



MKARNS
Master Plan Revision
Draft Plan Release Report



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Little Rock District

June 2023

MKARNS Master Plan Revision

Draft Plan Release Report

June 2023

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Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
MKARNS	McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
MP	Master Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OMP	Operational Management Plan
P.L.	Public Law
R1S	Recreation 1 Stop
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
URL	uniform resource locator
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Little Rock District is proposing to revise the MKARNS Master Plan. The Master Plan (MP) guides the management of the government-owned and leased lands. The MP affects future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities to ensure the sustainability of MKARNS.

The MP is the guidance document that describes how the resources of the project will be managed in the future and provides the vision for how the MKARNS should look in the future. The MP does not address the details of how and where shoreline use permits may be issued on Lake Dardanelle. After the MP is revised and when funding becomes available, the Operational Management Plan (OMP) and SMP for Lake Dardanelle would be revised to be consistent with the goals identified in the MP.

The current MKARNS MPs were developed over 40 years ago, and original estimates of future population and land use do not align with current demographics. The MP revision will classify the government lands along the MKARNS based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends.

USACE Engineer Regulation (ER) and Engineer Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 with Change 7 and Change 5, respectively, dated January 30, 2013, establish guidance for developing MPs and OMPs for USACE Civil Works projects. MPs are required for fee-owned lands, in addition to civil works projects, for which USACE has administrative responsibility for management of natural and manmade resources. The primary goals of an MP are to “prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts” (EP 1130-2-550). MPs are reviewed every five years, and minor changes are made through supplements. An MP that has been excessively supplemented, is out-of-date, or does not serve its intended purpose due to changes in the project should be revised.

USACE has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and ER 200-2-2 Procedures for Implementing NEPA. The EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the MP revisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) would be prepared only if significant environmental effects that are identified during preparation of the EA could result from the MP revisions.

1.2 Purpose and Need for Master Plan Revision

The purpose of the project is to review and revise the current MKARNS master plans and consolidate them into a single master plan. The last revisions took place in 1976 and 1977. Updating and consolidating the master plans is now required for the following reasons:

- The existing plan format and mapping technology is outdated and not compliant with current Master Plan format and technology requirements.
- Current Corps policies/regulations, budget processes, business line performance measures, and priorities are not reflected.

- Customer uses have remained similar, but trends and facility and service demands have shifted in the past 30-40 years, ex. an increase in visitation and tourism
- Demands on fixed resources challenge the existing master plan.
- Shoreline development resulting in environmental and management issues have continued to increase causing sustainability concerns.
- Partners and stakeholders are engaged with the Corps and seek to increase and sustain benefits provided by the system.
- To provide an alternative recreational and natural resource experience for visitors to the MKARNS.
- To ensure project lands and water are not adversely impacted.
- To align past and current management practices and land classifications.
- To provide consistent policy guidance and direction for management of resources along the MKARNS within the Little Rock District.

As described in Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550, the national goals for MPs are:

GOAL A. Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.

GOAL B. Protect and manage project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.

GOAL C. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public demands created by the project itself while sustaining project natural resources.

GOAL D. Recognize the particular qualities, characteristics, and potentials of the project.

GOAL E. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other State and regional goals and programs.

1.3 Project Area

The MKARNS is part of the inland waterways of the United States originating at the head of navigation (Tulsa Port of Catoosa) and running southeast through Oklahoma and Arkansas to the Mississippi River. The MKARNS was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of July 24, 1946. The Little Rock District operates 308 river miles of the 445-mile River System which includes approximately ~90,000 acres of land and water with the authorized purposes of both the land and water to include Navigation, Hydropower, Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, and Water Supply.

The MKARNS provides many recreational opportunities, along with fish and wildlife habitat. Within the Little Rock District, there are ninety-one recreation areas on the MKARNS project. Forty-eight of these parks are presently operated by USACE. Twenty-eight parks are operated by City or County governments. Twelve parks are operated by State agencies. Two parks are operated by Friends of /nonprofit groups. Three commercial marinas are located within park boundaries. The USACE managed lands around Ozark and Dardanelle Lakes also provide for other popular recreational activities, including hiking, hunting, swimming,

and picnicking. The USACE managed lands near pools 2, 4 and 5 provide additional hunting, wildlife viewing and hiking opportunities.

1.4 Purpose of this Report

The following report summarizes the public participation process for, and the public comments resulting from, the MKARNS MP Revision draft plan release public workshops and comment period. This document will also assist USACE with the development of the final MP and EA documents.

Section 2

Draft Plan Release Process

2.1 Overview

In accordance with NEPA and ER 200-2-2, USACE initiated the environmental compliance and review process for the MKARNS MP revision project. A Draft EA was prepared to identify potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts related to implementation of the MP.

As part of the draft plan release phase of the environmental process, three public workshops were scheduled for January 30 and 31 as well as February 2, 2023, to gather comments on the draft revised MP and the draft EA. The January 31st evening workshop was cancelled due to inclement weather. The public workshops also gave the public an opportunity to learn about the evaluated alternatives and provide input on the draft MP and EA. An agency workshop was held virtually and made available for in person participation on the morning of January 31st prior to the onset of inclement weather.

Public workshop attendees were provided a comment card that asked for responses to specific questions in addition to providing general comments about the plan and the environmental review. The specific questions included:

- What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of MKARNS?
- What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?

USACE published notice of the public workshops through an email notification, a direct mail postcard, press releases, agency notification letters and social media. The postcard notice and email blast were sent to landowners adjacent to USACE-owned lands around the MKARNS, holders of AGFC fishing licenses, shoreline use permit holders, outgrant holders, marina owners, dock builders, those who have made reservations to camp at MKARNS campgrounds, and MP scoping phase commentors. Postcards were sent to those for whom only a postal address was available; all others received the email blast. Flyers were posted on bulletin boards at campgrounds and recreational facilities throughout the project. Agency coordination letters were sent to potentially interested agencies.

The comment period was held from January 16 to March 2, 2023.

2.2 Public Workshops

Notification of the draft review comment period and public workshops was completed via several forms of media as described further in this section. Three public workshops were scheduled and two held as described in Section 2.3.3.

2.2.1 Notification Database

USACE maintains databases of stakeholder groups interested in activities around the MKARNS. These databases maintained by USACE include shoreline use permit holders, marina owners, dock builders, and entities or individuals who maintain an outgrant on federally owned and USACE managed lands along the MKARNS. In addition, USACE developed a list of adjacent property owners based on the databases maintained by the county assessors of the surrounding counties. USACE also compiled a list of parties who had made campground reservations through the Recreation 1 Stop (R1S) reservation system for camping

visits along the MKARNS during the 2019 camping season. USACE obtained the database of holders of fishing permits purchased in Arkansas who's listed zip code is within one mile of fee property managed by USACE along the MKARNS. Finally, a concerted effort was made to include individuals and entities along the MKARNS within the Little Rock District including but not limited to County Judges, City Mayors, Chamber of Commerce offices, navigation industry officials, levee board points of contact, non-federal hydropower plants, water supply users, water discharge stations, railroad industries, utility providers, agriculture lessees, and park lessees. These combined databases included 14,294 email addresses and 45,203 postal addresses, to which notification was sent about the draft release public workshops, comment period and website information.

2.2.2 Public Notification Activities

Strategies to engage the public to participate in the MP visioning and environmental review processes included (1) making it easy to participate, (2) providing easy-to-understand information that helps people provide informed scoping comments, and (3) ensuring that stakeholders are aware of the planning process and understand how public input will be used.

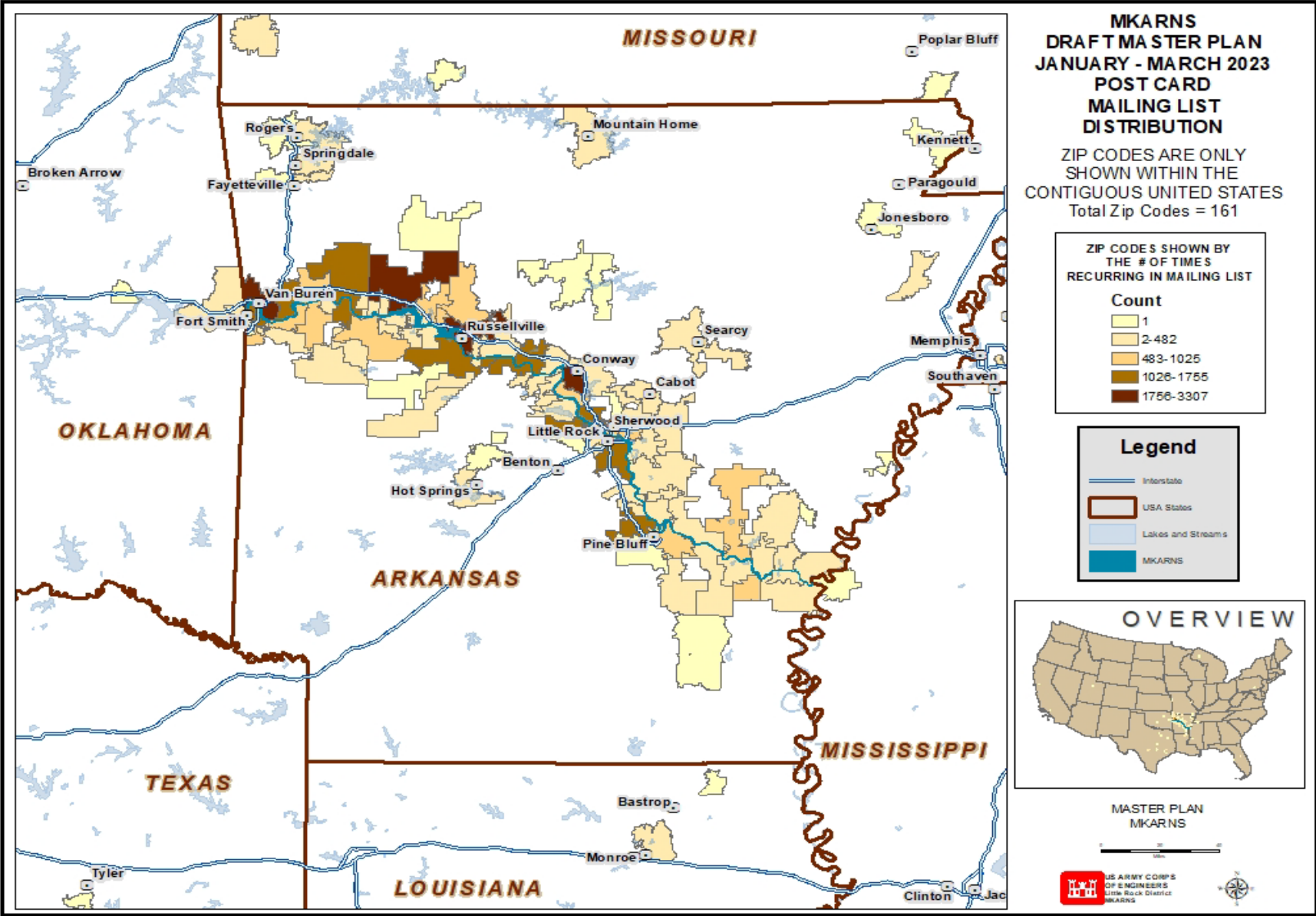
2.2.2.1 Direct Mail Notification

On January 9, 2023, 1,328 postcards were mailed to those listed in the notification database without email addresses. The distribution of postcard recipients is illustrated in **Figure 2-3** by zip code.

The postcard notification included information on the three public workshop locations and dates, how to provide comments, the comment period closing date, and the MKARNS MP web address. The direct mail postcard is included in Appendix A. .

2.2.2.2 E-mail Notification

An invitation e-mail blast was sent on January 18, 2023, to approximately 14,251 email addresses. These emails were sent to those in the notification database for whom email addresses were available. The information in the email blast was the same as the information on the postcard notification.



2.2.2.3 MKARNS MP Website

A project website, <https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/MKARNS-Master-Plan-Revision/>, was developed for the MP revision project. The site included information about the MKARNS, the MP revision process, and the scoping process. Information on the draft process included, how to submit comments and who to contact for more information.

Due to the loss of the GSA short-link service, metrics are not available on the media notification source of visits to the MKARNS MP webpage (comment card, press release, etc.) which would have allowed USACE to evaluate the effectiveness of each notification method. The following is a list of how many times the various pages of the MKARNS MP website were visited. In total, the site was visited 779 times.

- MKARNS MP Home Page: 779
- MKARNS MP Documents: 306
- MKARNS MP General Info: 152
- MKARNS MP Meetings: 103
- MKARNS Why Update the MP: 89
- MKARNS Comment Form: 52

2.2.2.4 Social Media

The Little Rock District Public Affairs office also used Facebook to distribute project information similar to what was found on the MKARNS MP webpage such as posting notifications of the scoping comment period and associated pertinent data. Two Facebook posts were made. The press release announcement post requesting public feedback went out on January 19, 2023, and reached 1,675, received five reactions and five shares. The public workshop cancellation post went out on January 30, 2023, and reached 1,396, received four reactions and one share.

In addition, during the week of the public workshops, the Facebook page was updated with daily status reports, photos, and information from the public workshops.

2.2.2.5 Other Notification Activities

To maximize the coverage of the outreach effort for the scoping period, a media release was sent to local media outlets using the Southwestern Division, Little Rock District, Arkansas River media distribution list on January 18, 2023. A copy of the press releases and social media posts are in Appendix A, and copies of the media coverage are in Appendix F.

2.3.3 Public Workshops

USACE scheduled three public workshops to gather input on the Draft Revised MP and the Draft EA. The second public workshop was cancelled due to inclement weather. Public workshops were scheduled in compliance with NEPA guidelines, and locations were selected to reflect equitable geographic coverage. Workshop locations were all within the project area and were scheduled in three large towns on different sections of MKARNS. Locations were also all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The workshops were held in the middle of the public comment period. To provide the greatest opportunity for community participation, public workshops were held in varied locations on different days of the week in the afternoon and evening hours.

A total of 22 people signed in at the two public workshops that were held (**Figure 2-2** and **Figure 2-3**). No comment cards were returned at the public workshops. In total, four comment submittals were received via email and online comment cards from members of the public and four letters from agencies were received by the end of the public comment period.

Public Workshop 1: Russellville

Monday, January 30, 2023

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Russellville Project Office

1598 Lock and Dam Road

Russellville, Arkansas 72802

Attendees: 14 signed in

Comments: Zero comment cards or letters were submitted at the public workshop.

Public Workshop 2: North Little Rock (Cancelled due to inclement weather)

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Faith Baptist Church

5600 Camp Robinson Road

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Public Workshop 3: Pine Bluff

Thursday, February 2, 2023

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center

1400 Black Dog Drive

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Attendees: Eight signed in

Comments: Zero comment cards or letters were submitted at the public workshop.



Figure 2-2. Russellville Public Workshop



Figure 2-3. Pine Bluff Public Workshop

2.3.3.1 Public Workshop Format

The purpose of the public workshops was to present the three alternatives and get feedback on the Draft Revised MP and the Draft EA. During the workshops, participants had the opportunity to view project display boards and ask questions or raise concerns directly to project team members stationed around the room. Three computers were set up at Russellville and two at Pine Bluff during the workshops which provided access to the online interactive maps of MKARNS which were located on the MP website. These interactive maps showed the alternative land classifications and allowed staff to facilitate responses to questions about MKARNS and the MP revision process (**Figure 2-3**).

Written comments were available to submit at each workshop in the form of the comment cards and were accepted by mail, fax, and e-mail after the workshops until the close of the comment period on March 2, 2023.

