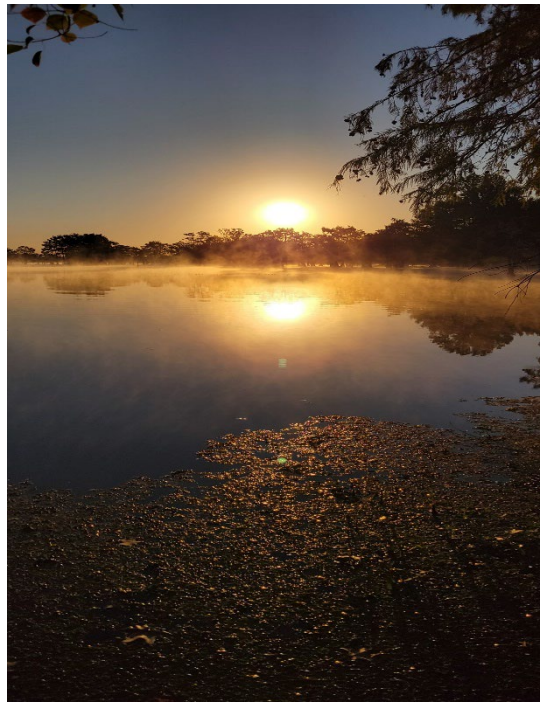


APPENDIX B

Draft Environmental Assessment

2023 Town Bluff Dam and B.A Steinhagen Lake Master Plan



Neches River Basin

Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Fort Worth District

2023

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed 2023 Town Bluff Lake Master Plan revision. This EA would facilitate the decision process regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives.

- SECTION 1** *INTRODUCTION* of the Proposed Action summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.
- SECTION 2** *PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES* examines alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action and describes the recommended alternative.
- SECTION 3** *AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT* describes the existing environmental and socioeconomic setting.
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES* identifies the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives.
- SECTION 4** *CUMULATIVE IMPACTS* describes the impact on the environment that may result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.
- SECTION 5** *COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS* provides a listing of environmental protection statutes and other environmental requirements.
- SECTION 6** *IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES* identifies any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the Proposed Action.
- SECTION 7** *PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION* provides a listing of individuals and agencies consulted during preparation of the EA.
- SECTION 8** *REFERENCES* provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
- SECTION 9** *ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS*
- SECTION 10** *LIST OF PREPARERS* identifies persons who prepared the document and their areas of expertise.
- ATTACHMENT A** National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordination and Scoping

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**Draft
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Proposed 2023 Master Plan

**Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake
Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas**

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to evaluate the proposed 2023 Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake (hereafter referred to collectively as Town Bluff Project) Master Plan (MP). The proposed MP is a programmatic document that is subject to evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, (Public Law [PL] 91-190). This document provides an assessment of potential impacts that could result from the implementation of either the No Action or Proposed Action and has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190) as amended in 2023, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, 1500–1508), and USACE regulations, including Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2: Procedures for Implementing NEPA (1988).

The proposed MP is a strategic land use management plan that provides direction to the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement, and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of a USACE water resource project, which includes all government-owned lands in and around a reservoir. It is a vital tool for responsible stewardship and sustainability of the project’s natural and cultural resources, as well as the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities on Federal lands associated with Town Bluff Project for the benefit of present and future generations. The proposed MP identifies conceptual types and levels of activities, but does not include designs, project sites, or estimated costs. All actions carried out by USACE, other agencies, and individuals granted leases to USACE lands must be consistent with the proposed MP. Therefore, the MP must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in USACE decision-making. The original Town Bluff Project Master Plan was approved in 1971 with a supplement in 2003 and no additional revisions.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Town Bluff Project is located at river mile (RM) 113.7 of the Neches River and it is within Jasper and Tyler Counties, in southeastern Texas. The lake is located in Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas (Figure 1-1), and lies within in the Neches River Basin. The Neches River originates in Van Zandt County approximately 60 miles southeast of Dallas, Texas, and flows in a southeasterly direction for approximately 416 miles to empty into Sabine Lake, 20 miles southeast of Beaumont, Texas. The watershed lies in the southeastern portion of Texas, between north latitude 29° 59’ and 32° 33’ and west longitude 93° 51’ and 95° 56’. The watershed of the Neches River has a total drainage area of 10,011 square miles. The main river system has two principal branches above

the confluence with the Angelina River: the Neches River, with a length of approximately 290 miles, and the Angelina River, with a length of approximately 205 miles. The slope of the Neches River in the vicinity of Town Bluff Dam is approximately 0.7 feet per mile. The Angelina River runs southeast to the Neches River, entering at river mile 126.4. Above their confluence, the Neches River has a drainage area of 4,017 square miles, and at the mouth of the Angelina River it has a drainage area of 3,556 square miles. The drainage area between these two rivers at their confluence is approximately 2,438 square miles. Other tributaries in the watershed worth noting are Sandy Stream, Kelly Branch, Wolf Creek, and the Sulphur Branch.

Town Bluff Project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1945 (Public Law 14, 79th Congress, 1st Session). The initial development was for regulating intermittent power releases from Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir and Rockland Lake (not constructed and later deauthorized) power plants to provide head for diversion into water supply canal and storage for the benefit of agriculture, salinity control, pollution abatement, navigation, and water supply. Construction began in March 1947 and finished in April 1951. Impoundment began in April 1951 and conservation pool was reached in June 1954. Hydroelectric power generation was later authorized in 1985, was constructed in 1988, became operational in 1989, and is operated in coordination with Southwestern Power Administration.

Town Bluff Project is an integral part of the USACE plan for flood control and water conservation in the Neches River Basin. The plan presently consists of two major USACE flood mitigation projects –Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Town Bluff Project. The two flood control projects in the Neches River system control approximately 7,573 square miles of drainage area.

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the conservation and sustainability of the land, water, and recreational resources on Town Bluff Project comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations and to maintain quality lands for future public use. The proposed MP is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreation management plan with an effective life of approximately 25 years.

The Town Bluff Project Master Plan must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in decision-making that responds to changing regional and local needs, environmental resource capabilities and suitability, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes and pertinent legislation and regulations. The current 1971 Town Bluff Master Plan (2003 Supplement) is over 15 years old and does not currently reflect ecological, socio-political, and socio-demographic changes that are currently affecting Town Bluff Project, or those changes anticipated to occur through 2048. Changes in outdoor recreation trends, physical environments, regional land use, population, current legislative requirements and the USACE management policy have indicated the need to revise the plan. Additionally, increasing fragmentation of wildlife habitat, national policies related to climate change, a growing demand for recreational access and protection of natural resources are all factors impacting public

lands nationwide and regionally, and have the potential to affect the Town Bluff Project. In response to these continually evolving trends, the USACE determined that a full revision of the 2003 Supplement is needed.

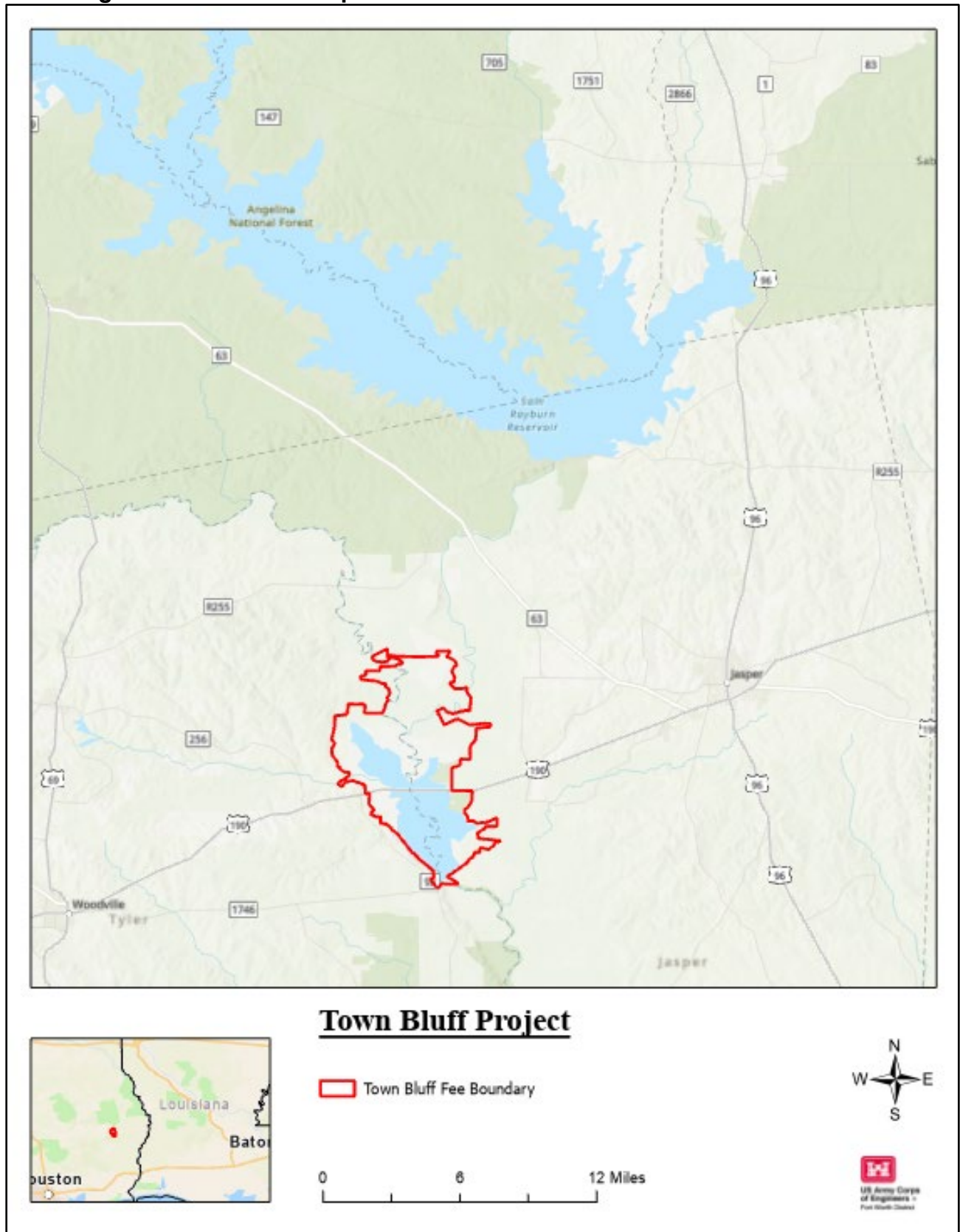
The following factors may influence reevaluation of management practices and land uses:

- changes in national policies or public law mandates;
- existing environmental conditions;
- operations and maintenance budget allocations;
- recreation area closures;
- facility and infrastructure improvements;
- cooperative agreements with stakeholder agencies (such as Texas Parks & Wildlife Department [TPWD] and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) to operate and maintain public lands; and
- evolving public concerns.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This EA was prepared to evaluate existing conditions and potential impacts of proposed alternatives associated with the implementation of the proposed 2023 MP. The alternative considerations were formulated with special attention given to revised land reclassifications, new resource management objectives, and a conceptual resource plan for each land reclassification category. The proposed MP is currently available and is incorporated into this EA by reference. This EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190) as amended in 2020. The application of NEPA to more strategic decisions not only meets the CEQ implementing regulations (CEQ 2005) and USACE regulations for implementing NEPA (USACE 1988), but also allows the USACE to consider the environmental consequences of its actions long before any physical activity is implemented. Multiple benefits can be derived from such early consideration. Effective and early NEPA integration with the master planning process can significantly increase the usefulness of the proposed MP to the decision maker.

Figure 1-1. Location Map



SECTION 2: PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

During the alternative development process, the Project Delivery Team (PDT) utilized an iterative process to evaluate different land classes for each parcel of the USACE land. This evaluation included consideration of the multiple Congressionally authorized missions of the Project, public and agency comments, the USACE staff knowledge, and potential impacts to the social, cultural, and environmental resources, to determine the primary use for each parcel (i.e. land classification). The USACE regulations specify five possible categories of land reclassification: Project Operations (PO), High Density Recreation (HDR), Mitigation Area, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), and Multiple Resource Managed Lands (MRML). MRML are divided into four subcategories: Low Density Recreation (MRML-LDR), Wildlife Management (MRML-WM), Vegetation Management (MRML-VM), and Inactive/Future Recreation (MRML-IFR) Areas.

Two alternatives were developed in detail and brought forward for evaluation, including a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The Proposed Action Alternative is the culmination of the iterative evaluation process described above and best meets the Purpose and Need identified in Section 1.2. of this document and Section 1.4 of the proposed MP revision. The No Action Alternative, while it does not meet the purpose and need, serves as a benchmark of existing conditions against which Federal actions can be evaluated, and, therefore, is included in this EA pursuant to CEQ regulations 40 CFR § 1502.14(c)).

The USACE guidance recommends the establishment of resource goals and objectives for purposes of development, conservation, and management of natural, cultural, and man-made resources at a project. Goals describe the desired end state of overall management efforts, whereas resource objectives are specific task-oriented actions necessary to achieve the overall proposed MP goals. Goals and objectives are guidelines for obtaining maximum public benefits while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and are developed in accordance with 1) authorized project purposes, 2) applicable laws and regulations; 3) natural resource capability and suitability; 4) regional needs; 5) other governmental plans and programs; and 6) expressed public desires. The five project-wide management goals established for Town Bluff Project that were used in determining the Proposed Action, as well as the nationwide USACE Environmental Operating Principles, are discussed in Chapter 3: Resource Goals and Objectives of the proposed MP and are incorporated herein by reference (USACE, 2023).

The goals for the proposed MP include the following below.

GOAL A. Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and capacities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.

GOAL B. Protect and manage the project’s natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.

GOAL C. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public interests while sustaining the project’s natural resources.

GOAL D. Recognize the project’s unique qualities, characteristics, and potentials.

GOAL E. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other State and regional goals and programs.

In addition to the above goals, the USACE management activities are guided by the USACE-wide Environmental Operating Principles as follows:

- Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
- Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of the USACE programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
- Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
- Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
- Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bringing systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
- Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
- Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in the USACE activities; listen to them actively and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

Specific resource objectives to accomplish these goals can be found in Chapter 3 of the proposed MP.

The USACE will not address dam operations or water management of Town Bluff Project under either the No Action or Proposed Action alternatives within the Proposed MP & EA. Water management, which includes flood risk management and dam operations, is established in the Neches River Basin Master Reservoir Regulation Manual and the Town Bluff Project Project Control Manual.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, the USACE would not approve the adoption or implementation of the proposed MP. Instead, the USACE would continue to manage Town Bluff Project natural resources as set forth in the 2003 Supplement. The 2003 Supplement would continue to provide the only source of comprehensive management guidelines and philosophy. However, the 2003 Supplement is outdated and does not reflect the current ecological, socio-political, or socio-demographic conditions of Town Bluff Project or those that are anticipated to occur through 2048.

The No Action Alternative, while it does not meet the purpose and need, serves as a benchmark of existing conditions against which Federal actions can be evaluated, and, therefore, is included in this EA pursuant to CEQ regulations 40 CFR § 1502.14(c).

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, the USACE would adopt and implement the proposed MP, which guides and articulates USACE responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the land, water, and associated resources. The proposed MP would replace the 2003 Supplement and provide an up-to-date management plan that follows current Federal laws and regulations while sustaining the project's natural resources and providing recreational opportunities for the next 25 years. The Proposed Action would meet regional goals associated with good stewardship of land, water, and recreational resources; address identified recreational trends; and allow for continued use and development of project lands without violating national policies or public laws.

The proposed MP would classify all Federal land lying above elevation 83.0 feet (') NGVD29 into management reclassification categories. These management reclassification categories would allow uses of Federal property that meet the definition of the assigned category and ensure the protection of natural resources and environmental stewardship while allowing maximum public enjoyment of the lake's resources.

The land reclassification categories to be used are defined as follows:

- Project Operations: Lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas used solely for the operation of Town Bluff Project.
- High Density Recreation: Lands developed for the intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use and campgrounds. These areas could also be for commercial concessions and quasi-public development.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas: Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified.

- Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Allows for the designation of a predominate use with the understanding that other compatible uses may also occur on these lands.
 - MRML Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive recreational use (primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).
 - MRML Wildlife Management: Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
 - MRML Vegetation Management: Lands designated for stewardship of vegetative resources.
 - MRML Inactive/Future Recreation: Areas with site characteristics compatible with potential future recreational development or recreation areas that are closed. Until there is an opportunity to develop or reopen these areas, they will be managed for multiple resources.
- Surface Water: Allows for surface water zones.
 - Restricted: Water areas restricted for Town Bluff Project operations, safety, and security.
 - Designated No-Wake: Water areas to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and recreational water access areas from disturbance and areas to protect public safety.
 - Open Recreation: Water areas available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

Table 2-1 shows the reclassifications and acres contained in each land designation type, Table 2-2 shows the water surface reclassifications, and Table 2-3 provides the justification for the 2023 reclassification.

Table 2-1 2023 Town Bluff Project Land Reclassifications

Prior Land Classifications (2003 Supplement)	Acres	Proposed 2023 Reclassifications	Acres
Project Operations	101	Project Operations	127
Intensive Recreation and Vegetation Management	2,291	High Density Recreation	2,012
Environmentally Sensitive Area	4,166	Environmentally Sensitive Area	5,456
Multiple Resource Management	8,010	Wildlife Management Area	6,915
---	---	Vegetation Management	49
Total Land Acres	14,567.5	Total Land Acres	14,559

* Some acreage differences are due to rounding as well as improvements in mapping and measurement technology, deposition/siltation, and erosion.

Table 2-2. Proposed Town Bluff Project Surface Water Reclassifications

Prior Water Surface Classifications (2003 Supplement)	Acres	Proposed Water Surface Classifications (2023)	Acres
Open Recreation	N/A	Open Recreation	6,744
Designated No-Wake	N/A	Designated No Wake	114
Restricted Operation	N/A	Restricted	7
Lake Area	6,855.92		
Total Water Acres	6,855.92	Total Water Acres	6,865

* Some acreage differences are due to rounding as well as improvements in mapping and measurement technology, deposition/siltation, and erosion.

Table 2-3. Justification for the Proposed Land Reclassifications

Proposal	Justification
Project Operations (Class 1 Land) to Project Operations	Approximately 92 acres of Class 1 Land Project Operations has remained Project Operations. This is a change in name from the prior Master Plan and is still being managed primarily for the operations and maintenance of Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake as well as safety and security of users and facilities.
Project Operations (Class 1 Land) to Open Recreation Water Surface	Eight (8) acres were changed from Class 1 Project Operations to Open Recreation water surface. This change reflects better imagery and mapping technology to correctly classify water surface that was previously classified as land.
Project Operations (Class 1 Land) to Restricted Water Surface	One (1) acre was changed from Class 1 Project Operations to Restricted water surface. This change reflects better imagery and mapping technology to classify water surface that was previously classified as land.
Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management (Class 2) to Environmentally Sensitive Area	Approximately 275 acres of Class 2 Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management were reclassified to Environmentally Sensitive Areas. These areas include wetlands and sensitive habitats that are not suitable for intensive recreation and include sensitive or unique habitat. See Section 5.5 of the proposed MP for detailed description of each Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Proposal	Justification
<p>Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management (Class 2) to High Density Recreation</p>	<p>Approximately 2,012 acres of Class 2 Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management were reclassified to High Density Recreation. This is mostly just a name change, as the old classification allows intensive recreational facilities and activities with a secondary management priority of wildlife and vegetation management. This is most similar to the current High Density Recreation land classification which also allows intensive recreational facilities and activities. These areas have historically been used for intensive recreation as well as areas that could see additional intensive recreation amenities and facilities including hard-surface trails (such as asphalt or concrete) which are typically not permitted in other land classifications. See Section 5.3 of the proposed MP for detailed descriptions of each developed park classified as High Density Recreation.</p>
<p>Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management (Class 2) to Project Operations</p>	<p>Four (4) acres of Class 2 Intensive Recreation with Wildlife and Vegetative Management were reclassified to Project Operations. This change reflects the current management practices in those areas that are required for operations and maintenance activities as well as safety and security of users and facilities.</p>
<p>Environmentally Sensitive Area (Class 4) to Environmentally Sensitive Area</p>	<p>Approximately 4,100 acres of Environmentally Sensitive Area (Class 4) from the previous Master Plan will remain as Environmentally Sensitive Area. These areas are still being managed primarily for the protection of sensitive habitats at Town Bluff Project. These areas also include the protection of known historical and cultural sites which have not been identified in the Master Plan to protect those resources. See Section 5.5 of the proposed MP for detailed description of each Environmentally Sensitive Area.</p>

Proposal	Justification
Environmentally Sensitive Area (Class 4) to Wildlife Management	Approximately 66 acres were changed from Environmentally Sensitive Area (Class 4) to Multiple Resource Management Land – Wildlife Management. These changes are due mainly to better mapping of sensitive areas and adjusting ESA boundaries to include the most sensitive areas. This change also includes existing utility easements that pass through ESAs to ensure any future easement changes are consolidated to those existing easements and prevent habitat fragmentation.
Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to Environmentally Sensitive Area	Approximately 1,080 acres were changed from Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to Environmentally Sensitive Area. These changes are due mostly to the creation of ESA 1, ESA 2, and ESA 4 to protect sensitive and unique habitat in those areas. The WMA areas that changed includes tupelo and bald cypress swamps, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood and riparian corridors. The change also includes the protection of known historical and cultural sites which have not been identified in the Master Plan to protect those resources. See Section 5.5 of the proposed MP for detailed description of each Environmentally Sensitive Area.
Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to Project Operations	Approximately 30 acres were changed from Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to Project Operations. This change reflects the current management practices in those areas that are required for operations and maintenance activities as well as safety and security of users and facilities.
Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to MRML – Vegetation Management	Approximately 50 acres were changed from Multiple Resource Management (Class 5) to MRML – Vegetation Management. This change is along the narrow shoreline between the Project Operations Area near the dam and project office at the south end of the lake and Campers Cove Park on the western side of the lake.

this section, the alternatives may create temporary (less than 1 year), short-term (up to 3 years), long-term (3 to 10 years following the MP revision), or permanent effects.

In considering whether the effects of the proposed action are significant, agencies shall analyze the potentially affected environment and degree of the effects of the action (40 CFR § 1501.3). In considering the potentially affected environment, agencies should consider, as appropriate to the specific action, the affected area (national, regional, or local) and its resources, such as listed species and designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR § 1501.3[b](1)). In considering the degree of the effects, agencies should consider the following, as appropriate to the specific action: both short- and long-term effects, both beneficial and adverse effects, effects on public health and safety, effects that would violate Federal, State, Tribal, or local law protecting the environment (40 CFR § 1501.3[b](2)). For the purpose of this analysis, the intensity of impacts will be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- Negligible: A resource would not be affected, or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence.
- Minor: Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- Moderate: Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and measurable. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely achievable.
- Major: Effects on a resource would be obvious and long-term, and would have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required and extensive, and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

3.1 Land Use

Please refer to Chapters 1.5, 2.5 and 2.6 of the proposed MP for existing land use information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, USACE would not implement the proposed MP, and thus the land use management would not be updated to reflect current and projected future needs and demands. The operation and maintenance of USACE lands at Town Bluff Project would continue as outlined in the 2003 Supplement to the extent that current and future laws and regulations would permit. Management would continue to lag behind the current and future recreational needs identified through scoping efforts and USACE Project staff experience and recommendations. As the regulatory environment continues to change, management at Town Bluff Project would diverge from the plan. This divergence would create a patchwork of management requirements that would be inefficient for Town Bluff Project staff to implement. Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have minor, adverse, short-term impacts on land use within

and on USACE Town Bluff Project lands due to conflicting guidance and management of USACE lands.

