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30 January 2013

Project Operations  
RECREATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES

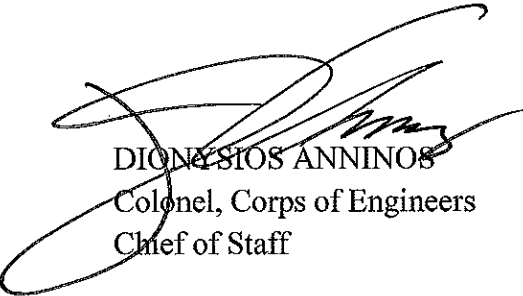
1. This Change 5 to EP 1130-2-550, Chapters 1 and 3, 15 November 1996, provides revised guidance for Project Master Plans and Operational Management Plans. This revised Chapter establishes guidelines for more efficient, time and cost savings concerning the development of master plans.

2. Substitute the attached pages as shown below:

Chapter	Remove pages	Insert Pages
Table of Contents	i through v	i through vi
Chapter 1	1-1 through 1-2	1-1 through 1-3
Chapter 3	3-1 through 3-10	3-1 through 3-16
Appendix V	New Appendix	V-1 through V-2

3. File this change sheet in front of the publications for reference purposes.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
DIONYSIOS ANNINOS  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Chief of Staff

CECW-CO

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## CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for the management of recreation programs and activities, and for the operation and maintenance of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recreation facilities and related structures, at civil works water resource projects and supplements ER1130-2-510, Recreation Operations and Maintenance Policies.

1-2. Applicability. This guidance applies to all USACE commands having responsibility for civil works functions.

1-3. References. See Appendix A.

1-4. Glossary.

a. Annual Work Plan (AWP). A description of management tasks and initiatives, complete with labor, material, and cost requirements, to be completed for use in the current fiscal year. The AWP is synonymous with the current fiscal year plan in the five-year work plan set forth in the Operational Management Plan.

b. Appropriate Scale. A subjective measure of proportion and balance as it relates to the physical size and appearance of facilities, and/or the degree and nature of public use, compared to the capacity of project lands and waters to accommodate the facilities or use safely and sustainably, and in harmony with the surrounding environment. An example of an appropriate scale issue would be the number of boat mooring slips compared to the size of available water surface and resulting impact on public use of the water surface

c. General Plan (GP). The plan is required pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (reference Appendix A, paragraph 5) for lands and waters where the fish and wildlife resources are to be developed and managed by another agency, and for authorized mitigation lands managed by the Corps. Plans will be approved jointly by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Interior, and the head of the State Fish and Wildlife agency. A GP is not necessary when operation and management of the project provides for fish and wildlife incidental to other Corps activities.

d. Interpretive Services. Communication and education processes provided to internal and external audiences, which support the accomplishment of Corps missions, tell the Corps story, and reveal the meanings of, and relationships between, natural, cultural, and created environments and their features.

e. Land Allocation. The congressionally authorized purpose for which the project lands were acquired. There are four land allocations applicable to Corps projects; (1) operations (i.e., flood control, hydropower, etc.), (2) recreation, (3) fish and wildlife, and (4) mitigation.



f. Land Classification. The primary use for which project lands are managed. See chapter 3 for a complete list of authorized land classification categories.

g. Master Plan (MP). 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 project.

h. Official Use. Use by an employee, agent or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors in the course of his employment, agency, or representation.

i. Off-road Vehicle. Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain; except that such term excludes (1) any registered motorboat, (2) any military, fire, ambulance or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergency purposes and (3) any vehicle whose use is authorized by the Commander, HQUSACE, or a properly designated representative, under a permit, lease, license or contract.

j. Operational Management Plan (OMP). The document which implements the resource objectives and development needs identified in the MP.

k. Outgrant. Authorizes the right to use Army controlled real property. It is a written legal document that establishes the timeframe, consideration, conditions, and restrictions on the use of Army property. For the purposes of this policy, an outgrant is typically a lease, easement, or license authorized by 16 U.S.C.460d, 10 U.S.C. 2667, 10 U.S.C. 2668, 30 U.S.C. 185 or other statutes and the general administrative authority of the Secretary of the Army (reference ER 405-1-12 Chapter 8 (Real Property Management) and the forthcoming ER 405-1-80 (Management and Outgrant Programs)).

