WELCOME TO TODAY'S VIRTUAL MEETING

Youghiogheny River Lake
Master Plan Public Scoping Meeting

July 8, 2020

US Army Corps of Engineers®

MASTER PLAN
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

The Pittsburgh District is beginning the process of revising Youghiogheny River Lake Master Plan (MP).

MASTER PLAN
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE

Today you can:

- Learn about the Master Plan revision process and what kind of input we're looking to collect from you during the process
- Hear about the Shoreline Management Plan comments we received
- Ask questions of our staff
- Become familiar with the avenues we are providing to collect your input

INTRODUCTIONS

Andrea Carson
Public Involvement Specialist
Moderator

From left to right:
Rick Miller - Resource Manager
Vince Klinkner - Lead Ranger
Matthew Balas - Park Ranger
Matthew Bixler - Summer Ranger
Nicole Govan - Park Ranger

Not Pictured:
Scott Flynn – Acting Southern Area Ranger
Erin Stuart – Biologist, Environmental Assessment Lead

Heather Wood
Natural Resource Specialist
Master Plan Lead

Joe Kolodziej
Acting Operations Project Manager
Southern Area Office

WHY REVISE?

- The Youghiogheny River Lake Master Plan was last updated in 2007, 13 years ago
- An approved Master Plan is necessary before any new development, construction, consolidation, or land use change can be pursued
- Master Plans need to reflect most current local/regional/national changes

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

- Overall ***land use management plan***
- Guides comprehensive ***management and development*** of:
  - Recreation
  - Natural
  - Cultural resources
- Projects what could and should happen over the life of the project but remains flexible based on changing conditions
- Provides ***authority***, not ***funding***
- Covers ***activities*** on project lands and waters, not ***physical operation*** of dam
- Discusses ***broad management***, does not focus on facility ***design details*** or daily project operation
- Does *not* address the specifics of regional **water quality**, **shoreline management**, or **water level management**

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

- Examines environmental, recreational, and socioeconomic ***trends***

Answers these questions:

– What are the regional ecosystem needs?
– What are the project resource capabilities and suitability?
– Is public interest compatible with project purposes?

MASTER PLAN CONTENT

- Introduction
- Resource Objectives
- Project Setting and Factors
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Invasive Species
  - Water Quality and Sedimentation
  - Demographics and Economics
- Land Classifications
- Best Management Practices
- Special Considerations
- Agency and Public Coordination
- Summary
- Environmental Assessment

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

- Goals reflecting desired current or future conditions for resources (measurable and attainable)
- Compatible with Corps principles and regulations, relevant state and federal natural resource action plans, and applicable laws

1. Use sound environmental principles to protect and enhance public lands
2. Cultivate volunteers, public-private partnerships, and apply for grants
3. Provide safe and memorable connections, as part of multiple destination points
4. Leverage emerging technology to tell the Corps' story and enhance visitor experiences

LAND CLASSIFICATIONS – WHAT ARE THEY?

Project Operations
Lands used solely for the operation of the project such as the dam, spillway, offices, dikes, levees, maintenance facilities, etc.

High Density Recreation
Lands used for intensive recreation use such as busy day-use areas and campgrounds

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Lands where ecological, cultural, or aesthetic resources have been identified such as wetlands, cultural resource sites, mature woodlands, etc.

Low Density Recreation
Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreation such as primitive camping, hiking trails, wildlife viewing areas, etc.

Wildlife Management Areas
Lands developed for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources

LAND CLASSIFICATIONS – WHAT ARE THEY? CONTINUED

Water Surface

Restricted

Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, or security purposes

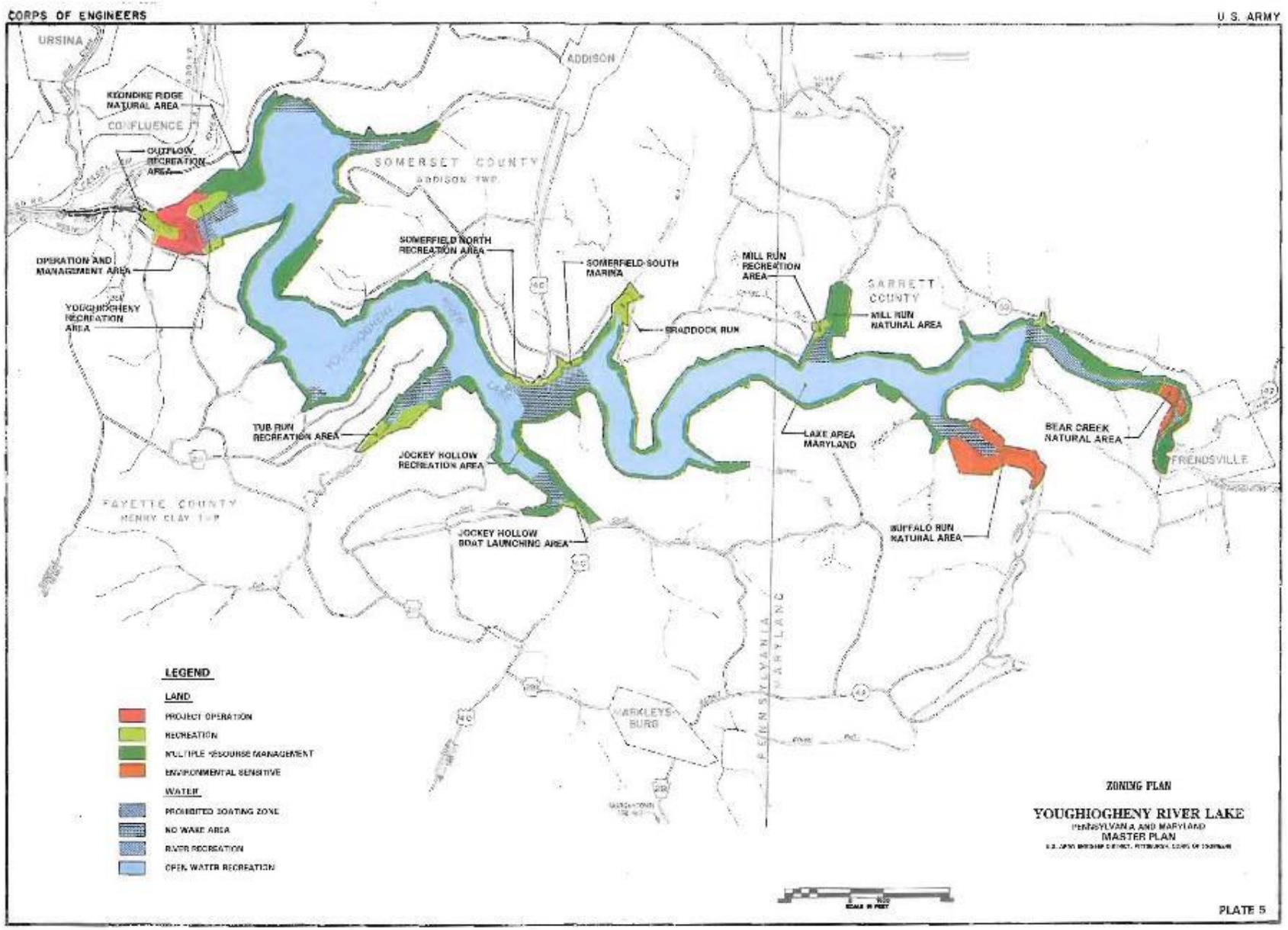
Designated No-Wake

To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety

Open Recreation

Waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreation use

LAND CLASSIFICATIONS – CURRENT



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Depends on the specifics of the particular project. Could likely include:

- Oil, gas and coal development
- Invasive species
- Endangered species
- Climate change
- Motorized vehicles
- Unmanned aircrafts

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- NEPA ensures that environmental factors are weighed equally in the decision making process for federal actions and lets the public know and comment on proposed federal actions

- Environmental Assessment
  - Provides decision makers with complete information on environmental impacts to decide if the proposal is worth moving forward
  - Shows the positive and negative of a plan

- Following the scoping phase for the MP, we will work to prepare a draft for an updated MP and create a combined Environmental Assessment (EA) for the MP and SMP to evaluate the potential environmental and social effects of proposed changes to the plans.

MASTER PLAN VS SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Master Plan

- Overall **land use management plan**
- Guides comprehensive **management** and **development** of:
  - Recreation
  - Natural Resources
  - Cultural Resources
- Projects what could and should happen over the life of the reservoir but remains flexible based on changing conditions

Shoreline Management Plan

- Promote the safe and healthful use of shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public
- The objectives of all management actions will be to achieve a balance between permitted private uses and resource protection for general public use

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- The Youghiogheny River Lake project began the review process of their 1987 Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) in July 2018
- The project hosted a public meeting/workshop to gather comments and address questions on July 13, 2018
- Approximately 180 comments were received
- The 12-week public comment period on the current 1987 SMP was July 13 – October 5, 2018

1. Erosion concerns (9)
2. Lake levels (8)
3. Leaning/problematic trees (7)
4. More enforcement presence on the lake (5)
5. Allowing furniture to be fixed on the dock (5)
6. Keep SMP as it is (5)
7. Clarity on grandfathering requests (4)

WHERE CAN YOU FIND CURRENT DOCUMENTS?

