Appendix D: Draft Release Comments Report

Nimrod and Blue Mountain Lakes Master Plan Revisions Draft Release Comments Report

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



July 2024

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List of Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AGFC	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
MP	Master Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OMP	Operational Management Plan
P.L.	Public Law
R1S	Recreation One Stop
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
URL	uniform resource locator

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Little Rock District is revising the Nimrod Lake Master Plan (MP) and Blue Mountain Lake MP. Each MP guides the management of the government-owned lands around the shoreline of each lake. The MPs affect future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities to ensure the sustainability of both lakes.

The MP is the guidance document that describes how the resources of each lake will be managed in the future and provides the vision of how each lake should look in the future. After the MPs are revised, the Operational Management Plan (OMP) for each lake will be revised to be consistent with the goals identified in the MP.

The current Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MPs were developed nearly 50 years ago, and original estimates of future population and land use do not align with current demographics. Therefore, the MP revisions will re-classify the government lands around the lake based on environmental; recreational; 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 a 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 5 years, and minor changes are made through supplements. A 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 will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to accompany each lake's revised MP 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 EAs will evaluate the potential environmental effects of the MP revisions. However, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be prepared if significant environmental effects are identified during preparation of each EA as a result of the MP revisions.

1.2 Purpose and Need for Master Plan

The purpose of the project is to review and revise the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MPs. Both plans strive to balance public use of federal lands and waters with the conservation and protection of natural resources for future generations. Updates of the MPs are needed for the following reasons:

- To ensure accurate land classification and resource protection for future generations.
- To update the plan formats and mapping to modern requirements.
- To better reflect current USACE policies, regulations, budget processes, and business line performance measures.
- Customer uses have remained similar, but trends, recreation equipment (RV size, vessel size, etc.), facility use (amp service, Wi-Fi, etc.), and service demands have shifted since approval of the current 1975 MPs.
- Partners, landowners, and stakeholders are engaged with USACE and seek to increase and sustain benefits provided by the lake.
- To identify issues related to ecosystem stewardship including vegetation and siltation management.

1.3 Project Areas

Nimrod Dam is located in Perry County, Arkansas on the Fourche LaFave River. Construction was completed in 1942. Nimrod Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938. The lake is comprised of 25,278 acres of land and water, with approximately 81 miles of boundary line. The lake provides many recreational opportunities and is a key contributor to a large variety of fish and wildlife habitat.

Blue Mountain Dam is located in Yell County, Arkansas on the Petit Jean River. Construction was completed in 1947. Nimrod Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938. The lake is comprised of 17,263 acres of land and water, with approximately 78 miles of boundary line. The lake provides many recreational opportunities and is a key contributor to a large variety of fish and wildlife habitat.

1.4 Purpose of this Report

The following report summarizes the public participation process for, and the public comments resulting from, the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Revision draft plans release public workshop and comment period.

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 Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP revision projects. EAs have been prepared to identify potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts related to implementation of the MPs.

The Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake revised MPs have been prepared as individual, lakespecific documents, each with its own accompanying EA. While revisions will be documented in lake-specific MPs/EAs, public review periods were held concurrently for both projects. Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake are close in proximity and likely see public visitation from similar entities. Tribal Nation and resource agency interests also overlap. To streamline the public involvement process, outreach efforts and public comment opportunities were advertised and occurred simultaneously for both MP revision efforts.

As part of the draft plans release phase of the environmental process, a 32-day comment period was held from May 8 to June 8, 2024, for the public and agencies. A public workshop was held on May 21 to gather comments on the draft revised MPs and the associated draft EAs. The workshop gave the public an opportunity to learn about the alternatives and provide input on the draft MPs and EAs. An agency workshop was held on May 22 and a virtual attendance option was also available.

Workshop attendees were provided a comment card that allowed for comments regarding the draft plans and the environmental reviews. The comment cards included a set of questions for each lake so commentors had the option to respond for either or both. The questions were as follows:

- What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of the lake?
- What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
- Additional comments on the MP revision.

USACE published notice of the draft release comment period through several avenues, including: an email blast, a direct mail postcard, press releases, flyers, a notice placed on the Recreation 1 Stop (R1S) website, agency notification letters, announcements on the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revision website and the Little Rock District Facebook page. The postcard and email notifications were sent to landowners adjacent to USACE-owned lands around the lake, holders of fishing licenses purchased in Arkansas whose listed zip code is within 7 miles of Nimrod Lake or Blue Mountain Lake, stakeholders, and those who held reservations to camp at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake campgrounds within the 2022 recreational season. Postcards were also sent to those for whom only a postal address was available; all others received email notifications. Additionally, flyers were posted on bulletin boards at campgrounds and recreational facilities throughout the lakes and notification letters were sent to potentially interested tribal governments and agencies.

2.2 Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Website

A website_was developed for the MPs revision project. The site included information about Nimrod and Blue Mountain Lakes, the MP and SMP revision process, the revised draft MP, and the draft EAs. Information on the site included the dates and locations of the public workshop, how to submit comments, and who to contact for more information. The website also contained online interactive maps, an online comment form, and the Master Plan revision timeline. There was a total of 694 visits to the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP website. The website link is listed below:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

2.3 Public Outreach

Notification of the draft release comment period was completed via several forms of media as

described further in this section.

2.3.1 Notification Database

USACE maintains a database of stakeholder groups interested in activities around Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. 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 R1S reservation system for camping visits at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake during the 2022 camping season. Finally, USACE obtained the database of holders of fishing permits purchased in Arkansas whose listed zip code were within seven miles of Nimrod Lake or Blue Mountain Lake.

2.3.2 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 comments, and (3) ensuring that stakeholders are aware of the planning process and understand how public input will be used.

2.3.2.1 Direct Mail Notification

On May 8, 2024, a total of 6,211 postcards were mailed to adjacent property owners, stakeholders, and holders of fishing permits purchased in Arkansas whose listed zip code were within seven miles of Nimrod Lake or Blue Mountain Lake. The distribution of postcard recipients is illustrated in Figure 2-4 by zip code.

The postcard notification included information on the MP revision process, how to provide comments, the comment period closing date, and the project website address. The direct mail postcard is included in Attachment C.

2.3.2.2 E-mail Notification

An e-mail blast was sent on May 8, 2024, to approximately 2,959 email addresses. These emails were sent to stakeholders and those listed on the R1S reservation list for whom valid email addresses were available. The information in the email blast was the same as the information on the postcard notification.