l. Outreach Activities. Communication efforts involving interpretive programs that reach diverse populations such as students, teachers, organized groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and the general public, beyond the physical boundaries of Corps projects and facilities.

m. Project. Water resource development lands and waters for which the Corps of Engineers has administrative responsibility.

n. Project Lands. Lands and waters administered by the Commander, HQUSACE, in connection with a Federal water resource development project.

o. Resource Objectives (RO). Clearly written statements that set forth measurable and attainable management activities that support the stated goals of the MP. They must be consistent with authorized project purposes, Federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities, and expressed public desires.

p. Supplement. Approved specific changes to an existing MP that keep it current between major revisions.

q. Revision. A complete cover-to-cover update of a MP. The term “revision” or “revised” should not be used in the title of the updated master plan. It is used in this regulation to distinguish between levels of change.

r. Sustainability. The quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance.

## CHAPTER 3 - PROJECT MASTER PLANS AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

3-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for the preparation of Master Plans and Operational Management Plans for USACE Civil Works water resource projects (Corps projects).

### 3-2. Master Plan Background.

a. The Master Plan (MP) 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 Corps project. The MP guides efficient and cost-effective management, development, and use of project lands. It is a vital tool for the responsible stewardship and sustainability of project resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

b. The MP guides and articulates Corps responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws (See Appendix B) to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the project lands, waters, and associated resources. The MP is a dynamic operational document projecting what could and should happen over the life of the project and is flexible based upon changing conditions. The MP deals in concepts, not in details of design or administration. Detailed management and administration functions are addressed in the Operational Management Plan (OMP), which implements the concepts of the MP into operational actions.

c. The MPs will be developed and kept current for Civil Works projects operated and maintained by the Corps and will include all land (fee, easements or other interests) originally acquired for the projects and any subsequent land (fee, easements or other interests) acquired to support the operations and authorized missions of the project. Preparation of the MP shall be initiated as soon as possible after congressional approval of the project, so that approved recreation and natural resource management activities can be implemented when the project becomes operational. When there is no demonstrated need or opportunity to manage project lands, they may be exempted from this requirement only with the MSC Commander's approval.

d. The MP does not address the specifics of regional water quality, shoreline management (ER-1130-2-406), or water level management. The operation and maintenance of project operations facilities is not included in the MP.

3-3. Master Plan Goals. The primary goals of the MP are to prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts. Surface water recreational use may be addressed at some projects. MP goals include the following:

a. Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes;

- b. Protect and manage project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs;
- c. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public demands created by the project itself while sustaining project natural resources;
- d. Recognize the particular qualities, characteristics, and potentials of the project;
- e. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other state and regional goals and programs.

3-4. Master Plan Guidance.

- a. A current, approved MP is necessary before any new development, construction, consolidation, or land use change can be pursued. These activities will not be included in budget submissions unless they are included in an approved MP. Exceptions for special situations may be granted prior to the approval of a MP following full coordination within the district. The resulting changes will be incorporated into the MP as a supplement. In addition, all actions by Corps outgrantees must be compatible with the MP.
- b. The MP will cover a single or several projects. Preparing a MP that encompasses several projects under either a watershed or regional approach is encouraged, when appropriate. This methodology can provide economic and resource management benefits. The MP will address all Corps-managed resources including, but not limited to, fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, recreational, minerals, and resources on outgranted lands.
- c. The lead element responsible for MP development, periodic review, revision and implementation is district Operations Division. The interoffice/interdisciplinary team approach will be used for the development, evaluation, and supplementation or revision of MPs and associated NEPA documents. Coordination with other agencies and the public will be an integral part of the master planning process.

3-5. Master Planning Procedures and Requirements.

- a. Conceptual Framework. The master planning process encompasses a series of interrelated and overlapping tasks involving the examination and analysis of past, present, and future environmental, recreational, and socioeconomic conditions and trends. Within a generalized conceptual framework, the process focuses on four primary components: (1) regional and ecosystem needs, (2) project resource capabilities and suitabilities, and (3) expressed public interests that are compatible with project authorized purposes, and (4) environmental sustainability elements. The MP shall ensure that economy, quality, and need shall be given equal attention in the management of project resources and facilities and accomplished at the appropriate scale.

b. Project Management Plan (PMP). To ensure that a MP will be developed in an efficient and cost-effective manner, a PMP will be formalized at the outset by the MP study team. As a minimum, the plan shall include team members and their responsibilities, information needs, study costs, schedules, and adhere to the district's quality control plan for the development of the MP.

Included in the PMP, an administrative record section documenting points of contact, meetings, phone calls, comments, etc. must be kept throughout the entire MP process.

c. When to Prepare, Supplement, or Revise a Master Plan.

(1) New Projects. Preparation of the MP will be initiated as soon as possible after congressional approval of the project. This will ensure approved recreation and natural resource management activities can be implemented when the project becomes operational.

(2) Existing Projects.

(a) Evaluation. A concise review of each existing MP shall be conducted every 5 years by an Operations-led interdisciplinary team to assess the need for possible supplementation or revision. The review will be brief and general in extent and shall focus primarily on compliance criteria set forth in the MP performance measure and in this chapter including appropriate land classifications, designation and protection of any environmentally sensitive areas, and resource objectives that are responsive to expressed public interests, regional ecosystem needs, and sustainability. At the conclusion of the review, the District Commander or designee shall sign a brief statement indicating the status of the MP. This statement will indicate that the plan is in compliance and no further action is required, or that the issues need to be addressed that require a supplement or a full and complete revision. Even though a MP may not be fully compliant with performance measure /applicable regulations criteria and is in need of supplementation or revision, the MP will, in most cases, continue to be used until supplementation or revision can be achieved. It is important to have a relatively current administrative record/statement on file that recognizes any MP deficiencies that must be considered in the daily management of project natural resources and public use facilities.

(b) Supplement. MPs in need of only minor changes and modifications to include a change in land classification, a change in facility footprint, or a change in land use with the exception of non-recreational outgrants (utility lines, roads, etc) which do not significantly affect the land classification will be supplemented. Supplements should be prepared as often as necessary to ensure that the MP remains relevant.

(c) Revision. A complete cover-to-cover update of a MP. A MP that does not serve its intended purpose based on a combination of age as well as substantial changes to the project requires a revision. A master plan that has been excessively supplemented also should be there revised. The term "revision" should not be used in the title of the new master plan. Although

there is no set timeframe for revising MPs, revisions should be prepared for an effective lifespan of 15-25 years.

d. Coordination and Public Involvement.

(1) In-house. MP evaluations, supplements, and revisions will be coordinated with those elements which have responsibility for planning, design, development and/or management of the project.

(2) Interagency. Coordination with applicable outside agencies is required by law, Executive Order, or memoranda of agreement. Some of the common requirements are listed in Appendix B. An electronic mailing list of important stakeholders should be developed early in the process to facilitate collaborative efforts such as in-progress review of documents and general exchange of ideas. Early and thorough coordination and collaboration with other Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, recognized Native American Indian Tribes, and non-governmental organizations, partners, and stakeholders is encouraged. In addition, MPs plans should be coordinated with local sponsors for recreation and stewardship initiatives that require cost-sharing.

(3) Public. Coordination with the general public is required (except in minor supplements) and can be very important in identifying resources and determining public needs. Public involvement and coordination should be included in the PMP (see para. 3-5b). Consideration should be given not only to formal public meetings but to informal workshops, mailings, media, and other proactive contemporary tools (i.e. internet) to encourage widespread participation.

(4) Congressional. Notification of congressional interests is an important part of public coordination and public involvement. Congressional representatives should be given early notification of formal and informal meetings related to the MP as well as the availability of draft and final MPs.

e. Cost Effectiveness.

