

SECTION VII
RESOURCE USE OBJECTIVES

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7-01. GENERAL

The purpose of this section is to define and prescribe a series of resource use objectives for Carlyle Lake.

Resource use objectives are statements specific to Carlyle Lake that describe the selected options for resource use, development, and management as determined through study and analysis of regional needs, resource capabilities and potentials, and public desires. As defined, resource use objectives provide general guidance and direction for the use, development, and management of project resources. Site specific resource use objectives include development and management measures.

As stated in SECTION I, the authorized purposes for Carlyle Lake are flood control, water supply, navigation improvement, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation. Certain project purposes by nature can be conflicting. For example, under certain conditions, the lake's flood control purpose can conflict with other project purposes such as recreation and fish and wildlife management. The development of sound resource use objectives should assist in minimizing conflicts between project purposes through compromises which do not seriously detract from achievement of any or all project purposes.

Resource use objectives based on project purposes at Carlyle Lake are identified and discussed in the following paragraphs.

7-02. RESOURCE USE OBJECTIVES

Nineteen general resource use objectives, applicable to the project as a whole are presented below. They are formulated so as to provide general guidance and direction to the overall management and development of Carlyle Lake resources. The objectives are grouped into three categories: General, Recreation, and Environmental Stewardship.

a. General.

(1) Administration and Management.

Ensure that quality administration and management of all project lands, waters and other associated man-made and natural resources is consistent and thorough.

(Discussion). All project administrative and management decisions/actions will adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and agreements. Consistent coordination, both internally and with other applicable federal, state, and local government agencies, private organizations and individuals, will be maintained.

All actions and/or plans will be implemented in a manner compatible with authorized project purposes and all applicable social and environmental factors, to ensure maximum benefits. Compromise will be utilized to minimize conflicts in project uses and development.

The major concerns of management are identification of facilities for rehabilitation or replacement, provision of efficient support

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facilities, public health and safety, provision of accessible facilities, maintenance of a strong public involvement program and maintaining the integrity of the operational structures (i.e. main dam, saddle dams and pump stations). Hydropower will be accommodated if feasible and compatible with other project purposes.

(2) Concession Development and Operations.

Provide adequate locations and incentives for viable recreation oriented concession leases - existing and proposed. These will include both lodging and marina type services.

(Discussion). There are currently 3 Corps administered full service marina concessions operating at the lake. All three are financially solvent and provide approximately 700 boat slip rental spaces at the lake. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources chose the Carlyle Sailing Association, a non-profit corporation, to operate the sailboat harbor at the extreme southern end of Eldon Hazlet State Park.

Two locations on the lake have been identified as suitable for development of an additional marina and ancillary services. When the need arises, the Corps will accommodate and support legitimate concession developments on either Corps or State of Illinois managed areas if they do not adversely affect the growth of existing concession services.

Prior to any additional concession development, the Corps will perform market analysis studies or require market analysis studies by interested parties, whichever is applicable, to determine demand for the level and type of concession services being considered. A marina market study was completed in 1994 and concluded that demand for marina services should first be accommodated at existing marinas and subsequently at a new marina.

(3) Safe and Environmentally Appropriate Recreation Areas and Facilities.

Provide public use areas and facilities that are safe and environmentally sound.

(Discussion). New facilities and upgraded existing facilities must be as safe and environmentally sensitive as possible. The Corps has the opportunity to be innovative in the design and use of recreation support facilities. A facility inventory for replacement of degraded facilities will be implemented and maintained for efficient operation. Through proper planning and development, facilities and areas can be safe, environmentally sensitive, and economical while meeting the recreation needs of the public.

All developed recreation areas designated for recreation use are regularly evaluated for the presence of safety hazards and environmental compliance with the Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) guidelines. As any detrimental conditions are identified, they will be given priority for evaluating and implementing feasible corrective actions.

(4) Partnering

Partnering with others agencies, groups, organizations and individuals will be employed to accomplish resource use objectives and improve efficiency in operations.

(Discussion) The use of partners to assist with the operation and management of the project will be fully employed. When feasible, donations and the challenge cost-share program will be utilized to accomplish work. Section 225 of Public Law 102-580 grants authorization to the Corps to enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal public and private entities to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and natural resources at civil works projects. The Corps may accept contributions of funds, materials and services from non-federal public and private entities. The services of volunteers are accepted under P.L. 98-63 to carry out any activity of the Corps except policy making or law or regulatory enforcement.

Relationships with our partner agencies and local constituent groups will be maintained and strengthened; volunteers will be utilized maximally and our use of cooperating associations will be continued. If feasible, agreements will be formed with local cooperating associations to assist with operations related to natural resource management, interpretive and visitor service activities. We will work to establish an agreement with and form a local Search and Rescue cooperating association.

b. Recreation.

(1) Recreation Quality.

As funds become available, renovate and upgrade recreation areas to improve the available facilities and to reduce maintenance costs.

(Discussion).

The recently developed Maintenance and Repair Plan (MRP) inventoried the existing condition of recreational facilities and recommended a priority for repair or replacement.

Opportunities to improve the quality of recreation experiences are influenced by carrying capacity, compatibility of activities, and site-specific design factors. At some existing recreation sites, such as Dam West, desirable or optimum carrying capacities of the recreation resource are exceeded. Incompatible activities should be separated by adequate buffer areas. Design of site facilities is to be sensitive to the landscape character of the site and region.

(2) Disabled Access

Identify and undertake the modifications necessary with goal to make facilities accessible to elderly, handicapped, and other disadvantaged groups as mandated by Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and Americans with Disabilities Design Guidelines (ADAAG)

(Discussion). Physically or mentally disabled persons must be given access to a wide range of outdoor recreation activities through careful and appropriate planning, design and program implementation. Accordingly, consideration is given to access, facilities and services for disabled persons in the planning, design and operation and maintenance of existing recreation areas and the development of future public use areas at the project.

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(3) Camping Facilities.

Maintain and improve camping facilities to redistribute use, meet public demand, reduce operation and maintenance costs and generate revenues for future operations and maintenance of recreation facilities.

(Discussion). Generally, the less developed and remote campgrounds and day-use areas receive less visitation. Convenient location and especially amenities are high on the priority list of the present day camper. By employing adjustable fees, the reservation system, provision of water and sewer hookups, an upgrade of electrical service and redesign of poorly situated campsites, campground use will become more evenly distributed and prevent problems associated with overuse.

There is an expressed demand to improve electric service at some camp sites. The need for lodging (cabin or resort) was expressed at several of the information gathering meetings and in written responses received during the update process.

(4) Day-Use Recreation Opportunities.

Accommodate increasing water and land-based day-use activities in a manner compatible with other site activities while maintaining the integrity of the project's natural resources.

(Discussion) Day-use area activities requiring support facilities are boating, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing and fishing. Walking and biking are also done by a large percentage of visitors in a day-use setting.

Parking lots, boat ramps, comfort stations, fountain/hydrants, picnic tables and grills, group picnic shelters, bulletin boards, fish cleaning stations, and playgrounds are the primary facilities provided to accommodate day-use recreation at all areas. Walking or hiking trails are provided in some day-use areas while biking occurs on park roads, the main dam and saddle dams. A designated path for bicycles is proposed around the entire lake.

Four day-use areas provide swimming beaches. Support facilities provided for beaches include outdoor showers and change shelters. Sufficient sand, swimming area depth, buoys outlining the designated swimming area, depth markers, safety and rule signs, and "rescue stations" providing ring buoys, rope and reach pole are the primary beach components that require regular maintenance. Regulations prohibiting pets, food and alcoholic drinks on beaches minimize user conflicts while fulfilling public recreation demands.

Overcrowding and lack of high water boat ramps are two problems associated with day-use areas. Use of overcrowded day-use areas will be controlled by encouraging use of other areas via interpretive methods. Demand for additional day-use facilities will be monitored to assure adequate facilities are provided.

(5) Interpretation Services and Outreach Program

Implement a meaningful interpretive services and outreach program to create a greater public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the project and its resources, not only by using Corps resources but through the development of strong partnerships with

the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, local constituent groups and with the support of a Cooperating Association and volunteers.

(Discussion). An Interpretive Services Program has been in effect at Carlyle Lake since the mid-70s. The Interpretive Services and Outreach program enhances the Corps' image, stirs the public's interest in the scenic, recreational, biological and cultural values of the lake and surrounding area, and also promotes visitor safety on both land and water areas of the project. A Visitor Center, informational brochures, bulletin boards, interpretive nature trails, special events, campground, beach and Visitor Center presentations, and tours of the dam are incorporated within the scope of this effort. A Watchable Wildlife program has been established to inform the public where opportunities to view wildlife are most promising.

By acquainting visitors with the diverse resources of the project and stimulating them to ask questions and explore, interpretation enhances their recreation experience, assists in reducing management concerns, and helps to protect the lake's environment. The interpretive program is administered not only by Corps rangers, but also with the support of Corps of Engineers Resource Volunteers and through partnerships with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, local constituent groups and a cooperative association.

c. Environmental Stewardship

(1) Protection of the Resource

Continue to monitor resources to ensure protection against fire, overuse, erosion, insect and disease infestation and take corrective actions when warranted.

(Discussion) To assure protection of resources, we will remain committed to providing responsible stewardship by the preservation and restoration of diverse habitat for the benefit of various ecosystems. Use of all areas for public enjoyment will be encouraged while minimizing any environmental degradation.

(2) Wildlife Habitat

Encourage optimal utilization by the greatest number of wildlife species through the manipulation, management and protection of diverse habitats.

(Discussion) The wildlife carrying capacity of public lands can be maintained through the application of a variety of habitat control measures. Management activities will include successional control, native grass plantings, food plot planting, tree plantings and selective timber thinning in areas that will maintain wildlife carrying capacities. Den trees will be saved wherever possible and artificial nesting structures erected to provide additional nesting sites for squirrels, songbirds and ducks. Shrub and vine cover between activity areas, near the periphery of recreation areas, and at fence corners will be established and maintained, providing food, cover, and nesting opportunities for a variety of wildlife. Sensitive areas within public use zones will be marked and protected from human intrusion.

