

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON ALLOWABLE ADJACENT LANDOWNER ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON FEDERAL LANDS AT GRAPEVINE AND LEWISVILLE LAKES, TEXAS

Description of Action. The purpose of the Federal action is to revise the mowing, underbrushing, and access path guidelines at Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes, Texas. The Federal Government, acting by and through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), proposes to allow adjacent landowners to apply for a permit to mow and underbrush Federal land for a distance of 25-feet at Grapevine Lake and 50-feet at Lewisville Lake from the Federal property line and maintain access paths to the waters edge. In addition, variances would be granted to perform additional mowing between the Federal property line and the conservation pool in areas too narrow to support a viable habitat zone. These areas are referred to in the programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) as Narrow Shoreline Variance Areas (NSVA).

Anticipated Environmental Effects. Seven alternatives were considered, including the no action alternative, as described in the PEA. The preferred alternative allows current, allowable mowing and underbrushing distances to remain in effect with the exception of the addition of NSVA where additional mowing would be allowable. Currently several acres are being mowed in excess of the allowed distances. Mowing in these areas would be discontinued and the areas would be allowed to return to a more valuable wildlife habitat.

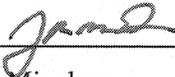
There will be no significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment associated with proper implementation of the proposed action. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated for geology, soil, water, or biological and cultural resources within the subject property. No adverse impact is expected to occur to plant or animal species that are proposed or listed as threatened or endangered according to the Endangered Species Act. There are approximately 1782 acres that can currently be mowed within the set distances at both lakes. As a result of the public comment period, four additional NSVA were added to the PEA, bringing the total number of NSVA to 16. The NSVA are identified in Appendix B of the PEA. Allowing the additional NSVA increased the additional mowing and underbrushing from 144 acres to 158 acres for a total of 1940 acres that could potentially be impacted from mowing and underbrushing activities at both lakes.

Public Involvement. Prior to the release of the draft PEA, approximately 39 homeowners associations representing adjacent landowners at both lakes, as well as individuals, groups, organizations, cities, state, and federal agencies, were notified of the intent to prepare the PEA. Workshops were conducted with city representatives from both lakes, as well as representatives from several homeowners associations and one conservation organization. Boat tours were also conducted with homeowners associations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public and agency input from the workshops and tours was used in developing the seven alternatives addressed in the PEA. The draft PEA was released for public comment on November 3, 2004, for a 45-day comment period. Following release of the draft PEA for public comment, a public information meeting was conducted on November 16, 2004, at the Lewisville High School Auditorium in Lewisville, Texas, to clarify information and answer questions concerning the draft PEA.

Twenty-seven comments were received during the public comment period. The comments were addressed in the public involvement chapter of the PEA. As a result of comments received from state and Federal resource agencies, as well as members of the public, a mitigation plan was also added to the final PEA.

Implementation. USACE, Elm Fork Project Office will implement the preferred alternative and associated Ecosystem-based Vegetation Management Prescriptions. Key aspects of implementation, as disclosed in the PEA, include but are not limited to: Consolidation of Shoreline Use Permits for mowing, underbrushing, and access paths (ie. placing entire subdivisions under a single permit, where feasible, to simplify administrative effort); publication of public handout material explaining the revised mowing, underbrushing, and access path guidelines; preparing educational information related to implementation of the Ecosystem-based Vegetation Management Prescriptions; and preparing plans for the efficient and effective use of revenue generated from fees associated with mitigation in the NSVA.

Facts and Conclusions. Based on a review of the information contained in this programmatic environmental assessment, it is concluded that implementation of the revised mowing, underbrushing and access path guidelines is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined in Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.



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5/25/05

Date