(1) The Master Plan Process. The master planning process will be developed and implemented in a manner which maximizes cost effectiveness. A MP should be concise and formatted for easy preparation, supplementation, revision and use. Project field personnel, in addition to serving as team members, will be fully involved in recommendations, data collection, and preparation. Materials previously assembled for feasibility reports, environmental impact statements, special studies or other documents (incorporated by reference when applicable) will be used to the maximum extent possible to reduce redundancy.

(2) The Master Plan Document. The text should be typewritten on 8 ½ x 11" white paper, with all maps, aerial photographs, or plates folded or reduced to the 8 ½ x 11" size. The document will be assembled in a loose-leaf format within a three ring binder with the title and

date on the front cover. Additionally, the document should be published in a digital format. Data, aerial photographs, maps, or other exhibits used in development of the MP should be used for development of the OMP where applicable. Efforts should be made to standardize the formatting of maps and plates within the district. Pages and plates changed as a result of supplementation shall be marked with the date of the revision and distributed to all holders of the MP. The length of the MP may vary considerably between projects depending on complexity.

(3) Geospatial Data and Technologies. The use of geospatial technologies is encouraged for the creation of map products as well as assessment of the project resources and surrounding conditions. Measures should be taken to maximize the cost efficiency of the mapping process within each district including:

(a) Data and Software. The use of existing data and software will ensure that actions are taken to minimize the cost of purchasing extraneous spatial files.

(b) Standardization. Standardization of the mapping process throughout the district is recommended. Strong consideration should be given to (1) conforming data to Corps standards for ease of sharing and management, (2) creating a map layout template so all the documents across the district have a consistent appearance, and (3) creating a district-wide map symbology for ease of reading between plates.

(c) Map Creation. As a cost efficiency measure, project personnel, colleges/universities, volunteers, and NGOs should be used to acquire spatial and field-collected GPS data, as well as map preparation. This would allow the in-house GIS staff to be more involved in the QA/QC phase of mapping, rather than the creation of the maps.

(d) Program Approach to GIS. Use of GIS across the Natural Resources program will aid in the continual development of a useable spatial dataset, ultimately saving time and financial resources on data creation at the time of MP creation.

f. Statutory Compliance.

(1) Applicable Federal Statutes. A checklist (compliant, non-compliant, partial compliance, and not applicable, with space for brief notes if needed) must be included as an appendix to the MP. See ER 1130-2-540 Appendix A for a listing of applicable statutes requiring compliance.

(2) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All MP supplements and revisions will be in compliance with the NEPA. Refer to Appendix G concerning general guidelines for the types of NEPA documents to prepare in conjunction with master plan supplements and revisions.

(3) Civil Works Review Policy (EC-1165-2-209). All MP supplements and revisions must follow the Civil Works Review Policy. Appendix G provides general guidelines concerning courses of action for compliance with the EC for implementing proposals in existing master plans, supplements, and revisions.

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3-6. Master Plan Content. The following elements, at a minimum, will be included in each MP. These should be brief 1-2 paragraph write ups, not extensive multi-page write ups. Use of graphics, photos, maps, tables, etc will help to concisely convey the topic. Goal Page Count: 30. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are required to be included in the MP.

#### Chapter 1 – Introduction\*

- a. Project Authorization\*
- b. Project Purpose\*
- c. Purpose and Scope of MP\*
- d. Brief Watershed and Project Description\*
- e. Listing of Prior DMs\*
- f. Listing of Pertinent Project Information\*

#### Chapter 2 – Project Setting and Factors Influencing Management and Development\*

- a. Description of Reservoir(s) and/or Navigation Pool(s)\*
- b. Hydrology (surface water, groundwater)\*
- c. Sedimentation and Shoreline Erosion
- d. Water Quality
- e. Project Access
- f. Climate
- g. Topography, Geology, and Soils\*
- h. Resource Analysis (level 1 inventory data)\*
  - (1) Fish and Wildlife Resources\*
  - (2) Vegetative Resources\*
  - (3) Threatened & Endangered Species\*
  - (4) Invasive species\*
  - (5) Ecological Setting\*



