



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8915

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

JUL 23 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation 33 CFR 230.11, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for updating the 1986 Okeechobee Water Way (OWW) and Lake Okeechobee (LO) Master Plan. A Master Plan is required for each civil works project which the Corps has administrative responsibility. It serves as a planning document that anticipates what could and should happen at a Corps project, but is flexible enough to address changing conditions. The primary goals of this Draft Master Plan are to update the overall land and water management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts, which (1) provide the best possible combination of responses to regional needs; (2) contribute toward providing a high degree of recreation diversity within the region; (3) emphasize the particular qualities, characteristics, and potentials of the project; and (4) exhibit consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other state and regional goals and programs.

The project is located in south central Florida within Glades, Hendry, Lee, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties. This Draft Master Plan update includes current and projected future land use and recreational sites adjacent to the OWW and LO Project. This update of the OWW and LO Master Plan does not include operations of Lake Okeechobee or components of Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation. Items related to those projects are or will be covered under separate studies and future NEPA assessments.

Features considered to be replaced from the current Master Plan are:

- a. Conversion of the abandoned campground at Moore Haven West to a Wildlife Management Area with access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail and day use area. This area could potentially include a new canoe/kayak launching facility and repair or upgrading of the existing boat ramp.
- b. Closure of the WP Franklin swim beach, while maintaining the picnic and fishing areas. Closing the beach would entail removing buoys and swimming signs, and the discontinuance of sand renourishment due to safety concerns. This site could include a canoe/kayak launch.

The EA and Proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Corps Environmental planning website under multiple counties:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx>

A copy of the Draft report is also available at the following libraries:

Glades County Library	201 Riverside Drive	Moore Haven	FL	33471
Hendry County Barron Library	461 North Main Street	LaBelle	FL	33935
Hendry County Harry T. Vaughn	120 West Osceola Avenue	Clewiston	FL	33440
Martin County Elisabeth Lahti Library	15200 SW Adams Avenue	Indiantown	FL	34956
Okeechobee County Public Library	206 SW 16th Street	Okeechobee	FL	34974
Palm Beach County Library, Main Branch	3650 Summit Blvd.	West Palm Beach	FL	33406
Palm Beach County Library, Belle Glade Branch	725 NW 4th Street	Belle Glade	FL	33430
Palm Beach County Library, Loula V. York Branch	525 Bacom Point Road	Pahokee	FL	33476
Palm Beach County Library, Clarence E. Anthony Branch	375 SW 2nd Avenue	South Bay	FL	33493

We invite the participation of Federal and state agencies, Native American Tribes, local agencies, interested parties, and individuals interested in providing comments and identifying any issues or concerns. Please share this notice with any interested party. Please send any comments you may have to the attention of Stacie Auvenshine at the letterhead address or email OWWMasterPlan@usace.army.mil within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch