DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Stonewall Resort Expansion Project
Roanoke, Lewis County, WV
November 2016

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (hereafter “District”), in accordance with the Stonewall Jackson Lake Master Plan objectives, is considering approval for additional recreational development at the Stonewall Resort located at the Stonewall Jackson Lake Reservoir, a multi-purpose District facility that includes recreation as one of its congressionally-authorized purposes. The proposed project will implement a phased 10-year development plan to expand existing recreational infrastructure, involving a total of approximately 120 acres within eight zones. Future actions will include upgrades of existing structures, development of new multi-purpose facilities, and construction of additional overnight accommodations. Proposed developments include: new entrance and access road, multi-purpose outdoor gathering areas, game courts, marina infrastructure improvements, existing RV/campground expansion, an arboretum, a kayak/boat launch, lakeside cottages and golf villa townhomes, and logistical support/maintenance structures.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the District completed an Environmental Assessment entitled Stonewall Resort and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in November 2016. Coordination was made with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to meet the requirements of the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act. Coordination was also made with the West Virginia Division of Culture and History under the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. The proposed action will not have any adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species, or to cultural resources.

Two other alternatives were considered in addition to the Preferred Alternative during project formulation and presented in the Environmental Assessment: No Action and Alternative III, a two-zone phased development during a 10-year period. Both of these alternatives were determined unacceptable as they did not address the economic needs for resort expansion.

The proposed project would enhance the quality of life for residents in Lewis County by providing additional recreational opportunities and expanding the local economy through increased tourism and potential growth of service industries to support it. Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, wild and scenic rivers, air quality, noise, socio-economic resources, prime and unique farmland, and transportation. No significant impacts have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

After having carefully evaluated and balanced all beneficial and detrimental aspects of the proposed action, including all regulatory agency input, I have reasonably concluded that the expansion of recreational facilities would 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 implementing NEPA. Consequently, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for this action is not warranted. The public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. Further, the proposed work is in
compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. This determination precedes the District’s final decision on the proposed action. A copy of this FONSI will be placed at the Louis Bennett Public Library in Weston, WV, and on the District’s website: (http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil).

Date

John P. Lloyd
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer