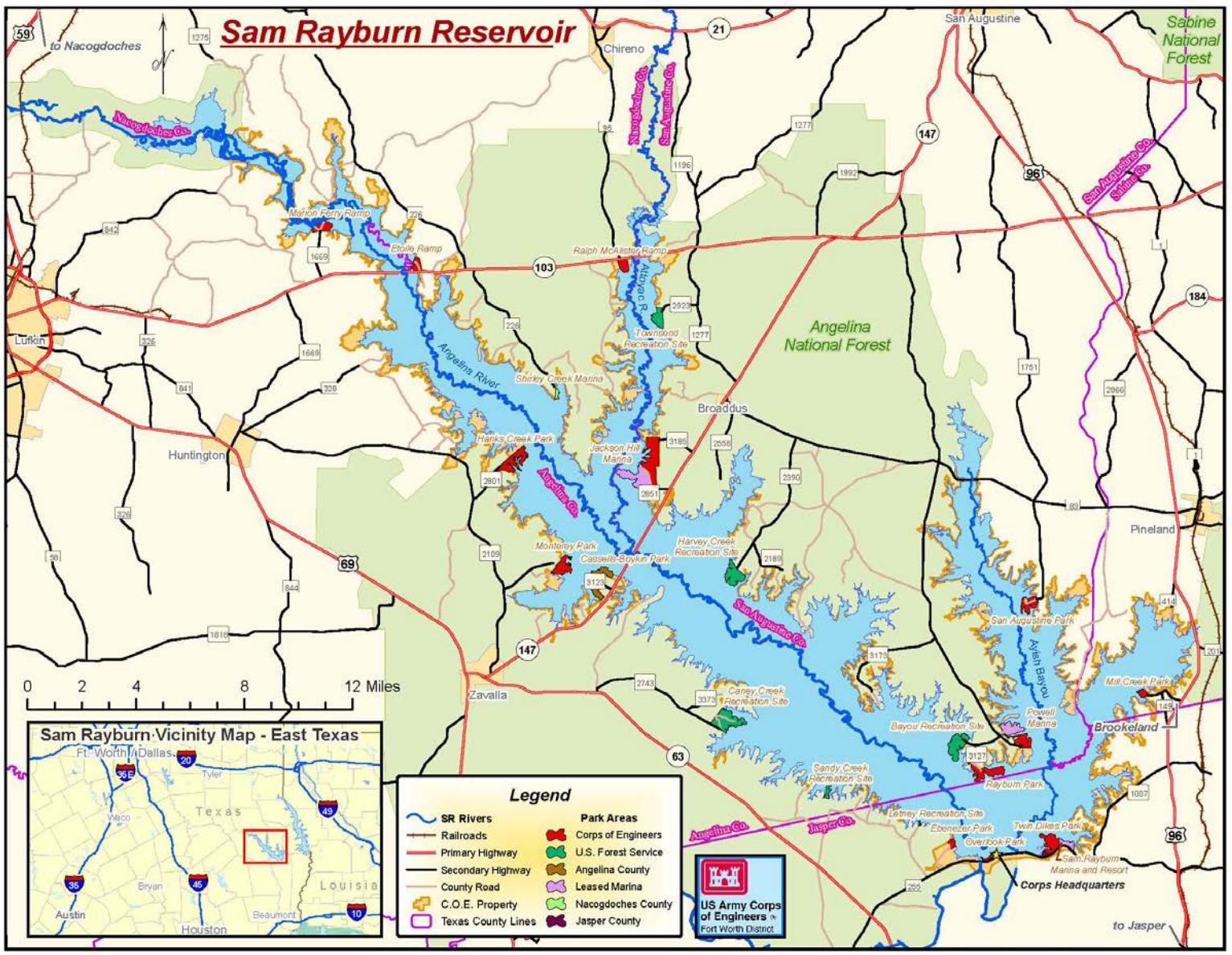
- Reclassify project lands and water surface (to comply with current allocations/classifications in regs)
  - Some current designated parks, or portions of parks, may be reclassified as Multiple Resource Management, including wildlife management, vegetation management, and/or low intensity recreation lands
  - New or expanded high density recreation areas could be designated
  - Anticipate some lands being classified as environmentally sensitive areas

Additional Major Changes

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

Sam Rayburn Land Classification Now and Proposed

Current Land Classifications	Proposed New Land Classifications
Project Use	Project Operations
Conservation Pool Dam and Operational Structures	High Density Recreation
Public Use	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Recreation - Intensive Use Recreation - Low Intensity	Multiple Resource Management •Low Density Recreation •Wildlife Management •Vegetation Management •Future/ Inactive Recreation Areas
Wildlife Management	Water Surface



BUILDING STRONG®

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Those lands required for the dam, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for marinas and related concessions, and resorts
Multiple Resource Management	**Recreation –Low Density:** Activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, and hunting
	Wildlife Management General: Fish and wildlife management activities
	Vegetative Management: Management activities for the protection and development of a specific 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
Easement Lands	All land for which USACE holds an easement interest but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project

Definitions from USACE Engineer Pamphlet 1130-2-550: Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures

Water Surface Classification	Definition
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
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use

Land Classifications

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

Land Classifications

High Density Recreation - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use areas and/or campgrounds. These could include areas for concessions (marinas, comprehensive resorts, etc)

Land Classifications

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

Examples may include mature bottomland forests, river and stream corridors, aesthetic zones or areas, erosion control zones, cultural resource sites, and areas for the conservation of special status species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker or bald eagle.

Land Classifications

Low Density Recreation - Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g. fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.)

Land Classifications

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

Land Classifications

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

Water Classifications

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

Examples of Resource Objectives

- Recreation Objective:
  - Expand existing trails and create new trails for a variety of users
  - Extend key boat ramps to accommodate low lake levels
- Natural Resource Objective:
  - Restore degraded forest areas to sustainable ecosystems that support a diversity of native plants and associated wildlife, such as the Longleaf Pine/bluestem ecosystem.
  - Implement invasive species control programs, such as the current cooperative efforts with aquatic vegetation
- General Objective:
  - Reduce encroachments and trespass through improved boundary marking and surveillance

How Can I Participate?

- Attend Meetings
- Visit our website at:

(www.swf.usace.army.mil)

- Send us an e-mail at: samrayburnmp@usace.army.mil
- Visit with our lake staff
- Tell your friends
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later

Master Plan Next Steps

- Typical lake master plan update will take 12 to 18 months to finalize. Sam Rayburn Reservoir Master Plan update is in the initial stage of development.
- 30 day public comment - 30 Apr – 30 May
- Draft MP document – 5-6 months
- Draft MP / EA public meeting – Jan-Feb 2016
- Final document - 6 - 8 months

The End

Please use our remaining time to visit with staff members, ask questions and help us produce an excellent Master Plan