



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**Master Plan for J. Strom
Thurmond Lake and Dam Project
Georgia and South Carolina**
(Columbia, Elbert, Lincoln, McDuffie, Warren, and
Wilkes Counties in Georgia and Abbeville and
McCormick in South Carolina)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps), has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation ER 200-2-2. The Corps has assessed the effects of the Master Plan (MP), dated November 2021, for J. Strom Thurmond Lake and Dam Project (Thurmond Project). The proposed action is an updated MP for the Thurmond Project which provides a programmatic approach to the management of all the lands included within the Thurmond Project boundary. A Master Plan (MP) is the document that conceptually establishes and guides the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement, and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of a Corps' water resource project.

The EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated two alternatives including the proposed action and the no action alternative, or future without project condition. In the future without project condition (i.e., no-action), Thurmond Project would continue to operate under the 1995 MP. As a result, individual Environmental Assessments could be required for development of facilities or conducting activities not addressed in the 1995 MP. In accordance with ER 1130-2-550, an updated MP (5-year review) is required for civil works projects and other fee-owned lands for which USACE has administrative responsibility for management of natural, recreational, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource project, therefore, no-action is not a viable alternative.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Master Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-Economic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrestrial Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the Draft EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. The temporary impacts associated with the Master Plan would be of limited duration and magnitude as detailed in the EA. All of these impacts are addressed by modern regulatory framework, including the measures required by the General Consolidated Permit (fugitive dust, stormwater management and solid waste generation). Best management practices would be implemented by minimizing adverse effects on all of these (see Sections 4.1.2, 4.5.2, and 4.15.2.)

FINDINGS

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Joseph R. Geary, PhD, PE
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding