

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes

Regional Master Plan Public Scoping Meeting

January 2021



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Today's Meeting

Goals and Objectives



Inform the Public and Stakeholders that a master plan revision has started



Define a master plan and the framework of a regional master plan



Describe the master plan process



Overview of both water resource projects



Provide instructions on how to participate in the process & discussion

What is a Master Plan?

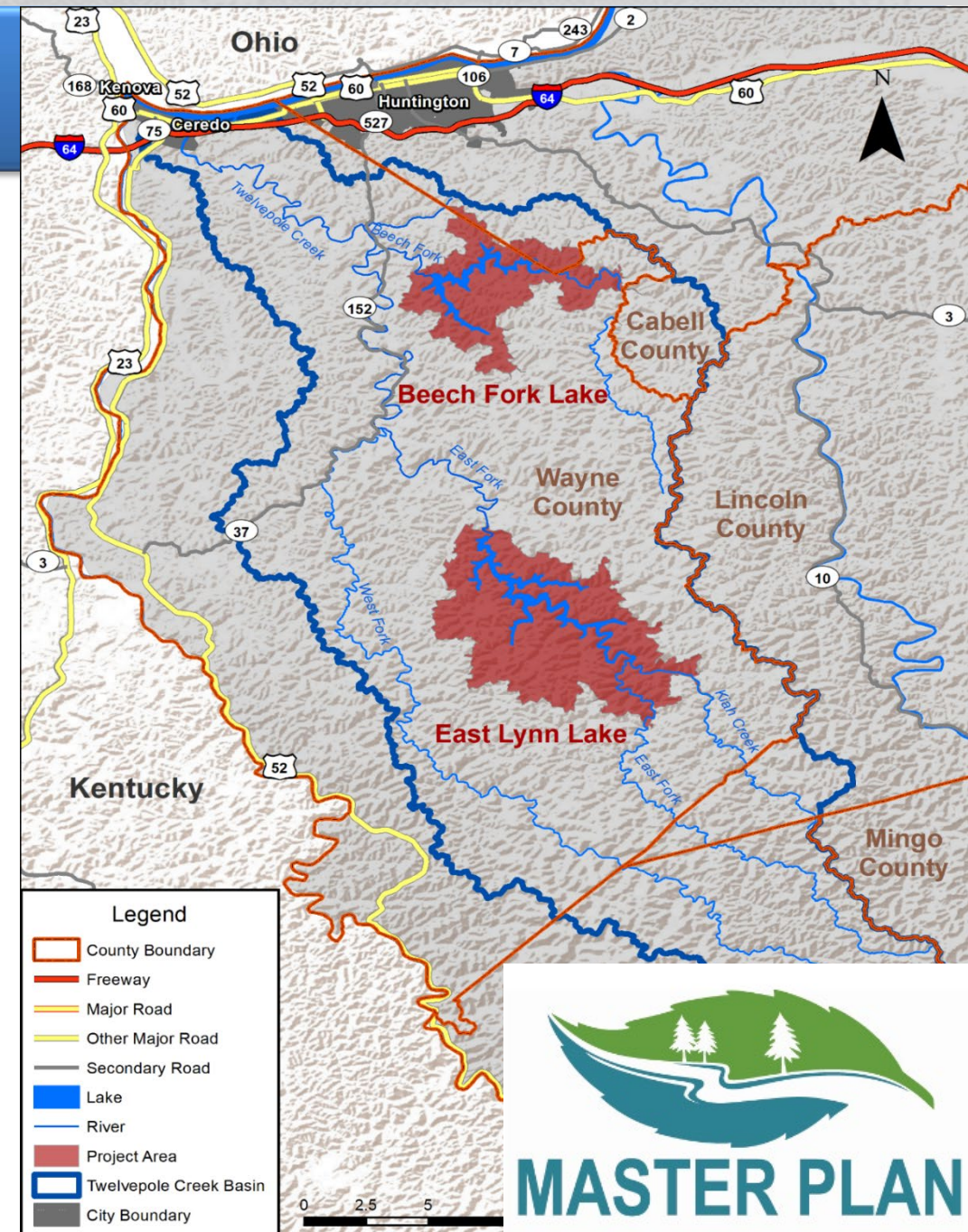
- The Master Plan is the **strategic land use management** document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all **project recreational, natural, cultural** and **man-made resources** throughout the life of the water resources development project.
- Regional Master Plans are used for multiple projects in the same general vicinity.
- A regional master plan provides an introduction to the region as a whole and a collective vision for the region
- A master plan is generally expected to have an effective life-span of 15 to 25 years.

Regional Master Plan

Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes are:

- Less than 10 miles apart,
- In the Twelvepole Creek Watershed,
- Are operated in a coordinated manner, and
- Have similar landscapes.

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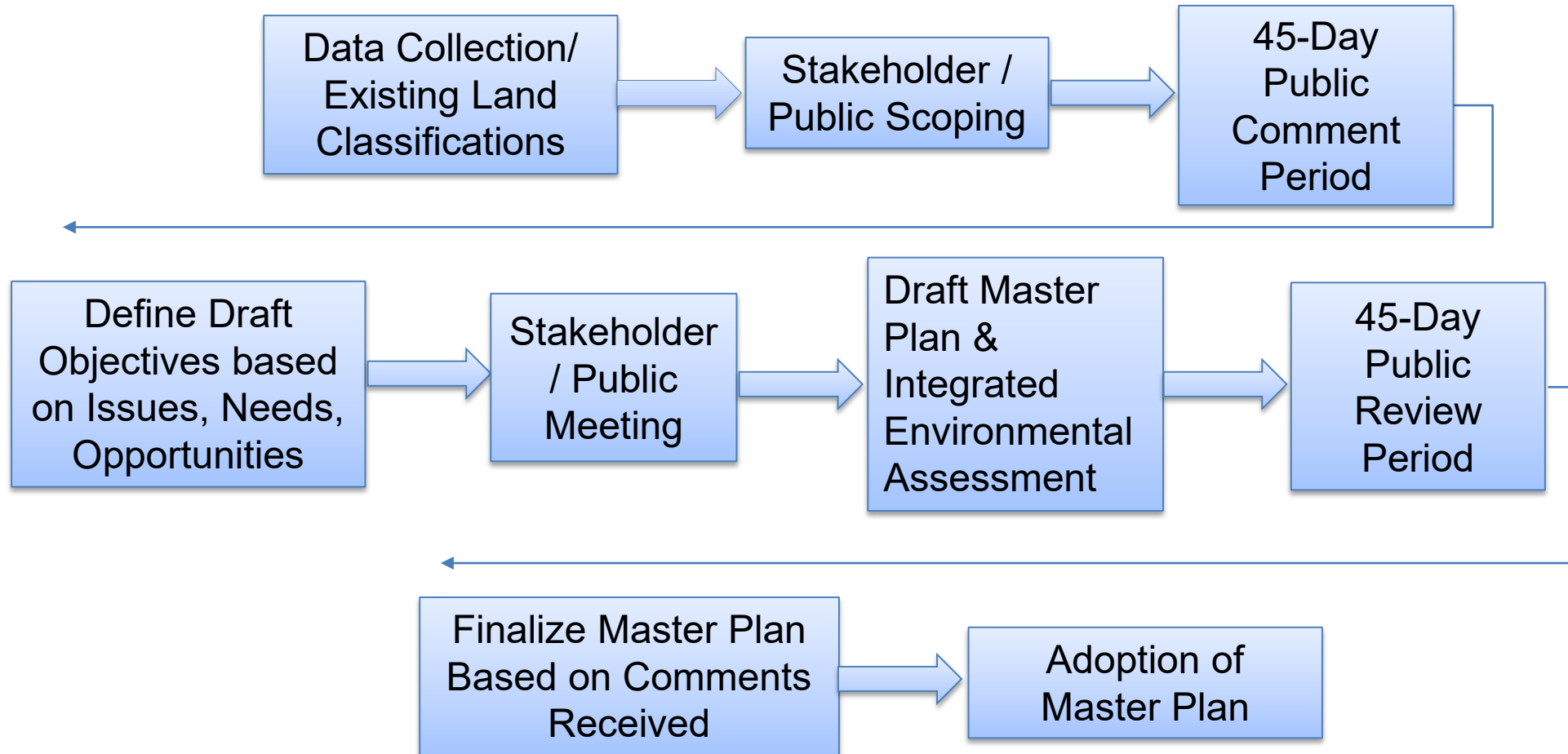
What is a Master Plan?

- The Master Plan will:
 - ▶ Develop Resource Management Objectives.
 - ▶ Identify Land Use Classifications.
 - ▶ Provide for protection of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.
 - ▶ Provide a collaborative process with emphasis placed on resource objectives and a collective vision for the region.
 - ▶ Adhere to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop project lands, waters, and associated resources; including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

What a Master Plan will not do.

- The Master Plan will not:
 - ▶ Address the specifics of regional water quality, shoreline management, or water level management.
 - ▶ Modify operation and maintenance of the projects.
 - ▶ Provide detailed facility design.

The Master Plan Process



Master Plans – Land Classification

Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Those lands required for the dam, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for marinas and related concessions.
Multiple Resource Management	Recreation – Low Density: Activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, and hunting.
	Wildlife Management: Fish and wildlife management activities.
	Vegetative Management: Management activities for the protection and development of a specific vegetative cover.
	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.
Easement Lands	All land for which USACE holds an easement interest but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project.

Master Plans – Water Surface Classification

Water Surface Classification	Definition
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.
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 migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.

Beech Fork Lake Overview

History

- Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962
- Component of the Comprehensive Ohio River Basin System
- Operations began in May 1978
- Prevented over \$31 million in damages since operation began

Description

- Rolled earth-fill dam (86 feet high and 8.3 miles long)
- 760-acre lake on the Beech Fork, a tributary of Twelvepole Creek
- Corps owns 13,024 acres of project lands
- WVDNR manages 8,247 acres as Wildlife Management Area
- WVDNR manages 3,144 acres as State Park
- Corps manages upstream and downstream recreation areas and Stowers Branch Beach

Authorized Purposes

- Flood Control
- Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife Enhancement



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Beech Fork Lake - Recreation

Recreational Opportunities

Include:

- Boating
 - Marina
 - Launch ramps
 - 9.9 horsepower limit
- Camping
- Fishing
- Trails - Hiking and mountain biking
- Hunting
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Sightseeing

Corps Managed Recreation:

- Upstream Recreation area
- Downstream Recreation Area
- Stowers Branch Beach and Picnic Area

Outgrants and Lessees:

- WVDNR
 - Beech Fork State Park
 - Beech Fork Lake Wildlife Management Area

Concessionaires:

- Marina



Beech Fork Lake – Environmental

- Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

- ▶ Clubshell Mussel
- ▶ Fanshell Mussel
- ▶ Sheepnose Mussel
- ▶ Pink Mucket (pearlymussel)
- ▶ Snuffbox Mussel
- ▶ Gray Bat
- ▶ Indiana Bat
- ▶ Northern Long-eared Bat

- 82% of basin is forested
- Diverse and sustainable wildlife community
- The lake supports a diverse and healthy fish population

