

# Joe Pool Lake Master Plan Revision Public Information Meeting May 23, 2017

Presented By  
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# Purpose of this Meeting

- Describe Purpose of Master Plan
- Describe the Revision Process
- Answer Questions
- Seek Your Participation & Input
- Explain Why Revision is Needed



# The Corps' Vision for Joe Pool Lake

*The land, water surface and recreational resources of Joe Pool Lake will be managed to protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that complement overall project purposes for the benefit of present and future generations.*



# Purpose of Master Plans

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.”



Source: Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 available at [www.usace.army.mil/library/publications](http://www.usace.army.mil/library/publications)



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# National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Applies to federal actions that affect the environment such as Master Plan revisions
- Requires federal agencies to *CONSIDER and DOCUMENT the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's OVERALL planning and decision-making*
- Requires federal agencies to cooperate with other federal, state and local governments as well as with organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses



# Key Points Regarding Master Plans

- Main focus is stewardship of natural and cultural resources and operation of quality outdoor recreation areas
- Proposed effective life of a Master Plan is 25 years
- Recreational use of the water surface is addressed



# Additional Key Points

- Key sections of the Master Plan Revision include
  - ▶ resource management objectives
  - ▶ revised land use classifications
  - ▶ management plan for each land classification
- Potential outcomes could be
  - ▶ designation of lands for utility corridors, environmentally sensitive areas...
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas is given priority



# What Master Plans Are Not

- Master Plans **do not** address in detail the technical aspects of
  - ▶ Regional water quality
  - ▶ Water management for flood risk management,
  - ▶ Water supply or water level management
  - ▶ Shoreline management





# What Will Not be Addressed

- National policy places strict limitations on the proposed construction of new public roads on Corps lands. With few exceptions road proposals that would cross federal land will not be addressed.
- Shoreline policy governing mowing, removal of vegetation and debris as well as pedestrian paths will not be addressed in the Master Plan.



# Stakeholders

- Stakeholder input is very important to the process. They include:
  - ▶ The general public
  - ▶ Surrounding cities
  - ▶ Agencies that manage lands and resources, such as State and Federal wildlife agencies
  - ▶ Concessionaires
  - ▶ Tribes
  - ▶ Historical and Cultural Societies
  - ▶ Visitors and residents of the Lake



# What About Drought/Flood?

- Master Plans cannot change how water in the lake is managed – addressed in separate Water Control Plan
- Natural resources and recreation management must be implemented within the constraints of the primary missions of flood risk management and water supply



# Why Revise the Joe Pool Lake Master Plan?

- Current Master Plan is dated June 1979 with major supplements in 1981 and has exceeded its useful life. Given the rapid pace of development and population growth surrounding the lake it is time to take a fresh look at the management of Federal lands around the lake.
- The Master Plan needs to reflect the current management status of Federal lands including the shift in park management from Trinity River Authority to the City of Grand Prairie, expansion of Cedar Hill State Park, and recognition of possible Environmentally Sensitive Areas



# Joe Pool Lake Missions

- Flood Risk Management – a primary mission
- Water Supply – a primary mission
- Environmental Stewardship – an inherent mission
- Recreation – a secondary mission



# Fast Facts about Joe Pool Lake

- Created by the construction of Joe Pool Dam in 1986. The main body of the lake is in Dallas County with the upper ends of the two arms extending into Tarrant and Ellis counties
- TRA is the local sponsor for the lake and controls the water rights. TRA has committed 100% of the available water supply to the cities of Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Grand Prairie and the Midlothian Water District. At conservation (normal) pool elevation 522.0' NGVD the lake covers 7,470 acres
- At the flood control pool elevation 536.0' NGVD the lake covers 10,940 acres





# Fast Facts about Joe Pool Lake

- Highly urbanized lake bordered by the cities of Grand Prairie and Cedar Hill
- Excellent full service park areas operated through lease agreements with TPWD and City of Grand Prairie
- Popular hike and bike trail over the dam
- Joe Pool Lake is a major contributor to public recreation space in Dallas and Tarrant Counties where per capita acres of public recreation land is approximately .01 and .02 acres respectively\*