2.3.2.3 Project Website

A project website was developed for both MP revision projects. The site includes information about Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, the MP revision process, interactive maps, a comment form, and information regarding the draft release process. Information on how to submit comments and who to contact for more information regarding the draft release process were included. The project website received a total of 694 hits between the dates of May 8 and June 8, 2024. The website link is listed below:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

2.3.2.4 Other Notification Activities

To maximize the media coverage of the outreach efforts relating to the draft release comment period, a media release was sent to local media outlets using the Southwestern Division, Little Rock District, Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Media distribution list on May 8, 2024. The Little Rock District Public Affairs office also posted notifications of the draft release comment period and associated pertinent data on their Facebook page. A copy of the press release and Facebook post are located in Attachment C, and copies of the media coverage are located in Attachment G. A draft release notification was also placed on each lake's R1S website during the draft release comment period. A screen shot and verbiage of this notification is available in Attachment C.

2.3.2.5 Website Statistics

Due to the loss of the ability to utilize short URLs, USACE was not able to obtain metrics on the source of the hits which would allow USACE to evaluate the effectiveness of each notification method. Regardless, a total of 694 hits were made on the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP website during the draft release comment period. A breakdown of the number of views for each page is listed below.

- Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Home Page: 344
- Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Documents: 102
- Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Why Update the MP: 57
- Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Comment Form: 191

2.3.3 Public Workshop

USACE hosted a public workshop to gather input on the draft revised MPs and the draft EAs. The workshop was scheduled in compliance with NEPA guidelines, and the location was selected to reflect equitable geographic coverage. The meeting location was within the project areas near the lakes. The location was also Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The workshop was held 14 days after the draft documents became available to the public.

A total of 25 people/parties signed in at the workshop. A total of six comment cards were returned at the workshop and an additional 16 comment submittals were received via letters, email, and mailed comment cards during the public comment period. In total, 19 comment submittals from members of the public and four comments from agencies were received by the end of the comment period. Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2 provides photos from the day of the event. The public workshop meeting summary is as follows:

Danville, AR

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 1009 Main Street Danville, Arkansas 72833 *Attendees:* 25 signed in Comments: 6 comment cards were submitted at the workshop



Figure 2-1. Danville, AR Workshop Photo 1



Figure 2-2. Danville, AR Workshop Photo 2

2.3.3.1 Public Workshop Format

The purpose of the public workshop was to present the alternatives for both plans and get feedback on the draft revised MPs and the draft EAs. Two computers were set up during the workshop with links to the online interactive map of the lake and the alternative land classifications to facilitate responses to questions about the lake and the MP revision. Additionally, large, printed maps of Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake displaying the preferred alternative land classifications were available for review (Figure 2-3).

Written comments were collected at the workshop in the form of the comment cards and were also accepted by mail, fax, and e-mail after the workshop until the close of the comment period.



Figure 2-3. Large Map at the Danville, AR Workshop

2.3.3.2 Public Workshop Materials

Each workshop attendee was provided a double-sided fact sheet (Attachment D) and a comment card (Attachment D). The fact sheet provided a brief overview and comparison of the alternatives for both plans. 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 workshop. 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 workshop.

2.4 Comments Received

The public draft release comment period was held from May 8 to June 8, 2024, which provided a 32-day comment period. All persons interested in providing feedback on the draft plans were provided opportunities to submit written comments at the workshop as well as via email, fax, or mail. The comment cards distributed at the public workshop were designed to facilitate return of written comments either at the public 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 Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP revision website as well as on all of the notice materials distributed. Many workshop participants took multiple comment cards to distribute to friends and family who were not able to attend the workshop in person.

In total, 19 comments (letters, emails, comment cards) from members of the public were received. 13 individuals provided comments pertaining to the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revision, and seven individuals provided comments pertaining to the Nimrod Lake Master Plan revision. Four comment submittals from agencies were received by the end of the comment period and pertained to both revisions. Copies of all the public comments submitted during the comment period are included in Attachment E. Copies of agency submittals are included in Attachment F.

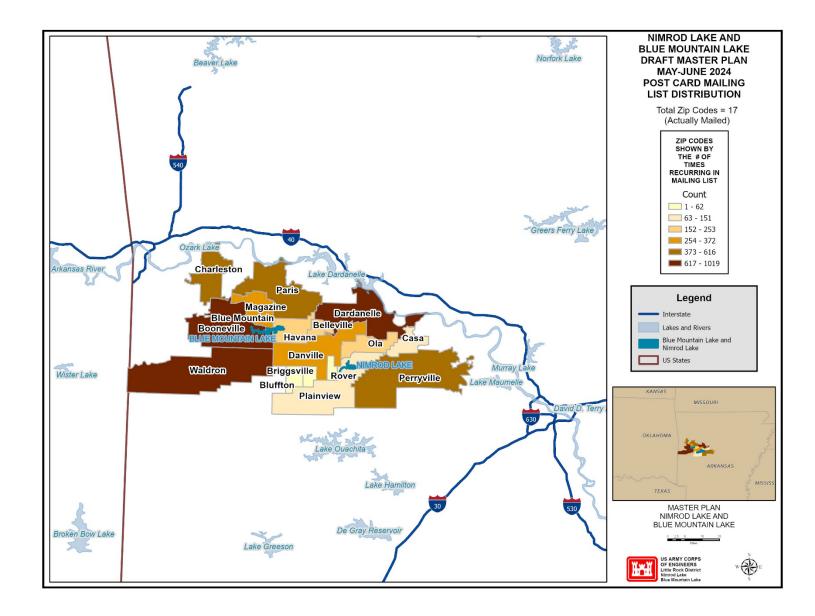


Figure 2-4. Distribution of Postcard Notification by Zip Code

3 Summary of Draft Release Comments

3.1 Introduction

USACE accepted comments on the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MPs throughout the entire draft release comment period from May 8 through June 8, 2024. Community groups, agencies, members of the public, and other interested parties submitted 23 letters, e-mails, and comment cards during this period. The summary tables (Table 3-1 and Table 3-2) provide 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 most individuals discussed multiple topics in their submission. Topics covered in the comments included general comments about the plan and the environmental review as well as answers to the following questions:

- What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake/Blue Mountain Lake?
- What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
- Additional comments on the Nimrod Lake/Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revision.

