



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Wilmington District

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR, BOYDTON, VA**

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILMINGTON DISTRICT**

October 2016

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Shoreline Management Plan
John H. Kerr Reservoir
Boydton, Virginia**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE), conducted an environmental analysis in an Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2016, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Corps assessed the effects of the proposed action to update the 1995 John H. Kerr Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the John H. Kerr Reservoir to address changes, such as changes in policies, regulations, and surrounding community growth as well as increased recreational use.

As District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, it is my duty in the role of responsible Federal official to review and evaluate the stated views of other agencies and comments received during the public comment period, the environmental effects of this proposed action.

My evaluation and findings are as follows:

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the SMP is to define policies and regulations applicable to the shoreline of John H. Kerr Reservoir that will manage the shoreline in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of the shoreline while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public. All management actions seek to achieve a balance between permitted private uses and protection of natural and cultural resources for use by the general public. This SMP has been developed to provide guidance and information to the public for the effective management of the shoreline at John H. Kerr Reservoir. The SMP describes the types of private uses which may be permitted on the shoreline and addresses the shoreline allocations, rules, regulations and other information relative to the John H. Kerr shoreline. The approved SMP will become part of the John H. Kerr Reservoir Operational Management Plan.

As documented in the Final EA, development of the alternatives for the John H. Kerr SMP began in January 2014 when the USACE sent out a scoping letter to Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as interested local citizens seeking input on potential updates to the John H. Kerr SMP. In order to involve the local property owners and interested parties in the process, the USACE held three public information sessions in February 2014 prior to the development of the SMP, and three additional public information sessions on the draft SMP. The preferred alternative to update the SMP

was selected over the no action alternative, which was to maintain the 1995 SMP with no changes. The most significant substantive changes to the SMP are listed in Table 1 of the EA.

The preferred alternative, the proposed SMP, meets the purpose and need by managing the shoreline of John H. Kerr Reservoir in a manner that maintains a balance between permitted private uses, long-term natural resource protection, and public recreation opportunities, as well as meeting the requirements of the Corps of Engineers, as stewards of this public resource, and the needs of the general public.

2. Coordination. Wilmington District coordinated the recommended proposed action with Federal, state, and local agencies and issued a Public Notice, dated January 13, 2016, to solicit comments. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided its Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act concurrence on June 12, 2015 (North Carolina Field Office) and May 24, 2016 (Virginia Field Office). Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office of Virginia was concluded by letter dated June 12, 2015; and coordination with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office was concluded by letter dated June 8, 2015.

The comments received from the Federal, State and local stakeholders were predominantly supportive of the JHK SMP, and all comments were considered. Public comments received and USACE responses are included in Appendix A to the EA.

The Final Shoreline Management Plan and EA are available at:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/DistrictLakesandDams/JohnHKerr/Shoreline.aspx>

3. Determination. Based on the EA prepared for this project, I have determined that this action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the action does not require the preparation of a detailed statement under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). My determination was made considering the following conclusions supported in the EA to which this document is attached:

- a. The proposed action would not significantly impact any threatened or endangered species potentially occurring in the project area;
- b. No significant cumulative or secondary impacts would result from implementation of this action;
- c. The proposed action would not significantly impact cultural resources;
- d. The proposed action would result in no significant impacts to air or water quality;

e. The proposed action would result in no significant adverse impact to fish and wildlife resources;

f. The proposed action will not cause any environmental health risks or safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and complies with Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks"; and

g. The proposed action will not cause any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations and complies with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."

4. Findings and Conclusions. The proposed action to update the John H. Kerr Reservoir SMP would result in no significant environmental impacts.



Kevin P. Landers, Sr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

Date: 11 OCT 2016