

Master Plan Revision

Loyalhanna and Conemaugh River
Lake, Pennsylvania

US Army Corps of Engineers
Pittsburgh District

Public Meeting
June 17, 2015



®

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



USACE Pittsburgh District

Flood Control



Recreation



Environmental Stewardship



Navigation



Overseas Support



- 26,000 Square Miles in 5 States
- 23 Navigation Locks and Dams
- 16 Reservoirs
- \$11 Billion in Flood Damages Prevented
- 5.3 Million Recreation Visits Annually
- Serving 5.5 Million People



Master Plan

- Land use management document that guides comprehensive management and development of recreation, and natural and cultural resources.



Master Plan

- Dynamic – what could and should happen
- Broad, conceptual resource management objectives and land classifications (OMP)
- Ensures compliance with Federal law, policy, and regulation applicable to environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation
- Updated through supplementation and periodic revision (5 years)
- Provides authority for future development



Master Plan

- Does NOT include:
 - Facility design details
 - Daily project operations
 - Water levels
 - Real estate issues
(outgrants, leases, licenses)
 - Funding for identified future development



Master Plan

- EP/ER 1130-2-550 Guidance for Project Master Plans and Operational Management Plans



MP Layout

- Introduction (10)
- Project setting and factors influencing resource management & development (30)
- Resource objectives (5)
- Land allocation & land classification (10)
- Resource plan (50)
- Special topics/issues/considerations (15)
- Public coordination (10)
- References
- Appendices



Master Plan Process

- January-May 2015: Internal scoping meetings and gap analysis
- June 2015: First stakeholder and public meeting
- September 2015: Draft Master Plan
- October 2015: Draft Plan submitted for stakeholder/public review and comment
- November 2015: Second stakeholder and public meeting
- December 2015: Final Master Plan
- March 2016: District commander approval



Project Overview

Loyalhanna Lake

- Project construction completed in 1950
- Master Plan completed in 1950
- 43 miles of lake shoreline
- 3,647 fee acres

Conemaugh River Lake

- Project construction completed in 1961
- Master Plan completed in 1952
- 74 miles of lake shoreline
- 8,309 fee acres



Recreation

Loyalhanna Lake

- Bush campground – 44 sites
- 1 trailer boat launch
- 3 car-top boat launches
- 10 hunter access points

Conemaugh River Lake

- West Penn Trail
- Bow Ridge special use hunting area
- 1 trailer boat launch
- 1 car-top boat launch
- 18 hunter access points



Natural and Cultural Resources

Loyalhanna Lake

- 3,023 acres of terrestrial habitat
- 1,223 acres of wetland habitat (531 ac pool)
- Over 50 surveyed cultural resource sites
- Indiana and Northern long-eared bat presence assumed

Conemaugh River Lake

- 6,840 acres of terrestrial habitat
- 2,042 acres of wetland habitat (1347 ac pool)
- Over 75 surveyed cultural resource sites
- 3 eligible and 1 site listed National Historic Register (Western PA Canal)
- Indiana and Northern long-eared bat presence assumed



Resource Objectives

- Goals reflecting desired current or future condition states for resources that are achievable through management or development activities and compatible with USACE principles and regulations, relevant state and federal natural resource action plans, and applicable laws.



Land Use Classification

- The primary use for which Project lands are managed:
 - Operations – lands required for dam and spillway operation/maintenance
 - High Density Recreation – Developed for intensive recreational activities – ex. Campgrounds, day use.
 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas – Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. NO development of public use.
 - Multiple Resource Management –
 - Low Density Recreation – ex. primitive camping, trails, hunting
 - Wildlife Management
 - Vegetative Management
 - Future or Inactive Recreation Areas



Meeting Objectives

- Concerns, issues, and opportunities
- Resource Objectives
- Land Use Classification

