



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers Completes Environmental Assessment of Mowing, Underbrushing, and Access Path Activities at Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, announced today it has completed the Programmatic Environmental Assessment of mowing, underbrushing, and access path activities at Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes. Col. John R. Minahan, District Engineer, signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on May 25.

The signing of the FONSI culminates an 18-month process to complete the PEA, which is titled “Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Allowable Adjacent Landowner Activities Incorporating Ecosystem Management Practices on Federal Lands at Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes, Texas.” The PEA and FONSI are available on the Fort Worth District website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>.

The preparation of the PEA was a subject of high interest to hundreds of adjacent landowners around the lakes and to environmental and recreation organizations, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Corps contracted with the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of North Texas to assist in preparation of the PEA.

The PEA examined seven alternative management scenarios ranging from a restrictive, mow-nothing alternative, to a permissive, mow-everything alternative. After considering the results of substantial input from the public and natural resource agencies, along with intense analysis of wildlife habitat at the two lakes, the Corps adopted a preferred alternative that seeks to balance the activities of private landowners with protection of natural resources for general public use of Federal land.

The preferred alternative establishes a set of guidelines that will allow landowners living next to lands classified for wildlife management to apply for a permit to mow and underbrush a 25-foot zone at Grapevine Lake and a 50-foot zone at Lewisville Lake, which is what the current, long-standing, guidelines allow.

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Additionally, the preferred alternative established areas referred to as Narrow Shoreline Variance Areas. These are segments of shoreline that are too narrow to support viable wildlife habitat. Landowners living adjacent to the designated NSVA can apply for a permit to mow and remove underbrush from the Federal property boundary to the water's edge at the normal conservation pool elevation. Sixteen NSVA were designated at Lewisville Lake and none were established at Grapevine Lake. Landowners who are permitted to mow in the NSVA will be required to mitigate for environmental losses by paying a fee or performing volunteer services in a wildlife management area. Revenues generated from the fees will be used for habitat improvements. In heavily developed areas, the USACE will require the consolidation of individual permits into group permits for mowing, underbrushing, and access paths to relieve the administrative effort for all parties

The PEA also included a set of ecosystem-based vegetation management prescriptions which the Corps will apply to the management of all designated wildlife management lands at the two lakes. The Corps will encourage cities, homeowner associations, and conservation groups to assist in the implementation of the ecosystem-based prescriptions.

Questions about the PEA and implementation of the preferred alternative may be directed to Don Wiese at 817-886-1568, or by e-mail at donald.n.wiese@swf02.usace.army.mil.

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