

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NASHVILLE DISTRICT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Proposed Master Plan Update
Old Hickory Lake

1. The original Old Hickory Lake Master Plan was approved in 1954 and last updated in 1987. This document serves as a guide for coordination of project development and management of all land and water resources. Therefore an updated Master Plan is needed to address changes and outline measures to best provide facilities and services while ensuring conservation and protection of the project and environmental resources. The intent of an updated Master Plan is to present a current inventory and assessment of resources, provide an analysis of resource use, and evaluate existing and future needs required to protect and improve the value of resources at Old Hickory Lake.

2. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR, 1500-1508), and Corps of Engineers Regulations ER 200-2-2 *Policy and Procedures for Implementing NEPA* (33 CFR, 230). The EA was prepared to describe existing conditions and evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed action and alternatives. Alternatives evaluated include the following: 1. No action, which means there would be no update to the existing Master Plan and no new resource classification, assessment, and inventory would occur; and 2. Full implementation of the proposed Master Plan update, which would incorporate three actions: a) project land and water allocations and classifications would be made current, b) an analysis of resource use would be conducted, and c) an evaluation of existing and future needs and demands on the project would be completed. Alternative 2, full implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update, is the preferred alternative. This would allow the most comprehensive update that best reflects environmental stewardship and conservation of Old Hickory project lands and waters while meeting public, social, and economic demands.

3. The EA does not reveal significant impacts resulting from the proposed action. No negative impacts are anticipated to water quality, aquatic or terrestrial resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, or recreation by the proposed activity. These resources would benefit from updated inventories and classifications. With the designation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, sites of unique habitat or special interest, which may include state or Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or cultural resources, would receive additional protection and ensure potential uses are compatible to intended site management. Outgrant request coordination would continue with agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to ensure compliance with applicable Acts.

Impacts of the “no action” alternative would result in no new resource analysis and allocation, nor would project sites’ inventory be completed. This action would not reflect applications of policy and guidance implemented since 1987. Operation and management would continue as outlined in the 1987 Master Plan Update.

4. A scoping letter was issued on June 9, 2014. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided a letter on July 3, 2014 advising of its role to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners and local public entities to address agricultural land and natural resource issues. NRCS does not have any long term contracts to purchase permanent or 30-year agricultural easements in the project area. The agency’s Emergency Watershed Protection Program provides assistance to public entities to stabilize streambanks and shorelines damaged by natural events has not, to date, been utilized in the Old Hickory Lake area.

5. On 14 August 2015, the EA began circulating to local, state, and Federal governmental agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise and the public for a 30-day review/comment period. Comments received will be included in the EA.
6. The draft Master Plan Update has also been made available for public review and comment. Public workshops are being held at the Old Hickory Lake Resource Manager's Office and Mount Juliet High School. Comments received will be incorporated in the document.
7. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 and the Endangered Species Act, as amended, coordination with the USFWS, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Heritage, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is conducted through scoping and EA review. Additional coordination would continue as necessary to ensure there are no significant impacts to state or Federally-listed species.
8. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires each Federal agency take into account the effects of its undertakings on historic properties included in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Proposals for specific actions would be reviewed on an individual basis and coordinated with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer.
9. The preferred alternative has no potential implications under Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), EO 12898 (Environmental Justice), and the Clean Air Act Conformity Rule. Potential impacts would be evaluated on a case by case basis regarding proposed action activities in accordance with the Master Plan. Impacts would be avoided or minimized and mitigated where necessary. There are no outstanding issues concerning the proposed Master Plan Update for Old Hickory Lake.
10. I have reviewed the comments and EA in light of the general public interest, and have determined that the work would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA as amended. Accordingly, I have concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement concerning the proposed Master Plan Update for Old Hickory Lake is not required.

Date

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COMMENT REVIEW