



# ISABELLA LAKE DAM SAFETY MODIFICATION PROJECT PROGRESS & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## Project & Environmental Compliance Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project will involve extensive construction from 2017-2022 to upgrade the dam and reduce the likelihood of failure. A large engineering project like this can have various environmental impacts, and the Corps is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify and develop alternatives to offset those impacts - considering everything from air quality, water quality, traffic and circulation, noise and vibration, biological resources, land use, cultural resources and recreation.

Nov. 21, 2014



The Isabella Dam Project Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) released in 2012 identified several unresolved issues that were not ready for a decision at the time of EIS release. These issues included environmental impacts associated with (1) real estate acquisitions and resident relocations, (2) recreation and (3) state and county roadways affected by the project.


NEPA is our country's basic national charter for environmental responsibility and requires federal agencies to carry out mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate significant environmental impacts incurred by a proposed action.

## Recreation Impacts & Proposed Mitigation Measures

Affected Area	(1) Recreation Impacts (see Final EIS)	(2) Proposed Mitigation Measures	(3) Preferred Alternative
<b>Boat Launch 19</b>	Permanent Closure (emergency spillway)	Develop "like-kind" facilities (boat launch, bathrooms, parking) at French Gulch Recreation Site	Draft/Final Recreation EA's planned in spring/summer 2015
<b>Auxiliary Dam Recreation Site</b>	Temporary Closure (construction staging area)	Develop access to Old Isabella & South Fork Recreation Sites to accommodate increased recreation use	
<b>Old Isabella Recreation Site</b>	No Closure, but Increased traffic and use from Aux Dam closure	Develop access and provide facilities for increased recreation use, encourage dispersed use to South Fork Recreation Site	
<b>Main Dam Campground</b>	Remain Closed (construction staging area)		
<b>Engineers Point Recreation Site</b>	Access changes (Barlow Road & Ponderosa Road)	USACE is coordinating with USFS and other agencies, stakeholders and public to determine "like-kind" capacity of recreation facilities, proposed mitigation measures/alternatives	
<b>Main Dam Campground</b>	Footprint altered permanently (new toe of Main Dam)		
<b>Auxiliary Dam Recreation Site</b>	Footprint altered permanently		

### Recreation Plan Schedule

The Corps recognizes recreation as a vital part of the community around Lake Isabella and has taken additional steps to keep the public and stakeholders involved and informed beyond the steps required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The Corps released an early recreation report February 2014 and is also hosting a public meeting with a progress and recreation plan update November 2014 ahead of the formal public review and comment period.

1. Draft Environmental Impact Statement - March 2012
2. Final Environmental Impact Statement - Oct. 2014
3. Scoping Meeting – Sept. 2013 \*
4. Recreation Report – Feb. 2014 \*
-  5. Project & Recreation Plan Update Meeting – Nov. 2014
6. Draft Recreation & Real Estate EA – Spring 2015 \*
7. Final Recreation & Real Estate EA – Fall 2015
8. Recreation Facilities Construction – 2016 thru Spring 2017
9. Relocation of USFS, USACE Facilities – Fall 2015 thru 2016

\* Public review & comment opportunity