- (6) Wetlands\*
  - i. Borrow Areas and Utilities
  - j. Mineral and Timber Resources
  - k. Paleontology
  - l. Cultural Resources\*
  - m. Interpretation/ Visual Qualities
  - n. Demographics
  - o. Economics
  - p. Recreation Facilities, Activities and Needs\*
    - (1) Zones of influence\*
    - (2) Visitation Profile\*
    - (3) Recreation Analysis\*
    - (4) Recreational carrying capacity\*
  - q. Related Recreational, Historical, and Cultural Areas
  - r. Real Estate\*
    - Acquisition Policy\*
  - s. Pertinent Public Laws\*
  - t. Management Plans

NOTE: Subjects may be added or deleted as appropriate.

Chapter 3 – Resource Objectives.\* Clearly written statements that set forth measurable and attainable current and future management and development activities that support the stated goals of the MP, Environmental Operating Principles (EOPs), and applicable national performance measures. They must be consistent with authorized project purposes, Federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities, and takes public input into consideration. They should also take recreational and natural resources carrying capacity into account as well as

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). These objectives must maximize project benefits, meet public needs, and foster environmental sustainability. Goal page count: 5.

#### Chapter 4 – Land Allocation, Land Classification, Water Surface, and Project Easement Lands\*

a. Land Allocation.\* The congressionally authorized purpose for which the project lands were acquired. A project map delineating land according to the following allocations will be included in the MP. There are only four land allocation categories applicable to Corps projects:

(1) Operations (i.e., flood control, hydropower, etc.). Lands acquired for the congressionally authorized purpose of constructing and operating the project. Most project lands are included in this allocation.

(2) Recreation. Lands acquired specifically for the congressionally authorized purpose of recreation. These are referred to as separable recreation lands. Recreation lands in this allocation can only be given a land classification (see below) of “Recreation.”

(3) Fish and Wildlife. Lands acquired specifically for the congressionally authorized purpose of fish and wildlife management. These are referred to as separable fish and wildlife lands. Lands under this allocation can only be given a land classification (see below) of “Wildlife Management.”

(4) Mitigation. Lands acquired or designated specifically for the congressionally authorized purpose of offsetting losses associated with development of the project. These are referred to as separable mitigation lands. Lands under this allocation can only be given a land classification (see below) of “Mitigation.”

b. Land Classification.\* The primary use for which project lands are managed. Project lands are zoned for development and resource management consistent with authorized project purposes and the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and other Federal laws. Identification of these areas should be supported by a narrative. A project map delineating land according to the following classifications will be provided. (Agriculture or grazing use of project land is not a land classification but may be an interim use to meet management objectives.)

(1) Project Operations. This category includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project.

(2) High Density Recreation. Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use areas and/or campgrounds. These could include areas for commercial concessions (marinas, comprehensive resorts, etc), and quasi-public development.

(3) Mitigation. This classification will only be used for lands with an allocation of Mitigation and that were acquired specifically for the purposes of offsetting losses associated with development of the project.

(4) Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to just lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act or applicable State statutes. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted. Typically, limited or no development of public use is allowed on these lands. No agricultural or grazing uses are permitted on these lands unless necessary for a specific resource management benefit, such as prairie restoration. These areas are typically distinct parcels located within another, and perhaps larger, land classification, area. A brief narrative should be provided describing the associated resource analysis and/or inventory used in making the classification.

(5) Multiple Resource Management Lands. This classification allows for the designation of a predominate use as described below, with the understanding that other compatible uses described below may also occur on these lands (e.g. a trail through an area designated as Wildlife Management.). Land classification maps must reflect the predominant sub-classification, rather than just Multiple Resource Management.

(a) Low Density Recreation. Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g. primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).

(b) Wildlife Management. Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

(c) Vegetative Management. Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.

(d) Future or Inactive Recreation Areas. 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.

(6) Water Surface. If the project administers a surface water zoning program, then it should be included in the Master Plan.

(a) Restricted – Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.

(b) Designated No-Wake – To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety.

