Canyon Lake Master Plan Revision Public Information Meeting March 18, 2016

Marcus Schimank
Canyon Lake Manager
Capital Regional Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District

Purpose of this Meeting

- Describe Purpose of Master Plan
- Describe the Revision Process
- Answer Questions
- Seek Your Participation & Input
- Explain Why Revision is Needed

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Applies to federal actions that affect the environment such as Master Plan revisions
- Requires federal agencies to *CONSIDER and DOCUMENT the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's OVERALL planning and decision-making*
- Requires federal agencies to cooperate with other federal, state and local governments as well as with organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses

Purpose of Master Plans

The Corps defines a Master Plan as…
"The strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project."

Source: Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 available at
www.usace.army.mil/library/publications

Key Points Regarding Master Plans

- Main focus is stewardship of natural and cultural resources and operation of quality outdoor recreation areas
- Proposed effective life of a Master Plan is 25 years
- Recreational use of the water surface is addressed

What Master Plans Are Not

- Master Plans do not address in detail the technical aspects of water management for flood risk management, water supply or hydroelectric power

Additional Key Points

- Key sections of the Master Plan Revision include
  - resource management objectives
  - revised land use classifications
  - management plan for each land classification
- Potential outcomes could be
  - designation of lands for utility corridors, environmentally sensitive areas…
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas is given priority
- Stakeholder and Public Input is Important

What Will Not be Addressed

- National policy places strict limitations on the proposed construction of new public roads on Corps lands. With few exceptions road proposals that would cross federal land will not be addressed.

- Shoreline policy governing mowing, removal of vegetation and debris as well as pedestrian paths will not be addressed in the Master Plan.

Why Revise the Canyon Lake Master Plan?

- Current Master Plan is dated December 1970 and has exceeded its useful life. The way the lake is managed today is different from the way it was managed in 1970.
- For the past 15 years, the population around Canyon Lake and Comal County has experienced significant growth and the trend is expected to continue.
- The Master Plan must be revised to address current and future growth in the region.

The Corps' Vision for Canyon Lake

The land, water surface and recreational resources of Canyon Lake will be managed to protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that complement overall project purposes for the benefit of present and future generations.

Canyon Lake Missions

- USACE Flood Risk Management
- GBRA Water Conservation
- GBRA Hydroelectric Power
- USACE Environmental Stewardship
- USACE Recreation

