

Resource Objectives for Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes

1 Regional Resource Objectives

1.1 Regional Recreation Resource Objectives

Recreation Resource Objectives 1 and 2:

Issue/Need: There has been a downward trend in recreation funding since 2008 that is anticipated to continue. As the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, USACE must change the way it delivers recreation services to the public through strong partnerships and reduced direct delivery of recreation services and opportunities.

Resource Objective Statement (RR 1): Continue the USACE legacy of providing quality access to recreation on public lands by providing recreational opportunities through a variety of operational alternatives. Utilize authorities and policies to fully engage current and potential partners, volunteers, and service providers. Optimize existing partnerships and establish new partnerships to ensure quality services to the public.

Resource Objective Statement (RR 2): Identify potential alternative funding sources (i.e., grants and scholarships) and seek appropriate processes to acquire such funds to augment appropriated recreation funding.

Recreation Resource Objective 3 (RR 3)

Issue/Need: A National Recreation and Parks Association study found that a lack of awareness and information regarding recreation facility locations, offerings, and programs led to less participation and visitation. Increase public awareness of USACE recreation programs, outreach opportunities, and understanding of all aspects of the Corps Civil Works Mission.

Resource Objective Statement: Enhance communications and marketing by encouraging innovation and utilization of the latest technologies to engage a more targeted audience of current and potential partners, volunteers, service providers, and current and future users. Develop an effective communication strategy that will resonate with each target audience and result in positive understandings of the importance of outdoor recreation, public safety, land use management, and the natural resource management (NRM) role in protection of project purposes.

Recreation Resource Objective 4 (RR 4)

Issue/Need: USACE uses a recurring cycle of planning, execution, measurement, performance review, and annual course-correction that will integrate sustainability more deeply into its mission and the organizational culture annually.

Resource Objective Statement: Assist in achieving federal sustainability goals, accomplished through more energy, water, and fuel-efficient operations, and reduction of our footprint on the land by expanding recycling, composting, and renewable energy programs.

Recreation Resource Objective 5 (RR 5)

Issue/Need: A public need for multiuse trails has been identified within the region.

Resource Objective Statement: Continue to manage and provide natural, cultural, and recreation resources consistent with established land use practices and authorized project purposes and explore opportunities to expand trail use for a variety of recreation opportunities at Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes.

Recreation Resource Objective 6 (RR 6)

Issue/Need: Some high density developed recreation facilities do not fully accommodate modern recreational preferences and equipment (i.e., larger campers) that require increased facility size, connectivity, and power availability.

Resource Objective Statement: Continue infrastructure upgrades as needed at recreation facilities to accommodate modern recreational equipment, respond to recreational trends, and support evolving technologies to enhance the user experience.

Recreation Resource Objective 7 (RR 7)

Issue/Need: Elevated levels of methylmercury and PCBs occur throughout all WV waters, including Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes. The State of WV issues annual fish consumption advisories with guidelines for how frequently various species and sizes of fish can be consumed safely.

Resource Objective Statement: Provide signage at boat launches and fishing areas informing fishermen of agencies and websites that provide the most up-to-date information on fish advisories and risks associated with fish consumption.

Recreation Resource Objective 8 (RR 8)

Issue/Need: There is a need for additional facilities to accommodate for recent national and statewide trends in increased use of non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards.

Resource Objective Statement: Provide additional facilities or improved functionality of current facilities within public lands to better accommodate water-based recreational use.

Recreation Resource Objective 9 (RR 9)

Issue/Need: The WV SCORP is updated every five years and provides information on recreational use trends in West Virginia and analysis of these trends throughout the state. The plan should be reviewed to meet user demands and current trends.

Resource Objective Statement: Monitor the SCORP to ensure that USACE is responsive to outdoor recreation trends, public needs, and resource protection within a regional framework.

Recreation Resource Objective 10 (RR 10)

Issue/Need: Based on regional demographics (i.e., aging population), a need has been identified to provide increased availability for passive recreation opportunities and accessibility.