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

3.2 Summary of Comments

Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 provide a summary of the comments received during the comment period. While these tables do not include every comment received, they provide a general summary of the topics most frequently submitted during the comment period. The number of times a comment was raised by a different respondent is noted in parenthesis. A more detailed overview of comments follows in Sections 3.2.1 through 3.2.4. Several comments were not related to the plan or the environmental review. It is important to note that concerns regarding lake elevations are not within the scope of the Master Plan but instead are within the intent of the Water Control Plan. State fishing regulations are also not within the scope of the Master Plan. This draft release report will not address water/lake levels or state fishing regulations, nor will the MP or accompanying EA.

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake?			
 Alternative 2 (3) Alternative 1 (2) An Alternative that Doesn't Include Lake Drawdown (1) Open County Line Park (1) 			
What, if any, changes wo	What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?		
 Re-opening of County Line Park (2) Allow Access to Trails/Roads Blocked by Gates (2) No Wake Zone on Upper River (1) Use Natural Resources Better/Adopt USFS Practices(1) Change Limit Back to 20 (1) 	 Put 10" Limit on Crappie (1) Two Pole Limit (1) Would Like Camping to Continue at River Road (1) Change Earl Branch back to Crap Shooter Point (1) Quarry Cove East Ramp Needs a Wider Turnaround(1) 		
Additional Comments			
 Re-Open County Line Park (2) Allow Access to Recently Blocked Roads/Trails (1) Identify Methods to Maintain Quality Fishery Minus Drawdowns Every 4 Years (1) 	 Why Remove High Water Ramp at Carter Cove? (1) Plant More Buckbrush (1) Crappie Limit Lowered to 20 with 10" Limit (1) More Food Plots (1) Duck Pond Pumping (1) 		

Table 3-1. Nimrod Lake Summary of Comments Received

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?		
 Maintain/Improve Recreation Areas/Ramps (9) Alternative 1 (1) Alternative 2 (1) Hiking/Biking Trails (1) 	 Improve Fishing/Habitat/Species (1) Maintain Flood Control (1) 10" Crappie Limit (1) Ashley Creek dug out for Winter Pool (1) More Educational Content (1) 	
What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?		
 Upgrade Ashley Creek, RV Sites, Ramps, Restrooms, etc. (5) Dredging out to Channel from Ashley Creek/Ramps (4) Maintain/Improve Recreation Area Facilities (2) Put 10" Limit on Crappie (2) Educational Signs (1) 	 Plant more Buckbrush (1) Raise Spring/Summer Pool for Spawn (1) Nature/Educational Center (1) Two Pole Limit (1) Repair Road to Ashley Creek Ramp (1) Maintained Trails (1) Repair All Ramps (1) 	
Additional Comments		
 Improve Ashley Creek (4) Concern over Disrepair and Safety in Recreation Areas (1) 	 Marked/Maintained Trails (1) Improve Lick Creek Boat Ramp (1) Regulate Number of Fishing Tournaments (1) 	

 Table 3-2. Blue Mountain Lake Summary of Comments Received

3.2.1 Alternative Preference Comments

3.2.1.1 Nimrod Lake

The most common response to Question 1 was that people preferred Alternative 2 as the alternative that best encompasses their vision for the future of Nimrod Lake (Table 3-1). Two commentors chose Alternative 1. One commentor said they would prefer an alternative with no drawdowns and one simply stated to open County Line Park.

3.2.1.2 Blue Mountain Lake

The most frequent responses to Question 1 were related to recreation area maintenance and improvements and were not any of the three alternatives (Table 3-2). Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 each received one comment as the chosen alternative. Several other comments were made one time and covered various topics.

3.2.2 Comments Related to Changes to Preferred Alternative

3.2.2.1 Nimrod Lake

The top responses to what changes commentors would like to see regarding their preferred alternative were the re-opening of County Line Park and reopening access to trails and roads that have been blocked (Table 3-1). Two respondents chose each of these changes. Several comments were mentioned only one time and included changes related to fishing or boating regulations, natural resource management, and changes specific to individual recreation areas.

3.2.2.2 Blue Mountain Lake

The top responses to what changes commentors would like to see regarding their preferred alternative were the upgrading of Ashley Creek Park facilities with five comments and the dredging of Ashley Creek and other ramps with four comments (Figure 3-2). General recreation area maintenance and improvements along with a 10" crappie restriction received two comments each. Several individual comments were submitted regarding various recreation areas and activities along with natural resource management items.

3.2.3 Additional Comments

This question allowed for various comments other than those derived from Questions 1 and 2 but most comments in these cases were closely related.

3.2.3.1 Nimrod Lake

The additional comment responses submitted for Nimrod Lake were similar to the changes members of the public wanted made to the alternatives. The comment that was made twice was again desiring the re-opening of County Line Park (Table 3-1). Several comments were made only one time and were related to allowing access to closed roads and trails, wildlife and fishery habitat improvement, and other specific items.

3.2.3.2 Blue Mountain Lake

The additional comment responses for Blue Mountain Lake were similar to the changes members of the public wanted made to the alternatives. Making improvements to Ashley Creek Park was

the most popular comment and was listed four times (Table 3-2). Other comments were made only one time. The ones that hadn't been commented on in other questions were related to safety concerns due to recreation area disrepair, regulating the number of fishing tournaments, and Lick Creek Ramp improvement.

3.2.4 Agency and Tribal Government 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 Attachment F. Agencies that commented during the comment period included:

- Arkansas Department of Health
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Cherokee Nation
- Choctaw Nation

Agency and tribal government comments are summarized in this section. The full text of the agency comments is available in Attachment F. Comments not covered in earlier sections or regarding specific areas of the lake include:

- Arkansas Department of Health informed us that the Plainview Water Department, Danville Waterworks, and Blue Mountain Lake are within Source Water Assessment Areas and asked to be notified if any construction takes place in these areas.
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission stated that it had no further comments.
- The Cherokee Nation found no instances where our MP projects intersect or adjoin their cultural, historic, or pre-historic resources in their records. They ask that we halt all activities if cultural items are discovered and that we check with other historic preservation offices as well.
- The Choctaw Nation informed us the areas involved are outside of their historic interest and defers to the other tribes contacted.

4 Next Steps: Master Plan Revision Process

The purpose of the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Revision draft plan release workshop 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 MPs and EAs to help guide future land use and management at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake.

USACE will consider the comments and issues identified during the draft release comment period as the final MPs and EAs are developed. The final MPs and EAs will be made available to the public. It is anticipated that this will occur in Fall 2024.

Individual responses to comments provided during the draft release comment periods are not developed in the preparation of an EA. Where consistent with the purpose of an MP and where

possible under the planning mechanisms utilized during a MP revision, USACE will incorporate the feedback and suggestions provided through the comments.

Attachment A Agencies and Tribal Governments Notified of Draft Release

Agency List

- Arkansas Department of Health, Director of Engineering
- Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, Secretary & State Preservation Officer
- Arkansas Forestry Commission, State Forester
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Chief, Environmental Coordination Division
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Stream Habitat Coordinator
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Director
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, General Counsel
- Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Secretary and State Preservation Officer
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Heritage Director
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Manager, Water Resources Management Section
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Director
- Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Director
- Department of Finance & Administration, Arkansas State Clearing House
- FEMA, Region VI, Regional Administrator
- Logan County Judge
- Mount Magazine State Park
- National Park Service, Midwest Region, Regional Director
- State Highway Department (District 4)
- State Highway Department (District 8)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Regional Environmental Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, NEPA Reviewer, Office of Planning & Coordination
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement Officer, Arkansas Field Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Deputy Field Supervisor, Arkansas Field Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Manager, Holla Bend Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biologist, Arkansas Field Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Arkansas Field Office, Delta Sub-Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Supervisor, Arkansas Field Office

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Arkansas Field Office
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Yell County Judge

Tribal Governments

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Kialagee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- The Osage Nation
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Quapaw Nation
- The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, and Tawakonie)

Attachment B Agency Notification



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS POST OFFICE BOX 867 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-0867 www.swl.usace.army.mil/

May 2, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE AND NIMROD LAKE DRAFT MASTER PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMNETS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Little Rock District, is revising the Blue Mountain Lake and Nimrod Lake Master Plans, which were last revised in 1975. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190), draft Environmental Assessments (EAs) to disclose potential impacts of the revised plans have also been prepared. Your agency is invited to review and comment on the draft Master Plans and associated draft EAs. Comments are requested between May 8, 2024 – June 8, 2024. The draft documents may be found at:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

The Master Plan guides the management of government-owned and leased lands around the lake. Decisions about land use classifications in the Master Plans may affect future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Input from agencies and the public will help define the needed revisions to the draft plans.

The purpose of the revisions is to bring the Master Plans into compliance with current USACE policies and regulations, identify usage trends and customer needs, and balance recreational uses with natural resource management. Updates to the plan are expected to reflect current and anticipated development around the lakes and to take advantage of current technologies.

Your agency has been identified by USACE as one that may have an interest in these projects. Revisions to the Master Plans may have important implications for surrounding residential communities, businesses, parks, and natural areas. As a result, USACE is requesting your input and agency's expertise to assist in the refinement of the draft Master Plans and accompanying EAs as required by NEPA and the USACE Engineer Regulation 200-2-2 "Procedures for Implementing NEPA."

In addition to reviewing the documents available online, you and your staff are invited to attend the following agency workshop:

May 22, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Nature Center 602 President Clinton Ave Little Rock, AR 72201 Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, or email with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203; Fax: (501) 324-6230; Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil. Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by **June 8th**, 2024.

If you have any technical questions regarding this invitation or documents, please contact Michael Love, Natural Resources Management Planner, at (501) 340-1906 or via email at Michael.P.Love@usace.army.mil. For any environmental resources questions or general concerns, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Knapp, Biologist, at (817) 946-6055 or via email at Elizabeth.J.Knapp@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington Chief, NEPA & Natural Resources Section Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 867 LITTLE ROCK, ARKAN SAS 72203-0867

May 7, 2024

Natural Resources Management Section Operations Division

Honorable Bobby Gonzalez, Chairman Caddo Nation of Oklahoma Attention: Jonathan M. Rohrer Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 487 Binger, Oklahoma 73009

Dear Chairman Bobby Gonzalez:

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Little Rock District, is revising the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, last revised in 1975. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190), Environmental Assessments (EAs) of potential impacts of the draft plans have also been prepared. Your government is invited to review and comment on the draft Master Plans and associated draft EAs. The draft documents may be found at:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/. In an effort to incorporate everyone's concerns, comments are requested between May 8, 2024 – June 8, 2024.

The Master Plan guides the management of government-owned and leased lands around the lake. Decisions about land use classifications in the Master Plans may affect future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Input from the tribal governments, agencies, and the general public will help define the needed revisions to the draft plans. The final Master Plans are scheduled for completion in early 2025.

The purpose of the update is to bring the Master Plans into compliance with current USACE policies and regulations, identify usage trends and customer needs, and balance shoreline uses with natural resource management. Updates to these plans have included review of current management practices of the projects and utilizing current technologies.

Your government has been identified by the USACE as one that may have an interest in this project. Revisions to the Master Plans may have important implications for surrounding residential communities, businesses, parks, and natural areas. As a result, USACE is requesting your input and government's expertise to assist in the refinement of the draft master plans and environmental assessments as required by NEPA and the USACE Engineer Regulation ER 200-2-2 "Procedures for Implementing NEPA".

Comments may be submitted via mail or email with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203; Fax: (501) 324-6230; Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPREvision@usace.army.mil. Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by June 8, 2024.

If you have any technical questions regarding this invitation or documents, please contact the Planner, Mr. Michael Love, at (501) 324-5632 or via email at <u>Michael.P.Love@usace.army.mil</u>. For any cultural resources questions or general concerns, please feel free to contact me at (501) 324-5752 or at Allen.D.Wilson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Wilson Tribal Liaison USACE, Little Rock District

Enclosure

Attachment C Notification Materials

Direct Mail Postcard, Email Blast, Press Release, Flyer, Facebook Post, R1S Notification

Direct Mail Postcard

Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revisions



US Army Corps of Engineers® Little Rock District

ATTEND THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

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

May 21, 2024 3:00-7:00 First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 1009 Main Street Danville, AR 72833

All facilities accessible to persons with disabilities_

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plans and the draft Environmental Assessments, which describe alternative plans and potential impacts. For current information and to submit comments, please visit:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

Attend the public workshop to learn the details of the draft alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plans and Environmental Assessments to help guide future land use and management at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. Staff will be available to answer questions. Your input will help define the final plans and Environmental Assessments scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Comments must be submitted by June 8, 2024 to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake 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

We want to hear from You!

Scan the QR Code below for more information regarding the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revisions and How to Comment!



YOUR COMMENT IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Email Blast

Subject: Public Workshop for Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revisions

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

NIMROD LAKE AND BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISIONS WORKSHOP

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plans and the draft Environmental Assessments, which describe three alternatives for each Master Plan and potential impacts.

You are invited to attend the public workshop to learn the details of the draft alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plans and Environmental Assessments to help guide future land use and management at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake.

ATTEND THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

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

May 21, 2024 3:00-7:00 PM First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall Danville, AR 72833

** All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

For current information and to submit comments, please visit:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

Your input will help define the final Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans and Environmental Assessments scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Comments should be submitted by June 8, 2024 to:

Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner Natural Resources Management Section USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203

Fax: (501) 324-6230

Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil

Press Release



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Release No: 32-24 Release: Immediately May 8, 2024 Media Contact: Public Affairs Office, 501-324-5551 <u>CESWL-PA@usace.army.mil</u> Media after hours: 501-563-6835

USACE seeks public input on revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans and Environmental Assessments. Public comment for the draft MPs and EAs will be held from May 8 to June 8, 2024.

USACE will hold an in-person workshop to explain the Draft MPs and EAs. The workshop is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 21 at the Danville First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at 1009 Main Street, Danville, AR.

The public is encouraged to stop by at any time during the scheduled workshop. Representatives from USACE will be available to answer questions and maps will be displayed to provide an overview of the revisions. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revision process before the final master plan completion date which is estimated to be in early 2025. USACE will notify the public once plans have been approved. USACE master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's

federal public lands and waters, while recognizing the ongoing activities of others in the watershed; specifically, environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes.

--MORE--

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT 700 West Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201 www.swl.usace.army.mil Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops, by mail addressed to Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 and by e-mail to <u>CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil</u>. Comments submitted via mail or email must be dated before June 8, 2024.

For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revisions visit our website at:

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/.

--30---

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





Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MASTER PLAN REVISIONS

ATTEND THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Please drop in at any time during the following scheduled timeframe._

May 21, 2024 3:00-7:00 First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 1009 Main Street Danville, AR 72833

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities._

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, is requesting comments on the draft revised Master Plans and the draft Environmental Assessments for Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake which describes three alternatives for each lake and potential impacts.

For current information and to submit comments, please visit:



https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

Attend the public workshop to learn the details of the alternatives and provide your input on the draft Master Plans and Environmental Assessments to help guide future land use and management at Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. Staff will be available to answer questions.

Your input will help in defining the final Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans and Environmental Assessments scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Comments must be submitted by June 8, 2024 to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Natural Resources Section USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil

Facebook Post

Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the draft Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans and Environmental Assessments. Public comment for the draft MPs and EAs will be held from May 8 to June 8, 2024.

USACE will hold an in-person workshop to explain the Draft MPs and EAs. The workshop is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 21 at the Danville First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at 1009 Main Street, Danville, AR.

The public is encouraged to stop by at any time during the scheduled workshop. Representatives from USACE will be available to answer questions and maps will be displayed to provide an overview of the revisions. This will be the final public outreach engagement for the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revision process before the final master plan completion date which is estimated to be in early 2025. USACE will notify the public once plans have been approved.

USACE master plans set the vision for all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters, while recognizing the ongoing activities of others in the watershed; specifically, environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes.

Comments will be accepted during the in-person workshops, by mail addressed to Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Natural Resources Management Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203 and by e-mail to CESWL-

Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil. Comments submitted via mail or ernail must be dated before June 8, 2024.

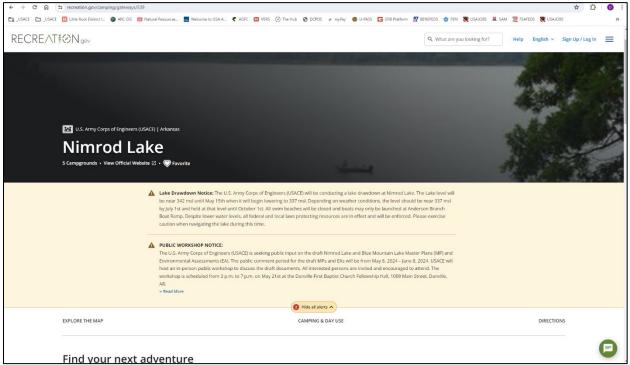
For an on-line fillable comment card and to learn more about the Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revisions visit our website at: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/.../Nimrod-Blue-Mountain.../.



Little Rock District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

R1S Notification

Screenshot:



Verbiage:

PUBLIC WORKSHOP NOTICE:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is seeking public input on the draft Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans (MP) and Environmental Assessments (EA). The public comment period for the draft MPs and EAs will be from May 8, 2024 – June 8, 2024. USACE will host an in-person public workshop to discuss the draft documents. All interested persons are invited and encouraged to attend. The workshop is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 21st at the Danville First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1009 Main Street, Danville, AR.

The Master Plan guides the management of government-owned and leased lands around the lakes. Decisions about land use classifications in the Master Plans may affect future management of natural resources and recreational opportunities.

For more information and to find out how to submit comments go to: <u>https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/</u>.

Attachment D Draft Release Materials

Fact Sheets, Comment Card

NIMROD LAKE DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVISION



There are three alternatives under consideration for the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision. For more information, please visit:

confusion about allowable land uses.

Maintains existing resource management.

and Low Density Recreation at 66%.

https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/.

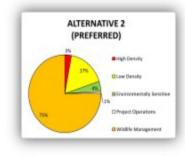
Plan



Alternative 1 - No Action (1975 Master Plan)



Alternative 2 - Preferred



- Based on current/historical management practices, scoping comments, and recognizes regional Natural Resource Management priorities
- Increased acreage of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).

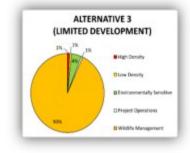
Land classifications remain the same as the 1975 Nimrod Master

Currently unclassified land remains unclassified contributing to

Does not respond to changed conditions or reflect current <u>needs</u>
 Wildlife Management (WM) Land Classification only at 17%,

- Unclassified lands are classified into one of the five land classifications.
- Most historical access areas are classified as <u>Low Density</u> Recreation and most High Density lands are remaining to allow for possible future expansions.
- Large increase in Wildlife Management land classification from Low Density and <u>High Density</u> Recreation.

