



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

28 April 2021

Planning Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of the Master Plan, Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Master Plan for Hartwell Lake Dam and Project, Georgia and South Carolina (Hart, Franklin, and Stephens Counties in Georgia and Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties in South Carolina).

Notice of the following is hereby given:

a. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepared a DRAFT EA and FONSI for the Master Plan for Hartwell Lake Project, Georgia and South Carolina.

b. Savannah District announces the availability to the public of a Draft EA, and Draft FONSI for Master Plan for Hartwell Lake Project, Georgia and South Carolina. Downloaded document copies may be obtained from the District website at: <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>.

c. Written statements regarding the Draft EA and FONSI for the proposed action will be received at the Savannah District Office until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, 28 May 2021

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed action.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Hartwell Lake Project, Georgia and South Carolina (Hart, Franklin, and Stephens Counties in Georgia and Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties in South Carolina).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed action is an updated MP for the Hartwell Project which provides a programmatic approach to the management of all the lands included within the Hartwell Lake 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.

Alternative plans were developed as part of the planning process. The alternatives that were considered were as follows:

a. Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative (NAA), or future without project condition, Hartwell Lake Project would continue to operate under the 1981 MP. As a result, individual EAs could be required for development of facilities or conducting activities not addressed in the 1981 MP. In accordance with Engineer Regulation 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.

b. Alternative 2 – Preferred Alternative –Update Master Plan: The proposed MP update prescribes an overall land and water management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts, which:

1. Incorporates updates to policies and regulations pertaining to the management and future development of the Hartwell Lake Project.
2. Provides the best possible combination of responses to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitability, and expressed public interests and desires consistent with authorized project purposes.
3. Addresses changes in land uses, recreational uses, and natural resources management activities.
4. Provides for the orderly and timely development of recreation facilities by lessees and the Corps.
5. Ensures that program management actions are based on current information and regulations through collaboration with the public, stakeholders, and subject matter experts.

Relevant Resources/Summary of Potential Effects:

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:

Environmental Assessment: Savannah District has prepared a Draft EA and found that an Environmental Impact Statement would not be required for this action. The Draft EA is being coordinated concurrently with this Notice to Federal and State natural resource agencies for review and comment.

Consideration of Public Comments: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received would be considered by the Corps in its deliberations. Comments would be used to assess impacts to endangered species, wetlands, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments would be used in the preparation of the Final EA and FONSI pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments would also be

used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comment Period: Comment to the Corps on this proposed action should be submitted no later than the end of the comment period shown in this notice, in writing, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 100 W Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 30643 Attn: PM-P: Cynthia Gose, or by e-mailing the comments to the following address: CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil. Questions concerning this request can be directed to Cynthia.a.gose@usace.army.mil.

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch
Savannah District