3.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The objectives for revising the 2003 Supplement described current and foreseeable land uses while considering expressed public opinion, regional trends, and USACE policies that have evolved to meet day-to-day operational needs. The reclassifications in the proposed MP were developed to fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land and water resources that would allow for continued use and development of project lands.

While HDR is technically a new management classification, the bulk of the 2,012 acres of HDR land is from areas previously classified as Intensive Recreation and Vegetation Management. Even though the acres are decreasing for HDR from 2,291 to 2,012 acres, recreational opportunities would not decrease. 275 acres of the lost Intensive Recreation would go to ESA and then 4 acres would be lost to PO. The 275 acres include wetlands and sensitive habitats that are not suitable for intensive recreation and include sensitive or unique habitat. While the 4 acres lost are required for operations and maintenance activities as well as safety and security of users and facilities. Therefore, the change in these acreages reflects current and foreseeable recreational trends for the area.

The increase of Environmentally Sensitive Areas from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres would allow for greater protection of sensitive habitats and/or cultural resources. Conservation efforts within the USACE Town Bluff Project fee owned boundary would be further aided by the reclassification of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM and 49 acres as MRML-VM on top of the forementioned increase of ESA acres.

MRML-VM are lands designated for stewardship of vegetative resources. Even though these areas are managed for vegetation management purposes, this designation provides more protection for wildlife and vegetation than HDR, but less than ESA. MRML-WM is similar to MRML-VM in that it provides more protection for wildlife than HDR but less than ESA and that it too would allow for additional passive recreational activities like natural surface hike/bike trails. MRML-WM differs in that these lands would be specifically managed and the stewardship of fish wildlife resources.

The proposed MP would add established surface water use categories in addition to the current management of the lake. The establishment of 6,744 acres as Open Recreation, 114 acres as Designated No Wake, and 7 acres as Restricted to the water surface, would allow for a delineated and safer management of the lake's waters at conservation pool level. These reclassifications would help to improve safety of those recreating on and around Town Bluff Project by restricting boat access and speeds around certain parts of the lake, as well as establishing areas that boating can occur in.

The current and foreseeable land use demand and patterns for Town Bluff Project does not entail the need of utility corridors, thus none would be implemented in the

proposed MP. However, if such a need would arise, current USACE policy directs new utilities requests go around USACE fee-owned property unless one of the two exceptions apply, no other feasible alternative exists or there is a benefit to the government. If the new utility request falls under one of the two exceptions, then the new utility request must go through the NEPA permitting process prior to approval and implementation.

The majority of the land use reclassifications in the proposed MP would maintain the functional management that is currently occurring. While the terminology updates appear substantial, they have been implemented after considerable public input, and seek to maintain the values the public holds highest at Town Bluff Project. Additionally, the land reclassifications provide a balance between public use, both intensive and passive, and natural resources conservation. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Action would have moderate, long-term beneficial impacts to land use as the land reclassifications further refine areas for appropriate activities.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.1.6 of the proposed MP for existing water resource information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There are no known water resource related problems occurring at Town Bluff Project; therefore, there would be no impacts on water resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The reclassifications and resource management objectives required for implementing the Proposed Action would allow land management and land uses to be adjusted for current and reasonably foreseeable future changes in water resources. For example, the increase of ESA Lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres would help to stabilize soils through the promotion and management of native habitats. In turn, these habitats may help to reduce erosion, and buffer and filter storm runoff before making its way into the lake, thereby potentially reducing water turbidity. The increase and the establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM, would result in more upland and wetland habitats being protected from erosion and sedimentation. Resource objectives would require that all decision-making processes take into consideration potential impacts to the watershed, lake water supply, and water quality. By doing this, the proposed resource objectives would help to further protect water resources within Town Bluff Project.

114 acres of surface waters would be classified as No Wake Designation as part of the Proposed Action Alternative. These areas are near shorelines where wave fetch and action may increase erosion. This No Wake Designation classification would be expected to help prevent further erosion and further reduce water turbidity.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have minor, short- and long- term beneficial impacts on water resources located within USACE project lands.

3.3 CLIMATE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GASES

Please refer to section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the proposed MP for existing climate, climate change and greenhouse gases (GHG) information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would not result in any change in management of Town Bluff Project land. Implementation of the 2003 Supplement would have no impact (beneficial or adverse) on existing or future climate conditions. Current policy EO 14057 and 13990, and other related USACE policies) requires project lands and recreational programs be managed in a way that advances broad national climate change mitigation goals including, but not limited to, climate change resilience and carbon sequestration. Climate Change and GHG policies were not evaluated in the 2003 Supplement, as such the 2003 Supplement does not align with current laws and regulations. This non-compliance has no impact on Climate Change and GHG because the 2003 Supplement does not have any action that impacts existing conditions.

3.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed MP would have negligible beneficial impacts to climate, climate change and GHG emissions in the region. The impacts would come from the promotion of land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability. Management under the proposed MP would follow current policy to meet climate change goals as described for the No Action Alternative.

Any ground disturbing activities considered with the aid of the proposed MP would go through the NEPA and design processes prior to implementation. During that time, impacts to the climate would be analyzed for those ground disturbing activities in accordance to EO 14057 and 13990 and other related USACE policies.

3.4 AIR QUALITY

Please refer to section 2.1.4 of the proposed MP for existing air quality information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.4.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The continued implementation of the 2003 Supplement would not result in any changes to current and reasonably foreseeable future air quality in the region. No new increase in vehicular traffic, mass permanent vegetation removal, or the building of mass industrial facilities would occur from implementing this alternative. The No Action Alternative would remain compliant with the Clean Air Act because the 2003 Supplement includes general guidelines and does not incorporate actions which produce criteria pollutants.

3.4.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

As with the No Action Alternative, the proposed MP would not result in any change to current and reasonably foreseeable air quality in the region. The Proposed Action does not propose any actions (i.e. ground disturbing activities) that directly or indirectly produce criteria pollutants (i.e. total emissions is 0); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would remain compliant with the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan and is not subject to a conformity determination. Negligible air quality benefits may be realized through the increase of ESA lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres, and the establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM lands. The added protection these classifications provide would benefit native vegetation communities that filter and sequester air pollutants.

3.5 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

Please refer to section 2.1.5 of the proposed MP for existing topography, geology, and soils information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.5.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, so there would be no impacts on topography, geology, soils, or prime farmland as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.5.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action takes into consideration the various topographical, geological, and soil aspects of USACE Town Bluff Project lands. The reduction of HDR land (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres), the increase of ESA lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres and the establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM lands, would help to increase the long-term preservation and stabilization of the soils within USACE Town Bluff Project lands. In addition, resource objectives would require that erosion control and sedimentation issues are being monitored and alternatives developed and implemented to resolve those issues. Implementation of the Proposed Action would have negligible, beneficial, long-term impacts on soil conservation and topography, and geology at Town Bluff Project.

3.6 NATURAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.1 of the proposed MP for existing natural resources information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.6.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions; therefore, no impacts on natural resources would be anticipated as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.6.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed changes to land classifications, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall proposed MP would improve the management of USACE Town Bluff Project lands in accordance with the Project's authorized purposes. Implementing the results from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure

(WHAP) (Appendix C of the proposed MP) for Town Bluff Project, would assist in the establishment and management of high quality wildlife habitat and unique areas around the lake. The implementation of the proposed land classifications would allow project lands to meet the USFWS and the TPWD missions associated with wildlife conservation. Implementation of future operational practices may protect and enhance wildlife and fishery populations and habitat. The new resource objectives allow for natural resources to be managed with consideration of potential impacts from the floodwater retention by having management consider pool levels when natural resource decisions being made. The reduction of HDR land (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres), the increase of ESA lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres and the establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM lands, especially in prime ecological areas, would help protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be minor short- and long term, beneficial impacts on natural resources from the proposed MP.

3.7 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database (USFWS, 2023) lists the threatened and endangered species, and trust resources that may occur within the Town Bluff Project fee boundary (see USFWS Species List and the IPAC Report in Appendix C of MP). Based on the IPaC report, there are nine federally listed species that are designated as endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species that could be found within Town Bluff Project. A list of these species is presented in Table 3.1. Critical Habitat is present with the Town Bluff Project and that is for the Texas Heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*) and there is Critical Habitat for the Louisiana Pigtoe (*Pleurobema riddellii*) near the fee boundary as well. The species identified as Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Species by TPWD that are not federally listed are included in Appendix C of the proposed MP as well as a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). In addition, Appendix C also provides the list of rare plant communities for the Western Gulf Coastal Plains (Pineywoods) Ecoregion.

Table 3-1. Federally Listed Threatened & Endangered Species with Potential to Occur at Town Bluff Project.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status
Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	Proposed Threatened
Louisiana Pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema riddellii</i>	Proposed Threatened
Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate
Navasota Ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes parksii</i>	Endangered
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canuts rufa</i>	Threatened

Texas Heelsplittter	<i>Potamilus amphichaenus</i>	Proposed Endangered
Texas Trailing Phlox	<i>Phlox nivalis ssp. Texensis</i>	Endangered

Please refer to section 2.11 of the proposed MP for information on threatened and endangered species within the USACE fee-owned boundary.

3.7.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, which have had no effect on federally listed species. USACE has determined that implementation of the No Action Alternative would have No Effect on any federally threatened or endangered species that may occur within the study area.

3.7.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP would allow for additional cooperative management with the USFWS and TPWD that may help to preserve, enhance, and protect habitat resources essential to various endangered and threatened species found within USACE Town Bluff Project Fee Boundary. To further management opportunities and provide benefits to habitat diversity, the reclassifications in the proposed MP would increase ESA lands from 4,166 acres to 5,456 acres, including several land parcels previously classified as Multiple Resource Management and ESA. These parcels were changed to or maintained as ESA in order to recognize areas with high ecological values and to ensure additional protection among all possible land classifications. Resource objectives then provide a mechanism for threatened and endangered species to be managed by various ecosystem management principles. Any future ground-disturbing activities would be coordinated with USFWS through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. USACE has determined that the implementation of the Proposed Action would have No Effect on any federally-listed or proposed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that may occur within the Town Bluff Project Fee Boundary.

3.8 INVASIVE SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.5 of the proposed MP for existing information on invasive species within the USACE fee-owned boundary.

3.8.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, therefore Town Bluff Project would continue to be managed using current invasive species management practices. There would be no impacts from invasive species as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.8.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed land classification changes, modification of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the proposed MP would allow for improved management of invasive species within USACE Town Bluff Project. Implementation of

the results from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) completed for Town Bluff Project would protect and manage unique high value habitats, thus reducing the opportunity for invasive species encroachment. The reduction of HDR land (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres), the increase of ESA lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres and the establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM lands, especially in prime ecological areas, helps to protect natural resources from habitat fragmentation which may protect from the spread of invasive species. Updated resource objectives would also require monitoring and reporting of invasive species, as well as action items to prevent and/or reduce the spread of these species.

While currently not present in Town Bluff Project, invasive zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) is an ongoing threat to native aquatic species and infrastructure due to its ability to infest and expand rapidly, and the close proximity to other infested lakes increases the risk at Town Bluff. The USACE continues to monitor for zebra mussels and has a campaign to educate the public on methods to prevent the spread of zebra mussels. However, the overall risk due to zebra mussels is considered low due to the low concentration of dissolved calcium in the lake (USACE, 2013).

The Town Bluff Project is also infested with giant and common salvinia (*Salvinia molesta and minima*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). The Project uses various chemical, biological, and mechanical means to reduce and control the population of these species. These efforts have resulted in significant but not complete eradication of these species. These efforts are so significant that the Project staff are often consulted by other state, federal and local agencies across the United States of America. The treatment for these species would continue as they are with the implementation of the proposed MP as well as any other means that may be proposed and funded for.

Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be short- and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on invasive species management as a result of implementing the proposed MP.

3.9 CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.3 of the proposed MP for existing information on cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within the USACE fee-owned boundary.

3.9.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there would be no changes to the 2003 Supplement.

3.9.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the changes to land classifications, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the proposed MP would protect cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within USACE Town Bluff Project would allow for better resource management and tracking on fee property. Based on previous surveys at Town Bluff Project, the required reclassifications, resource

objectives, and resource plan would not change current cultural resource management plans. All future activities would be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized Tribes to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Therefore, no significant adverse impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources would occur as a result of implementing the proposed MP. Beneficial impacts may occur as a result of the proposed MP as lands classified as PO, ESA, MRML-VM or MRML- WM would generally protect any historic properties within those lands against ground disturbing-activities.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Please refer to section 2.4 of the proposed MP for existing socioeconomic and environmental justice information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.10.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The continued implementation of the 2003 Supplement would continue to have beneficial effects on socioeconomics and environmental justice, as visitation is open to the general public.. In addition to camping, many visitors purchase goods such as groceries, fuel, and camping supplies locally, eat in local restaurants, stay in local cabins, and shop in local retail establishments. These activities would continue to provide revenue, local jobs, and generate additional local and state taxes. There would be no disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations, or children, with the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.10.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP land reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan reflect changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 2003 Supplement. Town Bluff Project offers a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors. Beneficial impacts would be similar to the No Action Alternative. There would be no adverse impacts on economy in the area and no disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations, or children, as a result of the Proposed Action. After using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate and Economic Screening Tool (CEST) (2022A), the lake is determined to be surrounded by disadvantaged communities on all but the northwestern side. These communities are defined by the EPA (2022B) as those that meet one or both screening criteria, meet the threshold of burden for the CEST, and or are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes. The CEST provides two burden criteria for disadvantaged communities as being characterized by “(1) at or above the threshold for one or more environmental, climate, or other burdens, and (2) at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden”. The communities surrounding Town Bluff federal project meet the burden criteria for being within socioeconomic threshold, climate change, health, legacy pollution, and transportation. There would be no adverse impacts to these communities as a result of implementing the proposed MP because no construction activities would occur as result of implementation that would otherwise impact these communities. There would be no adverse impacts on the

economy in the area and no disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations, children, or on environmental justice as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.11 RECREATION

Please refer to section 2.5 of the proposed MP for existing recreation information in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.11.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on recreational resources, as there would be no changes to the 2003 Supplement.

3.11.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Town Bluff Project is beneficial to the local visitors and also offers a variety of free recreation opportunities. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation would decrease (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres) with implementation of the proposed MP, this land reclassification reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 2003 at Town Bluff Project. Passive recreational activities would still be allowed as they are now within all lands, regardless of the land classification. The proposed resource objectives would require that all decisions made in regard to the lake take into consideration their impacts to recreation and would be monitored should adjustments be needed. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no adverse, short- or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous recreation opportunities would remain in and around Town Bluff Project to accommodate various outdoor based recreation activities. Moderate beneficial impacts may occur as a result of the proposed MP meeting the current and future recreational needs and public preferences.

3.12 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.6 of the proposed MP for existing aesthetic resource conditions in and around Town Bluff Project.

3.12.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no impacts on visual resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there would be no changes to the 2003 Supplement.

3.12.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Town Bluff Project currently plays a pivotal role in recreational opportunities and open space in Jasper and Tyler Counties and the surrounding region. The amount of acreage classified for High Density Recreation would decrease (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres) with implementation of the proposed MP. This land reclassification reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 2003 at Town Bluff Project. The conversion of these lands would have no effect on current or projected public use or visual aesthetics as views from natural and recreation areas would remain in place. Furthermore, the reduction of HDR land (2,291 acres to 2,012 acres), the increase of ESA lands from 4,165 acres to 5,456 acres and the

establishment of 6,915 acres as MRML-WM, and 49 acres as MRML-VM lands, would have positive impacts on aesthetic resources by protecting lands that are aesthetically pleasing and available for passive recreation activity at Town Bluff Project and limit future development in these areas. Additionally, resource objectives place an emphasis on increasing public education on recreation, nature, cultural resources, and ecology resources at Town Bluff Project. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts to aesthetic resources as a result of implementing the proposed MP.

3.13 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTE

Please refer to section 2.1.7 of the proposed MP for information concerning hazardous materials and solid waste in and around Town Bluff Project fee-owned boundary.

3.14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please refer to section 2.1.8 of the proposed MP for information concerning health and safety in and around Town Bluff Project fee owned boundary.

3.14.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the 2003 Supplement would not be revised. No adverse impacts on human health or safety would be anticipated.

3.14.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the proposed MP would result in the classification of Restricted Surface Water (7 acres), Designated No-Wake areas (114 acres), and Open-Recreation (6,744 acres). These changes maintain and, in some cases, improve boating, non-motorized recreation, and swimming safety near the Town Bluff Dam, water intake structures, and key recreational water access areas such as boat ramps and designated swimming areas.

The project would continue to have reporting guidelines in place should water quality become a threat to public health. Existing regulations and safety programs throughout the Town Bluff Project area would continue to be enforced to ensure public safety. The resource objectives would require that various factors with the potential to effect human safety at the lake are monitored and actions are taken to address, eliminate or reduce those factors. Additionally, the objectives place an emphasis on educating the public on water safety and on flood risk management efforts at Town Bluff Project. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be short- and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on health and safety.

3.15 SUMMARY OF CONSEQUENCES AND BENEFITS

Table 3-2 provides a tabular summary of the consequences and benefits for the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives for each of the 14 assessed resource categories.

Table 3-2. Summary of Consequences and Benefits

Resource	Change Resulting from the proposed Master Plan	Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative	Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action	Benefits Summary
Land Use	No effect on private lands. Emphasis is on protection of wildlife and environmental values on USACE land and maintaining current level of developed recreation facilities.	Lags behind the current and future recreational needs. Conflicting guidance and management is an existing problem.	Recognizes recreation trends and regional natural resource priorities identified by TPWD, and public comments.	Land classification changes and new resource objectives fully recognize passive use recreation trends and regional environmental values such as protection of high quality habitat such as prairies and swamps.
Water Resources Including Groundwater, Wetlands, and Water Quality	Small change to recognize value of wetlands.	No effect.	Promotes restoration and protection of wetlands and good land stewardship.	Specific resource objective promotes restoration and protection of wetlands.
Climate, Climate Change, and Greenhouse Gases	Minor change to recognize need for sustainable, energy efficient design.	No effect.	Promotes land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability.	Specific resource objectives promote national climate change mitigation goal. LEED standards for green design, construction, and operation activities would be employed to the extent practicable.
Air Quality	No change	No effect	No effect	No added benefit
Topography, Geology and Soils	Minor change to place emphasis on good stewardship of land and water resources.	No effect.	Encourages good stewardship that would reduce existing and potential erosion.	Specific resource objectives call for stopping erosion from overuse and land disturbing activities.
Natural Resources	Moderate benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	No effect.	Gives full recognition of sensitive resources and regional trends and priorities related to natural resources.	Reclassification of lands included 5,456 acres of ESA and an increase in lands emphasizing wildlife management.

Threatened and Endangered Species, including SGCN species.	Minor change to recognize both federal and state-listed species.	No effect.	Fully recognizes federal and state-listed species as well as SGCN listed by TPWD and Rare species listed by TPWD.	The proposed MP sets forth the most recent listing of federal and state-listed species and addresses on-going commitments associated with the USFWS.
Invasive Species	Minor change to recognize several recent and potentially aggressive invasive species.	No effect.	Fully recognizes current species and the need to be vigilant as new species may occur.	Specific resource objectives specify that invasive species shall be monitored and controlled as needed.
Cultural Resources	Minor change to recognize current status of cultural resources.	No effect.	Recognizes the presence of cultural resources and places emphasis on protection and management.	Reclassification of lands included 5,456 acres of ESA and specific resource objectives were included for protection of cultural resources.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	No change	No effect.	No effect	No added benefit
Recreation	Moderate benefits to outdoor recreation programs.	No effect.	Fully recognizes current outdoor recreation trends and places special emphasis on trails.	Specific management objectives focused on outdoor recreation opportunities and trends are included.
Aesthetic Resources	Minor benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	No effect.	Promotes activities that limit disturbance to the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.	No added benefit Specific management objectives to minimize activities that disturb the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.

Health and Safety	Minor change to promote public safety awareness.	Fails to emphasize public safety programs.	Recognizes the need for public safety programs.	Includes specific management objectives to increase water safety outreach efforts. Also, classifies 7 acres of water surface as restricted and designated no-wake for public safety purposes.
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SECTION 4: CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

NEPA regulations updated May 20, 2023 require cumulative impacts of a proposed action be assessed and disclosed in an EA. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations define a cumulative impact as *“the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. “Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”* (40 CFR §1508.1(g)(3)). Impacts can be positive or negative.

By Memorandum dated June 24, 2005 from the Chairman of the CEQ to the Heads of Federal Agencies entitled “Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis”, CEQ made clear its interpretation that “...generally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions...” and that the “...CEQ regulations do not require agencies to catalogue or exhaustively list and analyze all individual past actions.” CEQ guidance also recommends narrowing the focus of cumulative impacts analysis to important issues of national, regional, or local significance.

The initial step of the cumulative impact analysis uses information from the evaluation of direct and indirect impacts in the selection of environmental resources that should be evaluated for cumulative impacts. A proposed action would not contribute to a cumulative impact if it would not have a direct or indirect effect on the resource.

Based on a review of the likely environmental impacts analyzed in Section 3 (Affected Environment and Consequences) the USACE determined that the analysis of cumulative impacts would be limited to: land use, water resources, climate, climate change, GHG, air quality, topography, geology, soils, natural resources, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, cultural resources, historical resources, archeological resources, recreation, aesthetic resources, and health & safety. With respect to the remaining resource topics such as socioeconomic & environmental justice and hazardous, toxic, & radioactive waste, both the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives would either:

1. Not result in any direct or indirect impacts and therefore would not contribute to a cumulative impact; or,
2. That the nature of the resource is such that impacts do not have the potential to cumulate. For example, impacts related to geology are site specific and do not cumulate; or,
3. That the future with or future without project condition analysis is a cumulative analysis and no further evaluation is required. For example, because climate change is global in nature, the future without project condition and future with project condition analysis is inherently a cumulative impact assessment.

For each resource topic carried forward for cumulative impact analysis, the timeframe for analysis is the time since the 2003 Supplement was implemented (past) and thru the proposed life of the 2023 Master Plan (25 years – to 2048). The zone of interest for all

resources except economy is Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas. The zone of interest for economics is the same used in Section 3.10.

