

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
2021 ELK CITY LAKE MASTER PLAN
VERDIGRIS RIVER BASIN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and implementing regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508, including guidelines in 33 CFR Part 230, the Tulsa District and the Regional Planning and Environmental Center (RPEC) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have assessed the potential environmental impacts of the 2021 Elk City Lake Master Plan (MP) revision.

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1130-2-550 Change 07, dated January 2013 and Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 Change 05, dated 30 January 2013, require Master Plans for most USACE water resources development projects having a federally owned land base. The revision of the 1988 Supplement Number 2 (Land Use) Elk City Lake Master Plan was conducted pursuant to this ER and EP, and is necessary to bring it up to date to reflect current ecological, socio-demographic, and outdoor recreation trends that are affecting the lake, as well as those anticipated to occur within the planning period of 2021 to 2046. The recommendation is contained in the 2021 Elk City Lake Master Plan dated November 2021

This Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 2021 Elk City Lake Master Plan evaluated one alternative that would revise the 1988 Supplement Number 2 Elk City Lake Master Plan to meet current policy.

The revision of the Elk City Lake Master Plan (hereafter Plan or Master Plan) is a framework built collaboratively to serve as a guide toward appropriate stewardship of USACE administered resources at Elk City Lake over the next 25 years.

In addition to a “no action” plan, one alternative that fully met the project purpose was evaluated (recommended plan). Section 2.0 of the 2021 Elk City Lake Master Plan EA discusses alternative formulation and selection. The recommended plan includes coordination with the public, updates to comply with the USACE regulations and guidance, and reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1988. Land classifications were refined to meet authorized project purposes and current resource objectives that address a mix of natural resources and recreation management objectives that are compatible with regional goals, recognize outdoor recreation trends, and are responsive to public comments.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

Resource	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. The recommended plan does not entail ground-disturbing activities. Future ground-disturbing activities on USACE property would be subject to all necessary environmental evaluations and compliance regulations.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft Master Plan, Environmental Assessment, and FONSI was completed on 23 September 2021. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final Master Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan has no effect on historic properties.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

29 NOV 2021

Date

Scott Preston
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander