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News Release

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Corps revises Goose Point renovation plan to allow day use for boaters

WILMINGTON, North Carolina, September 1—The US Army Corps of Engineers will continue to make boat ramps available for day use at the popular Goose Point camping area, said Wilmington District Director of Operations Jim Butler. “We listen to what our public tells us,” Butler said. The community around the popular Goose Point recreation area has vocally opposed the Corps’ earlier decision to close the site completely to day use by boaters, swimmers and picnickers.

“We looked hard at the concerns people were bringing to us, and we have made some adjustments to our plans for the facility,” Butler said. The Corps plans to rebuild service facilities and renovate the area primarily for use by overnight campers. “Generally speaking, it’s not a good idea to put overnight camping and day use facilities together,” Butler explained. “All kinds of problems arise, from strain on parking, overuse of facilities like bath houses designed for campers alone, and disruptions and even pilfering, looting, and vandalism at camp sites.”

Local residents, in turn, objected to closure of a beach and boat ramp within a mile or two of home, forcing some to trailer their boats 20 miles to the nearest day use boat ramp.

“We continue to be firmly convinced that day use swimming and picnicking just isn’t compatible with overnight camping,” Butler said. “There’s no way to keep day users apart from campers once they enter the area. Thus the beach and picnic areas will be strictly for campers. On the other hand, we know that boaters don’t bring the issue of intrusion with them—they come to the ramp to go out on the lake, away from the camping area. So we will continue to offer day use for boaters at the Goose Point boat ramp.”

Butler said that he thought this compromise could help allay many concerns. “We made a similar adjustment at Bandits Roost camping area on W. Kerr Scott Lake,” he said. “It has been well accepted.”

Butler added that picnicking and swimming are available at Bowens Creek, only 10 miles from the Goose Point site. “We unfortunately can’t satisfy every wish, but we are open to modify our plans and direction when we can make reasonable changes that better serve people. Our goal in the Recreation Area Modernization Program (RAMP) is to make all our recreational facilities more attractive, safe, and fun for users. We hope folks from far and near will continue to enjoy Goose Point and all the thousands of recreation areas available at more than 460 Corps lakes and reservoirs nationwide.”

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