Alternative 3 - Limited Development



- Increase in WM and ESA lands from High and Low Density.
- All primitive camping and accesses without ramps changed to WM and will no longer allow primitive camping.
- Reduced High Density areas which will eliminate the ability for expansion and improvements there in the future.
- Eliminates Low Density future access areas by reclassifying to ESA.
- Unclassified lands are classified into one of the five land classifications.



BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVISION



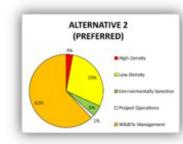
There are three alternatives under consideration for the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan revision. For more information, please visit: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/



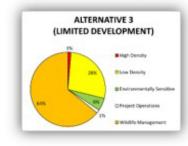
US Army Corps of Engineers® Little Rock District



Alternative 2 - Preferred



Alternative 3 Limited Development



- Land classifications remain the same as the 1975 Blue Mountain Master plan.
 Currently unclassified land remains unclassified contributing to
- Currently unclassified land remains unclassified contributing ti confusion about allowable land uses.
- Maintains existing resource management.
- Does not respond to changed conditions, current needs, or recognize public comments.
- Does not address resource management laws, policies, and regulations implemented since 1975.
- Based on current/historical management practices, scoping comments, and recognizes regional Natural Resource Management priorities
- Increased acreage of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).
 Unclassified lands are classified into one of the five land
- classifications.
- All primitive camping areas, access areas, and future access areas are classified as <u>Low Density</u> Recreation.
- Most previously classified <u>High Density</u> areas are remaining to allow for possible future park improvements and expansions.

Increase in ESA lands from High and Low Density.

- Most primitive camping and accesses changed to Wildlife Management (WM) and will no longer allow primitive camping.
- Reduced High Density areas which will eliminate the ability for expansion and improvements there in the future.
- Eliminates Low Density future access areas by reclassifying to WM.
- Unclassified lands are classified into one of the five land classifications.





Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

PLEASE PRINT

Phone:
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future o Blue Mountain Lake?
W hat, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
Additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revision.

Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, email, or the project website with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by June 8, 2024. PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(5): 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(5): 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.

Postage Required

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District ATTN: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner Recreation and Natural Resources Section P.O. Box 867 Little Rock, AR 72203

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Attachment E Public Draft Release Comments





Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. **Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024**, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

PLEASE PRINT Name/Organization:	
Address:	
E-mail:	Phone:
NIMROD LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake?	BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake? Alt + ematic Vec
What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? Chang the Limit beckto20 Pet person Put a lo Limit on crappie	What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? 10th Dength Limit on Cochin TWB POIT Limit
Two poll Dimit	Additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan
Additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision.	Revision.
Park prome mare	the Lick Creek boat Ramp, Wave land is
BUCK BIUSH	FULL MOSTOF The Time

Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, email, or the project website with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

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CITY of GREENWOOD Feels like home.

DOUG KINSLOW Mayor

SHARLA DERRY City Clerk / Treasurer

Blue Mountain Lake

Master Plan Revisions

May 20, 2024

City of Greenwood Mayor Doug Kinslow

Blue Mountain Lake Comments:

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?

I believe while maintaining flood control, the recreation areas need to be maintained as originally designed.

What changes would you like to see to this alternative?

Proper maintenance and upkeep of the original areas.

Do you have additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revision?

I am concerned regarding the state of the recreational areas at this lake are in disrepair and need to be focused on safety concerns. As Mayor of Greenwood, residents in our community and those surrounding use these areas frequently. Therefore, we hope consideration is made by these suggestions as we know this will aide in more tourism opportunities for our citizens and surrounding areas.

Nous d

Comments: None





Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

Address: C/o Morrilton Area Chamber of Com 115 E Broadway St. Mocrilton	unty Chamber of Commerce AR 72110 Phone: 501-354-2393
NIMROD LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? <u>Alternative 2 - especially the</u> addition of bicycle/walking trail and reapening of County hise <u>Recreation Area as River Read</u> <u>Becreation Area goes to day-use</u> / <u>overflow camping</u>	BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?
What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? Would prefer to see camping continue at River Road Recreation Area plus the reopening of County Line Recreation Area. Additionally I would like to see opportunities for concessionaires to provide services + amenities to improve the visitor experience,	What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
Additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision. Appreciate efforts of COE to maintain Nimrod Lake as good fishery. Would unge COE to continue these efforts going forward and ideally identify other measures to maintain quality fishing Versus drawdowns every 4 years, if possible. Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, email, or the project websi	Additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revision.

Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mll

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

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ROUTINE USE(5): 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.





Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

PLEASE PRINT Name/Organization: Address:	
E-mail:	Phone:
NIMROD LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? ALA.	BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?
What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? Thought of the to see goback to the way land and and has a way s been my whole life open to dill ATUS without all the gates and where here	What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
Additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision. Would like to see the limit on croppie lowered back to 20 with a 10" fimit Would like to see County Line park Deepen for public use	Additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan Revision.

Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, email, or the project website with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by June 8, 2024.

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Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

Phone:
Phone:
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS
What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?
What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative?
Additional comments on the Blue Mountain Lake Master Plan
Revision.

Comments may be submitted via mail, fax, email, or the project website with attention to: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Planner, Recreation and Natural Resources Section, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mll

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Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

Nimrod Lake? Preferred Blue Mountain Lake?	PLEASE PRINT Name/Organization: Address:	
What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future Blue Mountain Lake? What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future Blue Mountain Lake? What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future Blue Mountain Lake? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? What, if any, changes would you like to see to this alternative? Ouright of the full set to the point of the full set to the	E-mail:	Phone:
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Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mil

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

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Please use this form to provide comments on the draft revised Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, the draft Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the potential impacts of the three alternatives. The draft Master Plans and EAs may be viewed on the website. Comments must be submitted before June 8, 2024, to USACE at the addresses below. Feel free to take extra forms.