\* 2012 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan

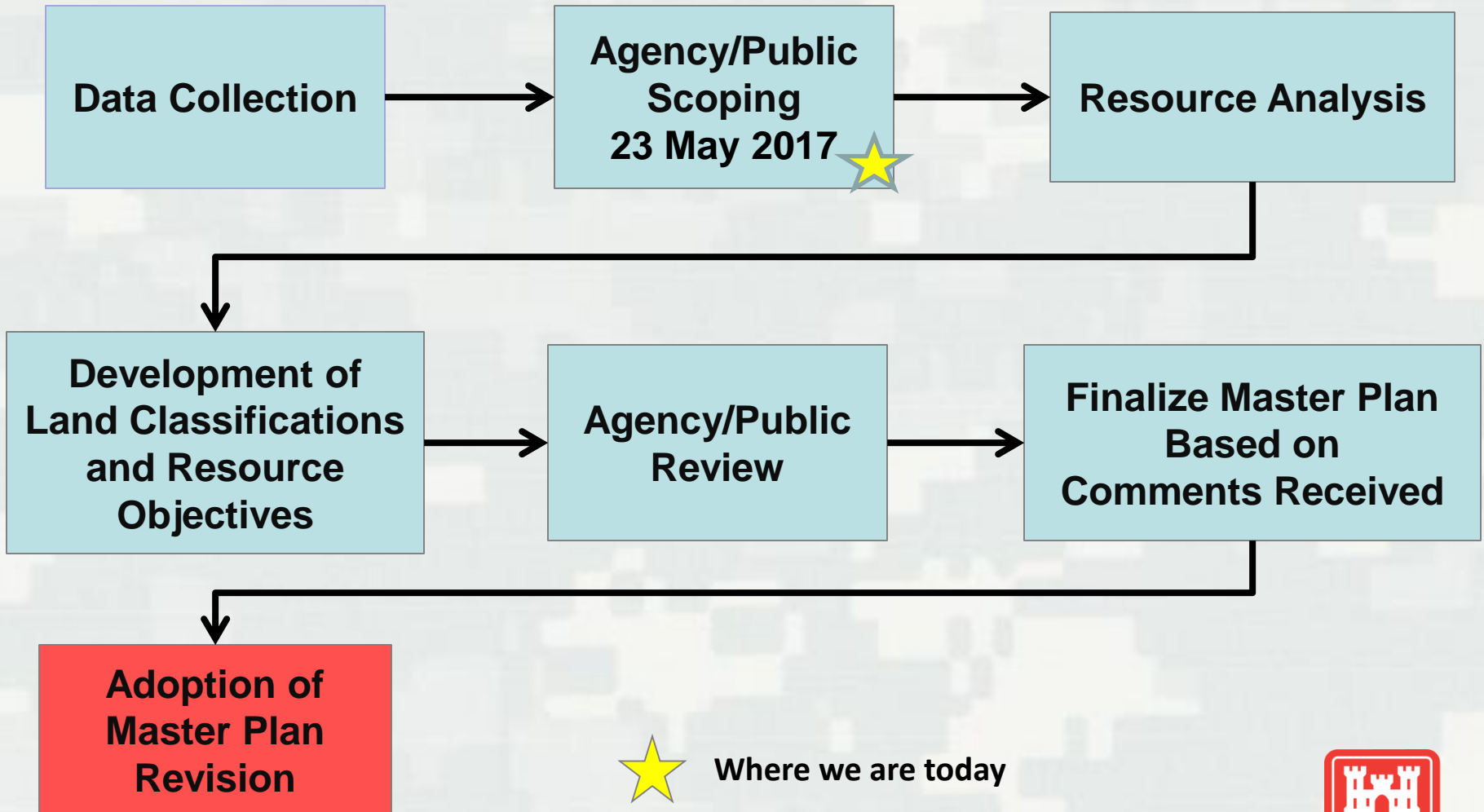


# Master Plan Revision Process

- Accomplished by a team of Corps employees with input from other agencies
- Public and stakeholder input will be carefully considered
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared and included as an appendix



# The Master Planning Process



Where we are today



# Possible Changes Needed in the Current Master Plan

- Re-examine the classification of project lands and the water surface
  - ▶ Portions of currently designated parks and even non-park areas could be reclassified as environmentally sensitive area
  - ▶ Establish utility corridors to reduce environmental and aesthetic damage
- Updates to existing park development plans



# Additional Changes Needed

- Prepare new Resource Objectives
  - ▶ Need current recreation objectives that reflect recreational use trends identified by 2012 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (by TPWD) and through public and stakeholder input
  - ▶ Need current natural resource objectives that reflect habitat and open space needs identified in the 2012 Texas Conservation Action Plan (by TPWD) and public input and stakeholder input



# Joe Pool Lake Land Classification

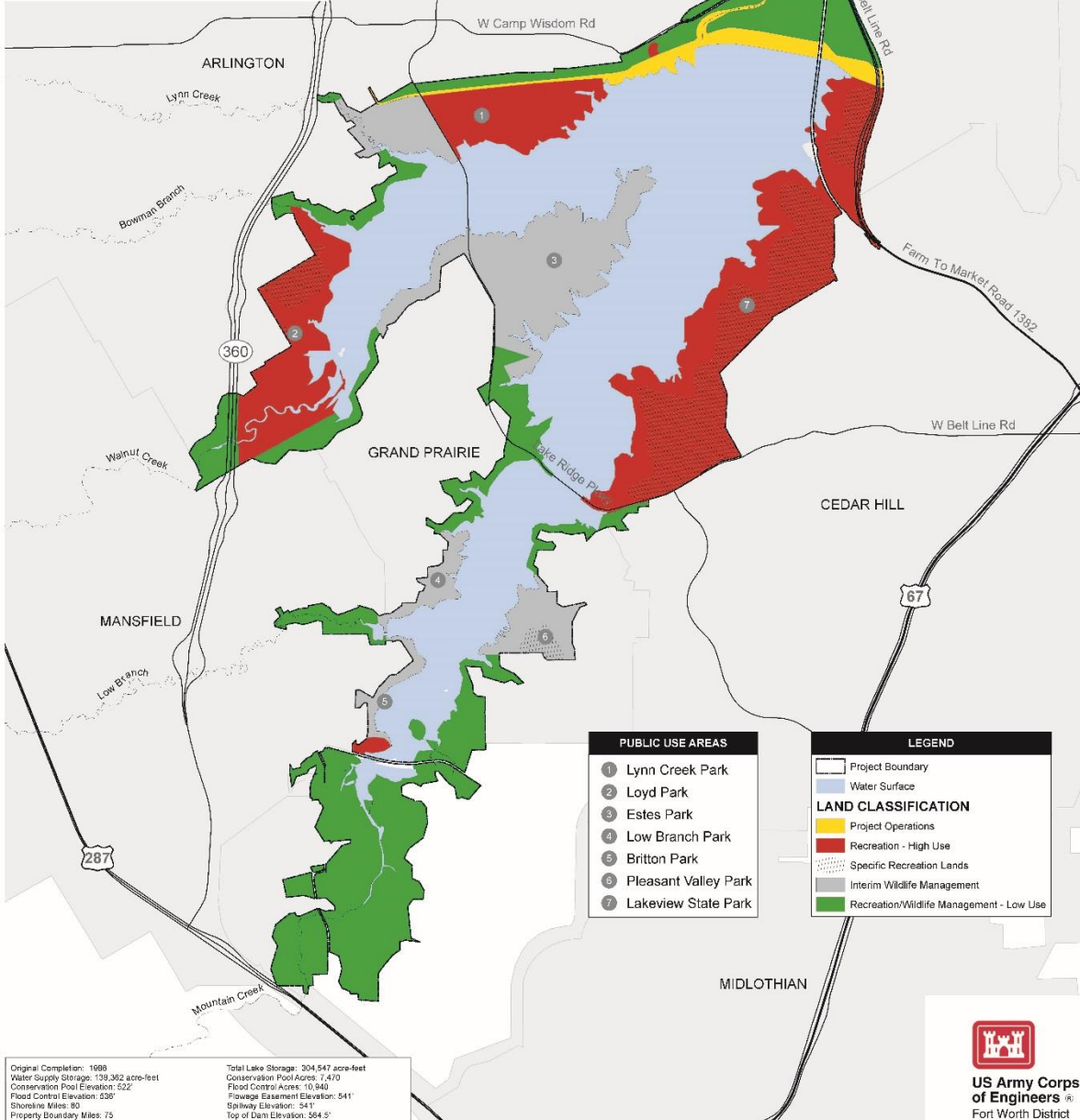
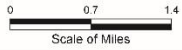
Current Land Classifications	Proposed New Land Classifications
Project Operations	Project Operations
Recreation – High Use	High Density Recreation
Recreation / Wildlife Management Low Use	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Interim Wildlife Management	Multiple Resource Management -Low Density Recreation -Wildlife Management -Vegetation Management -Future/Inactive Recreation
Specific Recreation Lands	
Water Surface High Speed Boating Low Speed Boating Restricted	Water Surface - Open Recreation - Designated No Wake - F & W Sanctuary - Restricted



# JOE POOL LAKE

## CURRENT LAND CLASSIFICATION (from 1979 Master Plan)

THIS MAP IS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY.  
The project boundary and land classifications are currently in the review process.



- PUBLIC USE AREAS**
- 1 Lynn Creek Park
  - 2 Loyd Park
  - 3 Estes Park
  - 4 Low Branch Park
  - 5 Britton Park
  - 6 Pleasant Valley Park
  - 7 Lakeview State Park

- LEGEND**
- Project Boundary
  - Water Surface
- LAND CLASSIFICATION**
- Project Operations
  - Recreation - High Use
  - Specific Recreation Lands
  - Interim Wildlife Management
  - Recreation/Wildlife Management - Low Use

Original Completion: 1998  
 Water Supply Storage: 139,362 acre-feet  
 Conservation Pool Elevation: 522  
 Flood Control Elevation: 536'  
 Shoreline Miles: 80  
 Property Boundary Miles: 75

Total Lake Storage: 304,547 acre-feet  
 Conservation Pool Acres: 7,470  
 Flood Control Acres: 10,940  
 Flowage Easement Elevation: 541'  
 Slueway Elevation: 541'  
 Top of Dam Elevation: 564.5'



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Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Those lands required for the dam, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for marinas and related concessions, and resorts
Multiple Resource Management	<p><b>Recreation –Low Density:</b> Activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, and hunting</p>
	<p><b>Wildlife Management General:</b> Fish and wildlife management activities</p>
	<p><b>Vegetative Management:</b> Management activities for the protection and development of a specific vegetative cover</p>
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed
Easement Lands	<p>Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted</p> <p>All land for which USACE 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</p>



## Water Surface Classification

## Definition

Restricted

Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes

Designated No-Wake

To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety

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

Open Recreation

Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use



# Land Classifications

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





# Land Classifications

**High Density Recreation** - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public such as day use parks, campgrounds as well as concessions like marinas and resorts.



# Land Classifications

**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.

Examples may include mature bottomland forests, river and stream corridors, scenic bluffs, and native prairie.





# Land Classifications

**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.)



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# Land Classifications

**Wildlife Management** - Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources



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# Land Classifications

**Vegetative Management** - Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover



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# Water Classifications

- Water Surface- Restricted
- Water Surface-Designated No Wake
- Water Surface-Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Water Surface- Open Recreation