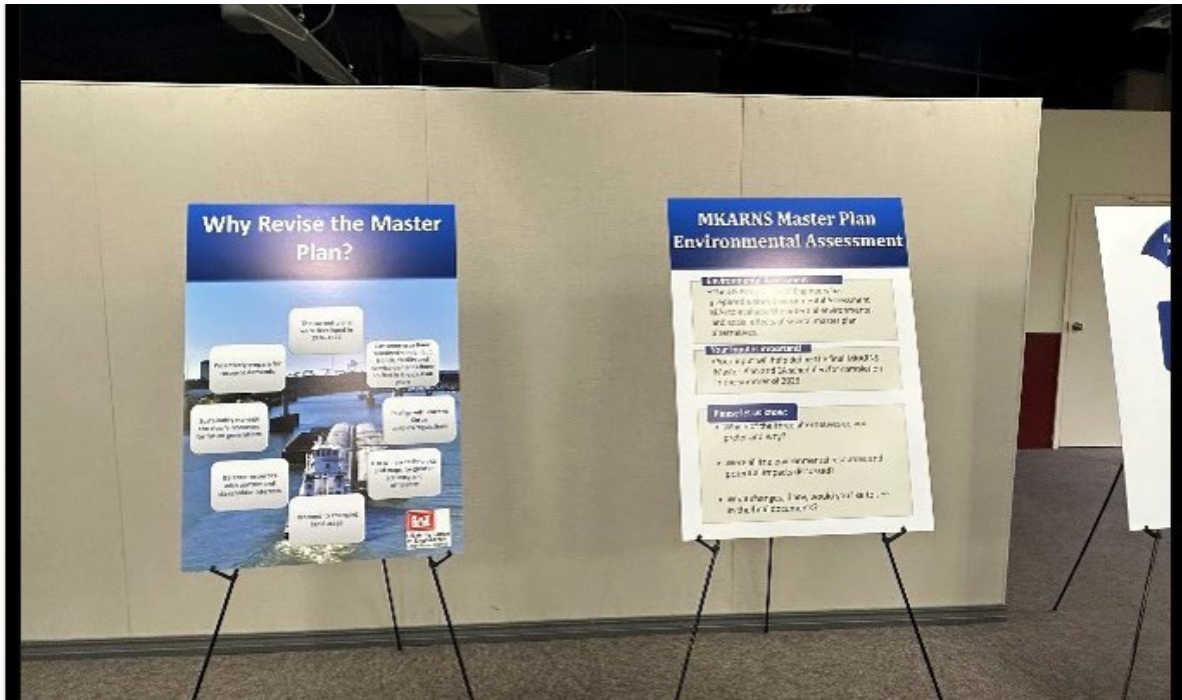


Figure 2-4. Exhibit Boards at the Russellville Public Workshop

2.3.3.2 Public Workshop Materials

Each workshop attendee was offered a two-page fact sheet (Located in Appendix B) and a comment card (Located in Appendix B). The fact sheet provided a brief overview and comparison of the three alternatives. The comment card included information on how to comment and allowed attendees to either submit written comments at the workshop or to mail them in after the workshops. The comment card was designed as a self-mailer so that individuals could easily mail comments to USACE if they needed more time to develop their comments after attending the public workshops.

Several display boards were developed and used during the public workshops. The boards provided information on the MP revision process, the alternatives, and provided a backdrop for one-on-one question and answers with USACE staff. The boards included:

- How to Comment
- MKARNS Master Plan Environmental Assessment
- Why Revise the Master Plan?
- Master Plan Guidance and Vision
- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3

- 3 Alternative 2 Land Classification Maps

The exhibit boards are included in Appendix C.

2.4 Agency Meeting

USACE scheduled an agency meeting to gather input on the Draft Revised MP and the Draft EA. The meeting had an in-person option as well as an online option to maximize agency attendance. A list of agencies notified of the draft comment release period and agency meeting can be found in Appendix A to this report.

Agency Meeting: North Little Rock and Webex

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Faith Baptist Church

5600 Camp Robinson Road

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Agency participants included individuals from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Resources Division, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A presentation was provided to review the purpose of a Master Plan, the evaluated alternatives, and the Preferred Alternative. Following the presentation, the meeting was opened to comments and questions from the resource agency attendees; however, no comments or questions were received.

2.5 Comments Received

The public comment period was held from January 16, 2023, to March 2, 2023, which provided a 45-day comment period. All interested persons were provided opportunities to submit written comments at the two public workshops held as well as via email, fax, or mail. The comment cards distributed at the public workshops were designed to facilitate return of written comments either at the workshop or via mail later during the public comment period. Email comments could be sent to a project specific email address, which was included on the MKARNS MP webpage as well as on all the notice materials distributed. Some public workshop participants took multiple comment cards to distribute to friends and family who were not able to attend a workshop in person.

There were four comment submittals (emails and comment cards) from members of the public and four comment submittals from agencies were received by the end of the comment period. Copies of all the public comments submitted during the comment period are included in Appendix D. Copies of agency submittals are included in Appendix E.

Section 3

Summary of Comments

3.1 Introduction

USACE accepted comments on the MKARNS MP Revision throughout the entire comment period from January 16, 2023, to March 2, 2023. Agencies, community groups, members of the public, and other interested parties submitted 8 letters, e-mails, and comment cards during this period. The summary table (**Table 3-1**) provides a tally of the topics discussed in the comments.

It should be noted that the combined numbers of comments listed in the following subsections and the summary table will be greater than the total number of comment submissions because some commentors discussed multiple topics in their submission. Topics covered in the comments submitted included general comments about the plan and location specific requests.

This section contains a summary of comments received during the comment period. The actual comments may be found in Appendices D and E.

3.2 Summary of Comments

All comments were reviewed and categorized. The full text of each comment is included in Appendices D (public comments) and E (agency comments).

Table 3-1 provides a summary of the comments received during the comment period. While this table does not include every comment received, it provides a general summary of the topics submitted during the comment period. The full text of all written comments submitted by members of the public or stakeholder organizations is provided in Appendix D. Agency comments are included in Appendix E.

Table 3-1. Summary of Comments Received

Alternative Preference	Alternative 1 (0)
	Alternative 2 (0)
	Alternative 3 (0)
Other Topics	Location Specific Request (4)
	Shoreline Permits/Boat Docks (2)
	Maintain Agriculture Lease (1)
	Concerns with Boundary Line (1)
	Maintain Existing Docks/Dock Zoning (1)
	Concerned about potential trespassers (1)
	Maintain Access to River (1)
	Fluctuate Lake elevation to aid siltation issues (1)
	More recreational amenities on docks (1)
	Fishing (1)
	Wildlife (1)
	Energy/Hydropower (1)
	Recreational Opportunities (1)

3.2.1 Alternative Preference Comments

No comment received from the public or agency expressed a preference for a particular alternative.

3.2.2 Location Specific Requests

There were four location specific requests, which are summarized below.

- Would prefer the corps land stay on the south side of the railroad tracks near their property line
- Would like to maintain Agricultural Lease and have deep-water channel access in Shoal Bay
- Would like dock in front of property in Thompson Branch
- Would like land classification changed at White Oak Park and Citadel Bluff Park

3.2.3 Public Comments

Four public comments were submitted during the draft release comment period. Most comments received from the public were comments outside the scope of the Master Plan Revision process. No comments expressed a negative or positive preference for any alternative. The only common topic amongst the public comments were concerns about shoreline use permits. For summary of comments see the summary table (**Table 3-1**). The full text of all written comments submitted by members of the public is provided in In

3.2.4 Agency Comments

Four agencies submitted comments during the draft release comment period. No comments received expressed a negative or positive preference for any alternative. The official agency letters and emails are included in Appendix E. Agencies that commented during the comment period included:

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Entergy Operations Inc., Arkansas Nuclear One
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 6
- U.S. Department of Energy, Southwestern Power Administration

In addition, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, which acts as the state clearinghouse for the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System, distributed the notice to state agencies.

Some comments provided by the agencies are previously discussed in the location specific section. Additionally, agency comments are included in the totals in **Table 3-1**. Agency comments not covered in previous sections are summarized in this section. The full text of the agency comments is available in Appendix E. Comments not covered in earlier sections include:

- Concerns regarding definition of changes regarding restricted water classification and project operations land classification
- Request that community Floodplain Administrator be contacted
- Request that master plan does not negatively impact hydroelectric power
- Western Chicken Turtle is not mentioned in the MP/EA
- Want to make sure fishing access isn't reduced with the preferred alternative

Section 4

Next Steps: MP Revision Process

The purpose of the MKARNS MP Revision draft plan release public workshops and comment period was to provide an opportunity for agencies and the public to learn about the draft alternatives and provide input on the draft MP and EA to help guide future land use and management at MKARNS.

USACE will consider the comments and issues identified during the draft release comment period as the final MP and EA are developed. Both the final MP and the EA will be made available to the public. It is anticipated that this would occur in the summer of 2023.

Individual responses to comments provided during the draft release comment period are not developed in the preparation of an EA. Where consistent with the purpose of a MP and where possible under the planning mechanisms available for a MP, USACE will incorporate the feedback and suggestions provided through the comments.