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PLEASE PRINT	
Name/Organization:	
E-mail:	Phone:
NIMROD LAKE COMMENTS	BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMENTS
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Fax: (501) 324-6230, Email: CESWL-Nimrod_BlueMountainMPRevision@usace.army.mll

Website: https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Nimrod-Blue-Mountain-Master-Plan/

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 From:
 CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 [Non-DoD Source] Blue Mountain Lake Public Comment

 Date:
 Wednesday, May 29, 2024 6:46:34 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to submit a public comment towards the DRAFT for the Blue Mountain Lake Plan.

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake? I would like to see more educational content such as displays and interactive structures for all ages. More recreational opportunities to include hiking trails and mountain bikes that are kid friendly.

What changes would you like to see to this alternative?

A nature or education center, maintained trails, and outdoor educational conservation related signs. Some might include the Diana Fritillary (state butterfly), wildflower identification, types of animals in the area, geology, geography, types of fish, etc.

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision: I enjoy taking my family to Blue Mountain Lake and we mostly go to the playground and overlook. I wish there were more marked and maintained hiking trails that are easy enough for kids and seniors. Having signs about wildlife, plants, trees - anything to educate the public about the forest, lake, and dam.

Thank You,

From:	noreply@dma.mil
To:	CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision
Subject:	Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision
Date:	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:50:30 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.

Name / Organization:	
Address:	
E-Mail:	
Phone:	

Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best
encompasses your vision
for the future of Nimrod
Lake?If there is an alternative that did not include lake drawdown that
would be great. If not can we at least put a limit of 10 fish per
day per person. During a drawdown fish have no where to go and
they can be caught easily.What changes would
you like to see to this
alternative?What changes would
you have additional
comments on the
Nimrod Lake Master
Plan Revision?If there is an alternative that did not include lake drawdown that
would be great. If not can we at least put a limit of 10 fish per
day per person. During a drawdown fish have no where to go and
they can be caught easily.

 From:
 noreply@dma.mil

 To:
 CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision

 Date:
 Thursday, May 9, 2024 8:23:48 AM

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Name / Organization:	
Address:	
E-Mail:	
Phone:	

Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake?	Why does the Corps always drawndown multiple lakes in one year? Lake greeson, Lake Conway, Lake NImrod and Blue Mountain Lake are all being drawdown. Why not drawdown a lake on different years? As for changes it would be nice to have no wake zone on the river portion of lake nimrod. There is considerable amount of erosion on the riverbed and many boat wrecks happen on the upper river portion of lake nimrod.
What changes would you like to see to this alternative?	no wake zone on the upper river of lake nimrod
Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?	

From:	<u>noreply@dma.mi</u>
To:	CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision
Subject:	Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision
Date:	Monday, May 20, 2024 10:39:57 AM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best
encompasses your vision
for the future of Nimrod
Lake?
What changes would
you like to see to this
alternative?
Do you have additional
comments on the
Nimrod Lake Master
Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	10" crappie limit Better boat ramps Ashley creek dug out for winter pool
What changes would you like to see to this alternative?	Id like to see ashley creek boat ramp dug out 10" fish size limit

From:	percely@dma.ml
To:	CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision
Subject:	Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision
Date:	Friday, May 31, 2024 7:41:14 AM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	Improving places that have been forgotten about like Ashley creek
What changes would	Dredge out to channel so you don't mess lower your up or haul of
you like to see to this	your boat an improve the parking lot an boat ramp
alternative?	Road going into Ashley creek ramp is terrible needs redone

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision

Ref Id: 6Noznt0aKEqb17_w533u4Q

 From:
 porce/v0/dma.ml

 To:
 CESWL-Nimmed Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 Public Comment Submission for Nimmed / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision

 Date:
 Monday, June 3, 2024 8:03:09 PM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	I would like to see more emphasis put on developing better facilities at Ashley Creek Park
What changes would you like to see to this	More tent campsites. More RV campsites. All campsites to have electric and water. New restroom facilities with showers included. Update parking lot and expand it. Update the boat ramp and add 2 more boat ramps. Dredge out in front of all boatramps

alternative?

and dredge out the channel from the boat ramps out to the main body of the lake.

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision

Ref Id: A7LmeM440E6wp2K548OJtA

 From:
 norsply@idma.ml

 To:
 CESWI-Nimcod Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 Public Comment Submission for Nimcod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision

 Date:
 Friday, May 31, 2024 8:04:53 AM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best
encompasses your vision
for the future of Blue
Mountain Lake?It's a beautiful lake i wish they took care of the boat ramps better
it's filled in a lot over the yearsWhat changes would
you like to see to this
alternative?Fix all of the boat ramps

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision

Ref Id: Zp-jEK5Yu0yzNv-zzOYbWw

 From:
 poreshv8/dma.ml

 To:
 CESWL-Himmed Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision

 Date:
 Monday, May 20, 2024 6:01:54 PM

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Address:	
E-Mail:	
Phone:	

Nimrod Lake Comments

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Blue Mountain Lake Comments

 What alternative best
 encompasses your vision

 for the future of Blue
 Me would like to see the lake remaining a good angler lake.

 Mountain Lake?
 We would like to see the lake remaining a good angler lake.

 What changes would you like to see to this alternative?
 It would be nice to update the park for rv.

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision

Ref Id: 80VhZvH7Yk23OwdUdFGWVA

From:	noreply@dma.mi
To:	CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision
Subject:	Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision
Date:	Wednesday, May 22, 2024 1:03:50 PM

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Address:		
E-Mail:		
Phone:		

Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	
What changes would you like to see to this	Blue Mountain has lost almost all of its shoreline buckbrush last several years. If we don't plant some back soon, the lake will be nothing but a mud hole. IT's famous in AR for crappie fishing. But the lack of buckbrush for spawning is very concerning. I'd

alternative?	love to see normal spring/summer pool raised 2-3' to 389-390. This would put more brush in the water for better spawns for both bass and crappie.
Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision	I personally think that Forward Facing sonar will have major impacts on small crappie/bass lakes. Consistently targeting the biggest fish in the lakes could be detrimental in the long term. I also think there are too many bass tournaments on the lake. There should only be so many allowed a year and once those permits are bought, no more tournaments. 2-3 tournaments each and every week is ridiculous.

