

# BEAVER LAKE PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION

Public Workshop

Four Points by Sheraton  
Bentonville

Bentonville, AR

Tuesday, March 16, 2022

2:00 – 7:00 p.m.



*“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”*



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# Overview

## **Problem**

- Since construction of the Beaver Lake Project, the fulfillment of Congressionally-authorized project purposes has been hampered by the inability of the Government to manage those parcels along the shoreline which are in private ownership.



## **Planning Objective**

- Maximize the ability of the Beaver Lake Project to manage the Congressionally-authorized purposes effectively and efficiently.



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# Environmental Assessment Guidelines and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## NEPA GUIDES THE IMPACT ANALYSIS

NEPA is federal law that requires agencies to evaluate the potential environmental effects of proposed projects, and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

An EA includes sections describing:

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Baseline Conditions
- Environmental Effects

## TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

- Direct Effects
- Indirect Effects
- Conflicts with land use plans or policies
- Short-term use of the environment versus long-term productivity
- Irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources

## IMPACT ANALYSIS CRITERIA

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has identified a broad spectrum of general and project-specific criteria to analyze impacts of the action alternatives, including:

- Institutional Criteria
  - NEPA
  - Council on Environmental Quality Regulation
  - USACE Engineering Regulation 200-2-2
  - Environmental Laws and the associated Implementing Regulations and Guidance
- Technical Criteria
  - Flood Control
  - Hydropower
  - Water Supply
  - Environmental Responsibility
- Public Criteria
  - Comments

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC WORKSHOP?

NEPA is a public process designed to solicit public and agency comments regarding issues that an environmental document should consider.

This Public Workshop aims to:

- Share information
- Seek Input on the Draft EA
- Define How You Can be Involved

This is an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the Beaver Lake Proposed Land Acquisition Environmental Assessment.

**We encourage your Input During the NEPA Public Review Period!**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE NEPA PROCESS**

Agency/Interested Party  
Public Scoping Period

Preparation of Draft EA

Public Review Period  
(March 16 – April 15, 2022)

Preparation of Final EA and  
Draft Finding of No  
Significant Impact

Finding of No Significant  
Impact Signed

Implementation



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# Key Considerations in Developing Alternatives

*Completeness:* Completeness is the extent that an alternative provides and accounts for all investments and actions required to ensure the planned output is achieved. These criteria may require that an alternative consider the relationship of the plan to other public and private plans if those plans affect the outcome of the project. Completeness also includes consideration of real estate issues, operations and maintenance (O&M), monitoring, and sponsorship factors. Adaptive management plans formulated to address project uncertainties also have to be considered.

*Effectiveness:* Effectiveness is defined as the degree to which the plan will achieve the planning objective. The plan must make a significant contribution to the problem or opportunity being addressed.

*Efficiency:* The project must be a cost-effective means of addressing the problem or opportunity, and plan outputs cannot be produced more cost-effectively by another institution or agency.

*Acceptability:* A plan must be acceptable to Federal, state, and local government in terms of applicable laws, regulation, and public policy.

Impacts an alternative may have on the natural, cultural and human environment.

Impacts an alternative may have on dam safety, such as modifying water levels.

Impacts an alternative may have on recreational resources, such as modifying water levels.

Impacts an alternative may have on flood risk management to downstream life and property.

Impacts an alternative may have on hydropower generation.

Impacts an alternative may have on water supplies to surrounding communities.



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# Alternatives Considered

\*Several alternatives were considered, but didn't meet the Planning Objective\*

ALTERNATIVE	No Action	Purchase land according to prescribed elevations in Design Memorandum (DM)	Purchase Occasional Flowage Easements only	Land Exchange for Higher Elevation Property	Lower flood pool elevation to avoid flooding of private property	Begin evacuating flood pool earlier to avoid flooding private lands	Lower both flood and conservation pools to avoid flooding private property
<b>SCREENED OR CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>Carried forward</b> Meets Planning Objective	<b>Screened</b> Does not meet the Planning Objective	<b>Screened</b> Does not meet the Planning Objective	<b>Screened</b> Does not meet the Planning Objective	<b>Screened</b> Does not meet the Planning Objective	<b>Screened</b> Does not meet the Planning Objective
<b>RATIONALE</b>	Required by NEPA	Maximizes the ability of the Beaver Lake Project to manage the Congressionally-authorized purposes effectively and efficiently	Occasional flowage easements limit the Corps ability to manage the Congressionally-authorized purposes effectively and efficiently.	Property currently owned by the Corps is necessary for Project Operations.	Lowering the flood pool elevation would result in increased risk to life and property downstream as a result of increased occurrences of emergency surcharge operations.	Evacuating the flood pool earlier would result in increased risk to life and property downstream as a result of increased occurrences of emergency surcharge operations.	Lowering the flood pool increases risk to life and property downstream. Lowering the conservation pool would have significant adverse impacts to hydropower, recreation, and water supply.



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# Alternatives Evaluated

\*Several alternatives were considered, but didn't meet key considerations\*

## Alternative 1 - No Action:

- Continue to operate Beaver Lake in the current condition.
- Continue to frequently flood privately owned land parcels surrounding Beaver Lake.

## Alternative 2 (Proposed Action):

- Purchase land according to the prescribed elevations in the Beaver Lake Design Memorandum (to elevation 1128').



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# How Can You Participate?

## ■ Today's Workshop

- Review information on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), informational video, display boards and handouts
- Ask the USACE Specialists questions

## ■ Provide Comments

- Place comment cards in comment box tonight
- E-mail comments to: **CESWL-BeaverLakeAcquisitionPublicComment@usace.army.mil**
- Mail comments to:

**3 Options to  
Submit Your  
Comments**

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District  
Real Estate Division, ATTN: Chief, Acquisition Branch,  
P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203**



# How Can You Participate?

**For additional information, please visit our website where you can find the Draft Environmental Assessment:**

<https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Real-Estate/Beaver-Lake-Land-Acquisition/>



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