(c) 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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(d) Open Recreation -- Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

c. Project Easement Lands.\* All lands for which the Corps holds an easement interest, but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project. Easements were acquired for specific purposes and do not convey the same rights or ownership to the Corps as other lands.

(1) Operations Easement. Corps retains rights to these lands necessary for project operations (access, etc.)

(2) Flowage Easement. Corps retains the right to inundate these lands for project operations.

(3) Conservation Easement. Corps retains rights to lands for aesthetic, recreation and environmental benefits.

Chapter 5 -- Resource Plan.\* This chapter is the most critical portion of the MP and should require the most intense effort. It will describe in broad terms how project lands (and if applicable, the water surface) will be managed. This can be accomplished using one of two possible approaches as follows:

a. Management by Classification. Each of the above land and water classifications should be briefly described in terms of anticipated public use and resource stewardship needs. Following this approach, it is not necessary to further subdivide the areas into units or compartments in the MP. Dividing areas into units or compartments should be done in the OMP.

(1) Classification and justification

(a) Resource objectives

(b) Acreages

(c) Description of use by classification

(2) Land classification map showing management agency(ies)

(3) Recreation area maps (bubble diagrams showing location of existing, proposed and future development needs)

b. Management by Area. This approach divides all public land and waters into areas and much of the information that would otherwise be included in the OMP is incorporated into the MP. The result would be a greatly shortened OMP. This may be preferred in dealing with

extremely large projects, projects with intense stakeholder interest, or projects with complex issues. The management of each area is described as follows:

(1) Management area name and/or number

(2) Classification and justification

(3) Management agency

(4) Location/Acreage

(5) Description and use

(6) Resource objectives

(7) Development needs – These items include anything currently proposed or projected to be needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified including, but not limited to: vegetative plan, invasive species control, construction of facilities, cultural monitoring, initiatives, proposed outgrants, etc.

(8) Special considerations – This optional section would include special issues directly affecting the management area. (e.g. legal issues, cultural site, adjacent land use, environmental, etc.)

Chapter 6 – Special Topics/Issues/Considerations.\* Items that are unique to the project and not covered in other parts of the plan. Examples include partnerships, tribal jurisdiction, adjacent development, utility corridors, invasive species, Clean Marina programs, oil and gas, Watchable Wildlife, etc.

Chapter 7 – Agency and Public Coordination.\* Narrative of dates and times of interagency and public meetings discussing the process and involvement of outside entities in the development of the MP. This section should also include a reference to a summary of comments and Corps responses to those comments included in an appendix.

Chapter 8 - Summary of Recommendations\*

Chapter 9 – Bibliography.\* Includes both text and internet sources

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Appendixes\*

NEPA documents\*

Summary of public comments\*

Other appendixes as necessary

Plates (Project Maps / Site Plans/ Tables)\*

3-7. Operational Management Plan Background.

a. The Operational Management Plan (OMP) is the document which implements the strategic resource objectives and development needs identified in the Master Plan. An OMP will be prepared and approved for all projects. The OMP is prepared by project staff, rarely requires public involvement, and provides a 5-year projection of work items that is updated annually.

b. Following approval of the MP, preparation of the OMP will be initiated by the project Operations staff. The OMP will be consistent with the approved MP and prepared as a separate document. The OMP will outline in detail the specific operation and administration requirements for natural resources and recreation management.

3-8. Guidance for Operational Management Plans.

a. During OMP development or update, emphasis on achieving economy in planning, design, construction, and managing project resources must be a priority. Economy and quality are to be given equal attention in the development and management of project resources. If the MP is in need of revision, every effort should be made to complete the revision as soon as practicable. In the interim, preparation of the OMP should proceed and care should be exercised to ensure that the OMP is compliant with current Corps policy and regulations. MP land classifications and resource objectives cannot be modified in an OMP.

b. OMPs consist of a 5-year projected annual work plan for each management area (or land classification category) identified in the MP. These areas can be further divided into compartments or units based on project needs. They are kept current by updating the upcoming fiscal year work activities, modifying the activities in the out years as needed, and creating a new work plan for year 5.

c. The OMP provides a 5-year projection of work items that is updated annually and submitted for approval to the district's Chief of Operations Division. It is a working document in loose leaf format that will include funds, staffing and time frame required to implement management actions.

d. Strong consideration also should be given to holding an annual project meeting or open house as a way of providing the public with an opportunity to express their views on the management of the project. This public input can serve as a partial basis for the annual OMP update.

### 3-9. Operational Management Plan Content.

a. The OMP will consist of the following sections: (a) Natural Resources Management, (b) Recreation Management, (c) Other Project Programs, and (d) Shoreline Management. Management actions must be consistent with authorized project purposes, approved resource objectives in the MP, and land use classifications. Compartment objectives should be consistent with the overall resource objectives in the MP. For outgranted areas, the OMP will include, by reference, the outgrantee's management plans for the area and how the management of the outgranted land supports the overall resource objectives of the project.

b. Section I- Natural Resources Management. This section will be based on an ecosystem approach to management of natural resources. Section I will include outlines for area/compartment descriptions, management objectives and work plans. Management objectives should complement the overall project resource objectives approved in the MP. A basic outline to be used is presented below.

#### (1) Natural Resources Management- Area Compartment Descriptions

(a) Topography (slope, aspect, general soil type, etc.)

(b) Aquatic Resources (type, temperature, turbidity, etc.)

(c) Vegetation (species, size, density, etc)

(d) Fish and Wildlife (species)

(e) Species Considerations or Issues (including, but not limited to: protected or rare/unique habitat, rare and endangered species, national emphasis programs (e.g., Watchable Wildlife, Invasive Species Management Program, and Neotropical Migratory Birds, etc.) pollution, forest fire control)

#### (2) Area (Compartment) Management Objectives

#### (3) Area (Compartment) Work Plan

(a) Management Actions (work task to meet objectives, e.g. tree planting, fencing, prescribed burns, etc).

(b) Five Year Schedule (work task to be completed)

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- (c) Labor (in house/contract/volunteer) and Equipment Needs
- (d) Annual Cost
- (e) Coordination

c. Section II- Recreation Management. This section will be composed of descriptions, management objectives and implementation plans for each recreation area. A basis outline to be used is presented below.

- (1) Area Descriptions
  - (a) Topography (slope, aspect, general soil type, etc.)
  - (b) Aquatic Resources (type, temperature, turbidity, etc.)
  - (c) Vegetation (species, size, density, etc.)
  - (d) Fish and Wildlife
  - (e) Special Considerations or issues (ADA, partnerships, volunteers, etc.)
- (2) Area Management Objectives)
- (3) Area Implementation Plan

(a) Management Actions (work task to meet objectives, e.g., tree planting, fencing, prescribed burns, etc.)

- (b) Five Year Schedule (work task to be implemented)
- (c) Labor (in house/contract/volunteer) and Equipment Needs
- (d) Annual Cost
- (e) Coordination (with other elements/agencies/the public)

d. Section III-Other Project Programs

- (1) Safety (employee, contractor, visitor)
- (2) Security
- (3) Visitor Assistance



- (4) Recreation Use Fee Program
- (5) Interpretation
- (6) Cultural Resources/Historic Properties Management Plan
- (7) Project Sign Management Plan
- (8) Special Programs
- (9) Private Exclusive Use (existing approved regional plan may be inserted as is)
- (10) Outgrants (availability of lands, compliance inspections, etc.)
- (11) Maintenance
- (12) Partnering (with other agencies and/or special interest groups)
- (13) Wildland Fire Management Plan

e. Shoreline Management. Shoreline management applies to a lake in one of two ways. The project either will have:

- (1) A Shoreline Management Plan or
- (2) A shoreline management policy statement prohibiting private shoreline use at the project (ER 1130-2-406 para. 4c)

(a) If the project has a shoreline management program that plan should complement the master plan concerning land use classifications, comprehensive management and the development contained in the master plan. Shoreline management plans should be kept up to date in conjunction with master plan supplements or revisions.

### 3-10. Schedules and Approvals for MPs and OMPs.

a. Schedules. District commanders shall be responsible for ensuring that MPs are completed and kept current for all projects. Master plans will be evaluated on a continual basis and supplemented when necessary to avoid costly future revisions.

b. Approval. District commanders shall be responsible for approving MPs, revisions and supplements. One copy of the approved document will be submitted to both the appropriate MSC and USACE Headquarters. In addition, every 5 years the District Commander or designee

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will review and sign a memorandum of findings indicating the status of compliance with current policies and guidance as directed in applicable ER/EP.

c. Operational Management Plans will be prepared for each project within 3 years of the date of this regulation (where they do not already exist) and will be updated annually. OMPs will be approved by District Chief of Operations. By delegation of the District Chief of Operations, Annual work plans can be approved at the project level.

## APPENDIX V

## Master Plan Compliance With National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and EC 1165-2-209

V-1. Compliance With NEPA. Master Plans must be compliant with NEPA. Listed below are examples of how NEPA compliance is achieved within various MP actions. The intent of the EC 1165-2-209 requirements are already satisfied through existing MP review/approval requirements. These requirements include in-house independent QA/QC and independent public and agency review. However, in those rare cases when the NEPA document for a MP is an EIS then the additional EC 1165-2-209 Agency Technical Review (ATR) and Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) are necessary. Consideration should be given to synchronizing the preparation and review of the MP and associated NEPA documents.

V-2. Existing Master Plans Predating NEPA. Certain actions described in a MP that predate NEPA (1969) and/or are not addressed in an O&M NEPA document will require NEPA documentation unless they clearly qualify for a Categorical Exclusion (ER 200-2-2 Para 9). Examples of actions that qualify for categorical exclusions include, but are not limited to: routine operation and maintenance actions, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, repair, rehabilitation, replacement or minor expansion of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, groins and utilities, and installation of new buildings utilities, or roadways in developed areas.

V-3. Existing Master Plans Postdating NEPA. According to ER 200-2-2 Para 9, routine O&M actions are categorically excluded from NEPA documentation. Examples of actions that qualify for categorical exclusions include, but are not limited to: routine operation and maintenance actions, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, repair, rehabilitation, replacement or minor expansion of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, groins and utilities, and installation of new buildings utilities, or roadways in developed areas.

a. For all other proposals not included in the above paragraph, but already addressed in an existing MP, further NEPA documentation is not required as long as both of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The proposal is compliant with all current/ future national performance measures.
- (2) The proposal is already adequately addressed in an existing finalized NEPA document.

b. For proposals that are not addressed in an existing MP, a MP supplement may be required as described in the paragraphs below.

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V-4. Master Plan Supplements.

a. If supplementing a master plan solely to administratively update information (e.g., vegetation, cultural, resources) with no change in management actions, new facilities, land classifications, etc., the activity is categorically excluded from additional NEPA compliance (identified in para. G-1 above) and the EC 1165-2-209 requirements do not apply.

b. If a MP supplement is needed to incorporate proposed recreation facilities not addressed in the Categorical Exclusions (identified in para. V-2), change in land use classifications, or change of resource objectives, then the action is not categorically excluded and an individual NEPA compliance document (either Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)) will be required. Development of the NEPA compliance document by an interdisciplinary team, completion of the master planning QA/QC check list, review of the master plan supplement and associated NEPA document by other peer agencies, and appropriate level District review for the ultimate approval by District Commander fulfills the EC 1165-2-209 district quality control (DQC) requirements.

V-5. Master Plan Revisions. If a complete revision of the existing master plan is required then the NEPA categorical exclusion referenced in V-2. above does not apply. In most cases an EA is sufficient for NEPA compliance. Only under extreme circumstances will the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be needed. Development of the NEPA compliance document by an interdisciplinary team, completion of the master planning QA/QC check list, review of the master plan and associated NEPA document by other peer agencies, and appropriate level internal or external District review for the ultimate approval by District Commander fulfills the EC 1165-2-209 district quality control (DQC) requirements.