4.1 PAST IMPACTS WITHIN THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Town Bluff was originally authorized for construction in 1945 as a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Construction of Town Bluff Dam began in March 1947 and was completed in April of 1951. Deliberate impoundment began in April of 1951. The total project area at Town Bluff encompasses 21,424 acres, including the 6,865 acres of surface water at normal pool elevation of 83.0. The entire 14,559 acres were acquired in fee simple title by USACE with perpetual Flowage Easements on 1,157 acres.

4.2 CURRENT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS WITHIN AND NEAR THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Future management of the 1,157 acres of Flowage Easement Lands at Town Bluff includes routine inspection of these areas to ensure that the Government's rights specified in the easement deeds are protected. In almost all cases, the Government acquired the right to prevent placement of fill material or habitable structures on the easement area. Placement of any structure that may interfere with the USACE flood risk management and water conservation missions may also be prohibited.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) provides transportation planning across the state in coordination with regional planning groups, counties, and cities. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) is a voluntary association of local governments that serves Hardin, Jefferson, Orange and Jasper counties and provides long-term transportation planning in the region in coordination with TXDOT. The Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) is a local voluntary association of local governments that serves Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler counties. Together there are several proposed minor transportation planning projects in the area, but only one major project that could affect access to Town Bluff Project. The bridge crossing US 190 is scheduled to be replaced with construction scheduled to begin by 2027. Closure of the bridge would require a detour of 45-minutes to one hour around the project, including to Martin Dies Jr. State Park with Units on both sides of the lake, until the project is complete.

National USACE policy set forth in ER 1130-2-550, Appendix H, states that USACE lands would, in most cases, only be made available for roads that are regional arterials or freeways (as defined in ER 1130-2-550). All other types of proposed roads, including driveways and alleys, are generally not permitted on USACE lands. The proposed expansion or widening of existing roadways on USACE lands would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impacts on each resource were analyzed according to how other actions and projects within the zone of interest might be affected by the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action. Impacts can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a

total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis the intensity of impacts would be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. These intensity thresholds were previously defined in Section 3.0. Moderate growth and development are expected to continue in the vicinity of Town Bluff Project and cumulative adverse impacts on resources would not be expected when added to the impacts of activities associated with the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. A summary of the anticipated cumulative impacts on each resource is presented below.

4.3.1 Land Use

A major impact would occur if any action were inconsistent with adopted land use plans or if an action would substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. Land use around Town Bluff Project has not experienced much change, the surrounding area can be best described as upland to bottomland hardwood forests with interspersed recreation cabins. Under the No Action Alternative, land use would not change. Although the Proposed Action would result in the reclassification of project lands, the reclassifications were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land resources that would allow for continued use of project lands.

The current and foreseeable land use demand and patterns for Town Bluff Project does not require utility corridors, however as explained in Section of this EA 3.1 and of Chapter 6.2 of the proposed MP the USACE would evaluate and consider all future utility requests as long they meet those conditions mentioned.

4.3.2 Water Resources

A major impact would occur if any action were inconsistent with adopted surface water classifications or water use plans, or if an action would substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. Town Bluff Project was developed for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation purposes. The reclassifications and resource objectives required to revise the 2003 Supplement are compatible with water use plans and surface water classification; further, they were developed to help fulfill regional goals that are aligned with good stewardship of water resources that would allow for continued use of them that are associated with Town Bluff Project. Therefore, cumulative impacts on water resources within the area surrounding Town Bluff Project, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.3 Climate Change and GHG

Under the Proposed Action, current Town Bluff Project management plans and monitoring programs would not be changed. In the event GHG emission issues become significant enough to impact the current operations at Town Bluff Project, the proposed MP and all associated documents would be reviewed and revised as necessary. Therefore, implementation of the proposed MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would result in negligible reasonably foreseeable future impacts on climate, climate change or GHG.

4.3.4 Air Quality

A major highway project is scheduled near the zone of interest for Town Bluff Project that could adversely affect air quality within the region, however state and federal laws and regulations require the implementation of best management practices to reduce emission impacts. Vehicle traffic along park and area roadways and routine daily activities in nearby communities also contribute to current and future emission sources.

The Proposed Action would not adversely impact air quality within the area. Vehicle traffic along park and area roadways and routine daily activities in nearby communities contribute to current and future emission sources; however, the impacts associated with the reclassification of lands at Town Bluff Project under the Proposed Action would be negligible. Seasonal prescribed burning could occur on Town Bluff Project to help maintain the various prairies found throughout the fee boundary, but would have negligible, negative impacts on air quality through elevated ground-level O₃ and particulate matter concentrations; however, these seasonal burns would be scheduled so that impacts are minimized. Implementation of the proposed MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, could result in minor adverse and beneficial cumulative impacts on air quality.

4.3.5 Topography, Geology, and Soils

A major impact could occur if a proposed future action exacerbates or promotes long-term erosion, if the soils are inappropriate for the proposed construction and would create a risk to life or property, or if there would be a substantial reduction in agricultural production or loss of Prime Farmland soils. Cumulative impacts on topography, geology, and soils within the area surrounding Town Bluff Project, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.6 Natural Resources

The significance threshold for natural resources would include a substantial reduction in ecological processes, communities, or populations that would threaten the long-term viability of a species or result in the substantial loss of a sensitive community that could not be offset or otherwise compensated. Past, present, and future projects are not anticipated to impact the viability of any plant species or community, rare or sensitive habitats, or wildlife. The establishment of ESA, MRML-VM, and maintaining MRML-WM areas, as well as resource objectives that favor protection and restoration of valuable natural resources would have beneficial cumulative impacts. No identified projects would threaten the viability of natural resources. Therefore, there would be minor long-term beneficial impacts to natural resources resulting from the revision of the proposed MP when combined with past and proposed actions in the area.

4.3.7 Invasive Species

The USACE would continue to monitor for zebra mussels eradication programs, and take all practicable measures to prevent it from becoming a nuisance to Town Bluff Project. And the USACE would continue its current eradication program for giant and common salvania, alligator weed, and water hyacinth. In addition, the USACE would implement any new means and methods for the control of these species should any funding arrive.

The land reclassifications required to revise the 2003 Supplement are compatible with Town Bluff Project invasive species management practices. Therefore, there would be

minor long-term beneficial impacts on reducing and preventing invasive species within the area surrounding Town Bluff Project.

4.3.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives would not adversely impact threatened, endangered and Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) species within the area. Should federally listed species change in the future (e.g., delisting of the American burying beetle or other species or listing of new species), associated requirements will be reflected in revised land management practices in coordination with the USFWS. The USACE will continue cooperation with the USFWS and TPWD to preserve, enhance, and protect valuable wildlife habitat resources.

No reasonably foreseeable future impacts on federal and state listed threatened and endangered species are anticipated.

4.3.9 Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources

The Proposed Action would not affect cultural resources or historic properties, as the master plan revision does not involve any ground disturbing activities. However, ESA and Wildlife Management lands provide additional protection against ground disturbances. Therefore, this action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would not result in major cumulative impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.

4.3.10 Recreation

Town Bluff Project provides regionally significant outdoor recreation benefits including a variety of recreation amenities and opportunities. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation would decrease as a result of implementing the proposed land classification changes, recreational opportunities would not change nor on current and projected public use patterns. The reason why there will not be any impact recreation at Town Bluff Project is because these land class changes reflect changes in land management and historic recreation use patterns that have occurred since 2003 at Town Bluff Project. Therefore, the Proposed Action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, would result in negligible beneficial cumulative impacts on area recreational resources.

4.3.11 Aesthetic Resources

No negative impacts on visual resources would occur as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the proposed MP. The Proposed Action, especially the classification of ESAs, in conjunction with other projects in the region, would result in negligible beneficial cumulative effects on the aesthetic resources in the Town Bluff Project area.

4.3.12 Health and Safety

No health or safety risks would be created by the Proposed Action. The effects of implementing the proposed MP, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Town Bluff Project area, would not be considered a major cumulative effect.

SECTION 5: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

This EA has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and has been prepared in accordance with the CEQ's implementing regulations for NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508, and the USACE ER 200-2-2, *Environmental Quality: Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. The revision of the proposed MP is consistent with the USACE's Environmental Operating Principles. The following is a list of applicable environmental laws and regulations that were considered in the planning of this project and the status of compliance with each:

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended – The USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the proposed MP revision process, as well as identify reclassification proposals, and identify significant issues related to the Proposed Action. Information provided by USFWS and TPWD on fish and wildlife resources has been utilized in the development of the proposed MP.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended – Current lists of threatened or endangered species were compiled for the proposed MP. USACE has determined that there would be No Effect on any federally-listed species with implementation of either alternative.

Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Bird Habitat Protection) – Sections 3a and 3e of EO 13186 direct Federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of their actions on migratory birds, with emphasis on species of concern, and inform the USFWS of potential negative impacts on migratory birds. The 2003 Supplement revision would not result in adverse impacts on migratory birds or their habitat. Beneficial impacts could occur through protection of habitat as a result of the proposed MP revision.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended – The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 extends Federal protection to migratory bird species. The nonregulated “take” of migratory birds is prohibited under this act in a manner similar to the prohibition of “take” of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The timing of resource management activities would be coordinated to avoid impacts on migratory and nesting birds.

CWA of 1977, as amended – The Proposed Action would comply with all state and Federal CWA regulations and requirements and is regularly monitored by the USACE and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for water quality. A state water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is not required for the proposed MP. There would be no change in the existing management of the reservoir that would impact water quality nor would there be any construction activity nor release of pollutant and sediment released into navigable body of water associated with the Proposed Action.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended – Compliance with the NHPA of 1966, as amended, requires identification of all properties in the project area listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP. All previous surveys and site salvages were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. Known sites are mapped and avoided by maintenance activities. Areas that have not undergone cultural resources surveys or

evaluations would need to do so prior to any earthmoving or other potentially impacting activities.

Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended – The USEPA established nationwide air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. Existing operation and management of the reservoir is compliant with the Clean Air Act and would not change with the proposed MP revision.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1980 and 1995 – The FPPA’s purpose is to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. There are Prime Farmland and farmland of state importance on Town Bluff Project lands, but these would not be impacted.

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, as amended – EO 11990 requires Federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in executing Federal projects. The Proposed Action complies with EO 11990.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, as amended – This EO directs Federal agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed actions in floodplains. Both alternatives comply with EO 11988, as neither would have impacts to the existing floodplain at Town Bluff Project.

CEQ Memorandum dated August 11, 1980, Prime or Unique Farmlands – Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. The Proposed Action would not impact Prime Farmland present on Town Bluff Project lands.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice – This EO directs Federal agencies to achieve environmental justice to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review. Agencies are required to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The revisions in the proposed MP would not result in a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income population groups.

SECTION 6: IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

NEPA requires that Federal agencies identify “any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which will be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented” (42 U.S.C. § 4332). An irreversible commitment of resources occurs when the primary or secondary impacts of an action result in the loss of future options for a resource. Usually, this is when the action affects the use of a nonrenewable resource, or it affects a renewable resource that takes a long time to regenerate. The impacts for this project from the reclassification of land would not be considered an irreversible commitment because subsequent MP revisions could result in some lands being reclassified to a prior, similar land classification. An irretrievable commitment of resources is typically associated

with the loss of productivity or use of a natural resource (e.g., loss of production or harvest). No irreversible or irretrievable impacts on Federally protected species or their habitat is anticipated from implementing the proposed revisions to the 2003 Supplement.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

In accordance with 40 CFR §1501.7, 1503, and 1506.6, the USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the revision of the 2003 Supplement, as well as identifying reclassification proposals and significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The USACE began its public involvement process with a public scoping meeting to provide an avenue for public and agency stakeholders to ask questions and provide comments. This public scoping meeting was held on September 15, 2022 in the 1st floor meeting room of the Jasper County Annex -271 East Lamar, Jasper, Texas 75951.

A second public meeting will be held on August 29, 2023, at the Jasper County Annex 1st Floor Meeting Room, 271 East Lamar, Jasper, Texas 75951 from 4-6pm. This meeting will introduce the public to the draft MP and EA and will begin the 30-day public review period of the MP, EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). As with the first public meeting, USACE, Fort Worth District, placed advertisements on the USACE webpage, and various social media sites sponsored by adjacent cities. In addition, news releases will be sent to area newspapers.

Comments received during the initial scoping period and on the draft MP and EA will be incorporated in the documents, and as appropriate in the proposed MP.

Attachment A to this EA includes the ads published in the local newspaper, the agency coordination letters, and the distribution list for the coordination letters published as of the time of this draft publication. The draft EA has been coordinated with agencies having legislative and administrative responsibilities for environmental protection.

SECTION 8: REFERENCES

- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). 2005. Executive Office of the President. *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022A) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Explore the Map. Retrieved from <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/>
- EPA (2022B) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Methodology. Retrieved from <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/methodology>
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1988. *Engineering Regulation 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. Washington, DC.
- USACE. 2013. Zebra Mussel Resource Document – Trinity River Basin, Texas. https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/portals/47/docs/environmental/water/zebra_mussel_resource_document_final.pdf.
- USACE. 2016. Town Bluff Dam and B.A Steinhagen Lake. Neches River. Neches River Basin, Texas. Water Control Manual. Appendix A. Master Reservoir Regulation Manual.
- USACE. 2023. Town Bluff and B.A Steinhagen Lake Master Plan, Neches River Basin, Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas. USACE, Fort Worth District.
- USFWS. 2023. IPAC: Information, Planning, and Consultation System, Environmental Conservation Online System. Official Species List. Project Code: 2022-0081224. Created on July 25, 2023. <https://ecos.fws.gov>.

SECTION 9: ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
°	Degrees
§	Section
'	Feet
ac-ft	acre-feet
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
BMP	Best Management Practice
BP	Before Present
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO ₂ e	CO ₂ -equivalent
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
ERS	Environmental Radiation Surveillance
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
F	Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
gpm	gallons per minute
HDR	High Density Recreation
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Wastes
IFR	Inactive/Future Recreation
IPAC	Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS)
LDR	Low Density Recreation
MP	Master Plan
MRML	Multiple Resource Management Lands
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRRS	National Recreation Reservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS)
O ₃	Ozone
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Pb	Lead
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls

PCPI	Per Capita Personal Incomes
PL	Public Law
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns
PO	Project Operations
RM	River Mile
ROD	Record of Decision
RPEC	Regional Planning and Environmental Center
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SUPER	USACE Suite of Computer Programs
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TCLP	Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TXNDD	Texas Natural Diversity Database
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	U.S. Global Change Research Group
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WHAP	Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedures
WM	Wildlife Management
VM	Vegetation Management
ZOI	Zone of Interest

SECTION 10: LIST OF PREPARERS

Paul E. Roberts - Biologist, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Fort Worth District- 8 years of USACE experience.

ATTACHMENT A: NEPA COORDINATION AND PUBLIC SCOPING

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

September 06, 2022

Public Notice

TOWN BLUFF AND B.A. STEINHAGEN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION OPEN HOUSE

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is revising the Town Bluff, B.A. Steinhagen Lake (formerly and still commonly known simply as "Dam B") Master Plan (MP). The USACE defines the MP as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. It defines "how" the resources for public use and resource conservation will be managed. The current MP, last approved in 1971 and supplemented in 2003, needs revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and the USACE management policy.

Key topics to be discussed in the revised master plan include land use classification changes, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special issues such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat. Revision of the MP will not detail the technical and operational aspects of the lake related to flood risk management, the water conservation missions of the project, or the shoreline management program, which specifies permitted private uses along the shoreline. The MP study area will include Town Bluff, B.A. Steinhagen Lake proper and all adjacent recreational and natural resources under federal control.

An open house will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on September 15, 2022, in the 1st-floor meeting room of the Jasper County Annex – 271 East Lamar, Jasper, Texas 75951. The open house will provide attendees with information regarding the revision content and process, and a general schedule. Attendees will be able to view current land use classification maps and ask USACE staff questions.

A 30-day public comment period will begin September 15, 2022, and end October 15, 2022. The public can send comments, suggestions, and concerns during this time. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the MP. Information provided at the open house, including the current MP, may be viewed on the USACE website at the following link beginning September 15, 2022.

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Town-Bluff/>

Comments can be submitted in writing at the scheduled open house, mailed to the USACE, Lake Manager, 5171 FM 92 South Woodville, Texas 75979, or emailed to:
TBPO@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,
SHINGLETON.KENNETH.LEE.11
21927353

Digitally signed by
SHINGLETON.KENNETH.LEE.1121927353
Date: 2022.09.06 08:23:09 -05'00'

Kenneth Shingleton
Chief, Cultural and Environmental Program Support
Section
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

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Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan Revision



General Information

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is revising the Master Plan for Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake, formerly known as Dam B. The Master Plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreational management plan with a life span of 25 years. It guides the stewardship of natural and cultural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to ensure sustainability of federal land associated with Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake.

Public Meeting for Public and Agency Input

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is hosting a public meeting to provide information and receive public input to begin the process of revising the Master Plan for Town Bluff Dam/Steinhagen Lake. No changes to the Master Plan have been proposed at this time, and the public meeting will initiate a 30-day comment period to review the existing Master Plan and provide comments. The public meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on September 15, 2022 at Jasper County Annex 1st Floor Meeting Room, 271 East Lamar, Jasper, TX 75951. **The existing Master Plan documents and map are available to download at the bottom of the page as well as a comment form with instructions on how to send comments.**

About Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake

The project was originally named Dam B, but was later changed to Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake in 1967. Town Bluff Dam is located after the convergence of the Neches and Angelina Rivers in northwestern Jasper County, Texas. Town Bluff Dam/B.A. Steinhagen Lake is a multi-purpose project to re-regulate the intermittent power releases of Sam Rayburn Dam, provide head for hydroelectric power and diversion into a water supply canal, and provide some water storage. In addition to these primary missions, USACE has an inherent mission of environmental stewardship of project lands and works closely with neighboring cities to provide regionally important outdoor recreation opportunities. The Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, markets the power and energy generated by the hydropower plant to the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency for distribution to its customers in Jasper, Liberty, and Livingston Texas and Vinton, Louisiana. Water releases are utilized by the Lower Neches Valley Authority in Beaumont, Texas, for rice culture, salinity control, pollution abatement, municipal and industrial uses. Construction on the dam was started in 1947 and was completed in 1953. At the Normal pool elevation of 83.0 feet NGVD, the lake surface covers 13,700 acres. B.A. Steinhagen Lake is home to the following parks and recreation areas: Sandy Creek Park, Magnolia Ridge Park, Bluff View Park, Campers Cove Park, East End Park and Martin Dies, Jr. State Park.

What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply or flood risk management missions of the project.

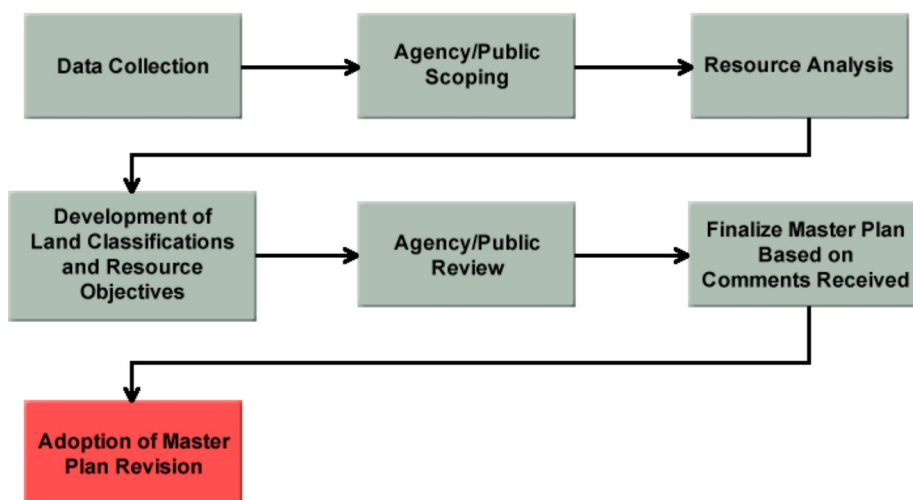
Why Revise the Town Bluff Dam/B. A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan?

The initial Master Plan for Town Bluff Dam was published in 1971, with a supplement published in 2003. Since then, many changes have taken place including major utility and highway construction, urbanization, and evolving recreational uses. The Plan and the land classifications are in need of



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website
successful revision of the Master Plan.

The Master Planning Process



Comments may be submitted in person at the meeting, delivered to the project office, online by filling out the Comment Form below and clicking the link provided on the comment form, by mailing the comments to the address below, or via email at the email address provided. Only written comments will be accepted. **The comment period begins September 16, 2022 and ends October 16, 2022.** Comments and questions pertaining to the Master Plan revision can be addressed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Lake Manager, Town Bluff Lake Office
5171 FM 92 South
Woodville, Texas 75979

Email: TBPO@usace.army.mil

Related Files

- [Public Meeting Presentation](#) (3.77 MB)
- [Comment Form with Instructions](#) (634 KB)
- [Public Notice](#) (134 KB)
- [1971 Master Plan](#) (17.4 MB)
- [2003 Master Plan Supplement](#) (2.87 MB)
- [News Release](#)

Our Mission

Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.

About the Fort Worth District Website

The official public website of the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For website corrections, write to public.affairs@usace.army.mil



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- [2012 \(43\)](#)
- [2011 \(3\)](#)
- [2010 \(1\)](#)

USACE to host in-person public scoping meeting for the Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan revision

FORT WORTH DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Published Sept. 8, 2022

[PRINT](#) | [E-MAIL](#)*FORT WORTH*, Texas – The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public scoping meeting at6 p.m., September 15, at [Jasper County Annex, 271 East Lamar, Jasper, Texas 75951](#) to provide information and receive public input on the Draft Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan and Environmental Assessment revision.

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m. followed by an open house for the public to view the current land use maps, ask questions, and provide comments about the project. If unable to attend the in-person meeting, documents will be available for comment beginning September 14 at

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Town-Bluff/>

Documents posted for online public review include:

- 1971 Master Plan for Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake
- Comment Form
- Downloadable Presentation

USACE defines the Master Plan as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.

The Master Plan study area includes Town Bluff Project proper and all adjacent recreational and natural resource properties under USACE administration. Town Bluff Project is a multi-purpose reservoir constructed and managed for flood risk management, water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreation. The current Master Plan for Town Bluff Project is dated 1971. The revision is needed to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy.

Key topics addressed in the Master Plan include updated land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as utility corridors and public hunting. The Master Plan **does not** address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply, flood risk management, or shoreline management permitting missions of the project.

Comments may be submitted online by filling out the Comment Form and clicking on the link provided on the comment form or mailing comments to the address below. Only written comments will be accepted. The comment period begins September 16 and ends October 16, 2022.

Questions pertaining to the Master Plan or public meeting can be addressed to:



US Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Website

or sent via email to TBPO@usace.army.mil.

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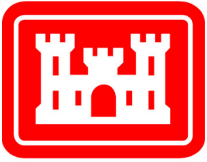
Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and social media at: <https://about.me/usacefortworth>

Contact

Clay Church
817-886-1314
Clayton.A.Church@usace.army.mil
819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth Texas, 76102

Release no. 22-025

[Town Bluff Dam](#) [B.A. Steinhagen Lake](#) [Master Plan Revision](#)



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Comment Form Instructions

Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan Revision

*30 Day Comment Period
September 16 through October 16, 2022*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of revising the Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan. The master plan revision will guide the land and recreational management of the federally owned property that make up the its flood storage area for the next 25 years. Management activities include protecting natural and cultural resources, providing public land and water recreation, protecting the public, and ensuring reservoir and dam operations. Pertinent information and a copy of the current land use map can be found on the USACE website below.

To add your comments, ideas, or concerns about the future land and recreational management for the master plan, please submit comments using any of the following methods:

- Fill out and return a comment form available below or at:
<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Town-Bluff/>
- Provide comments in an email message or use comment form and send to:
TBPO@usace.army.mil
- Provide comments in a letter or use comment form and mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Floyd Boyett, Lake Manager
Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake
5171 FM 92 South, Woodville, Texas 75979
(409) 429-3491
TBPO@usace.army.mil

Thank you for your participation in helping develop the Master Plan for Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake.



Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan Presentation

TOWN BLUFF DAM AND B.A. STEINHAGEN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION:

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PRESENTATION



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District



MISSION / PEOPLE / TEAMWORK



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Hello, my name is **Floyd Boyett**, and am the Lake Manager at **Town Bluff Lake**. On behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers, we would like to welcome you to the Public Involvement Presentation for the master plan revision at **Town Bluff Lake**. Public and stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of the master plan revision. Thank you for taking the time to attend this meeting.

15 September 2022

Purpose of Presentation

- Inform the public and stakeholders that a master plan revision has started
- **Define** a master plan
- **Describe** the master plan **revision process**
- **Provide instructions** on how to participate in the revision process
- **Encourage** participation
- **Provide links** to documents

The Corps defines a Master Plan as...

“The strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.”

Source: Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 available at
www.usace.army.mil/library/publications



The purpose of this presentation is to inform the public and stakeholders that a master plan revision has started at **Town Bluff Lake**. This presentation will define a master plan, describe the master plan revision process, provide instructions on how to participate in the process, and encourage participation. It will also provide links to documents and details about how to contact the Corps to ask questions.

The information provided through public and stakeholder comments is essential to the decision-making process of how project lands and water surfaces will be classified and managed. The Corps wants your ideas and comments. After watching this presentation, review the other material on the project website and send in comments and participate in planning the future of **Town Bluff Lake**.

Presentation Topics

What is a master plan?

Why do a revision?

What is the revision process?

What is not part of a master plan?

What is changing in the plan?

How can I participate?

Who can I talk to about the plan?

When will the master plan be done?



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Topics to be covered in this presentation are summed up under these 8 questions that are often asked in a public meeting or workshop:

- What is a Master Plan?
- Why do a revision?
- What is the revision process?
- What is not part of a Master Plan?
- What is changing in the Plan?
- How can I participate?
- Who can I talk to about the plan?
- When will the Master Plan be done?

Under each of these 8 topics, this presentation will provide details to help you better understand the master plan project and your role in the process.

What is a master plan?

- The master plan is a **25 year comprehensive land use management guide** for recreational, natural, and cultural resources
- **Adheres to Federal laws** to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop project lands, waters, and associated resources, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation
- Provides **land classifications** and **resource management objectives** that are broad and adaptive over time
- Requires and encourages **public involvement**



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You might be wondering, what is a master plan?

The master plan is the document that will guide the land use and management of the project for the next 25 years, while adhering to all applicable Federal laws including the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The focus of the plan is the designation of land classifications with corresponding management plans, as well as establishing resource management objectives.

The key to a successful master plan is public involvement.

Participation, in the form of providing written comments, is how you can help.

Why do a revision?

- The current master plan is **out of date** and is **no longer compliant** with new regulations
- **Substantial changes in** environmental, cultural, social, and recreational **conditions have occurred** since the current master plan was approved
- **Re-examine land classification** due to these substantial changes
- The master plan **provides long-term goals** and **consistent management objectives** to guide balanced management of resources and public recreation



Why is the Corps doing a revision to the master plan at this time?

The Corps is undergoing master plan revisions at many of their projects nationwide as existing plans are no long compliant with current regulations. Many projects have also been influenced by changes in the surrounding environment, either by increased urbanization and growth, or changes in rural patterns of land use. As change is ever constant, an update to the plan is needed to capture how the project land classifications meet the current and future projected uses. Not only does land use change, but also management resources in terms of personnel over time, the master plan provides stability, with long-term goals, and a consistent management strategy, for project resources.

What is the revision process?

The process is a cover-to-cover **review and revision of the entire plan** and is accomplished by:

- **A team of Corps employees** including Operations, Real Estate, Master Planning, and Environmental Compliance subject matter experts
- **Receive input from** and **collaboration with** partners, neighbors, stakeholders, elected officials, resource agencies, and the public
- A thorough review and update of **land and water surface classifications**
- Developing appropriate **NEPA compliance** documents



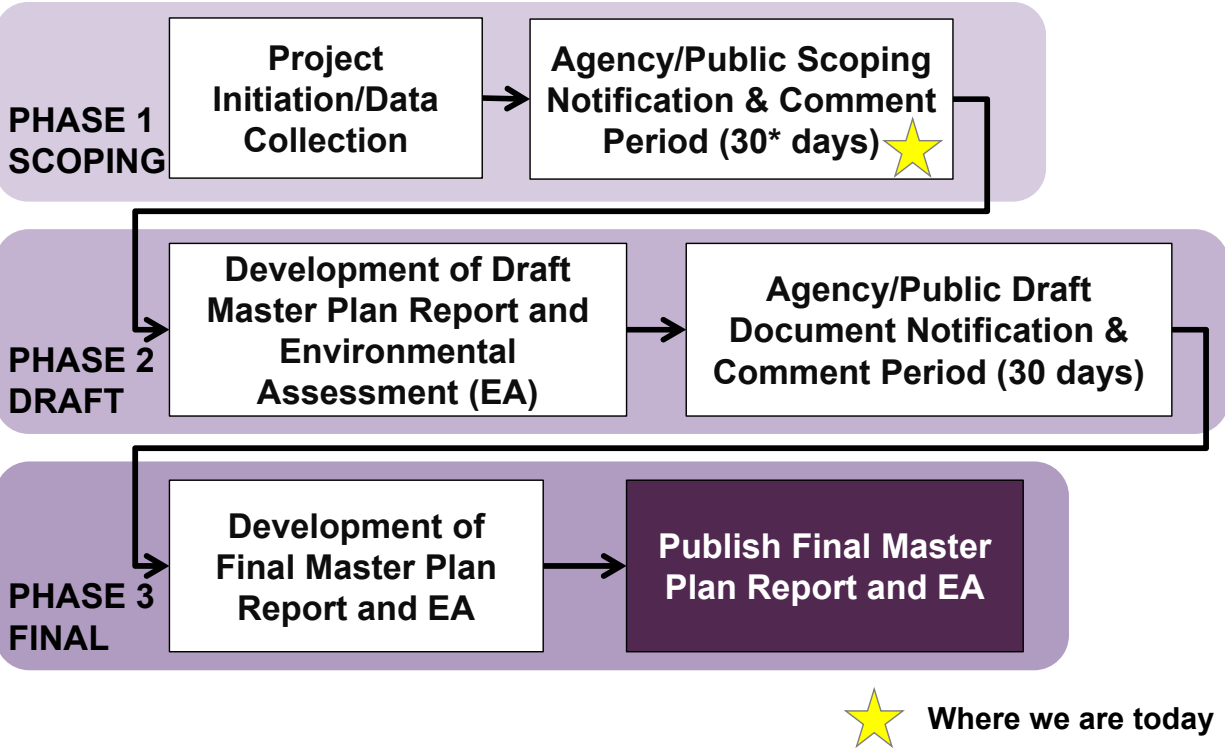
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The revision process includes a cover-to-cover review and update of the entire plan. The revision involves input from the public and stakeholders, but is compiled and completed by a team of Corps employees from a wide array of disciplines. Operations, Real Estate, Master Planning and Environmental Compliance are a few of the subjects where expertise is needed. The revision process will review all of the land and water surface classifications and recommend changes as appropriate. The revision process is a federal action that requires compliance with NEPA, and the appropriate documentation will be a part of the plan.

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What is the revision process?



The revision process includes 3 phases: (scoping, draft and final)

- The scoping phase is when the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses. This is the phase we are currently in, as noted by the yellow star on the chart.
- The draft phase is when the Corps asks for public comments on the proposed recommendations in the draft master plan document.
- The final phase is when the Corps incorporates public comments from the draft review into a final master plan document.
- The plan is published after formal approval by the District Commander.

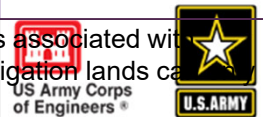
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What is the revision process?

Land Classifications

Source: Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Lands required for the dam, spillway, levees, office, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and campground areas for commercial concessions, and quasi-public development.
Multiple Resource Management Lands	Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g., trails, primitive camping, wildlife observation, fishing and hunting).
	Wildlife Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
	Vegetative Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.
Mitigation	Lands acquired or designated specifically for offsetting losses associated with development of the project. Lands allocated as separable mitigation lands can be given this classification.



The Corps defines land classification as the primary use for which project lands are managed. All Federally owned lands are zoned for development and resource management consistent with project purposes.

Utilizing the current Federal guidance, the land classifications are defined as shown in this table.

The Project Operations classification is used solely for lands dedicated for the operation of the project, including the dam, spillway, levees, project office, and other operational features.

The classification High Density Recreation is assigned to lands that are being used for intensive recreational activities, including day use and campground areas.

The Multiple Resource Management Lands allows for the designation of a predominate use and are subdivided into 4 classifications. All 4 classifications essentially allow for similar activities to occur, but are managed with a particular emphasis, including low density recreation, wildlife management, vegetative management, and inactive or future recreation areas.

The protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas is given priority, and are for lands with unique scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features. Examples include endangered species habitat, scenic shorelines, and rare and unique plant communities to mention a few.

The Mitigation classification is reserved for lands acquired or designated for offsetting losses associated with the development of the project.

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What is the revision process?

Water Surface Classifications

Source: Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550

Water Surface Classification	Definition
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.
Restricted	Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.
Designated No-Wake	To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety.
Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary	Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.



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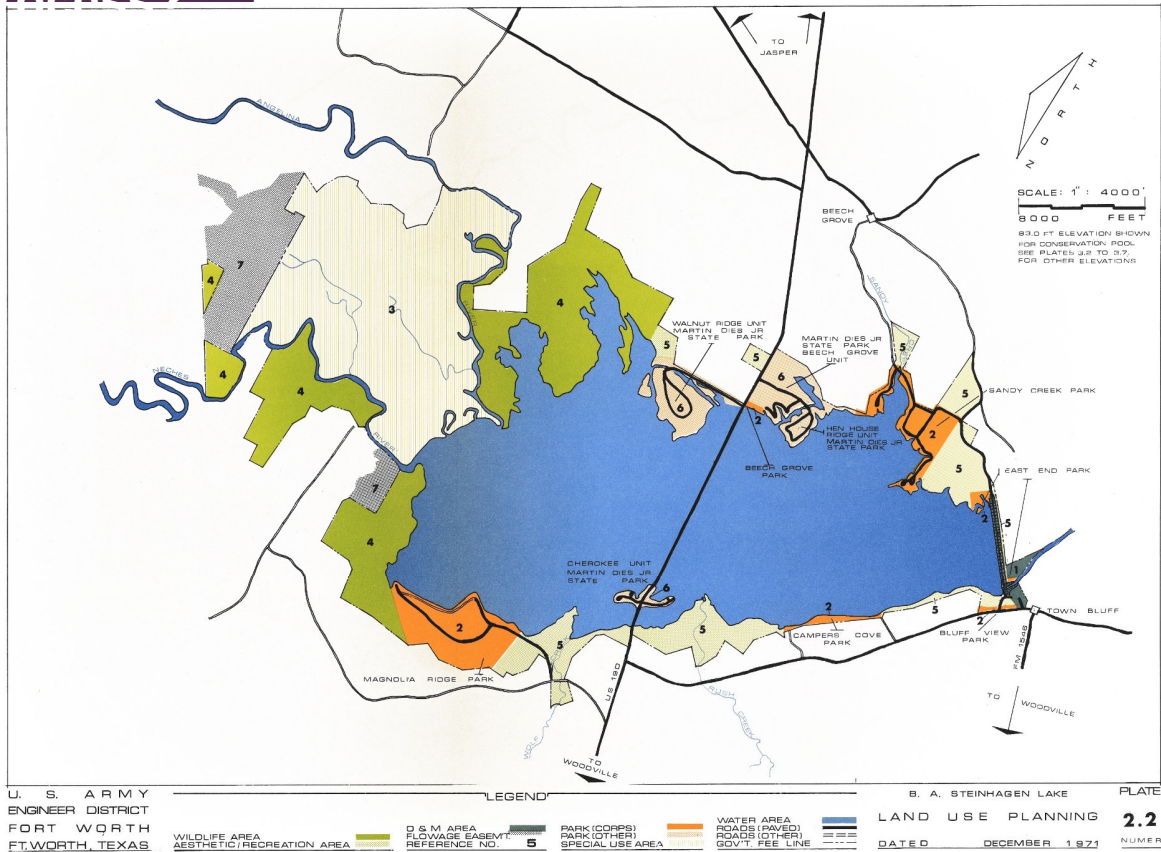
Water surface classifications are defined much like land classifications in that they reflect how the water surface is to be managed.

The water surface will be reviewed and classified using 4 classifications. The dominate classification is typically open recreation which allows year-round use of the water surface. The other 3 classifications place restrictions on the water surface based on safety, access, shoreline protection, and wildlife needs. Restricted water surfaces do not allow access due to safety and security purposes. No-wake water surfaces limit vessel speeds to protect shorelines from wake damage and are used near marina and boat ramps for public safety. Fish and wildlife sanctuary water surfaces can be employed on an annual or seasonal basis to restrict access to protect fish and wildlife species.

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What is the revision process?

Land Use Map from 1971 Master Plan

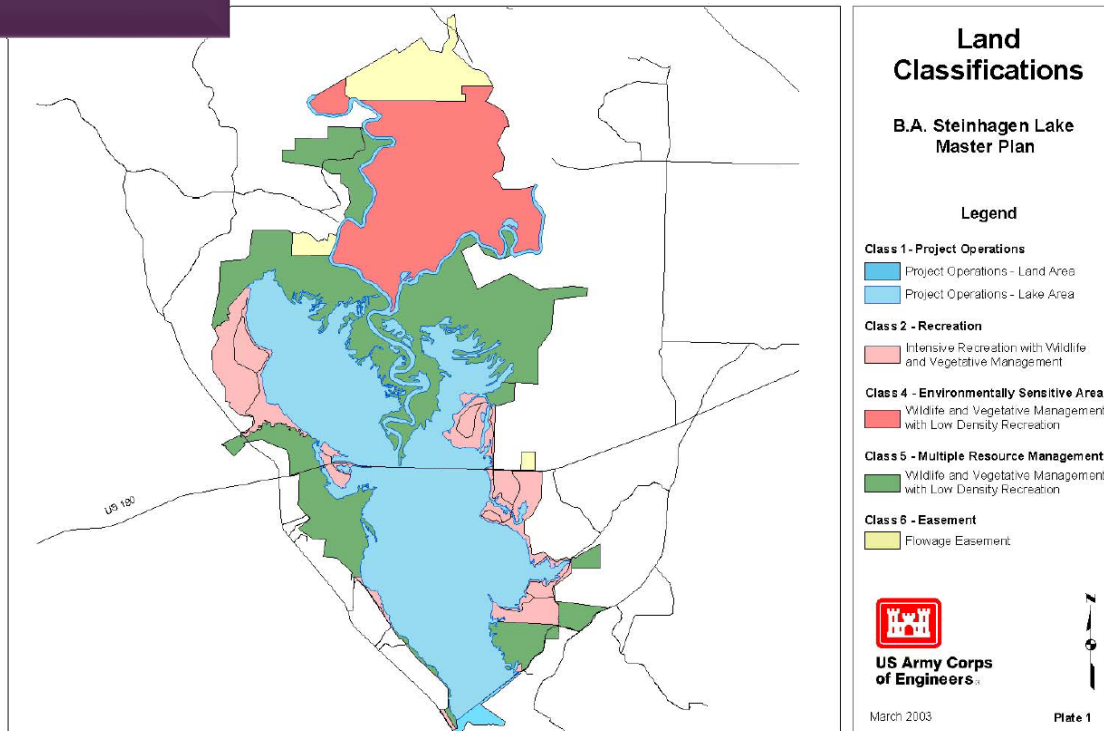


This is the original land use planning map from the 1971 Master Plan available to download on the informational website.

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What is the revision process?

Land Classification Map from 2003 Supplement



This is the updated land use planning map from the 2003 Master Plan Supplement which has been digitized and printed in the maps at this meeting and is also available to download on the informational website.

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What is the revision process?

NEPA Compliance

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Purpose of NEPA is to:

- Ensure federal agencies give proper **consideration to the environment** prior to undertaking a federal action
- **Involve the Public** (scoping) in the decision-making process
- **Document the process** by which agencies make informed decisions

NEPA Scoping Process:

- Opportunity for **public comments and questions** on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions
- Includes comments from other federal, state, and local governments, and Tribal Nations



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NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act.

Compliance with NEPA is required during the master plan revision process. NEPA is required so that federal agencies give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking a federal action. Scoping during NEPA involves the public in the decision-making process, while documenting the process by which federal agencies make informed decision.

The NEPA process provides the public with the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions. It also includes comments from other federal, state and local governments, and Tribal Nations.

What is not part of a master plan?

- Facility **design details**
- Details of **daily project administration**
- Technical aspects of:
 - Water management for **flood risk management**
 - Regional **water quality**
 - **Water supply**
 - **Shoreline management**
 - **Water level management**
 - **Hydropower**
 - **Navigation**



There are topics of public interest that will not be part of the master plan. The master plan does not include facility designs, daily project administration details, or any technical discussion regarding flood risk management, water quality, water supply, shoreline management, water level management, hydropower, or navigation.

What is changing in the plan?

At this point in the revision process **there are no proposed changes**

The Corps is **requesting written comments for RECOMMENDED changes** to the existing master plan

Possible Changes to the Revised Mater Plan Could Include:

- Change Land and Water Classification
- Change Resource Goals and Objectives
- Create Utility Corridors



The master plan will be changing from the current master plan.

However, at this point in the Scoping Phase of the process, nothing has been proposed to change. Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens, and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses. The purpose of this public involvement presentation is to inform the Public that the master plan revision has started and collect suggestions and written comment for possible changes to the master plan. Possible changes could include land and water classifications, resource goals and objectives, the creation of utility corridors, and the inclusion of the mitigation area into the main body of the master plan document.

How can I participate?



Submit written comments!

Review all documents available on the USACE website:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Town-Bluff/>

Documents available on the website include:

- Master Plan documents
- Project maps
- Comment form
- Presentation

Spread the word by telling your colleagues, friends and neighbors to participate



You can participate in the process by reviewing the documents available on the website and submit written comments. The Corps will only accept comments in written format. The project website is hosting all the documents relevant to the master plan revision, including the current master plan documents, project maps, comment forms with instructions on how to submit a comment, and copies of this presentation for your review. As the project progresses, and new information is developed, it will be posted to this project website, so you may want to bookmark the site for future reference.

We are asking for your help to spread the word to others, letting them know the master plan revision has been initiated, and this is the opportunity to participate in the process.

How can I participate?

Comments will be accepted only **in writing**, some of the methods for submitting a comment include:

- You may **download the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out electronically, and email it to the Corps using the submit button on the comment form
- Or you may **print the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out by hand, and mail it to the Corps at the address on the comment form
- Or you may **write a comment or send an email** without using the comment form, and mail or email it to the Corps at the address provided on the website
- Comments are due by close of business on **October 16, 2022**



The Corps can accept any form of written comments and we have provided a few methods that may make it easier to submit.

A comment form has been prepared and is available on the website which you can download and fill out electronically. Hit the submit button on the form, and it will autofill the email address, and you can send it in.

Another method is to print the comment form provided on the website and fill it out by hand, or electronically, and mail it into the Corps.

Or you can write a comment in a letter, or email, and send it in. You don't have to use the comment form.

We will except all of these methods, and any other, as long as it's a written comment.

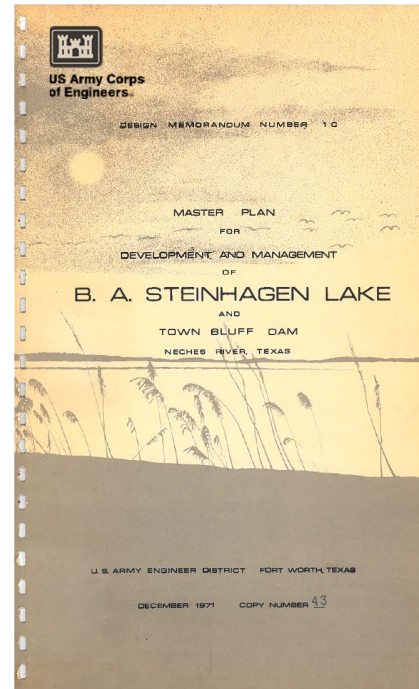
The comment period is open for 30 calendar days from the initial announcement.

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Who can I talk to about the plan?

Talk to anyone from the USACE at the meeting to answer your questions.

- Call the Lake Office at:
(409) 429-3491
- Visit the Lake Office at:
5171 FM 92 South
Woodville, Texas 75979
- Email us your questions at:
TBPO@usace.army.mil



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If you have questions regarding the master plan, please call or email the following Corps project office or district staff.

You can also send questions to the Email address setup for this project as listed on this slide.

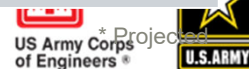
If you need to review a printed copy of the information, please contact the lake office to make your request.

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When will the master plan be done?

- The master plan will take **18-24 months** to complete
- Projected milestones/schedule

Milestones	Schedule
Public Notification for Scoping	15 September 2022
Public Comment Period (30 days)	16 Sep – 16 Oct 2022
Draft Master Plan/EA Public Notification	September 2023*
Public Comment Period (30 days)	October 2023*
Final Master Plan/EAApproved	April 2024*



The master plan will take 18-24 months to complete.

Public notification for scoping initiated on September 15, 2022. The 30-day comment period when written comment are accepted will remain open until October 16, 2022.

The draft document is scheduled to be available for public review by September 2023 followed by a public comment period.

The final approved master plan and EA is scheduled for April 2024.

Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake Master Plan Presentation

Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the master plan revision process at Town Bluff Lake.



Website address:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Town-Bluff/>

Email:

TBPO@usace.army.mil

Mail:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Town Bluff Project Office,
Attn: Lake Manager
5171 FM 92 South
Woodville, Texas 75979



Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the master plan revision process
Town Bluff Lake.

Project documents are available at this website.

Please send your comments to the Email address, or **Town Bluff** Project Office Address listed here.

Thank you.