Non-consumptive uses of wildlife such as nature study, wildlife watching and photography receive equal consideration with that of consumptive uses, such as hunting and trapping.

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(3) Forest

Monitor and maintain the vegetative conditions of trees for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values.

(Discussion)

Forest resources will continue to be inventoried and managed for sustained yield. This involves management for the control of soil moisture, for erosion control, and for promotion of forest stand growth, as well as the protection of the forest resources from insects, disease, fire and overuse. Timber stand improvement will be accomplished to release or favor potential mast or other food and cavity producing trees. Older trees with unsound limbs and trunks that provide cavities for wildlife, such as squirrels, wood ducks, woodpeckers, raccoons, and honeybees, will be saved except where their preservation would constitute a safety hazard at developed recreation sites.

(4) Prairies

Manage existing prairie areas and continue to reestablish scattered plots of native warm season grasses and forbs.

(Discussion) Prescribed burning along with additional plantings will help maintain those remnant tall prairies that existed prior to the settlement of Southern Illinois.

(5) Wetlands

Reestablish and maintain high quality wetlands to improve water quality and to provide habitat for wetland dwelling species.

(Discussion) As wetlands in the region diminish due to intensive agriculture practices and other land uses, special effort will be made to provide wetland habitat. Development and maintenance of various wetland types will be implemented to support programs such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

(6) Fishery Management

Cooperate fully with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in the maintenance and enhancement of a high quality fishery as a perpetual resource.

(Discussion) Sport fishing is an important activity at Carlyle Lake. With the combination of few suitable habitat areas, inadequate spawning sites, and fluctuating water levels for flood control at spawning time, stocking is required to maintain the sport fisheries at an acceptable level. The Corps will continue to provide locations and support for the development and operation of nursery and hatchery ponds, fish stocking and other fish rearing alternatives as determined necessary by the IDNR. Coordination will be maintained on project developments and actions that may affect the lake's fishery. Lake level fluctuations and fishery survey studies will be closely coordinated. Water level management will be adjusted if it doesn't interfere with project purposes. The Corps will continue to operate and maintain the Christmas tree program to bolster fish habitat and continue to cooperate in forage enhancement projects. Research to identify the factors inhibiting sport fish populations will be funded and coordinated with the IDNR.

(7) Aesthetics

Plan all management actions with consideration given to landscape quality and aesthetics.

(Discussion) To create the opportunity for a quality recreation experience, it is essential to consider the aesthetic impact of planned improvements as well as economic and functional requirements. Each design, installation, or maintenance action needs to be considered according to its potential visual impact. This includes its impact on the immediate vicinity, on the whole site, and on all areas outside of the site boundaries from which the improvements can be viewed.

Tree, shrub, forb and grass species used for landscape plantings and habitat improvements should be evaluated and selected based on aesthetics and food and cover qualities provided to native wildlife. Native plant species with the greatest aesthetic appeal should be placed in locations with the highest public visibility.

(8) Erosion Control

Control and stabilize land and shoreline erosion.

(Discussion). Primary methods used to reduce or eliminate erosion problems project-wide include promoting woody and herbaceous vegetative growth, manipulation of water run-off, identifying and monitoring erosion problems on and adjacent to public lands, waters and lakeshore. All public lands will have approved soil conservation plans developed in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Placement of revetment along streams, ditches and lakeshore areas highly susceptible to wind and water erosion; establishment of stabilizing vegetation, allowing the formation of natural beaches; and acquisition of additional lands outside the fee boundary that have been eroded by the lake are the most viable approaches for addressing large erosion sites at Carlyle Lake. In addition, lands acquired for erosion control extend project boundaries for the purposes of containing impacts to federal ownership/property interests and for future project operations and maintenance.

(9) Cultural Resource Management

Identify, evaluate, and preserve significant archaeological and historical sites.

(Discussion) Numerous archaeological and historical sites occur on Corps lands and waters. The implementation of a recently completed Cultural Resource Management Plan for Carlyle Lake will allow these sites to be identified, evaluated, and managed for the benefit of future generations. Planning and development will include considerations to protect and preserve these site locations. The plan provides for determination of their eligibility for listing on The National Register of Historic Places; it prescribes means of preserving significant sites; and it prescribes ways to increase public understanding and enjoyment through interpretation consistent with other interpretive programs and recreational land uses.

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(10) Mineral Leasing

Make a maximum amount of land available for mineral leasing as is consistent and compatible with all other project objectives.

(Discussion) It is the policy of the Department of the Army to make a maximum amount of land available for mineral leasing as is consistent and compatible with military operations, national defense activities, and Corps of Engineers civil works requirements. All federally owned minerals will be leased and administered by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and all privately owned mineral underlying the federal surface will be regulated by the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals. All mineral exploration, drilling and abandonment activities will be in accordance with the St. Louis District Policy on Oil and Gas Development and the guidelines as established in the St. Louis District Handbook on Oil and Gas Development.