RESERVOIR MASTER PLANS: REVISITING THE PAST AND “REVISIONING” THE FUTURE

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Russian River Watershed: Lake Mendocino & Lake Sonoma
The “BLUF” (Bottom Line Up Front):

- MP Revisions are focused on Resource Stewardship & Recreation (not Lake Operations or Water Management)
- Life of a Master Plan is 25 years, with reviews every five years, resulting in Supplements or Revisions (depending on need)
- Result of MP Revision = Recommendations (need authorization & appropriation, & NEPA evaluation, to implement)
- Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement are critical (this revision should reflect the community vision for the resource, as well as the Corps’)
WHY REVISE THESE MASTER PLANS?

- Outdated (>25 years old)
- Potential Land Use Classification changes
- Increased pressures on natural resources management
- Predict future growth and visitation patterns
- Consider historical, current and anticipated future uses of lands and water at both lakes
LAKE MENDOCINO MASTER PLAN

Amenities
- 1,822-acre lake offering 4 campgrounds, hiking trails, multiple boat launchues, swimming beaches, disc golf and horse trails
- FEMA housing for fire victims
- Pomo Cultural Center
LAKE MENDOCINO MASTER PLAN

**Issues**

- Degraded recreational facilities and access issues
- Staffing needs
- Illegal activities
- Homeless population
- Pomo Cultural Center
LAKE SONOMA MASTER PLAN
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Public open houses to kickoff project, ~30 public comments received
- Ongoing Tribal and stakeholder engagement
- Public review and public meetings on the final master plans
Send us an email at: MendocinoMP@usace.army.mil or SonomaMP@usace.army.mil
QUESTIONS?

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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.”

WILL THERE BE WATER MANAGEMENT CHANGES?

- Master Plans will **not** change how the water in the lake is managed.
- Natural resources and recreation management changes must be implemented within the constraints of the primary (authorized) purposes of the reservoirs.
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Initial Data Collection → Initial Kickoff → Resource Analysis

Development of Land Classifications and Resource Objectives → Agency/Public Review

Finalize Master Plan Based on Comments Received

Adoption of Master Plan Revision

*Where we are today*

*Spring 2019*
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Accomplished by an interdisciplinary team of Corps employees from the San Francisco District and Sacramento District

Add group photo from Sonoma marina
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

This Act was created “to declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation...”

- Preamble to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

NEPA helps decision makers and the public understand how to consider the environment in the decision-making process. It does this by recommending:

- Identification of significant environmental resources at the project
- Consideration of a full range of reasonable alternatives
- Assessment of potential impacts
- Disclosure of potential impacts
- Establishment of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts

**NEPA Process Considerations**

- Recreation
- Threatened or endangered species
- Agriculture
- Air and water resources
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Traffic and infrastructure
- Socioeconomics, land use, growth, and development
- Aesthetics and noise
- Public health and safety
- Fish and wildlife habitats or ecosystems
- Geology and soils
- Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts

**Public Engagement Process**

Public engagement is used to gather comments, insights, and local information for NEPA documents.

We want to hear from you about:

- Any options that you would like to see considered and evaluated
- Potential environmental/recreational issues and impacts
- Any local knowledge or information important to the environmental review that we might not be aware of
- How you would like to be kept more informed about the project

**Wildlife of Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino**

- Coho salmon
- Chinook salmon
- Steelhead
- California red-legged frog
- Northern spotted owl
- Black-tailed deer
- Black-tailed jackrabbit
- Brush rabbit
- California quail
- Mourning dove
- Bald eagle

**Environmental Compliance and Permits**

- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Endangered Species Act (Federal)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Act (Essential Fish Habitat)
- Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- National Historic Preservation Act

*Endangered species **Threatened species*
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS: CULTURAL ANALYSIS

- Existing conditions related to archaeological sites
- Tribal coordination
- Recommendations for future management of tribal and historic structures

Garzini Winery, Lake Mendocino

Pomo Cultural Center, Lake Mendocino