The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (Corps) is proposing to adopt a new Master Plan (MP) and Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) as the strategic planning documents to guide comprehensive management all project recreational, natural and cultural resources at Tygart Lake in northwestern Pennsylvania. The original MP was completed in 1954 and last updated in 1976. The original SMP was drafted in 1978 and last updated in 1982. Changes in Corps regulations and community needs necessitate a revision to these Plans. The revised MP will replace the draft 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. The revised SMP will regulate shoreline development and docks to conserve resources and to maintain the area’s aesthetics.

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 and SMP to regulate current and future shoreline development. The preferred alternative also changes the land and water classifications, most notably the addition of environmentally sensitive areas. The revised plan 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 Under the No Action alternative, outdated guidance would prevent a proactive approach to resource management.

I have reasonably determined that implementation of the revised 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 proposed action. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineer’s final decision concerning this proposed action. The MP and EA will be circulated for a 30-day review period.

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Date  Andrew J. Short
Andrew J. Short
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer