The purpose of shoreline management regulations is to provide policy and guidance on management of shorelines of Civil Works projects where Title 36, chapter III, part 327, Code of Federal Regulations is applicable.

It is the policy of the Chief of Engineers to protect and manage shorelines of all Civil Works water resource development projects under Corps jurisdiction in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public. The objectives of all management actions will be to achieve a balance between permitted private uses and resource protection for general public use. Public pedestrian access to and exit from these shorelines shall be preserved.

Lake shoreline management plans (SMP’s) regulate exclusive private uses of public land at Corps civil works projects such as installing and maintaining boat docks, mowing grass, trimming trees, and clearing underbrush. These plans identify the coves zoned for private floating facilities, the types of structures that may be allowed on Corps lakes, and the public land areas that are open for mowing by individuals and the areas where these uses are restricted. All of these activities require a written permit from the lake manager and can only be performed in areas consistent with approved use allocations specified in the SMP. Other topics covered in the SMP are: density of development allowed in a specific cove, minimum design standards for dock construction and electrical service and grandfathering of existing docks.

By law, the private uses listed above are prohibited on water resource projects where construction was initiated after December 13, 1974, or on water resource projects where no private shoreline uses existed as of that date.

Note: The administrative charges associated with Shoreline Use Permits shall be paid prior to issuing the permit. The fee schedule is published separately. For your convenience, the rule published on June 28, 1991, at FR page 29587, is set forth as follows:

327.31 Shoreline management fee schedule.

A charge will be made for Shoreline Use Permits to help defray expenses associated with issuance and administration of the permits. As permits become eligible for renewal after July 1, 1976, a charge of $10 for each new permit and a $5 annual fee for inspection of floating facilities will be made. There will be no annual inspection fee for permits for vegetative modification on shoreline areas. In all cases, the total administrative charge will be collected initially at the time of permit issuance rather than on a piecemeal annual basis.