Resource Objective Statement: Pursue opportunities to promote active lifestyles for all individuals regardless of ability through facility design, operation, and maintenance.

Recreation Resource Objective 11 (RR 11)

Issue/Need: There is a need to explore opportunities to reach new user groups such as those that do not typically recreate.

Resource Objective Statement: Promote and engage members of the community, military, and public to participate in healthy outdoor activities on Corps lands and waters.

1.2 Regional Natural Resource Objectives

Natural Resource Objective 1 (RN 1)

Issue/Need: Incorporate National and State initiatives to enhance pollinator health such as the Presidential Memorandum “Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honeybees and Other Pollinators” dated June 20, 2014. The USACE has developed plans to incorporate conservation practices for pollinator habitat improvements at all water resource projects.

Resource Objective Statement: Implement conservation and best management practices for pollinator health. Preserve existing pollinator habitat and incorporate new habitat within budget guidance to establish pollinator gardens on project lands and pursue partnerships with other agencies and/or organizations.

Natural Resource Objective 2 (RN 2)

Issue/Need: Expansion of invasive species of plants and animals can substantially reduce the quality of fish and wildlife habitat. Invasive species are found within the region, including at Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes.

Resource Objective Statement: Develop and implement an invasive species management plan to control the expansion of these species within project lands. Optimize partnerships for the prevention and control of invasive species to help avoid or minimize damages to the water resource project.

Natural Resource Objective 3 (RN 3)

Issue/Need: The Master Plan guides and articulates USACE responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the project lands, waters, and associated resources.

Resource Objective Statement: Continue to maintain compliance with Federal laws and regulations for the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Integrate EOPs and other environmental regulations/initiatives in day-to-day decision making and long-range planning.

Natural Resource Objective 4 (RN 4)

Issue/Need: As one of the federal agencies managing public lands and waters in the U.S., USACE has the responsibility to protect these resources for present and future generations to use and enjoy.

Natural Resource Objective: Increase community involvement in and stewardship of USACE recreation areas through leveraging of existing national stewardship opportunities, expanding partner involvement and volunteer program support. Promote sustainable behavior and incorporate environmental sustainability into USACE messages related to recreation areas and activities.

Natural Resource Objective 5 (RN 5)

Issue/Need: Exploration or extraction of mineral, gas or oil resources occurs within the region. Additional mineral exploration and extraction conflicts with the management and provision of Congressionally authorized purposes of Beech Fork and East Lynn Lakes.

Resource Objective Statement: Continue to manage and provide natural, cultural, and recreation resources consistent with established land use practices and authorized project purposes, excluding the exploration or extraction of mineral, gas, or oil resources.

Natural Resource Objective 6 (RN 6)

Issue/Need: High quality native habitat is critical for maintenance of healthy populations of terrestrial and aquatic organisms.

Resource Objective Statement: Protect and/or restore important native habitats such as bottomland hardwoods, riparian zones, and wetlands where they occur, or historically occurred, on project lands. Special emphasis should be taken to protect and/or restore special or rare plant communities.

1.3 Regional Cultural Resource Objectives

Cultural Resource Objective 1 (RC 1)

Issue/Need: In order to comply with requirements of the National Historic Properties Act (NHPA) in support of existing and ongoing project activities a comprehensive knowledge base of cultural resources is a prerequisite. Archaeological sites, buildings and structures 50 years old or older are identified and assessed in terms of integrity or condition and significance to our understanding of prehistory and history. Cultural resources are managed through comprehensive CRMPs or HPMPs. Systematic surveys of historic and prehistoric cultural resources are conducted and updated to account for new discoveries and monitoring of resource condition.

Resource Objective Statement: Perform surveys for prehistoric and historic sites periodically for both project areas. Particular attention should be given to shoreline surveys in areas located between winter and summer pool as well as areas leased for agriculture and wildlife food plots, areas where modifications are proposed, or areas that are leased for oil, gas or coal exploration and timbering.

Cultural Resource Objective 2 (RC 2)

Issue/Need: Coal, gas, and some oil are of commercial interest within the Twelvepole Creek Basin. The Pittsburgh coal seam, at the base of the Monongahela series, generally outcrops about halfway up the slopes of hills at elevations well above the floodplains. Several old openings in that seam presented opportunities for domestic coal production prior to the purchase of project lands. Horizontal tunnels were dug to exploit the coal seams. This coal extraction method is referred to as “drift mining”. The drift mines are not documented and should be assessed for eligibility for National Register listing and might be of historical or cultural interest to visitors.

Resource Objective Statement: Evaluate the drift mines on project lands for their eligibility or potential eligibility for NR listing and for development of interpretive programs.

2 Resource Objectives – Beech Fork Lake

2.1 Recreation Resource Objectives

Recreation Resource Objective 1 (R1)

Issue/Need: The Beech Fork Lake State Park campground and cabins are usually at capacity during recreation season. Additional lodging may be needed to meet demand.

Objective Statement: Continue coordination with WVDNR Parks and other interested parties to meet lodging facility demand through the Report of Availability Real Estate request process.

Recreation Resource Objective 2 (R2)

Issue/Need: Vandalism is a problem at Stowers Branch Beach. Damages can render the facilities unusable, and repairs are often costly.

Objective Statement: Identify and implement measures to reduce or eliminate vandalism using established programs such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Corps Watch Property Protection Program or similar.

Recreation Resource Objective 3 (R3)

Issue/Need: Recreation day use areas such as Stowers Branch Beach experience high demand during the recreation season. Site degradation, overcrowding, and public perception (i.e., user enjoyment) have created a need for evaluation of mitigation measures at day use areas such as Stowers Branch Beach.

Objective Statement: Investigate opportunities to increase public enjoyment, optimize efficiencies, and reduce congestion in public day use areas.

Recreation Resource Objective 4 (R4)

Issue/Need: The Upstream Recreation Area is heavily populated during peak season by multiple user groups resulting in user conflict and delays such as vehicular circulation vs pedestrian circulation patterns, motorized vs non-motorized watercraft access and frequent site user vs nonfrequent site user orientation (way finding) are amongst the more obvious issues. Current evidence indicates since implementation in 1978 various site modifications have occurred. These modifications combined with the topographic constraints of the site has resulted in a disjointed spatial program and problematic circulation patterns.

Resource Objective Statement: Analyze the site's opportunities and constraints for the development of feasible conceptual alternatives to resolve site circulation issues, avoid user groups conflicts, and improve the overall recreational experience.

The analysis should include consideration of adding a non-motorized watercraft launching area.

Recreation Resource Objective 5 (R5)

Issue/Need: USACE trail improvements such as more convenient trail heads, mapping/signage, and enhanced accessibility are needed.

Objective Statement: Enhance trail accessibility, improve the existing trail system, and increase connectivity.

Recreation Resource Objective 6 (R6)

Issue/Need: Recreation facilities at Beech Fork Lake need maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, upgrade, and replacement. Funding requests for maintenance, repair, and replacement of aging facilities must compete with the needs of other projects on a nationwide basis.

Objective Statement: Assess the need for rehabilitation or replacement of existing recreation facilities and prioritize needed improvements using performance-based criteria such as costs per visit, utilization, facility condition, public use patterns, etc.

Recreation Resource Objective 7 (R7)

Issue/Need: There are areas at the mouths of tributaries and in the upper reaches of the lake where sedimentation has accumulated which makes boat launching and navigation difficult.

Objective Statement: Maximize boat launching opportunities and safe navigation in the upper reaches of the lake. Work with partners to evaluate broad alternatives to address larger scale sedimentation problem areas, such as comprehensive sediment removal or boat launch relocation.

Recreation Resource Objective 8 (R8)

Issue/Need: Providing broader Wi-Fi at recreation facilities and cell phone coverage throughout project areas would improve the recreation experience and provide a means of increasing public safety.

Resource Objective Statement: Pursue opportunities to expand Wi-Fi and cell phone coverage at Beech Fork Lake.

2.2 Natural Resource Objectives – Beech Fork Lake

Natural Resource Objective 1 (N1)

Issue/Need: USACE Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures as outlined in ER 1130-2-540 requires the USACE to manage natural resources on USACE administered land and water in accordance with

ecosystem management principles to insure their continued availability. The need for specific resource management evaluations (i.e., special status species changes) should be identified when Master Plan updates are undertaken.

Resource Objective Statement: Prepare Level 2 Natural Resource Inventory for Beech Fork Lake as necessary.

Natural Resource Objectives 2, 3, and 4

Issue/Need: Invasive species affect a significant percentage of project lands.

Objective Statement: Develop and implement invasive plant species control measures on USACE managed project lands. **(N2)**

Objective Statement: Develop and implement a regular monitoring program to assess the spread of invasive species (plants, animals, insects, and fish) on project lands managed by the USACE. **(N3)**

Objective Statement: Optimize partnerships for the prevention and control of exotic and invasive species to help prevent or reduce damages to the water resource project. **(N4)**

Natural Resource Objective 5 (N5)

Issue/Need: Conflicts between routine maintenance and stewardship of existing natural resources have been identified.

Objective Statement: Identify opportunities to minimize natural resource impacts due to routine maintenance.

2.3 Cultural Resource Objectives – Beech Fork Lake

Cultural Resource Objective 1 (C1)

Issue/Need: In order to comply with requirements of the NHPA in support of existing and ongoing project activities a comprehensive knowledge base of past and current cultural resources is a prerequisite as well as updated/current CRMP or HPMPs. Systematic surveys of historic and prehistoric cultural resources are either lacking or are outdated. Status of the resources also require monitoring.

Objective Statement: Complete the 2001 draft CRMP for Beech Fork Lake.

Cultural Resource Objectives 2 and 3

Issue/Need: At Beech Fork Lake, one cultural resource has been cited as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and another recommended for a determination of eligibility (log cabin relocated to campground). The 2001 CRMP recommended that such determinations be made to chronicle and document the value of these resources.

Objective Statement: Perform a formal evaluation of eligible resources for National Register listing. As of 2001, no such evaluation had been performed. **(C2)**

Objective Statement: Evaluate the log cabin relocated to the State Park campground for NR stature. In addition, a history of the log cabin should be prepared and used in the interpretation of the structure. **(C3)**

3 Resource Objectives – East Lynn Lake

3.1 Recreation Resource Objectives

Recreation Resource Objective 1 (R1)

Issue/Need: With the exception of East Fork Campground, East Lynn Lake's recreation facilities are generally underutilized.

Objective Statement: Highlight unique characteristics at East Lynn Lake and promote awareness of recreation opportunities to increase visitation.

Recreation Resource Objective 2 (R2)

Issue/Need: EO 11644, Use of off-road vehicles on the public lands, establishes policies to ensure the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled to protect natural resources, promote safety, and minimize conflicts among users. It also enables agencies to prohibit off-road vehicle use in areas that cause significant adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, habitat, or cultural resources. At the East Lynn Lake project, off-road vehicles are prohibited; however, illegal use is an ongoing issue in the project area.

Objective Statement: Develop a strategy for discouraging use of off-road vehicles in unauthorized areas on project lands.

Recreation Resource Objective 3 (R3)

Issue/Need: Existing recreation facilities within the East Fork Campground do not fully accommodate user demands (i.e., additional dump station), modern recreational equipment (i.e., larger campers), and new technology (i.e., Wi-Fi) which require increased facility size, connectivity, and power availability.

Objective Statement: Upgrade infrastructure within the East Fork Campground to respond to recreational trends and accommodate modern recreational equipment and high occupancy.

Recreation Resource Objective 4 (R4)

Issue/Need: The Overlook Area has two shelters. The shelters are very popular for everyday use and special events such as weddings. Shelter 2 is immediately adjacent to the parking area. Shelter 1 however, is located almost 500 feet from the parking area and is not easily accessible to transport supplies from vehicles.

Objective Statement: Improve accessibility to the Overlook Day Use Area Shelter 1.

Recreation Resource Objective 5 (R5)

Issue/Need: The Lakeside Area is a very scenic site with plenty of shade, a shelter, restrooms, and parking area. However, visitation to this day use area is relatively low.

Objective Statement: Evaluate opportunities to increase visitation and identify options for expanding recreational facilities at the Lakeside Day Use Area such as a new kayak launch or swimming beach.

Recreation Resource Objective 6 (R6)

Issue/Need: Garbage collection service is not provided in the rural portions of the counties surrounding East Lynn Lake. Some residents illegally dump trash in ravines and along hillsides. Trash (i.e., appliances, tires, etc.) is flushed from upstream tributaries into the lake by stormwater runoff and creates an unsightly safety hazard. Cove Creek and East Fork are primary sources of trash inflows to the lake.

Objective Statement: Evaluate cost effective options for reducing the trash in the lake.

Recreation Resource Objectives 7 and 8

Issue/Need: There are areas at the mouths of tributaries and in the upper reaches of the lake where sedimentation has accumulated which makes boat launching and navigation difficult.

Objective Statement: Maximize boat launching opportunities and safe navigation in the upper reaches of the lake. Work with partners to evaluate broad alternatives to address larger scale sedimentation problem areas, such as comprehensive sediment removal or boat launch relocation. **(R7)**

Objective Statement: Evaluate broad alternatives to address larger scale sedimentation problem areas, such as comprehensive sediment removal or boat launch relocation. **(R8)**

Recreation Resource Objective 9 (R9)

Issue/Need: Recreation facilities at East Lynn Lake need maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement. Funding requests for maintenance, repair, and replacement of aging facilities at both projects must compete with the needs of other projects on a nation-wide basis.

Objective Statement: Assess the need for rehabilitation or replacement of existing recreation facilities and prioritize needed improvements using performance-based criteria such as costs per visit, utilization, facility condition, public use patterns, etc.

Recreation Resource Objective 10 (R10)

Issue/Need: Providing broader Wi-Fi at recreation facilities and cell phone coverage throughout project areas would improve the recreation experience and provide a means of increasing public safety.

Objective Statement: Pursue opportunities to expand Wi-Fi and cell phone coverage at East Lynn Lake.

3.2 Natural Resource Objectives – East Lynn Lake

Natural Resource Objective 1 (N1)

Issue/Need: USACE Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures as outlined in ER 1130-2-540 requires the USACE to manage natural resources on USACE administered land and water in accordance with ecosystem management principles to insure their continued availability. The need for specific resource management evaluations (i.e., special status species changes) should be identified when Master Plan updates are undertaken.

Objective Statement: Prepare Level 2 Natural Resource Inventory for East Lynn Lake as necessary.

Natural Resource Objectives 2, 3, and 4

Issue/Need: Invasive species affect a significant percentage of project lands.

Objective Statement: Develop and implement invasive plant species control measures on USACE managed project lands. **(N2)**

Objective Statement: Develop and implement a regular monitoring program to assess the spread of invasive species (plants, animals, insects, and fish) on project lands managed by the USACE. **(N3)**

Objective Statement: Optimize partnerships for the prevention and control of exotic and invasive species to help prevent or reduce damages to the water resource project. **(N4)**

3.3 Cultural Resource Objectives – East Lynn Lake

Cultural Resource Objective 1 (C1)

Issue/Need: To comply with requirements of the NHPA in support of existing and ongoing project activities a comprehensive knowledge base of past and current cultural resources is a prerequisite as well as updated/current CRMP or HPMPs. Systematic surveys of historic and prehistoric cultural resources are either lacking or are outdated. Status of the resources also require monitoring.

Objective Statement: Expand the cultural history portion of the HPMP for East Lynn Lake (1995) to include more specific information on the mining industry and potential historic resources within the project area.