Fast Facts about Canyon Lake

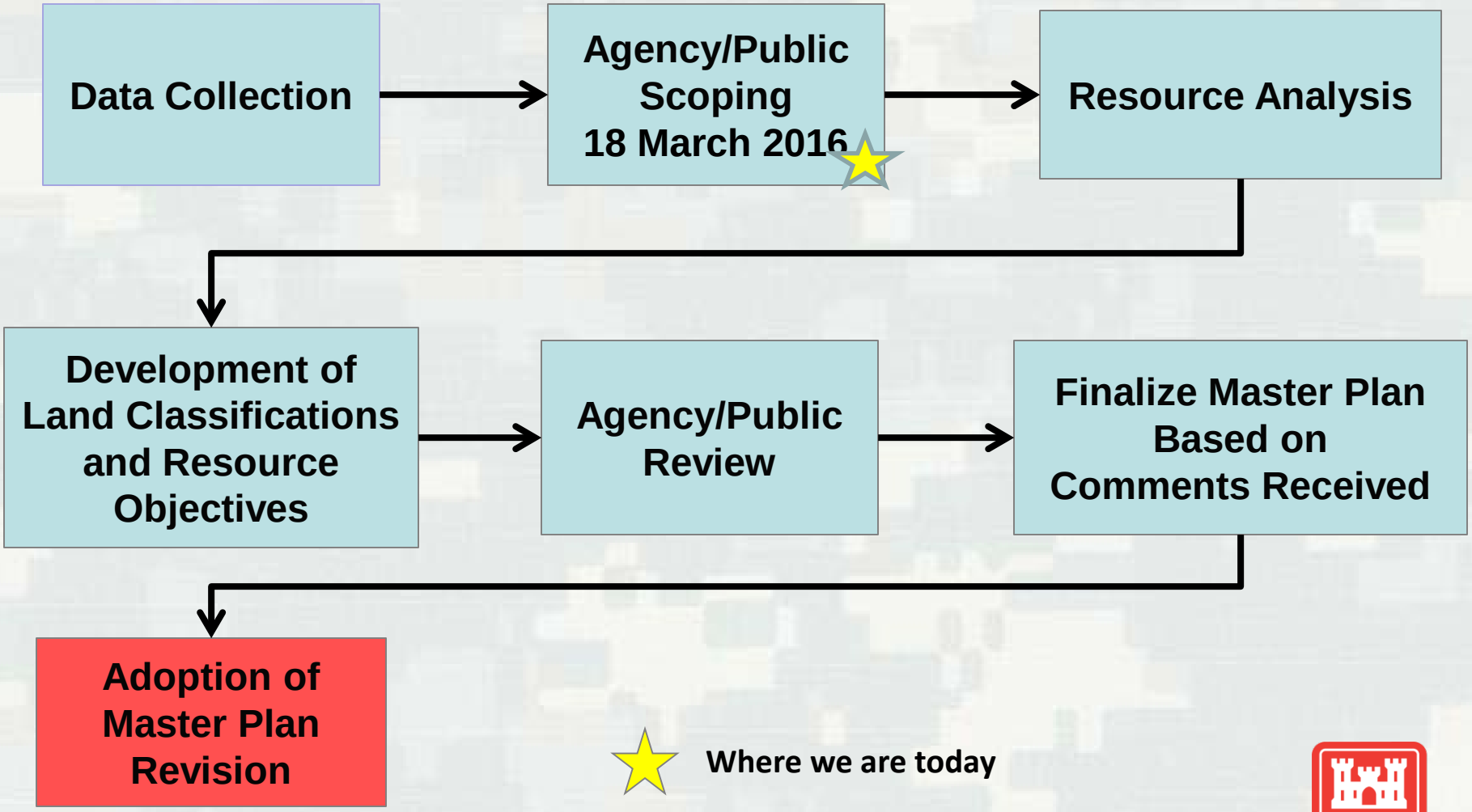
- Dam construction occurred from 1958 - 1964
- Cumulative Flood Damage Prevented > $663M
- 8,240 acres at conservation pool elevation of 909’
- 2,747 acres of public land above 909’
- The federal property line is 81 miles long
- The shoreline at conservation pool is 80 miles long
- Estimated annual visitation is 850,000 to 900,000
- Local economic impact in the tens of millions

(total annual Comal Co. tourism impact $550M)

Master Plan Revision Process

- Accomplished by a team of Corps employees with input from other agencies
- Public and stakeholder input will be carefully considered
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared and included as an appendix

The Master Planning Process



Examples of Major Changes Possibly Needed in the Current Master Plan

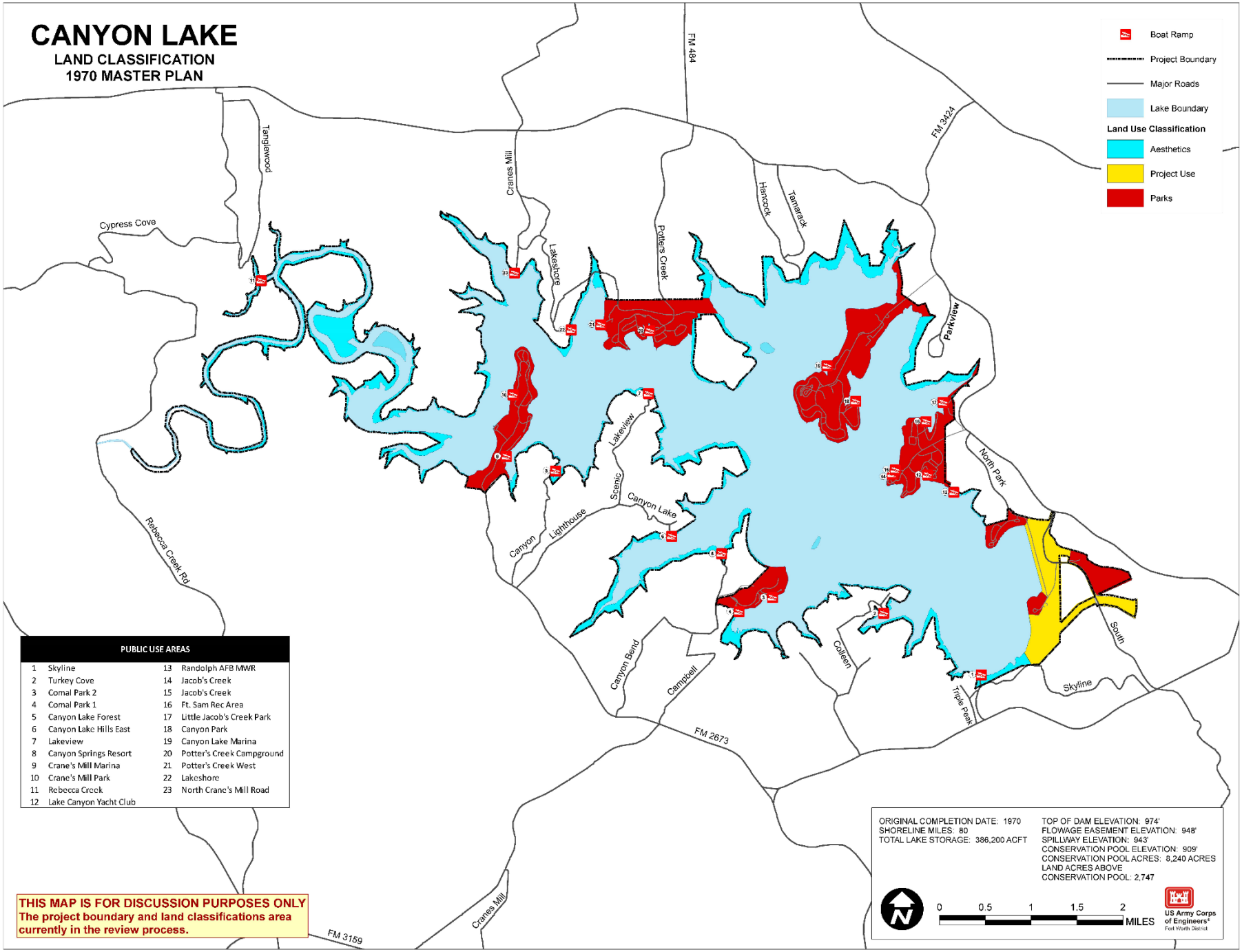
- Re-examine the classification of project lands and the water surface
  - Portions of currently designated parks and even non-park areas could be reclassified as environmentally sensitive areas
  - Possible designation of utility corridors
- Prepare New Resource Management Objectives
  - Possible changes to boating capacity which will be contingent on the completion of a new Boating Use Study

Canyon Lake Land Classification

Current Land Classifications	Proposed New Land Classifications
Operations and Maintenance	Project Operations
Recreational Areas (Parks)	High Density Recreation
Special Use Areas	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Aesthetic and Multiple Use Recreation	Multiple Resource Management -Low Density Recreation -Wildlife Management -Vegetation Management -Future/Inactive Recreation
Wildlife Areas	Water Surface

CANYON LAKE

LAND CLASSIFICATION
1970 MASTER PLAN



PUBLIC USE AREAS			
1	Skyline	13	Randolph AFB MWR
2	Turkey Cove	14	Jacob's Creek
3	Comal Park 2	15	Jacob's Creek
4	Comal Park 1	16	Ft. Sam Rec Area
5	Canyon Lake Forest	17	Little Jacob's Creek Park
6	Canyon Lake Hills East	18	Canyon Park
7	Lakeview	19	Canyon Lake Marina
8	Canyon Springs Resort	20	Potter's Creek Campground
9	Crane's Mill Marina	21	Potter's Creek West
10	Crane's Mill Park	22	Lakeshore
11	Rebecca Creek	23	North Crane's Mill Road
12	Lake Canyon Yacht Club		

ORIGINAL COMPLETION DATE: 1970
SHORELINE MILES: 80
TOTAL LAKE STORAGE: 386,200 ACFT

TOP OF DAM ELEVATION: 974'
FLOWAGE EASEMENT ELEVATION: 948'
SPILLWAY ELEVATION: 943'
CONSERVATION POOL ELEVATION: 909'
CONSERVATION POOL ACRES: 8,240 ACRES
LAND ACRES ABOVE
CONSERVATION POOL: 2,747

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 MILES

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THIS MAP IS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
The project boundary and land classifications area currently in the review process.

Land 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, and resorts
Multiple Resource Management	**Recreation –Low Density:** Activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, and hunting
	Wildlife Management General: 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

Definitions from USACE Engineer Pamphlet 1130-2-550: Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures

Water Surface Classification	Definition
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
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use

Definitions from USACE Engineer Pamphlet 1130-2-550: Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures

Land Classifications

Project Operations - This category includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, powerhouse, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project

Land Classifications

High Density Recreation - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public such as day use parks, campgrounds as well as concessions like marinas and resorts.

Land Classifications

Environmentally Sensitive Areas - Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to just lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act or applicable State statutes. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.

Golden-cheeked Warbler
(photo by USFWS)

Examples may include mature bottomland forests, river and stream corridors, scenic bluffs, and native prairie.

Land Classifications

Low Density Recreation - Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use such as primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails and wildlife viewing areas.

Land Classifications

Wildlife Management - Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources

Land Classifications

Vegetative Management - Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover

Water Classifications

- Water Surface- Restricted
- Water Surface-Designated No Wake
- Water Surface-Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Water Surface- Open Recreation

Utility Corridors

- Linear strips of federal land used for consolidation of multiple utility lines
- Establish only where no viable alternative to crossing Federal land exists
- Main purpose is to reduce negative environmental Impacts
- Generally follow existing roads or utility lines

Examples of Potential Resource Objectives

- Recreation Objective:
  - Expand existing trails and create new trails for a variety of users
  - Extend key boat ramps to accommodate low lake levels
  - Leasing Corps operated parks to other entities
  - Adjustment to the lake's boating capacity

- Natural Resource Objective:
  - Restore degraded prairie sites to support a diversity of native grasses and forbs
  - Implement invasive species control programs
  - Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas
  - Refine wildlife management programs

- General Objective:
  - Reduce encroachments and trespass through improved boundary marking and surveillance

How Can I Participate?

- Attend Meetings
- Visit our website at: (http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates/CanyonLake.aspx)
- Send us an e-mail:

  (CESWF-PER-CanyonLake@usace.army.mil)
- Visit with Corps personnel
- Tell your friends
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later (30 days)

Master Plan Next Steps

- Typical lake master plan update will take 18 to 24 months to finalize. Canyon Lake Master Plan update is in the early stage of development
- First 30 day public comment – 18 March thru 18 April
- Draft MP document: 12-15 months (April 2017)
- Draft MP / EA public meeting in Summer of 2017, followed by another 30 day Public/Agency comment period
- Final document: 4 - 6 months (Winter 2017-2018)

The End

Please feel free to visit with staff members, view the maps, ask questions and help us produce an excellent Master Plan