Appendices

<i>Appendix A</i>	Notification Materials
	Bulletin Board Flyer
	Direct Mail Postcard
	Email Blast
	Press Release
	Facebook Page
	Agency Mailing List
<i>Appendix B</i>	Public Workshop Materials
	Fact Sheet
	Comment Card
<i>Appendix C</i>	Public Workshop Exhibit Boards
<i>Appendix D</i>	Public Comments
<i>Appendix E</i>	Agency Comments
<i>Appendix F</i>	Media Coverage

Appendix A

Notification Materials

Bulletin Board Flyer



McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) MASTER PLAN REVISION ATTEND A PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Please drop in at any time during the following scheduled times

January 30, 2023 3:00-7:00 Russellville Project Office 1799 Lock and Dam Rd. Russellville, AR 72802	January 31, 2023 3:00-7:00 Faith Baptist Church 5600 Camp Robinson Rd. North Little Rock, AR 72118	February 2, 2023 3:00-7:00 AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Ctr 1400 Black Dog Dr. Pine Bluff, AR 71601
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All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plan and the draft Environmental Assessment for the MKARNS which describes three alternative plans and potential impacts.

For current information and to submit comments, please visit:

<https://go.usa.gov/xHvVA>

Attend one of the two public workshops to learn the details of the alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment to help guide future land use and management along the MKARNS. Staff will be available to answer questions.

Your input will help define the final MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment scheduled for completion in the summer of 2023.


**Comments must be submitted by March 2, 2023 to:
MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Section**

USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203

Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil

Direct Mail Postcard

McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Master Plan Revision



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Little Rock District

ATTEND A PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Please drop in at any time during the following scheduled times:

<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">January 30, 2023 3:00-7:00</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.7em;">Russellville Project Office 1598 Lock and Dam Rd Russellville, AR</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">January 31, 2023 3:00-7:00</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.7em;">Faith Baptist Church 5600 Camp Robinson Rd. North Little Rock, AR</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">February 2, 2023 3:00-7:00</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.7em;">AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center 1400 Black Dog Dr. Pine Bluff, AR</p>
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All facilities accessible to persons with disabilities

The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plan and the draft Environmental Assessment, which describes three alternative plans and potential impacts.
For current information and to submit comments, please visit:

<https://go.usa.gov/xHvVj>

Attend one of the three public workshops to learn the details of the draft alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment to help guide future land use and management along the MKARNS. Staff will be available to answer questions. Your input will help define the final MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment scheduled for completion in the summer of 2023.

Comments must be submitted by March 2, 2023 to: MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Section
USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203

BUILDING STRONG


**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
 Little Rock District
 P.O. Box 867
 Little Rock, AR 72203

Join us at a workshop for the
**McClellan-Kerr Arkansas
River Navigation System
Master Plan Revision**

Or visit our website at

<https://go.usa.gov/xHvVj>

Email Blast

Subject: Public Workshops for McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Master Plan Revision

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

MKARNS MASTER PLAN REVISION

WORKSHOPS

The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plan and the draft Environmental Assessment, which describes three alternative plans and potential impacts.

You are invited to attend one of the Three public workshops to learn the details of the draft alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment to help guide future land use and management along the MKARNS.

ATTEND A PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Please drop in at any time during the following scheduled times:

January 30, 2023

3:00-7:00

Russellville Project Office
1799 Lock and Dam Rd.
Russellville, AR 72802

January 31, 2023

3:00-7:00

Faith Baptist Church
5600 Camp Robinson Rd.
North Little Rock, AR 72118

February 2, 2023

3:00-7:00

AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center
1400 Black Dog Dr.
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

*** All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities*

For current information and to submit comments, please visit:

<https://go.usa.gov/xHvVP>

Your input will help define the final MKARNS Lake Master Plan and Environmental Assessment scheduled for completion in the summer of 2023.

Comments should be submitted by March 2, 2023 to:
MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section
USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867,
Little Rock, AR 72203,
Fax: (501) 324-6230
Email: CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil

Press Release



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

NEWS RELEASE

BUILDING STRONG®

Release No: 87-20
Release: Immediately
June 14, 2021

Media Contact:
Public Affairs Office, 501-324-5551
CESWL-PA@usace.army.mil
Media after hours: 501-563-6835

USACE seeks public input on the revised McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River (MKARNS) Master Plan

Little Rock, Ark. – The Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft MKARNS Master Plan (MP) and Environmental Assessment (EA). Public comment for the draft MP and EA will be held between January 16, 2023 – March 2, 2023. USACE will hold three public in-person workshops to explain the Draft MP and EA. All interested persons are invited.

The workshops are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on January 30th at the Russellville Site Office, 1799 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, AR; from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on January 31st, 2023, at the Faith Baptist Church, 5600 Camp Robinson Rd, North Little Rock, AR; and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on February 2nd, 2023, at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Delta Rivers Nature Center, 1400 Black Dog Dr., Pine Bluff.

Those interested are encouraged stop by at any time during the scheduled workshops. Representatives from the Corps will be available to answer questions and maps will be shown to provide an overview of the revision. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the MKARNS Master Plan revision process before the MP revision is complete.

The Corps' master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters surrounding our waterways, recognizing the ongoing


U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT
700 West Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201
www.swl.usace.army.mil

activities of others in the watershed; specifically, environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes.

Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops. In addition, comments can be mailed to the MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203, or e-mailed to CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil before March 2, 2023. For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the MKARNS Master Plan Revision visit our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xHvp3>.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT
700 West Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201
www.swl.usace.army.mil

Facebook Post

 Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Published by Erin Ulloa · January 19 ·

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment. Public comment for the draft MP and EA will be held between Jan. 16 and March 2. USACE will hold three public in-person workshops to explain the draft MP and EA. All interested persons are invited.

The workshops are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Russellville Site Office, 1598 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, AR from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the Faith Baptist Church, 5600 Camp Robinson Rd, North Little Rock, AR and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Delta Rivers Nature Center, 1400 Black Dog Dr., Pine Bluff, AR.

Those interested are encouraged to stop by at any time during the scheduled workshops. USACE representatives will be available to answer questions and maps will be shown to provide an overview of the revision. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the MKARNS MP revision process before the MP revision is complete.

USACE master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters surrounding our waterways. They recognize the ongoing activities of others in the watershed, specifically environmental stewardship, and recreation.

Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops. Comments can also be mailed to the MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 or e-mailed to CESWL-MKARNMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil before March 2.

For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the MKARNS MP Revision, visit our website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xHvp3>



Agency Mailing List

Personnel from the following list of agencies received notification of the draft release comment period and invitation to the agency meeting by email or by mail if no email was known.

- Arkansas Department of Health
- Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
- Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
- Arkansas State Clearing House
- Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

Appendix B

Public Workshop Materials

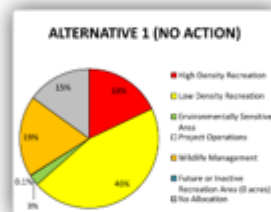
Fact Sheets

MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVISION

There are several alternatives under consideration for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plan revision. For more information, please visit <https://go.usa.gov/xHvVM>

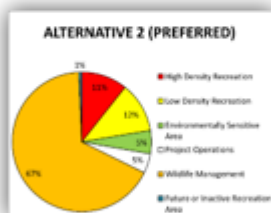


Alternative 1 – No Action (Existing 1976- 1977 Master Plans)



- Land classifications remain the same as the 1976 and 1977 MKARNS master plans
- Currently unclassified land remains unclassified contributing to confusion about allowable land uses
- Maintains existing resource management
- Does not respond to changed conditions or reflect current needs
- Wildlife Management Land Classification where no shoreline use permits are currently located, converted to ESA

Alternative 2 – (Preferred)



- Based on current/historical management practices, scoping comments, and recognizes regional Natural Resource Management priorities
- Reclassified some lands that contain active shoreline use permits or outgrants to Low Density.
- Unclassified lands are classified into one of the six land classifications
- Most historical access areas are classified as Low Density Recreation.
- Large increase in Wildlife Management land classification attributed to Dardanelle and Ozark WMA lands.

Alternative 3



- Similar to Alternative 2 with modifications to maintain more High Density Recreation for potential future development
- Some lands within WMA lands did not exhibit characteristics suitable for wildlife habitat improvements either remained or were converted to Low Density for potential future shoreline Use under the direction of the Lake Dardanelle Shoreline Management Plan
- Unclassified lands are classified into one of the six land classifications
- Most historical access areas are classified as Low Density Recreation

MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVISION

Comparison of Land and Water Classifications by Alternative

Classification	Alternative 1 No Action		Alternative 2 (Preferred)		Alternative 3	
	Acres	Percent of land	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent of land
Land Classification						
High Density	8,340.5	18%	4,965.4	11%	5,806.5	13%
Low Density	21,141.6	46%	5,418.3	12%	5,325.3	11%
Environmentally Sensitive	1,175.9	3%	2,500.9	5%	2,500.9	11%
Project Operations	39.4	0.1%	2,115	5%	2,115	5%
Wildlife Management	8,756.4	19%	31,112.2	67%	30,683.1	66%
Future or Inactive Recreation Areas	0	0%	320	1%	0	0%
Not Allocated	6,976.8	15%	0	0%	0	0%
Water Surface Classification						
Restricted	68.6	NA	68.6	NA	68.6	NA
Open Recreation	45,752.2	NA	45,752.2	NA	45,752.2	NA
Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary	342.7	NA	342.7	NA	342.7	NA

Comment Card

McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment



Please use this form to provide your comments on the draft revised McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plan, the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plan and EA may be found on the website at <https://go.usa.gov/xHvV5>. Feel free to take extra forms.