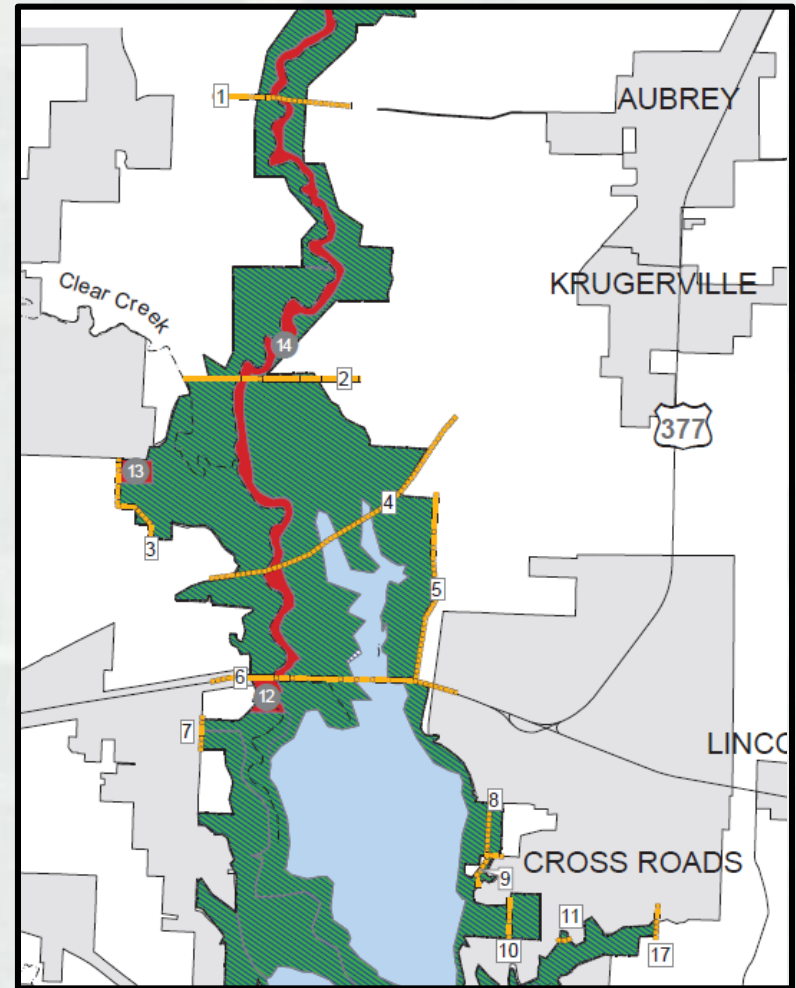
**Designated Beaches are Restricted Water Surface**



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# Utility Corridors

- Linear strips of federal land used for consolidation of multiple utility lines
- Establish only where no viable alternative to crossing Federal land exists
- Main purpose is to reduce negative environmental impacts
- Generally follow existing roads or utility lines



Examples of Existing Corridors at Lewisville Lake





# Potential Resource Objectives

- Recreation Objective:
  - ▶ Expand existing trails and create new trails for a variety of users
  - ▶ Extend key boat ramps to accommodate low lake levels
  - ▶ Leasing lands to other entities
  - ▶ Adjustment to the lake's boating capacity
  
- Natural Resource Objective:
  - ▶ Restore degraded prairie sites to support a diversity of native grasses and forbs
  - ▶ Implement invasive species control programs
  - ▶ Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas
  - ▶ Refine wildlife management programs
  
- General Objective:
  - ▶ Reduce encroachments and trespass through improved boundary marking and surveillance



# How Can I Participate?

- Attend Meetings
- Visit our website at:  
<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates>
- Send us an e-mail: [joepool-mp@usace.army.mil](mailto:joepool-mp@usace.army.mil)  
Use the comment form provided
- Visit with Corps personnel
- Tell your friends
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later (30 days)



# Master Plan Next Steps

- Typical lake master plan update will take 18-36 months to finalize. Joe Pool Lake Master Plan revision is in the early stage of development
- First 30-day public comment – 23 May thru 23 June 2017
- Draft MP / EA public meeting in Spring of 2018, followed by another 30-day Public/Agency comment period
- Final document: 6 - 8 months after release of draft (Fall 2018)



# The End

Please feel free to visit with staff members, view the maps, ask questions and help us produce an excellent Master Plan



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