

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CROOKED CREEK LAKE MASTER PLAN UPDATE
ALLEGHENY RIVER WATERSHED

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (Corps) is proposing to adopt a new Master Plan (MP) as the strategic planning document to guide comprehensive management of all recreational, natural and cultural resources at Crooked Creek Lake in southwestern Pennsylvania. The original MP was completed in 1948 and last updated in 1987. Changes in Corps regulations and community needs necessitate a revision to the MP. The revised MP will replace the existing version and provide a balanced, up to date management plan that follows current Federal laws and Corps regulations while sustaining natural resources and providing outdoor recreational experiences.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated impacts to the physical environment, biological environment, and community setting. The EA examines two alternatives: No Action, and the Preferred Alternative of adopting a revised MP. The Preferred Alternative includes changes to the land and water classifications, most notably the addition of environmentally sensitive areas. The Preferred Alternative also lays out future recommendations for management of both recreation and natural resources, and for facility modernizations within the existing footprint.

The No Action alternative does not meet the purpose of providing a strategic land use management plan that balances the development of recreation features with environmental stewardship practices and natural resource conservation or shoreline protection. Under the No Action alternative, outdated guidance would prevent a proactive approach to resource management.

The MP and EA are being circulated for a 30-day public review period between 4 November and 4 December 2020.

I have reasonably determined that implementation of the Preferred Alternative 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 Preferred Alternative. This determination precedes the Corps' final decision concerning this proposed action.

Date

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