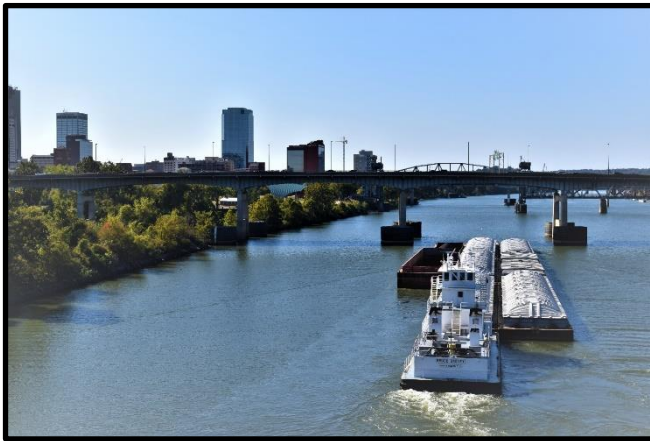


The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Master Plan Revision

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Little Rock District, is revising the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Master Plans.

The Master Plan guides the management of the government lands managed by USACE around the River. The Master Plan affects future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the MKARNS. The Master Plan revisions also set the stage for the Shoreline Management Plan for Lake Dardanelle, which is how the vision of the Master Plan is implemented.

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



About MKARNS

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 300 river miles of the 445-mile River System which includes approximately ~50,000 acres of land with the authorized purposes of both the land and water to include Navigation, Hydropower, Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, and Water Supply.

What is a Master Plan?

A master plan is the guidance document that describes how the resources of the river will be managed in the future and provides the vision for how the river should look in the future. The master plan does not address the details of how and where shoreline use permits may be issued, however, it does set the stage for implementation of the shoreline management program. After the master plans are revised, the operational management plan and shoreline management plan would be revised to be consistent with the goals identified in the master plan.

Development of the revised master plan will include consideration of:

- Regional and ecosystem needs
- Project Resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes
- Public interests and desires

The MKARNS Master Plan Update main objectives are:

- Conserve the resources of the lake within current USACE policies and guidelines
- Accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency
- Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- Attract maximum participation by the general public and local government

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Why Update the MKARNS Master Plans?

The current MKARNS Master Plans were developed more than 40 years ago and are outdated. The master plan revisions will classify the government lands managed by USACE around the river based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends.

Lands may be classified into one of these categories:

- **Project Operations:** lands required for the locks, dam, spillway, offices, and other areas used solely for the operation of the river.
- **High Density Recreation:** lands acquired and designated for use as parks or other areas for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public. Shoreline Use permits should not be allowed in these areas.
- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas:** lands designated for areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas are managed to protect environmental resources.
- **Multiple Resource Management Lands:** This classification allows for the designation of a predominant use with the understanding that other compatible uses may also occur on these lands; these additional uses may include:
 - **Low Density Recreation:** lands classified for use for activities such as hiking trails, primitive camping, limited water access points, and other similar activities by the visiting public. Shoreline Use Permits may be permitted in these areas in accordance with the shoreline management plan.
 - **Wildlife Management:** lands allocated as habitat for fish and wildlife and are generally open for hunting and fishing.
 - **Future/Inactive Recreation Areas:** Lands intended for recreation, but which were never developed or have been closed.
 - **Vegetative Management:** Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
- **Water Surface:** For those projects that administer a surface water zoning program, this will be included in the Master Plan revision process.
 - **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 migrations, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.
 - **Open Recreation:** Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

These land and water classifications are established in the master plan and will guide future updates to the operation management plan and shoreline management plan, which implements the master plan.

Project Timeline

