US Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District

News Release

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Park closures and reduced services Environmental Assessment announced

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Fort Worth District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees nearly 400 recreation sites and other activities on 25 Texas lakes. These lakes attract almost 25 million visitors per year. The District leads all Corps districts in recreation revenues ($6.39 million in Fiscal Year 2004) and ranks in the top five in visitation (23.3 million in Fiscal Year 2004). In fiscal year (FY) 05, Fort Worth District experienced a decrease in Recreation funding. Recreation expenditures in FY04 equaled $28.9 million while the FY05 Recreation work allowance equaled only $24.8 million. The resulting $4.1 million decrease in recreation funding has driven the District to look for ways to reduce expenditures while striving to provide the public with facilities that meet Corps standards.

To accommodate this decrease, Fort Worth District is investigating various changes in park operation, to include: full closure (10 areas), closure of portions of a park (6 areas), shortening of the season when some parks are open (8 areas), reduction of services (45 areas), concessionaire lease (1 area). It is anticipated that much of the visitation from proposed closures would be displaced to nearby parks that remain open. Therefore, minimal losses in revenue to the Corps or local economies should be expected.

The Corps strives to provide a quality recreation experience for the visiting public. To provide a quality experience, basic recreation resource management goals include: 1) preservation of recreational opportunities while providing for health and human safety; 2) protection of natural resources; and 3) management of Corps facilities in the most effective and cost-efficient manner. These basic goals cannot be met at all parks given the recent shortfall in operational budgets. Continued operation of all parks managed by the Fort Worth District under these budget constraints would result in reduction in work force, maintenance, sanitary services and law enforcement to the extent of jeopardizing the health and safety of park visitors.

The preferred action includes 10 park closures, 6 partial closures, 8 season reductions, 45 reductions of services and 1 lease takeover at 11 lake projects.

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Project	Facility (68 parks)	Closure	Partial Closure	Shortened Season	Reduction in services	Leasee Takeover
Aquilla	Overlook	X				
Aquilla	Aquilla Crk Access	X				
Aquilla	Hackberry Crk Access	X				
Belton	All Parks (13)				X	
Lake O' the Pines	Hurricane Park	X				
Lake O' the Pines	Cedar Springs Park	X				
Lavon	Avalon			X		
Lavon	Brockdale			X		
Lavon	Clearlake			X		
Lavon	Lakeland,			X		
Lavon	Lavonia			X		
Georgetown	All Parks (4)				X	
Sam Rayburn	Twin Dikes Park			X		
Sam Rayburn	Rayburn		X			
Sam Rayburn	Jackson Hill	X				
Sam Rayburn	Ralph McAlister		X			
Sam Rayburn	Etoile	X				
Sam Rayburn	Monterey		X		X	
Sam Rayburn	Ebenezer		X		X	
Sam Rayburn	Marion Ferry				X	
Sam Rayburn	Powell					X
Somerville	Rocky Park		X			
Somerville	Overlook Park	X				
Stillhouse Hollow	All Parks (5)				X	
Waco	All Parks (8)				X	
Whitney	Walling Bend		X			
Whitney	All Other Parks (12)				X	
Wright Patman	Intake Hill	X				
Wright Patman	Elliott Bluff	X				
Wright Patman	Oak			X		
Wright Patman	Malden Lake			X		
Total Parks		**10**	**6**	**8**	**45**	**1**

Proposed measures to reduce O&M costs at Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers Lakes in 2005.

The proposed operational changes and alternatives are being considered in an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. The draft EA may be reviewed on the USACE website at http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/ or at the lake offices of the 11 affected lakes. Signed comments to the EA should be sent to Mr. Brandon Mobley at CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300 or by fax at (817) 886-6499 on or before 15 June 2005.