Ref Id: cp3N3kH44UGGK0fBzOFg_Q

From:	noreply@dma.ml
To:	CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revision
Subject:	Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision
Date:	Thursday, June 6, 2024 10:04:17 AM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	new bathrooms, electric at each campsite, water at each campsite, dredge out the area in front of the boat launch, and dredge out the channel going from the boat ramp out into the lake
What changes would	new bathrooms, electric at each campsite, water at each campsite,
you like to see to this	dredge out the area in front of the boat launch, and dredge out the
alternative?	channel going from the boat ramp out into the lake

Additional comments on the Blue Moutain Lake Master Plan Revision enew bathrooms, electric at each campsite, water at each campsite, dredge out the area in front of the boat launch, and dredge out the channel going from the boat ramp out into the lake

Ref Id: -f--vDbtMEGrkZM_d1BBhQ

 From:
 porce/v9/dma.ml

 To:
 CESWL-Nimmed Blue Mountain MP Revision

 Subject:
 Public Comment Submission for Nimmed / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision

 Date:
 Tuesday, June 4, 2024 2:58:12 PM

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Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	Restore remote boat launches and water to camp grounds at Ashley creek
What changes would you like to see to this alternative?	make Ashley creek more inviting. many boats are launched there but no attention is given to this nice little area. restrooms were closed at campground no cleaning station, etc

Additional comments on please add more amenities to Ashley creek. It has room for a the Blue Moutain Lake park, it already has a picnic area, add more amenities to make it inviting to people again. other than boaters

Ref Id: J6aEv5nQ7kSIPyYyXIaCCQ

noreply@dma.ml CESWL-Nimrod Blue Mountain MP Revi From: To: Subject: Public Comment Submission for Nimrod / Blue Mountain Master Plan Revision Friday, Nay 31, 2024 9:30:46 AM Date:

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.



Nimrod Lake Comments

What Alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Nimrod Lake? What changes would you like to see to this alternative? Do you have additional comments on the Nimrod Lake Master Plan Revision?

Blue Mountain Lake Comments

What alternative best encompasses your vision for the future of Blue Mountain Lake?	I would like to see improvement so that families can enjoy Ashley Creek Park.
What changes would you like to see to this alternative?	It would be beneficial for the park to have new bathrooms, electric and water at each campsite. Waveland park cannot always accommodate all the people so this would be a nice alternative park for people. Or maybe for people that enjoy

camping at the smaller parks with less people.

Master Plan Revision

Additional comments on the Place Manufacture I also Improvements to the park will only help the community/local businesses.

Ref Id: 4dhX3sgD1EaMeU2uPZEbxw

Attachment F Agency and Tribal Government Draft Release Comments



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000 Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders Renee Mailory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

May 14, 2024

Brandon Wadlington Recreation and Natural Resources Section USACE – Little Rock District PO Box 867 Little Rock, AR 72203

RE: Nimrod Lake and Blue Mountain Lake MP Revision

Dear Mr. Wadlington,

A staff review has been completed for the referenced Master Plan revision. Please be advised that the Plainview Water Department is within a Source Water Assessment Area (SWAA), and Danville Waterworks and Blue Mountain Lake are within the Petit Jean River SWAA. Please notify the water systems if any construction will take place.

If you have questions or comments, please coordinate them through Shannon Bione via email at shannon.bione@arkansas.gov or by phone at (501) 661-2067.

Sincerely,

1luna a

Teresa Lee, P.E. Chief, Technical Support Engineering Section

TL:JS:TJ:sb

From:	Sheehan, Jennifer
To:	Love, Michael P CIV USARMY CESWL (USA)
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Re: Nimrod/Blue Mountain Master Plan Comments
Date:	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 1:51:26 PM

Hello Michael,

AGFC has no further comments.

Thanks for checking! jen

Jennifer Elise Sheehan

Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

	501-680-0319
2	jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov www.agfc.com <u>2 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR</u> 72205

From:	Sheehan, Jennifer
To:	Love, Michael P CIV USARMY CESWL (USA)
Cc:	Frank Leone: Vic DiCenzo
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Re: Nimrod/Blue Mountain Master Plan Comments
Date:	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 12:30:03 PM
Attachments:	AGFC - Blue Mountain Nimrod Master Plan.docx.pdf

Hello Michael,

Thank you very much for following up with us. I know that our Wildlife Management Division didn't have any comments. I'm copying our Fisheries Division staff just to make sure that they didn't have any comments in addition to our October 2023 letter (attached for your reference).

Thank you	again,
jen	

Jennifer Elise Sheehan Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

	501-680-0319
?	jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov www.agfc.com <u>2 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR</u> 72205
	????



CHEROKEE NATION®

P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org Chuck Hoskin Jr. Principal Chief GP FPP \$J\$ 0-E0G.0

Bryan Warner Deputy Principal Chief รัZ.อิศับ.อิ พิศ.ภ DLd.ภ 0-E0G.อิ

June 6, 2024

Michael Love United States Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 867 Little Rock, AR 72203-0867

Re: Nimrod and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans

Mr. Michael Love:

The Cherokee Nation (Nation) is in receipt of your correspondence about Nimrod and Blue Mountain Lake Master Plans, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment upon this project. This communication is intended for government-to-government consultation with a sovereign federally recognized Tribal Nation. Information received in consultation will be deemed confidential unless explicit consent is provided by the Nation.

The Nation maintains databases and records of cultural, historic, and pre-historic resources in this area. Our Historic Preservation Office (Office) reviewed this project, cross referenced the project's legal description against our information, and found no instances where this project intersects or adjoins such resources. Thus, the Nation does not foresee this project imparting impacts to Cherokee cultural resources at this time.

However, the Nation requests that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) halt all project activities immediately and re-contact our Office for further consultation if items of cultural significance are discovered during the course of this project. Additionally, the Nation requests that USACE conduct appropriate inquiries with other pertinent Historic Preservation Offices regarding historic and prehistoric resources not included in the Nation's databases or records.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Cherokee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org 918.453.5389 From: Madison D. Currie <mcurrie@choctawnation.com> Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 9:38 AM To: Wilson, Allen D CIV USARMY CESWL (USA) <Allen.D.Wilson@usace.army.mil> Cc: Lindsey Bilyeu <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Nimrod/Blue Mountain Master Plan USACE, Little Rock

Halito Allen Wilson,

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma thanks you for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. These projects are outside of our area of historic interest. The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department respectfully defers to the other Tribes that have been contacted.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yakoke,

Maddie Danielle Currie NHPA Compliance Review Specialist Historic Preservation Department Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 Office: 580-642-8467 Cell: 580-740-9537



Attachment G Media Coverage