MASTER PLAN
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE

On the Pittsburgh District Website:
https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Youghiogheny-River-Lake/Youghiogheny-Master-Plan/

Review Relevant Documents

Current Master Plan (2007)

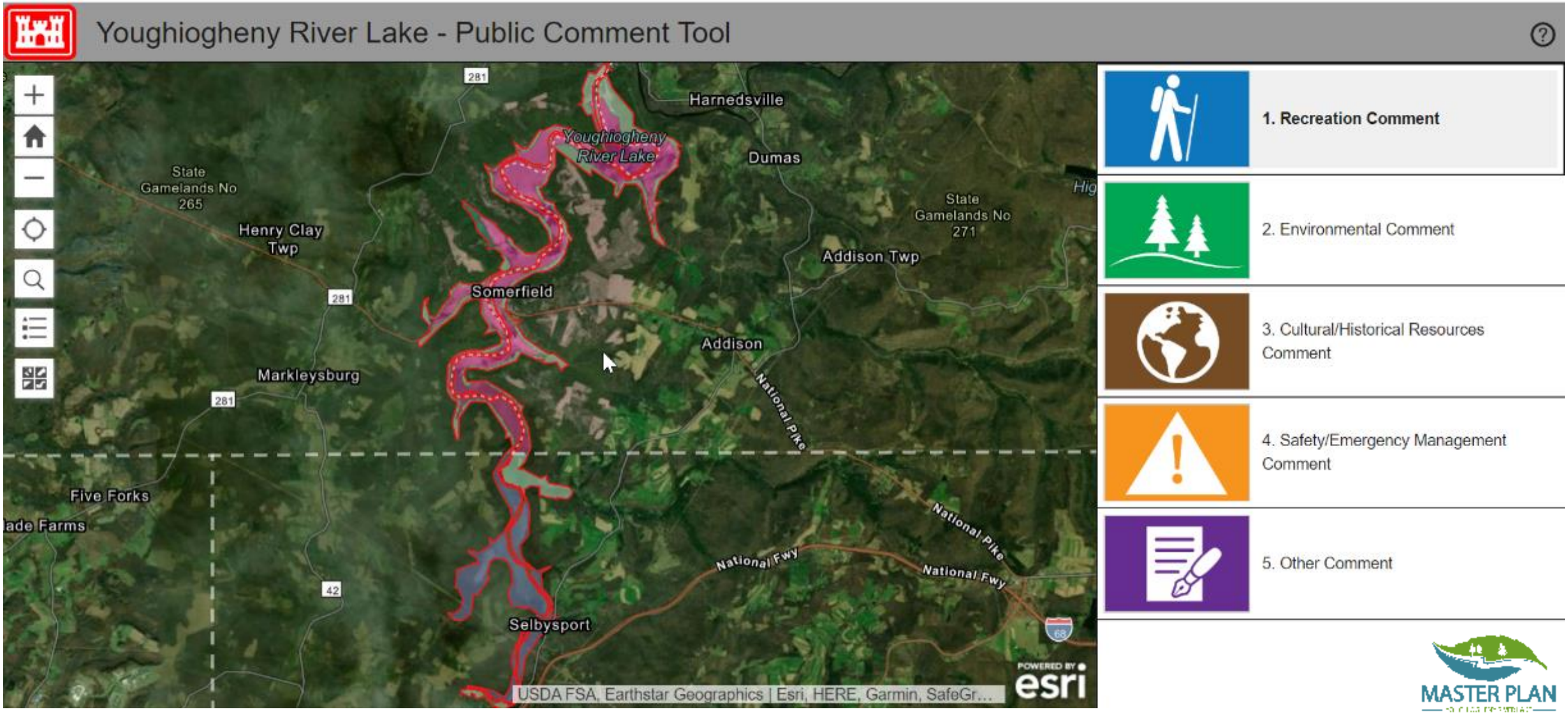
Master Plan Update Fact Sheet

Current Shoreline Management Plan (1987)

Shoreline Management Plan Update Fact Sheet

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT

Visit the Pittsburgh District website and look for the Master Plan logo.



WAYS TO PROVIDE INPUT

If you're unable to use the Public Comment tool, you may also provide input in the following ways:

Print out and Mail in this comment form >>
Send your comment form to: Youghiogheny River Lake 497 Flanigan Road, Confluence, PA 15424

Call the Youghiogheny River Lake office.
The office number is (814) 395-3242.

Email your comments to our Public Affairs Office inbox.
The PAO email address is celrp-pa@usace.army.mil

Comments must be provided by Friday August 7, 2020.

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Pittsburgh District

Youghiogheny River Lake Master Plan
Public Comment Form

Name (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

Please note that by adding your email you will be added to the Master Plan mailing list.

Master Plan Comments - Opportunities & Concerns
Topics to consider: Recreation. Environmental Resources. Cultural Resources. Safety.
If your comment relates to a specific location, please specify.

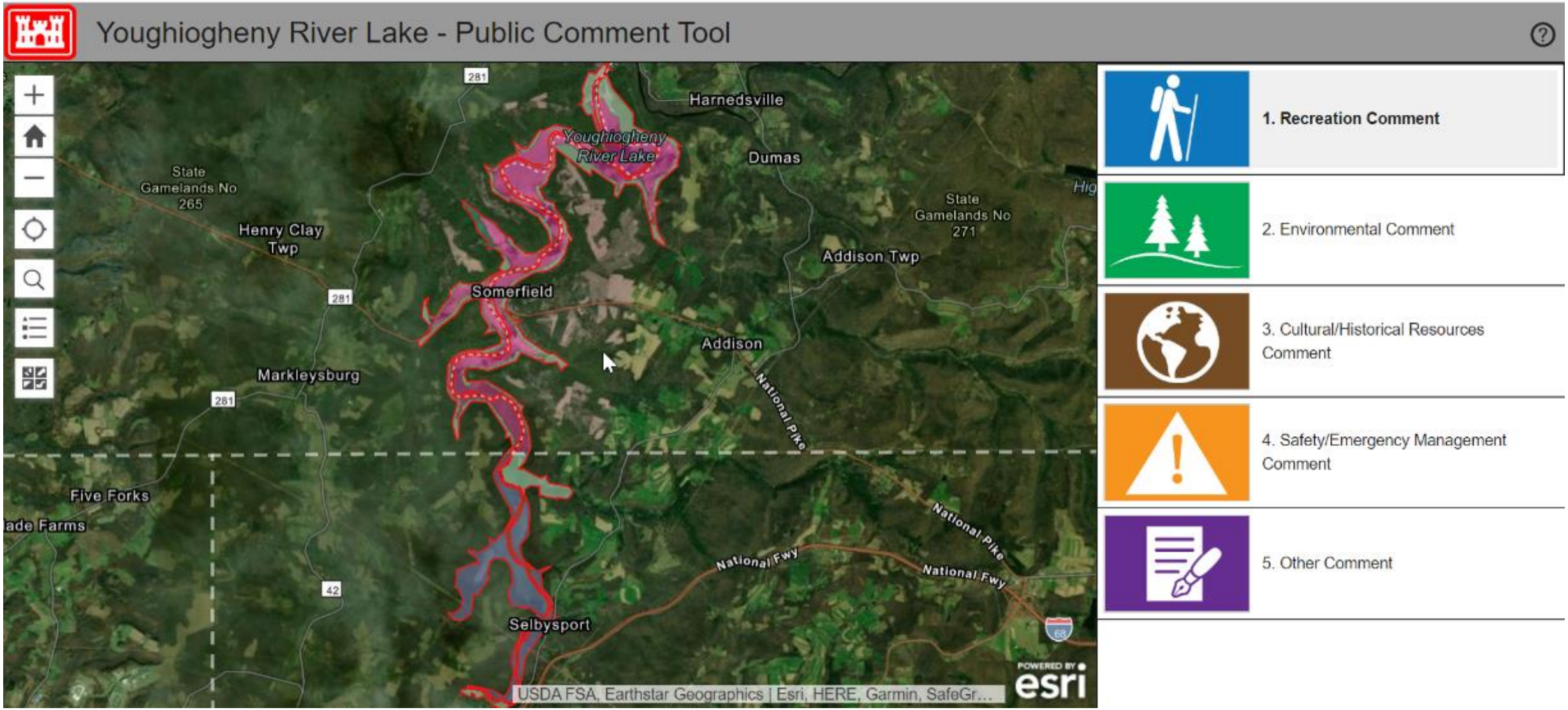
Cut along this line

Comment forms may be mailed to:
Youghiogheny River Lake, 497 Flanigan Road, Confluence, PA 15424
by **Friday, August 7, 2020**

MASTER PLAN

WHAT KINDS OF FEEDBACK WOULD BE USEFUL?

Visit the Youghiogheny River Lake Master Plan website to use the interactive tool:
https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Youghiogheny-River-Lake/Youghiogheny-Master-Plan/



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S VIRTUAL MEETING

on the Youghiogheny River Lake
Master Plan Update

July 8, 2020

US Army Corps of Engineers®

MASTER PLAN
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE