

Environmental Stewardship Plan

The Corps' vision for the future management of the land, water and recreational resources of the Lakes is to protect, conserve and sustain natural and cultural resources, particularly environmentally sensitive resources, and provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities that complement project resources for the benefit of present and future generations. This vision relies heavily upon the wealth of federal, state, and regional plans that detail resource-specific management objectives and goals for the Upper Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh River watershed and its natural resources.

This vision is supported by the following broad management goals:

1. Practice environmental stewardship of the Corps lands and waters consistent with the primary authorized purpose of flood risk management;
2. Identify and protect environmentally sensitive species, habitats, and landscapes;
3. Identify and protect important cultural resources;
4. Improve water quality in the Lakes;
5. Identify outdoor recreation needs and provide those that complement the natural resources;
6. Manage public use areas to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities;
7. Collaborate with community leaders;
8. Maintain open communication with the public; and
9. Create partnerships to leverage fiscal resources.

The management goals are further refined into management and development activities. Each management and development activity (MDA) has a current and future component. The current component is the near-term focus of the updated Master Plan and should be the motivation of efforts of the next five years. The future component is the long-term focus to be addressed in subsequent reviews (i.e. 5+ years).

Environmental Stewardship (ENS) MDA 1: Monitor lands for invasive and exotic species and take action to prevent and/or reduce the spread of these species; species of concern include autumn olive, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, Bell's honeysuckle, and Japanese knotweed.

Current	Future
Monitoring; develop methodology for sustainable treatment	Employ sustainable treatment methods for in-house/contract or partnerships to treat identified areas of concern

ENS MDA 2: Protect and/or restore important native vegetation associations such as riparian vegetation, bottomland hardwoods, and wetlands where they occur, or historically occurred, on Project lands.

Current	Future
Annual restoration of natural communities; develop plan/methodology for sustainable natural development.	Employ sustainable natural development methods for in-house/contract or partnership to treat identified areas of concern.
Carefully evaluate land use requests such as road and utility easements, including rights of way requests for gas pipelines, to avoid unnecessary resource damage or negative effects on public use; ensure that all alternatives are considered.	Analyze/study corridors for pipeline development to effectively avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to Corps-managed resources and their values, services, and functions.
Establish and implement flora and fauna survey protocols.	Utilize survey data and best available scientific data to make informed natural resource management decisions

ENS MDA 3: Identify and protect environmentally sensitive species, habitats, and landscapes. Proactively manage habitats to protect Special Status Species which include: Federal and State listed endangered and threatened species, bald and golden eagles, migratory species, birds listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US-FWS) as Birds of Conservation Concern, and other species and their habitats identified in listings compiled by state natural heritage programs as declining or potentially endangered.

Current	Future
Monitor and identify significant/unique natural and cultural resources	Utilize data to establish natural and cultural resources interpretation programs
Continue water quality improvement in the Lakes by monitoring for shoreline erosion and sedimentation	Pursue sustainable reservoir sediment-management plans; revegetate or place rip-rap in areas of serious shoreline erosion
Provide/promote education and interpretation of natural and cultural resource assets	Utilize academic resources to identify unknown cultural resources and determine significance/uniqueness; complete/update Cultural Resource Management Plans; coordinate/utilize academic resources to design interpretive programming for educational use/awareness for visitors and community
Identify and assess all current encroachments and trespassing issues at lakes.	Eliminate encroachments and trespassing by maintaining an easily recognized Federal property boundary line