Comments must be submitted by **March 2, 2023** to USACE at the addresses below.

PLEASE PRINT

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email: _____

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of the MKARNS?

What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?

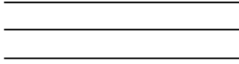
Additional Comments:

Comments may be submitted via mail, email, fax or the project website with attention to: MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil.

Website: <https://go.usa.gov/xHvV5>.

Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by **March 2, 2023**.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS: AUTHORITY: ER 1130-2-550, and the laws and regulations referenced therein. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To provide a means for the maximum practicable public participation in Master Plan formulation, preparation and subsequent revisions, through the use of public meetings, group workshops, open houses or other public involvement. ROUTINE USE(S): Information you provide will be available for public review or may be disclosed to members of the Department of Defense or other Government agencies who have a need for the information in performance of their official duties, and where use of such information is compatible with the purpose for which the information is collected. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure to furnish the requested information may prevent the Agency from being able to direct meeting notices or provide additional information to commenters.



Postage
Required

MKARNS MP Planner
Natural Resources Management Section
Little Rock District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Fold Here

Tape Ends before Mailing

Appendix C

Public Workshop Exhibit Boards

How to Comment

5 ways to submit a comment:

1. Complete and submit a comment form in the comment box before leaving

2. Mail comments to:

**MKARNS MP Planner
Natural Resources Section USACE
Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203**

3. Speak to the court reporter

4. **Email:** CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil

5. Submit a comment online by visiting:
<https://go.usa.gov/x7bXY>

Comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, or hand delivered by March 2, 2023



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Little Rock District

MKARNS Master Plan Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment

- The US Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental and social effects of several master plan alternatives.

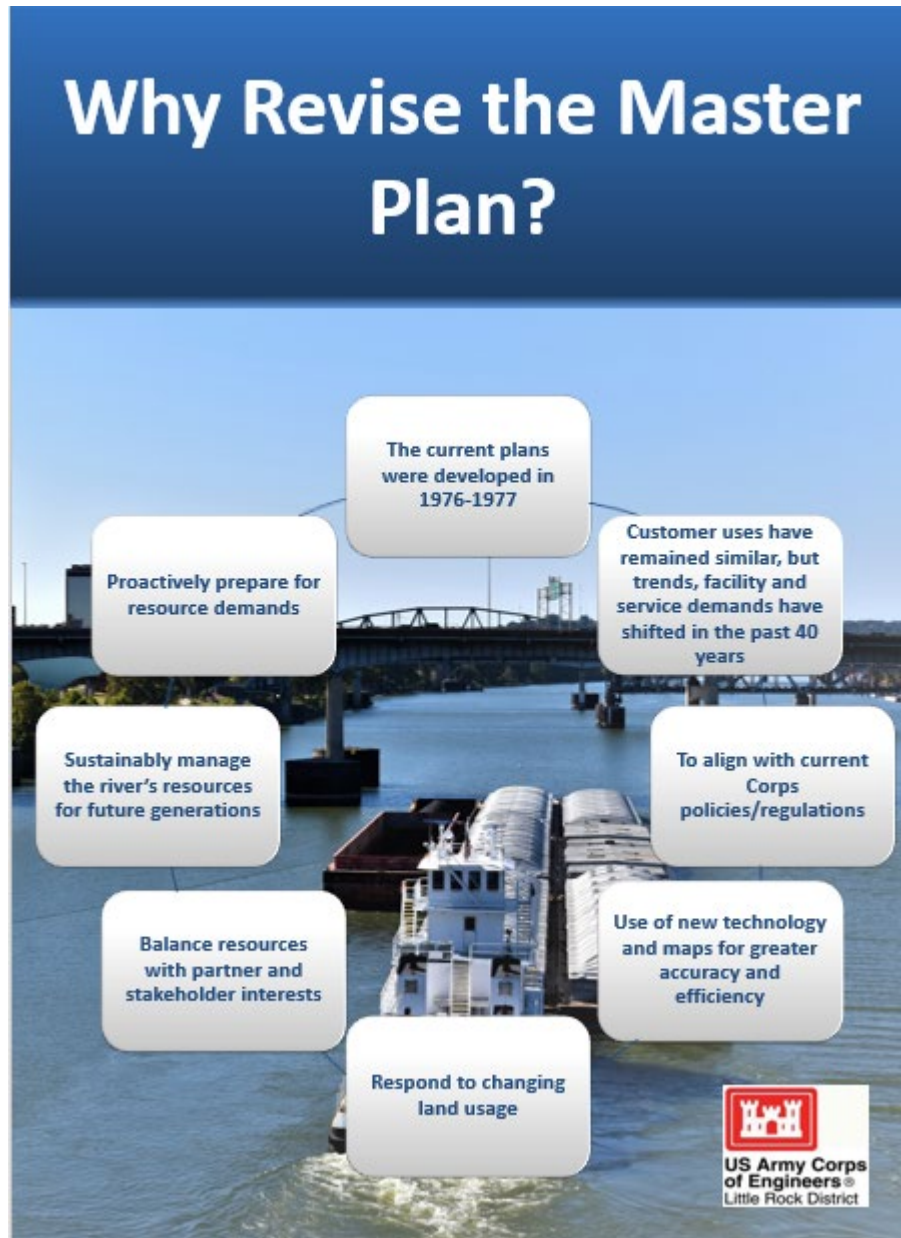
Your input is important!

- Your input will help define the final MKARNS Master Plan and EA scheduled for completion in the summer of 2023.

Please let us know:

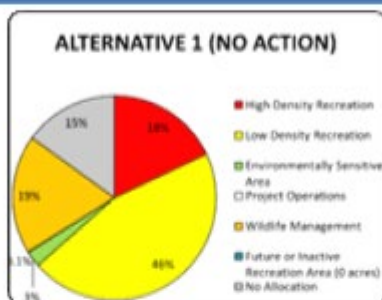
- Which of the three alternatives do you prefer and why?
- Were all the environmental resources and potential impacts discussed?
- What changes, if any, would you like to see in the final documents?


Why Revise the Master Plan?








Alternative 1 (No Action)



- 

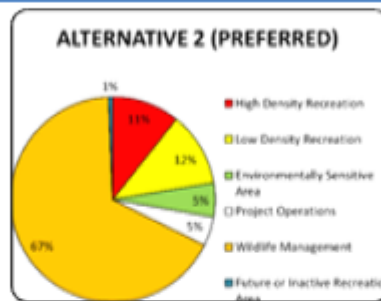
Land classifications remain the same as the 1976 and 1977 MKARNS master plans
- 

Currently unclassified land remains unclassified contributing to confusion about allowable land uses
- 

Maintains existing resource management
- 

Does not respond to changed conditions or reflect current needs

Alternative 2 (Preferred)



Based on current/historical management practices, scoping comments, and recognizes regional Natural Resource Management priorities.

Reclassifying some lands that contain active shoreline use permits or outgrants to Low Density.

Most historical access areas are classified as Low-Density Recreation.

Unclassified lands are classified into one of the six classifications

Large increase in Wildlife Management land classification attributed to Dardanelle and Ozark WMA lands.

