

SECTION XI

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN:

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

11.1. INTRODUCTION

Master Plans and Operational Management Plans are developed and implemented with a view to their working in tandem. The Master Plan covers all resources of the project including, but not limited to, fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, aesthetic, interpretive, recreational, mineral, commercial and out-granted lands, easements and project waters (submerged lands held in fee).

This Master Plan focuses on three primary components:

- Regional and ecosystem needs
- Project resource capabilities and suitabilities
- Expressed public interests and desires

The Master Plan ensures that environmental mandates and considerations are incorporated and that the economy and quality shall be given equal attention in the development of public facilities and support infrastructure. Usually, every ten years, the master plan is reviewed and updated and can be supplemented at any time when it becomes appropriate or necessary to do so. Based on an approved Master Plan, the Rivers Project develops and implements an Operational Management Plan (OMP) to achieve the objectives stated in the Master Plan.

The Master Plan serves as the planning document that establishes the authority to act and the OMP is the implementation or action document that lays out the actual work, task schedules, costs and funding strategies for realization of the goals and direction set forth in the Master Plan.

Within the OMP, objectives and implementation strategies are established for each major area of emphasis: natural resource management, and park and recreation management.

The OMP, under separate cover, details objectives and strategies to implement programs within the environmental stewardship, recreation and flood damage reduction business areas conceptually addressed in the Master Plan. Public access, environmental compliance, interpretation and outreach, recreation safety, shoreline management, habitat management, fire protection and fish and wildlife management, endangered species protection and facilities/infrastructure operations and maintenance are some of the major programs addressed in the OMP. During development or revision of OMPs, emphasis is given to achieving environmental mandates and other ecological imperatives of a national, regional or ecosystem nature. Emphasis is also given to achieving economy in planning, designing, constructing and managing natural and recreational resources, facilities/infrastructure and other services.

Concepts are refined into actual work items with schedules and cost estimates for completion.

OMP management strategies must be consistent with authorized project purposes and approved resource use objectives and land use classifications established in the project Master Plan.

The OMP is dynamic in nature and includes funding, staffing and schedules required to implement management activities and strategies for the entire project. Approval for the OMP and all subsequent updates rests with the District Commander. Portions of the OMP (funding, staffing, equipment needs) are updated each year resulting in a set of work plans that are approved annually by the District Commander. All approved work is based on consistency with the OMP and are contingent on the availability of funds

For outgranted areas, the OMP will include the outgrantees' management plans for the area and information on how the outgranted areas management supports the overall management objectives of the project.

Cooperation and input from partners supporting management objectives and interested customers, organizations and the general public is encouraged during formulation and updating of the OMP.

Management Areas addressed in the OMP are organized into compartments consistent with the project Master Plan.

Key topics addressed under the main business areas (Environmental Stewardship Management, Recreation Management and Flood Damage Reduction) are listed as follows:

Environmental Stewardship

- Long Term Objectives of Resource Management
- Compartment Descriptions
- Topography (slope, aspect, general soil type, etc.)
- Aquatic Resources (type, temperature, turbidity, etc.)
- Vegetation (species, size, density, etc.)
- Fish and Wildlife (species)
- Special Considerations or Problems (protected or rare/unique habitat, rare and endangered species, national emphasis programs (e.g., Watchable Wildlife North American Waterfowl Management Program and Neotropical Migratory Birds, etc.), pollution, forest fire control)
- Management Objectives (for each compartment)
- Implementation Plan (for each compartment)
- Management Techniques (to meet objectives)
- Five-Year Schedule (of management techniques to be applied)
- Annual Staffing and Equipment needs
- Annual Costs
- Coordination (with other elements/agencies/the public)

Recreation Management

- Safety (employee, contractor, and visitor)
- Security

- Visitor Assistance
- Shoreline Management
- Private Exclusive Use (existing approved regional plan may be inserted as is)
- Outgrants
- Maintenance
- Recreation Use Fee Program
- Interpretation
- Cultural Resources
- Project Sign Management Plan
- Special Programs
- Cooperation (with other agencies and/or special interest groups)
- Five-Year Program (for park management)
- Priority List (of annual programs with staffing and funding requirements)

Flood Damage Reduction

- Develop inventories and prescriptions for operation and maintenance of all federally owned and operated flood damage reduction infrastructure located on lands and waters managed by the Rivers Project Office.

