

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
EUFAULA LAKE 2023 SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2013 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT
PLAN

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
HASKELL, LATIMER, MCINTOSH, MUSKOGEE, OKMULGEE, AND PITTSBURG
COUNTIES, OKLAHOMA

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1130-2-550 Change 07, dated January 2013 and Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 Change 05, dated 30 January 2013, require Master Plans (MP) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects having a federally owned land base. The supplemental change to the 2013 Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was conducted pursuant to this ER and EP and is necessary to satisfy requests from the public for a vegetation management permitting update.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, including guidelines in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 230, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis on the draft Eufaula Supplemental Change Memo. The draft 2023 Eufaula Lake Supplemental Change Memo addresses the need for an update to vegetation modification permitting at Eufaula Lake, which would allow the public to mow a 6-foot-wide meandering path through the 45-foot shoreline vegetation buffer in Limited Development Areas (LDA) only.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the draft Eufaula Supplemental Change Memo evaluated an alternative that would make an administrative change to the 2013 Eufaula Lake SMP in order to update vegetation modification guidelines as requested by the public, and its assessment of impacts are summarized in Table 1 and are included as reference. The 2023 Supplemental Change Memo serves to make a single change to the 2013 SMP, which has a life span of 25 years from 2013 to 2038.

In addition to a “no action” plan, one alternative that fully meets the project purpose was evaluated (proposed action/plan). Section 2.0 of the draft Eufaula Lake Supplemental EA discusses the alternative formulation and selection as well the summary of the current MP/SMP goals and objectives. There are no proposed changes to either the 2013 MP land classifications or the 2013 SMP shoreline allocations. No construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed by the proposed action. The proposed action includes coordination with the public, updates to comply with the USACE regulations and guidance, and reflects a requested change in vegetation modification policy that has been request by the public. The proposed action was formulated with input from the public and is responsive to comments received during the public comment period from September 11th, 2023 to October 11th, 2023.

The proposed action was chosen since it reflects public interests and establishes the requested change to vegetation modification permits at Eufaula Lake. The proposed action meets regional goals associated with good stewardship of land and water

resources, would meet regional recreation goals, and would allow for continued use and development of project lands along the shoreline without violating national policies or public laws.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Plan

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate change and Greenhouse Gases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been analyzed and incorporated into the proposed plan. The proposed plan will not entail any ground-disturbing activities. Future ground-disturbing activities on USACE property will be subject to all necessary environmental evaluations and compliance regulations.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the proposed plan.

Public review of the draft Supplemental Change Memo, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be completed on October 11th, 2023. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the final EA.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE has determined that the proposed plan will have insignificant effects on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat. The only species with the potential to be

affected is the American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), which the USACE completed Informal Consultation in regards to this species on August 18, 2023. No other Federally Listed species or their critical habitat would be affected by the Proposed Action.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the USACE has determined that the proposed plan will have no effect on historic properties.

All applicable environmental laws were considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on the draft report, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the proposed plan would not cause significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Timothy P. Hudson,
Colonel, EN
Commanding