

# Greers Ferry Lake

## Shoreline Management Plan Update

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The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Little Rock District, is updating the Greers Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). The SMP for Greers Ferry Lake **establishes policy** and **furnishes guidelines** for the protection and preservation of the environmental characteristics of the shoreline while **maintaining a balance between public and private shoreline uses**.

The planning process will include an analysis of potential effects on the natural and social environment, including fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities, economics, land use, cultural and historic resources, aesthetics, and public health and safety.



### About Greers Ferry Lake

The Greers Ferry Lake project on the Little Red River is located about two miles northeast of Heber Springs, Arkansas, about 65 miles northeast of Little Rock, Arkansas, and about 132 miles northwest of Memphis, Tennessee, and was authorized by the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938. The total area contained in the Greers Ferry project, including both land and water surface, consists of 41,194.5 acres and comprises 306.3 miles of shoreline. The lake provides many recreational opportunities, along with fish and wildlife habitat.

During high water events and flood periods, Greers Ferry Lake is operated in conjunction with other lakes in the White River Basin to prevent flood damage along the White and lower Mississippi Rivers. The dam also generates hydropower electricity.

### What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

The Greers Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan is the required USACE approval document (**ER 1130-2-406**) that protects and manages the shorelines of all Civil Works water resource development projects under Corps jurisdiction in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public.

The Greers Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan main objectives are to manage and protect the shoreline, to establish and maintain acceptable fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality and natural environment conditions and to promote the safe and healthful use of the lake and shoreline for recreational purposes.

- The original Greers Ferry Lake SMP (also known as the Lakeshore Management Plan) was approved in 1974.
- This plan was subsequently reviewed, updated with public involvement, and approved by the Division Engineer, Southwestern, in February 1976.
- This plan was reviewed again and updated with additional public involvement in 1982.
- Revision of 36 CFR 327. 30 in 1990 required the Little Rock District to convert its currently approved lakeshore management plans to shoreline management plans. The District's draft operating policy for shoreline management was made available for public review and comment in May 1991. This Shoreline Management Plan became effective date on April 16, 1993.
- Following public review of the April 1993 Shoreline Management Plan, Supplement No. 1 was added and that version of the Greers

Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan became effective on November 21, 1994.

- The last review of the Shoreline Management Plan began on January 26, 1999. That plan was approved by the Division Engineer, Southwestern, on March 14, 2000, and at a public workshop held in Heber Springs on March 16, 2000, the District Engineer presented the approved Shoreline Management Plan to the public. However, an organization known as Save Greers Ferry Lake, Inc., filed suit in federal court claiming that the Corps had failed to comply with NEPA.
- In May 2000, the U.S. District Judge issued a temporary injunction that ruled the associated environmental assessment did not support an overall finding of no significant impact.

- Following the injunction, the Corps withdrew the 2000 SMP, reverted to the 1994 SMP, and publicly announced that it was going to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to continue the process.
- The EIS was completed in April 2002. The final selection was a preferred alternative combination that conforms with existing laws and regulations and best balances public uses of lake shoreline for recreational opportunity, public safety, and environmental protection.
- An updated version of the SMP went into effect in 2004.

⇒ ***This is your opportunity to let USACE know how you would like the shoreline to be managed for the future***

## SMP Shoreline Allocations

On Greers Ferry Lake, shoreline may be allocated into one of these categories:

- **Limited Development Areas**—Areas where boat docks and other shoreline use activities are permitted.
- **Public Recreation Areas**—Area adjacent to or within parks which restricts the issuance of shoreline use permits.
- **Protected Shoreline Areas**—Areas designated to protect aesthetic, environmental, and fish and wildlife values. No boat docks or other shoreline use permits are allowed in these areas.
- **Prohibited Access Areas**—Areas immediately upstream from the dam where private docks and shoreline uses are prohibited for safety and security reasons.

(These four shoreline allocations are designated by 36 CFR 327.30 and ER 1130-2-406)

## Project Timeline