11.2. RIVERS PROJECT OMP DEVELOPMENT

The Rivers Project OMP will be organized and developed by Pool or Reach, Compartment, and Unit as outlined below. On outgranted areas, detailed management plans will be prepared and approved by the managing agency. The Corps will review, approve and provide administrative oversight for those management plans.

Pool 27

Compartment 1 – Chain of Rock Canal Management Area

- UNIT 1 - American Bottoms
- UNIT 2 - Chouteau and Gabaret Island

POOL 26

Compartment 2 - Riverbend Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Environmental Demonstration Area
- UNIT 2 - Illinois Esplanade
- UNIT 3 - Horseshoe Lake

POOL 26

Compartment 3 - Lower Alton Lake Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Missouri Bottoms
- UNIT 2 - Piasa
- UNIT 3 - Portage

POOL 26

Compartment 4 - Upper Alton Lake Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Confluence Inlands
- UNIT 2 - Golden Eagle
- UNIT 3 - Cuivre Island

POOL 26

Compartment 5 - Illinois & Mississippi Confluence Area

- UNIT 1 - Calhoun Point
- UNIT 2 - Four Islands

POOL 26

Compartment 6 - Lower Illinois River Management Area

- UNIT 1 -Swan Lake Refuge
- UNIT 2 - Gilbert Lake Refuge
- UNIT 3 - Stump Lake
- UNIT 4 - Fuller Lake
- UNIT 5 - The Glades

POOL 26

Compartment 7 - Upper Illinois River Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Mortland Island Complex
- UNIT 2 - Godar - Diamond - Hurricane Complex
- UNIT 3 - Kampsville

POOL 25

Compartment 8 - Illinois Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Lower Pool 25
- UNIT 2 - Middle Pool 25
- UNIT 3 - Upper Pool 25

POOL 25

Compartment 9 - Missouri Management Area

- UNIT 1 - Lower Pool 25
- UNIT 2 - Middle Pool 25
- UNIT 3 - Upper Pool 25

POOL 24

Compartment 10 - Illinois Management Area

- UNIT 1 (IL) - Lower Pool 24
- UNIT 2 (IL) - Upper Pool 24

POOL 24

Compartment 11 - Missouri Management Area

- UNIT 1 (MO) - Lower Pool 24
- UNIT 2 (MO) – Upper Pool 24

KASKASKIA RIVER NAVIGATION POOL***Compartment 12***

- UNIT 1 - Kaskaskia Lock and Dam Lands

OPEN MISSISSIPPI RIVER***Compartment 13*****CACHE RIVER DIVERSION CHANNEL*****Compartment 14*****LOWER MISSOURI RIVER*****Compartment 15*****11.3. COORDINATION AND SCHEDULE**

Development of a project wide OMP will begin soon after approval of the Master Plan. It is anticipated that development of the OMP will occur in phases, as funding and staffing are available with a target completion date of the entire OMP by FY 2005.

Work descriptions and scheduling for each of the management compartments will be coordinated closely with the USFWS, MDC and IDNR.

Significant coordination was undertaken between the Corps and USFWS during the preparation of this Master Plan and the USFWS - Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan to maximize opportunities for collaboration that ensure that Corps and USFWS efforts are compatible and result in seamless management strategies and outputs that benefit both the river's resources and the human beneficiaries of those resources while meeting congressionally authorized mandates.

OMPs for four areas under Rivers Project jurisdiction were prepared and approved prior to the FY2001 Master Plan approval due to special immediate needs that required appropriate planning document (i.e. the OMP) formulation and approval in order to proceed. The Carlyle Lake Management Office now manages the Kaskaskia River Navigation Project.

The four areas with approved OMP level documentation are:

Pool 27 - Compartment 1

- Units 1 and 2

Pool 26 - Compartment 3

- Unit 3 (Horseshoe Lake) only

Pool 26 – Compartment 4,

- Unit 3 (Cuivre Island) only

Kaskaskia River Navigation Project – Compartment 12,

- Units 1 and 2