

TABLE ROCK SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TABLE ROCK LAKE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Q1: Why is an update to the shoreline management plan needed? The old plan seemed to be working fine.

A1: The Table Rock Lake Master Plan revision was completed in February 2014, and as a result, the existing Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) signed back in 1996 is now in direct conflict with some of the new or revised land classifications around the lake. Similar to the need to revise the master plan, over the last 20 years, much has changed in the communities surrounding the lake and the development of property adjacent to Federal property has continued to grow at a steady pace.

The main objectives of the SMP are to: 1) manage and protect the shoreline, 2) balance public and private use, and 3) protect the aesthetic quality and natural environment conditions while promoting safe use of the lake and shoreline for recreational purposes by all Americans.

The Corps is bound by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 36, Chapter III, Section 327.30 – SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ON CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS which describes the Corps' responsibility to "protect and manage shorelines of all Civil Works water resource development projects under Corps jurisdiction in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public." To meet the safety aspect of this mission, it is imperative to assess safe lake capacities and sustainable public land development to properly manage the resource for future generations, while being able to meet all of the congressionally mandated mission requirements of the Corps.

Q2: Are new regulations needed to keep the lake from becoming overdeveloped?

A2: The goal of the SMP update is not to create new regulations. All of the current policies governing how the Corps manages the shoreline are currently under review by the Corps' Project Development Team working on the update. Some changes are needed to ensure future generations of American taxpayers can continue to enjoy the same Table Rock Lake that families have experience for more than 50 years.

Q3: What does the Corps want to do that the public should be concerned about?

A3: The Corps is responsible for ensuring that the lake provides an exceptional recreational experience to visitors for years to come. We must balance the recreational aspect of the lake with our congressional mandated missions of reducing the risk of downstream flooding and generating of clean, renewable energy in the form of hydropower. Additional mandates include maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitats and municipal and industrial water supplies.

During the SMP update process, the Corps' team is looking at every aspect of the shoreline management plan to determine what, if any, adjustments are needed. The team is working on draft alternatives ranging from no future development to maximum development; there are currently six draft alternatives that have been formulated from Agency and public scoping comments in addition to feedback from focus groups held during the fall of 2015. The preferred draft alternative will most likely fall between the two extremes and will ensure the Corps can continue to balance the private/exclusive use of public land, public access to the lake and environmental needs of the lake that directly affect aesthetics and public enjoyment of the lake.

Q4: Is the Corps planning to limit or takeaway private land owner's property rights?

A4: No. Nothing in the current SMP or the team's working draft SMP alternatives would impact a private land owner's property rights. The Corps manages the public land around the lake needed for flood water storage, fish and wildlife habitat and public parks. The SMP does contain rules on what kinds of activities and the process for how private land owners can request a permit to place structures (docks) on the lake. The SMP also governs how private land owners may request a Vegetation Modification (mowing or path) permit(s) for the public land between the owner's land and the lake. All of these current and future policies govern what private, adjacent land owners can do on public land, provided the land classification in the Master Plan allows for the proposed request. The SMP does not regulate what a private land owner can do to their land.

Q5: Is the Corps going to eliminate community docks?

A5: Some of the Corps' draft SMP alternatives include the possibility of allowing adjacent land owners the ability to request a permit for a one or two stall private dock. Some alternatives also include the elimination of future community boat dock permits. Alternatives that limit future community docks would include a grandfather clause for existing community dock permits. It is important to remember that none of the possible changes to the SMP are set at this time and the preferred draft alternative will not be finalized and released for public review and comment until February 2017.

Q6: Will the Corps take away my dock or mowing permit with these SMP changes?

A6: No. Existing community or private boat docks will not be impacted by any proposed changes to the SMP. Current Vegetation Modification (mowing and path) permits will remain in place. Any changes to the permit process or rules governing future use of public lands will only be applied to new permit requests. If you have a dock, path or mowing permit, you can keep your permit as long as you continue to abide by the conditions of the existing permit. If you allow your permit to expire or there is a violation related to the terms and conditions of your permit, then the new rules may be applied.

Q7: It sounds like the Corps' regulation changes are going to limit future housing developments and the tax base of the Tri Lakes area. Are property values going to suffer with these changes?

A7: The private, exclusive use of public land around the lake is allowed only through the Corps' permit process and is not guaranteed to anyone living adjacent or close to the lake. Some of the possible changes may influence property values (possibly positively or negatively), but the Corps' main focus must be the continued public safety and protection of the lake as a resource for all. The goal of this SMP update and other Corps policies/regulations is to ensure every American has access to public lands at some location on the lake and can share in the natural, unspoiled experience found at Table Rock Lake.

Q8: Does the Corps want to limit the length of any future boats moored in private or community boat docks?

A8: No. The Corps does not regulate the size of boats navigating the lake; however, the current SMP does limit the size of private boat slips and boats moored in these slips cannot exceed the length of the slip. The current slip limit is 14 feet wide by 30 feet long. The SMP team is considering a slight reduction to the width of future slips. The team is not considering changes to the length of slips. Commercial marinas, with larger slips, are available around the lake to accommodate larger boats, and provide amenities needed such as sewer pump-outs and full-time shore power.

Q9: Is the Corps looking to only allow adjacent land owners the right to own a boat slip?

A9: The private, exclusive use of public land around the lake is allowed only through the permit process and is not guaranteed to anyone living adjacent or close to the lake. Under current Federal regulations, private dock permits are available only to land owners who own property directly adjacent to public land, or those who have a permanent legal right-of-way or access to the lake from adjacent landowner. Existing community docks must have one permit holder and the community must have a permanent legal right-of-way or access to the lake. The draft SMP alternatives consideration would not change this.

If the preferred alternative includes one and two stall privately owned docks, the owner would need to be an adjacent land owner. If community docks are included in the preferred alternative, then the community must have a permanent right-of-way or access to the lake and parking just like the policy under the current SMP. The team is still assessing all possible alternatives.

Q10: What can I do to get involved and shape the future SMP?

A10: Attend a future public workshop, view the draft proposals on-line, and make your comments and concerns heard during the upcoming public comment period. Once the draft SMP is released in February 2017, the Corps will open a public comment period and host multiple public workshops to solicit input and feedback prior to finalization and implementation of an updated SMP in 2017. To stay informed, please visit the Table Rock Lake SMP Update webpage at [Table Rock Lake SMP Update](#).