Alternative 3

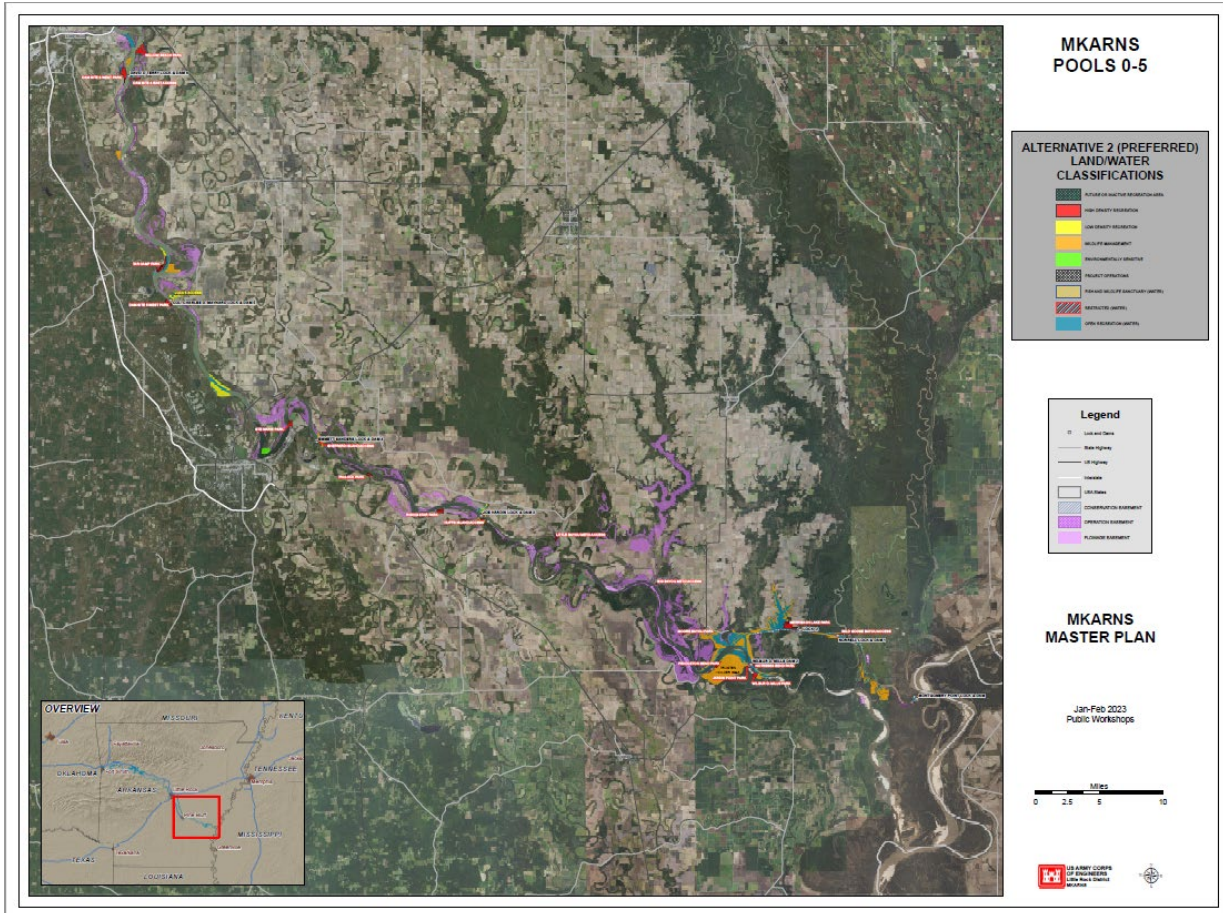


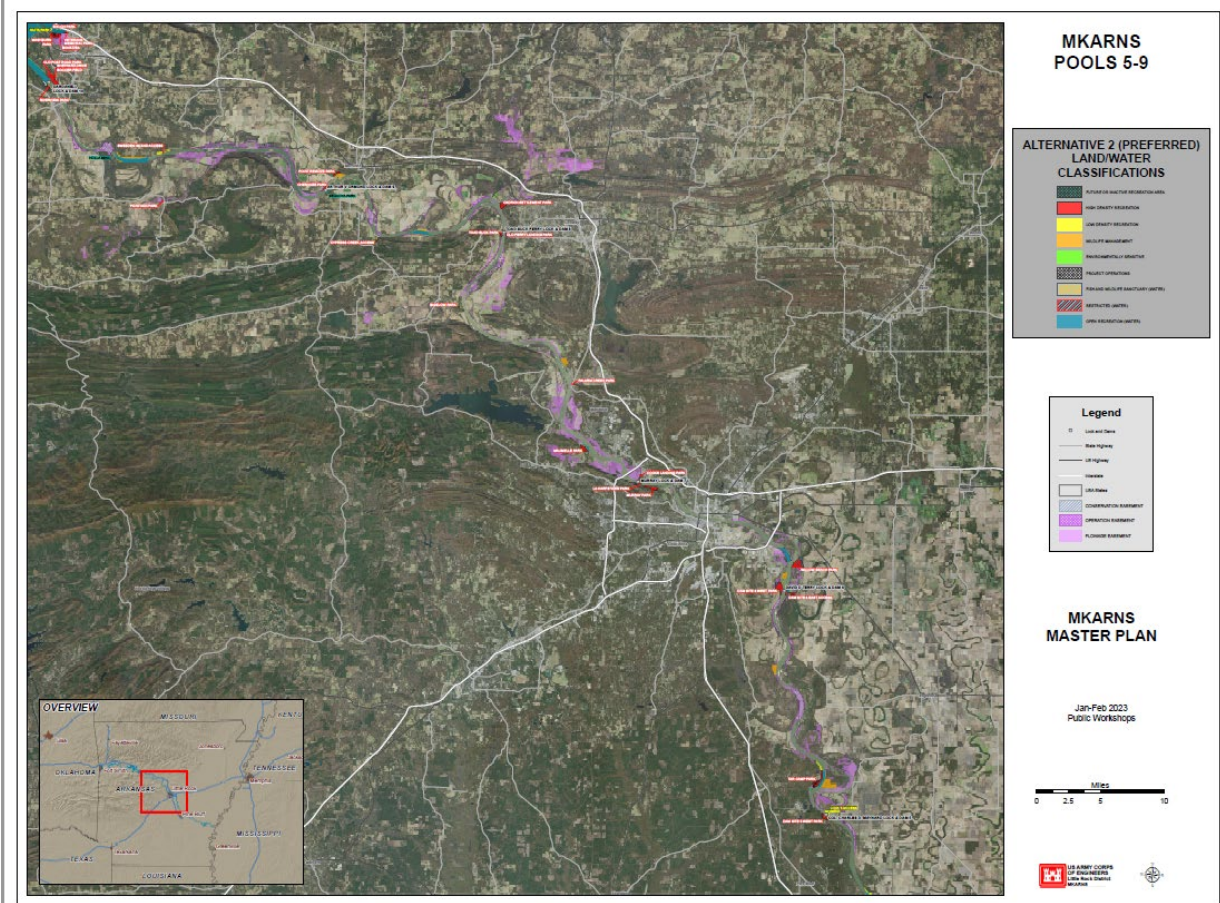
Similar Alternative 2 with modifications to maintain more High Density Recreation for potential future development.

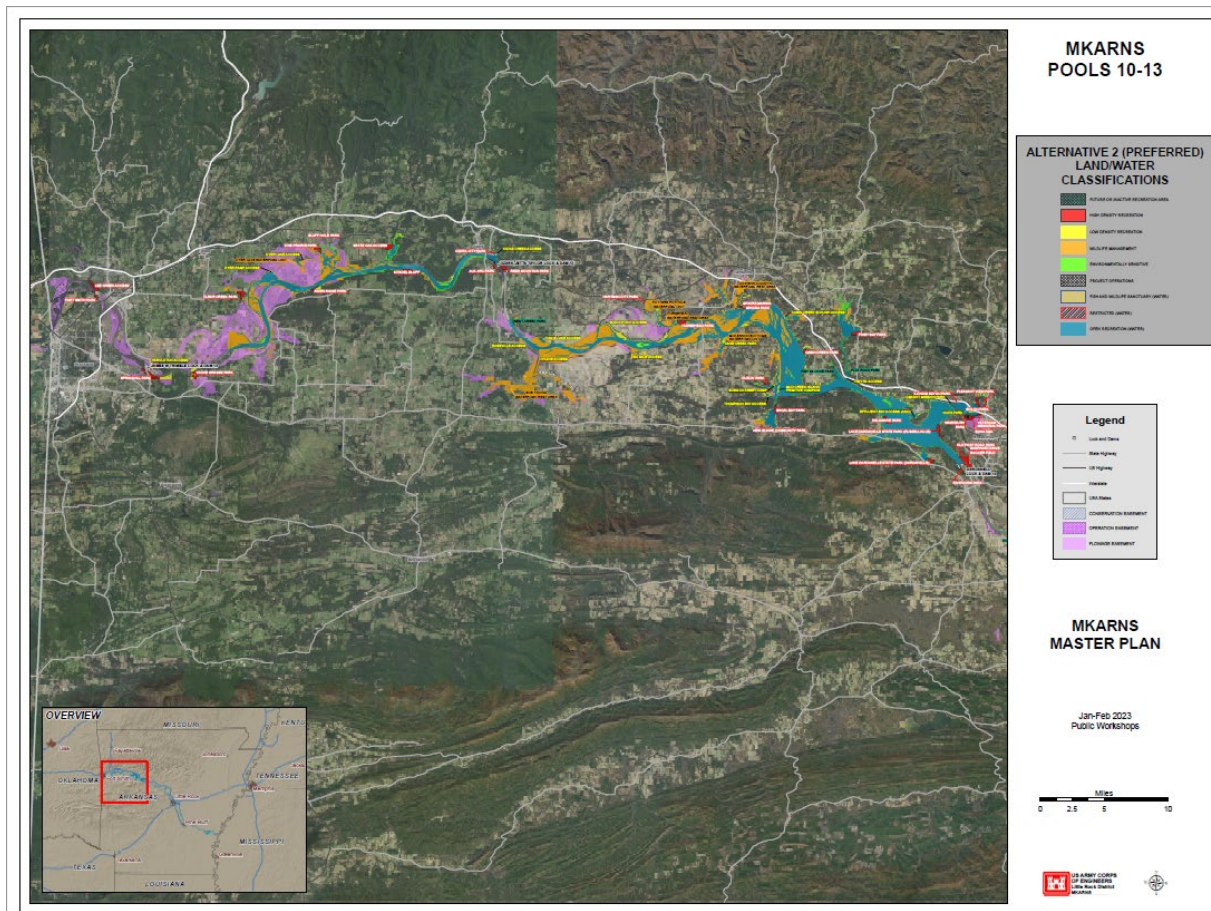
Some lands within WMA lands did not exhibit characteristics suitable for wildlife habitat improvements either remained or were converted to Low Density for potential future shoreline Use under the direction of the Lake Dardanelle Shoreline Management Plan

Most historical access areas are classified as Low Density Recreation

Unclassified lands are classified into one of the six land classifications







Appendix D

Public Comments

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MKARNS Master Plan Revision
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 3:59:50 PM
Attachments: [Thompson Bay Pic.pptx](#)

Hello Master Plan Revision Review Team,

We have a lake-side home on Thompson Branch. We're interested in adding a dock to our property. We were told in the past we would not be able to add a boat dock in front of our home. Past guidance provided by the Army Corp of Engineers suggested we might be able to add a slip to the dock located on the neighboring owner's property to the east side of our home.

The attached picture illustrates our home location with a white-line box around our home and surrounding property to the north-side of the diagonal yellow core-line flood easement. This illustration represents approximately 900 feet of shoreline where there is no accessibility for other homes to be built.

For further detailed reference, an extract of the draft Master Plan Revision has been included which highlights our home location along with docks currently accessible on Thomson Branch. As identified in both illustrations of the bay, there is a visible image of the dock on the neighboring owner's property just to the east of our home. This is the only available dock on over 2,500 feet of the north side bay shoreline. Alternatively, there are at least 8 docks in front of homes on the south side within approximately 2,700 feet of shoreline.

We're requesting renewed consideration during this revision review process to add a dock positioned in front of our property on Thompson Branch that would not cause any significant impact to other homeowners located on the bay.

Thank You.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fishing
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 5:01:44 PM

I do believe it should be State wide law allowing 2 poles per person only!!!! Crappie fishing mainly!!!! These guides at Blue Mtn having 10 to 20 poles drift fishing is putting a major hurt on the Crappie population!!!! I have fished there most of my life, I do see a Huge Change!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation
System Master Plan Revision and
Environmental Assessment**



Please use this form to provide comments and suggestions about how you would like to see the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plan revised; or provide comments on the issues that should be studied before a decision is made on Master Plan revisions. Feel free to take an extra form to provide to friends or neighbors and send the forms back, before August 13, 2021, to USACE at the addresses below.

(Optional Information)

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

How would you like to see the MKARNS in 20 years? What changes, if any, would you like to see along the MKARNS?

I have an ag lease on the south end of Shoal Bay along Peedee and Shoal Creeks, and I would certainly want to maintain that. I am a part of a community boatdock, and want to maintain that and allow for recreational use of the dock, i.e. chairs, etc. Also related to that we a deepwater channel access to Shoal Bay. The old channel is silted in and impassible.

What about the MKARNS is most and least important to you? Most important is access to and from the river from Shoal Bay, and maintaining Agricultural land leases. Least important is maintaining a "natural" shoreline. It was not like this when the lake was filled and the lake is by its nature unnatural. It makes the shorlines unusable by the public.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied.

It would be useful to drop the lake level at least 10 feet every few years to allow the old silted in creek and branch channels to flush out and to allow the users to see the changing contours of the lake bottom. If you are attempting to simulate a "natural" lake, this would help come closer to that. All bodies of water in nature vary in surface elevation due to natural fluctuations in moisture supply. It seems to be successful on Lakes Catherine and Hamilton at reducing shoreline vegetation problems.

It would also be interesting to allow recreational improvements on private boat docks, such as sun decks, diving boards, swim ladders, and permanently stored chairs and gear. After all, it is not costing the government one penny. Let people have fun.

Comments may be submitted via mail, email, or fax with attention to: MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Fax: (501) 324-6230, **Email:** CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil

Website: <https://go.usa.gov/xHvV5>

Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by August 13, 2021.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

AUTHORITY: ER 1130-2-406, and the laws and regulations referenced therein.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To provide a means for the maximum practicable public participation in Master Plan formulation, preparation and subsequent revisions, through the use of public meetings, group workshops, open houses or other public involvement.

ROUTINE USE(S): Information you provide will be available for public review or may be disclosed to members of the Department of Defense or other Government agencies who have a need for the information in performance of their official duties, and where use of such information is compatible with the purpose for which the information is collected.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure to furnish the requested information may prevent the Agency from being able to direct meeting notices or provide additional information to commenters.

From: noreply@dma.mil
To: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Subject: New Public Comment for the MKARNS Master Plan Revision
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 1:51:03 PM

CAUTION: Your email client may display clickable links. The data in this email is provided without modification, as the user entered it. Before you click or use any link provided in this email, please confirm the authenticity of the link.

Your Name / Organization	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
E-Mail	[REDACTED]

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of the MKARNS?

I just have a question please. According to the interactive map, it appears that the corp land comes north of the railroad track behind our house and will actually come to our property line. It doesn't appear to do that behind our neighbors homes on our side of the road. This concerns me as it opens up the opportunity for trespassers. Am I reading the map correctly? Thank you.

What, if any changes would you like to see to this alternative?

I would prefer the corp land to stay on the south side of the railroad tracks.

Additional Comments:

Appendix E

Agency Comments

From: [Sheehan, Jennifer](#)
To: [Bloxham, James M CIV USARMY CESWL \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] deadline missed
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 11:27:33 AM

Hello James,

I just realized that I missed the deadline to submit comments! I was hoping to get our comments to you all at the January 31 meeting that got canceled. I know it's a day late but I've listed what we would have said had we turned our comments in on time. Hopefully we'll have the opportunity to work with you all as you move forward in the revision process.

- Western Chicken Turtle is not mentioned in the draft documents, it is a candidate subspecies under the ESA that occurs in ephemeral flood-prone wetlands that are heavily vegetated
- AGFC wants to make sure that fishing access isn't reduced with the preferred alternative
- We would like to see the land use classifications changed at White Oak Park and Citadel Bluff Park from High Density Recreation to either Environmental Sensitive or Wildlife Management to allow additional hunting acreage

My sincere apologies for being late, I understand if our comments cannot be considered. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,
jen sheehan

Jennifer Elise Sheehan
Chief, Environmental Coordination Division



501-680-0319

jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov | www.agfc.com
[2 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR](#)

72205



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209



FEMA

Mr. James M. Bloxham
Natural Resources Specialist
MKARNS MP Planner
Natural Resources Management Section
USACE, Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

RE: McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System's Master Plans

Dear Mr. Bloxham,

We acknowledge receipt of your request for review/environmental consultation in reference to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System's Master Plans Revision.

- We have no comments to offer.
- We offer the following comments:

We would request that the community Floodplain Administrator be contacted for the review and possible permit requirements for this project. If federally funded, we would request the project maintain compliance with EO11988 & EO 11990.