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Clubshell Mussel



Fanshell Mussel



Sheepnose Mussel



Gray Bat



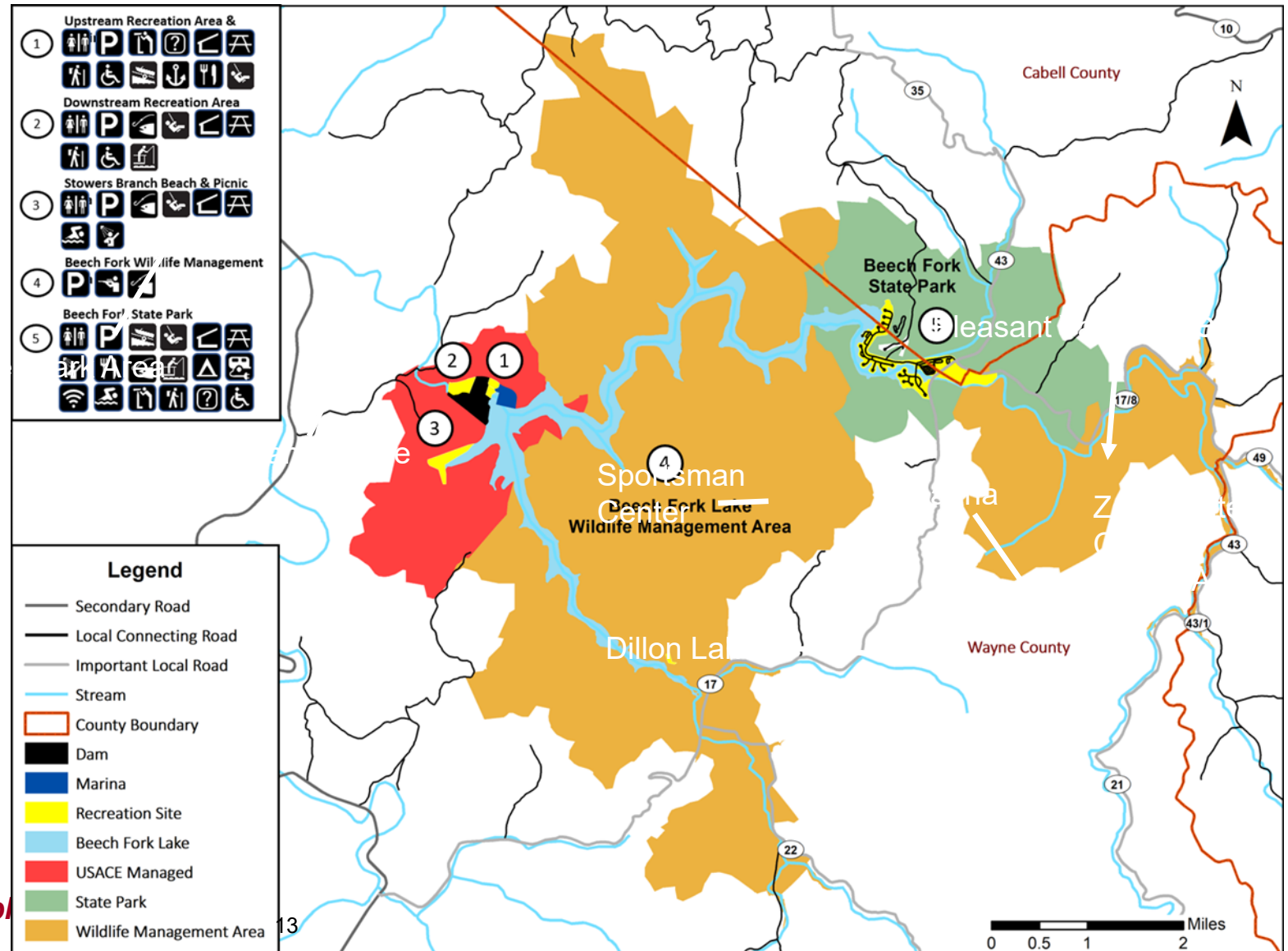
Northern Long-Eared Bat



Gray Bat

Beech Fork Lake – Existing Use Map

- 12,608 acres of Corps fee-owned land
- 8,247 acres leased to WVDNR for WMA
- 3,144 acres leased to WVDNR for State Park
- 1,212 acres managed by Corps



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Beech Fork Lake

Issues, Needs and Opportunities

- Easy access from I-64
- 9.9 horsepower limit creates quiet and calm lake for families
- Very popular state park
- Kayaks and motorboats use the same boat launch
- Construction of a lodge through public-private-partnership has been proposed
- Illegal use of ATVs
- Invasive species

East Lynn Lake Overview

History

- Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962
- Part of Ohio River Basin Flood Control Plan
- Operation began in 1972
- Prevented \$115 million in damages since construction

Description

- Rolled earth filled dam (113 feet tall and 652 feet long)
- 1,005-acre lake on East Fork which is tributary to Twelvepole Creek
- Corps owns 24,821 acres
- Unlimited horsepower allowed

Authorized Purposes

- Flood Control
- Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife Enhancement



East Lynn Lake - Recreation

Recreational Opportunities

Include:

- Boating
 - Marina
 - Launch ramps
 - Unlimited horsepower
- Camping
- Fishing
- Trails - hiking and horseback riding
- Hunting
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Sightseeing

Corps Managed Recreation:

- Dam Site
- Tailwater Area
- Overlook Area
- Laurel Creek Fishing Area
- East Fork Campground
- Lick Creek Area
- East Fork Boat Launch
- Lakeside Area

Outgrants and Lessees:

- East Lynn Lake Wildlife Management Area

Concessionaires and Subleases:

- Marina
- Campground Store & Rental



East Lynn Lake – Environmental

- Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
 - ▶ Clubshell Mussel
 - ▶ Fanshell Mussel
 - ▶ Sheepnose Mussel
 - ▶ Pink Mucket (pearlymussel)
 - ▶ Snuffbox Mussel
 - ▶ Gray Bat
 - ▶ Indiana Bat
 - ▶ Northern Long-eared Bat
- Project area is dominated by forests
- Diverse and sustainable wildlife community
- The lake supports a diverse and healthy fish population

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Clubshell Mussel



Fanshell Mussel



Sheepnose Mussel



Gray Bat



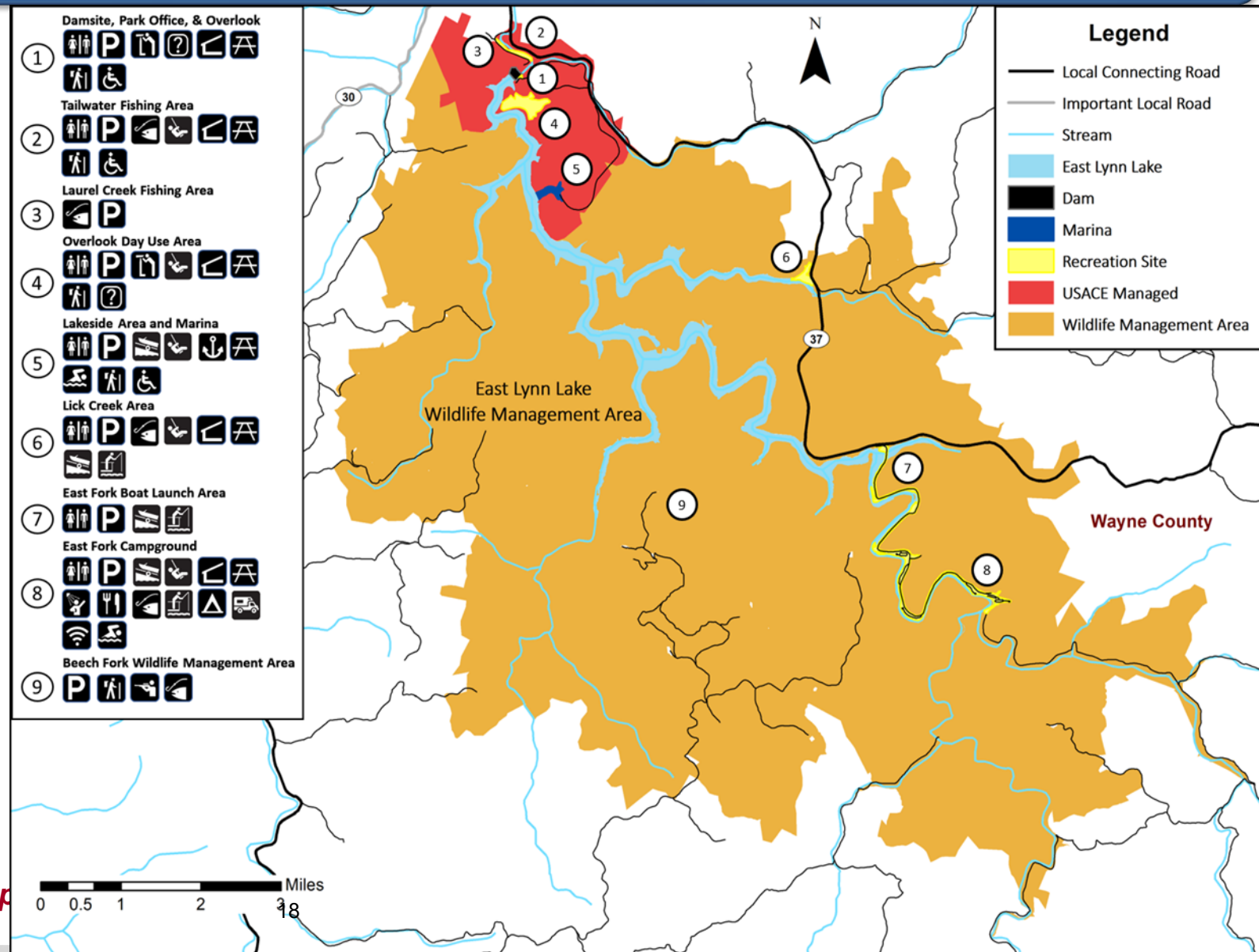
Northern Long-Eared Bat



Gray Bat

East Lynn – Existing Use Map

- 24,821 acres of Corps owned land
- 22,928 acres leased to WVDNR for Wildlife Management Area



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East Lynn Lake – Issues, Needs and Opportunities

- The Corps operates all recreation facilities except the Wildlife Management Area
- Largest WMA in West Virginia
- Over 100 privately owned gas wells are on project land
- Lack of law enforcement
- Illegal ATV use
- Invasive species

When will the Master Plan be done?

- The master plan will take **18-24 months** to complete

Public Scoping Meeting	January 26, 2021
Public Comment Period	Through March 12, 2021
Resource Objectives Review Meeting	April 2021
Draft Regional Master Plan/Integrated EA	
Public Notification	October 2021
Public Comment Period (45 days)	November 2021
Final Regional Master Plan / Execution of Finding of No Significant Impact	December 2021

Public Engagement

- Why are we here today?
 - ▶ Scoping meeting required by National Environmental Policy Act
 - ▶ Ask for your help in identifying the following:
 - Issues that you think should be considered during the Master Planning Process,
 - Inform us of your opinions regarding recreation opportunities, and
 - Tell us about problems and things you would like to see improved at the lakes.

How can I participate?

- Discussion on today's teleconference.
- Review documents on the Corps website:

<https://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Current-Projects/BeechFork-EastLynn-Lakes-Regional-Master-Plan/>

- Submit written or email comments by March 12 to:

US Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Rebecca Rutherford
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

- Or Email at: BeechForkEastLynnMP@USACE.ARMY.MIL
- Spread the word by telling your colleagues, friends and neighbors to participate.

Open Discussion



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