

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ONOVILLE MARINA PARK; 50 YEAR LEASE RENEWAL AND EXPANSION OF
SAWMILL RUN PARCEL AT ALLEGHENY RESERVOIR, NEW YORK

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to grant a 50 year lease renewal to Cattaraugus County for the continued operation and expansion of the Onoville Marina Park located at the Allegheny Reservoir in New York. Cattaraugus County which currently holds the lease has requested to extend the lease agreement until 2076 and to develop part of a 220 acre leased portion known as Sawmill Run. The current lease agreement which expires in 2026 will not allow for further capital investment of the facilities. The lease renewal and expansion of facilities is consistent with the master plan for Allegheny Reservoir.

The proposed expansion will include construction of over 40 recreational vehicle campsites. Facilities associated with the campsites will also be constructed and include: paved roads, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, potable water facilities, electrical hookups and a shower/restroom facility. Additionally, a small office, conference room, laundry facility, deck/lounge area, outdoor amphitheater, pool, pavilion and walking/biking trails will be constructed. The proposed project expansion area covers 19 acres with approximately 13 acres to be disturbed by construction activities. The proposed campground expansion is needed to help meet the current public demand for recreational facilities in the area. The recent closure of Highbanks Campground has further exacerbated the lack of facilities available for recreational purposes in the area.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Cattaraugus County prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated impacts to environmental and cultural resources within the project area. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation were contacted. A review of endangered species information for Cattaraugus County indicated that there are no records of listed species in the project area and it was determined that the project is not likely to have any adverse impact on threatened or endangered species. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a Phase I cultural resource investigation was undertaken and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO anticipates no effect to cultural or historical resources due to the proposed project.

In addition to the proposed project, the Environmental Assessment included a "No Action" alternative, and alternatives for development at other locations within the 220 acre leased area. The "No Action" alternative is unacceptable because it will not allow for the continued enjoyment of the project by the public. Another alternative considered was expansion of recreational facilities in a different location also leased by Cattaraugus County known as the "Bay Sector," however, this alternative was not preferred since the 37 acre Bay Sector has already been mostly developed and leaves little room for campsites. Additionally, an alternative for development within other geographic locations of the 220 acre Sawmill Run parcel was evaluated including constructing facilities at lower elevations on the parcel. Due to such concerns as the potential for flooding and possible wetland impacts, this alternative was eliminated. Other alternatives for locating campgrounds within the Sawmill Run parcel were

eliminated due to steep slopes that would not allow for easy construction of facilities. Therefore, construction of the additional campgrounds and associated facilities as proposed in the Environmental Assessment is chosen as the recommended and most feasible alternative.

I have reasonably determined that the lease renewal and proposed expansion of the Sawmill Run Parcel at Allegheny Reservoir in New York will not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's current regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The preparation of an environmental impact statement is therefore unwarranted and the public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineer's final decision concerning this proposed action. This Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment were sent to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public for a 30 day review period during which no comments were received. This determination will be placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>).

8 Jun 11
Date

William H. Graham
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Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer