



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890**

March 7, 2008

Operations Division

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, is preparing an update to the existing W. Kerr Scott Shoreline Management Plan. The W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is located in Wilkes County, North Carolina. We are now requesting comments from agencies, interest groups and the public to identify significant resources and issues of concern with regard to the management of the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Shoreline. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of addressing the environmental effects of the proposed W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Shoreline Management Plan update and alternatives considered will also be prepared. Comments received as a result of this scoping letter will be considered during preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan and the EA.

The current Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was last reviewed and updated in 1997. This proposed update will ensure that the objectives of the Plan comply with all current applicable rules and regulations. Although the updated Shoreline Management Plan will address many subjects, the following issues will be specifically included: 1) private electrical service on public lands, 2) shoreline use permits, and 3) removal/dredging of accumulated sand, gravel, and sediment from the reservoir and its tributaries to facilitate navigation.

The objectives of the Shoreline Management Plan are:

- To insure availability and provide access to project lands and waters while maintaining the shoreline for general public use.
- To provide a level of recreational opportunities that does not overly impact project lands and waters.
- To promote a reasonably safe and healthful environment for project visitors.
- To respond to changing land and water conditions.
- To manage project lands in a manner that will conserve natural resources and environmental quality for future generations.
- To give special consideration for the protection of threatened and endangered plant and animal species.
- To manage recreational and natural resources in a manner that is responsive to the general public.
- To reduce or prevent long-term damage or hazards from insect, animal, and other pests.
- To manage project shorelines to properly establish, enhance, and maintain acceptable fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality, and sustain natural environmental conditions.
- To provide public services through commercial sites and marinas.
- To preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our heritage.
- To manage private exclusive use of public property, in a manner that provides the least impact on public use.
- To establish a means of education and communication with the project user.
- To further provide for the protection of public land and water.

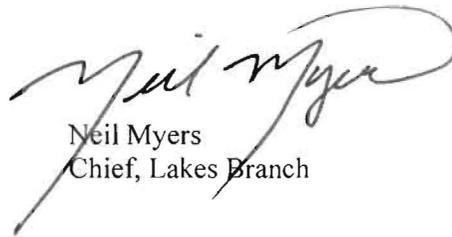
The EA is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the project's relationship to all applicable Federal and State laws and Executive Orders. Significant resources known to occur in the study area include fisheries

resources; threatened and endangered species; terrestrial resources; human resources (including socioeconomic, recreational and aesthetic resources); and cultural resources. Potential impacts on these resources, as well as, water quality, shore processes, and any potential hazardous and toxic waste (HTW) sites in the project area will be fully addressed in the EA.

Should there be other issues which you believe should be discussed in the Shoreline Management Plan and/or EA, please take this opportunity to bring them to our attention. A formal public listening session is scheduled for Spring 2008. Notices will be published regarding the exact date and location of this session. A preliminary draft of the updated SMP has been prepared as an alternative for consideration. Anyone who wishes to examine this preliminary draft of the W. Kerr Scott Shoreline Management Plan may see the plan by visiting the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir Visitor Assistance Center at 499 Reservoir Road, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, or by visiting the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir website [HTTP://WWW.SAW.USACE.ARMY.MIL/WKSCOTT/INDEX.HTM](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm).

Please provide your written comments to arrive within 30 days from the date of this letter in order that they may be considered during the preparation of the interim plan and EA. Comments should be sent to the Corps' District Engineer through the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir website or by writing to the attention of Mr. Terry A. Ramsey, Operations Project Manager for the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir at the following address: W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir 499 Reservoir Road, Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28967-4762. Responses to this scoping letter may result in coordination with individuals or agencies on an as-needed basis to discuss certain issues. Please share this information with any other individual or organizations that would like to comment regarding the proposed update. Any questions relating to this process may be directed to the Project's Shoreline Management coordinator Ranger Jory Shepherd or Operations Project Manager, Mr. Ramsey at 336-921-3390.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Myers", is written over the typed name and title.

Neil Myers
Chief, Lakes Branch