The Community Floodplain Administrator for your project contact information is listed below:

City of Little Rock, AR
Vince Floriani III
Design Review Eng.
701 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
vfloriani@littlerock.org
(501) 371-4817

REVIEWER:
Loukisha Williams
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch
Mitigation Division
(940) 383-7228

DATE: 02/21/2023

www.fema.gov

From: [Clark, Robert](#)
To: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on the MKARNS Master Plan Revision DRAFT
Date: Friday, February 24, 2023 8:32:44 AM

Good morning. Comments from Entergy Operations, Inc., Arkansas Nuclear One are below.

A review of the documents has been completed. No concerns are noted with this initial review related to Arkansas Nuclear One. The two section examples listed below appear to be changes based on the definition of the changes with no concern noted on the classification difference from a restricted area to project operations. Access restrictions remain in place and are marked, and this affirmation will be shared with our Security Management staff. No additional comments or concerns are noted. Excerpts from the revision that are being referenced:

5.2.1 Project Operations Project Operations land classification includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project.

Justification: On the MKARNS, the lands classified as Project Operations have been classified by definition. Areas adjacent to the locks, dams, and powerhouse were reclassified from High Density and Low Density Recreation to Project Operations. Some lands around these structures were previously unclassified and have been classified as Project Operations. Additionally, restricted areas adjacent to Arkansas Nuclear One and River Mountain Quarry lease areas were reclassified to Project Operations.

5.2.6.1 Restricted

Restricted surface waters are restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes. Justification: Restricted water surface classifications are areas restricted due to USACE policy for safety and security. These areas include immediately above and below the dam and areas around water intake structures. Access restrictions apply to the water intake structures and outfall areas around Arkansas Nuclear One and are classified as restricted. Resource Objectives: General Management (Acreage: 68.6 water surface acres; less than 1% of surface water) In addition, it is generally understood that areas near designated swim beaches are considered "restricted" for swimmer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these documents.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please let me know.

Bob

This message is intended for the exclusive use of the intended addressee. If you have received this message in error or are not the intended addressee or his or her authorized agent, please notify me immediately by e-mail, discard any paper copies and delete all electronic files of this message.

From: [Michael Denny, P.E.](#)
To: [CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision](#)
Cc: [Corker, Ashley; Denny, Michael](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Southwestern Power Administration Comments on Draft Revised MKARNS Master Plan
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:51:43 PM
Attachments: [MKARNSMasterPlanUpdate_SWPAComments_03022023-signed.pdf](#)
[MKARNSMasterPlanUpdate_CorpsLetter_01132023.pdf](#)

Attached are the comments of Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) on the draft revised McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plan (Master Plan) and the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Little Rock District, US Army Corps of Engineers. Southwestern appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. The letter we received from your office dated January 13, 2013, is also attached for reference.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about our comments.

Thanks,
Michael Denny

Michael Denny, P.E.

Civil Engineer (Hydrologic) | Division of Resources and Rates
Southwestern Power Administration
michael.denny@swpa.gov | Office 918-595-6683
1 W 3rd St, Suite 1500, Tulsa, OK 74103

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Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
One West Third Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

March 2, 2023

MKARNS MP Planner
Natural Resources Management Section
Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to your letter dated January 13, 2023, regarding the revision of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plan (Master Plan) and the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of potential impacts of the draft plan. Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) is pleased to offer comments on the draft Master Plan and draft EA. Southwestern is a Federal agency, within the U.S. Department of Energy, with statutory responsibility for marketing the hydroelectric power and energy from 24 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) multipurpose projects in the region, including the Ozark and Dardanelle projects on the MKARNS in the Little Rock District.

As stated in Southwestern's July 30, 2021, letter to you regarding the update of the Master Plan, it is imperative that any updates to the Master Plan do not negatively impact hydroelectric power operations at the Ozark and Dardanelle projects. Hydroelectric power is one of the original Congressionally authorized purposes of the projects, and Southwestern applies the power sales revenues collected each year to repaying the U.S. taxpayers' original investment and ongoing reinvestment, plus interest, as well as annual operation and maintenance costs for the Ozark and Dardanelle hydroelectric power plants and an allotted portion of the joint-use infrastructure and project facilities. Therefore, other project uses should not receive additional benefits to the detriment of hydroelectric power. Southwestern is pleased to see that the Master Plan Revision Project Delivery Team recognizes the importance of electric power generation on the Arkansas River in its vision statement.

Additionally, it is important to note that the Master Plan is not intended to address water level management at Ozark and Dardanelle, as correctly stated in both the draft Master Plan and draft EA. The Master Plan should further explain that individual project water control plans dictate the water management at each project. Southwestern appreciates that the draft Master Plan includes an Education Objective that recognizes the need to educate the public on Corps' plans associated with the projects, including the water control plans.

https://www.guardonline.com/news/corps-seeks-input-on-revised-master-plan-for-arkansas-river/article_15406f56-9836-5d10-9457-05a9ea99798b.html

Corps seeks input on revised master plan for Arkansas River

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jan 19, 2023

LITTLE ROCK — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment. Public comment for the draft MP and EA will be held between Jan. 16 and March 2. USACE will hold three public in-person workshops to explain the draft MP and EA. All interested persons are invited.

The workshops are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Russellville Site Office, 1598 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, AR from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the Faith Baptist Church, 5600 Camp Robinson Rd, North Little Rock, AR and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Delta Rivers Nature Center, 1400 Black Dog Dr., Pine Bluff, AR.

Those interested are encouraged to stop by at any time during the scheduled workshops. USACE representatives will be available to answer questions and maps will be shown to provide an overview of the revision. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the MKARNS MP revision process before the MP revision is complete.

USACE master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters surrounding our waterways. They recognize the ongoing activities of others in the watershed, specifically environmental stewardship, and recreation.

Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops. Comments can also be mailed to the MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 or e-mailed to CESWL-MKARNMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil before March 2.

For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the MKARNS MP Revision, visit our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xHvp3>.

Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Master Plan and draft EA. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Michael Denny at (918) 595-6683 or Michael.Denny@swpa.gov.

Sincerely,

**ASHLEY
CORKER**

Digitally signed by
ASHLEY CORKER
Date: 2023.03.02
15:22:31 -06'00'

Ashley Corker
Director
Division of Resources and Rates

Appendix F

Media Coverage

https://www.guardonline.com/news/corps-seeks-input-on-revised-master-plan-for-arkansas-river/article_15406f56-9836-5d10-9457-05a9ea99798b.html

Corps seeks input on revised master plan for Arkansas River

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jan 19, 2023

LITTLE ROCK — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment. Public comment for the draft MP and EA will be held between Jan. 16 and March 2. USACE will hold three public in-person workshops to explain the draft MP and EA. All interested persons are invited.

The workshops are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Russellville Site Office, 1598 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, AR from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the Faith Baptist Church, 5600 Camp Robinson Rd, North Little Rock, AR and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Delta Rivers Nature Center, 1400 Black Dog Dr., Pine Bluff, AR.

Those interested are encouraged to stop by at any time during the scheduled workshops. USACE representatives will be available to answer questions and maps will be shown to provide an overview of the revision. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the MKARNS MP revision process before the MP revision is complete.

USACE master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters surrounding our waterways. They recognize the ongoing activities of others in the watershed, specifically environmental stewardship, and recreation.

Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops. Comments can also be mailed to the MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 or e-mailed to CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil before March 2.

For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the MKARNS MP Revision, visit our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xHvp3>.

NEWS

Corps Seeks Input On MKARNS Master Plan

JANUARY 20, 2023 • BY WATERWAYS JOURNAL

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft MKARNS Master Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Public comments will be taken between January 16 and March 2. The Corps will also hold three public workshops to explain the draft documents.

The meetings are from 3 to 7 p.m. January 30 at the Russellville Site Office, 1598 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, Ark.; from 3 to 7 p.m. January 31 at Faith Baptist Church, 5600 Camp Robinson Road, North Little Rock, Ark.; and from 3 to 7 p.m. February 2 at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Delta Rivers Nature Center, 1400 Black Dog Drive, Pine Bluff, Ark. Members of the public may stop by at any time during the workshops. Representatives will be available to answer questions, and maps will be shown to provide an overview of the revision. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the master plan revision process before the plan is completed.

Comment Deadline

Comments will be accepted during the workshops. They may also be mailed to the MKARNS MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 or e-mailed to CESWL-MKARNSMasterPlanRevision@usace.army.mil before March 2.

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