Section X

Special Programs

SECTION X – SPECIAL PROGRAMS

10-01. FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Complex combinations of the biotic community involving both soil and climatic factors determine the potential for wildlife improvement in any environment. Wildlife populations at Shelbyville are currently stable due to sound management practices.

a. General Wildlife Habitat Conditions. Throughout the Lake Shelbyville project, former agricultural and pasture fields are bordered by tree-lined fencerows. Most of the area, however, consists of Oak-Hickory woodland. The abandoned fields and pastures are being invaded primarily with Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, Hawthorne, Coralberry, Blackberry, seedling Oak, and Sassafras. Non-native species that might become pests in the future include but are not limited to kudzu, mimosa, and honeysuckle. The predominant vegetative cover in these fields is, however, an assortment of weeds and grasses. Most of the lake shoreline is rather steep, with few marshy or swampy areas. Wildlife habitat improvement practices will seek to increase the value of the present habitat for game species while simultaneously having a favorable effect on non-game animals.

General field reconnaissance has revealed that the upland woodlots are stocked with medium aged trees and nesting cavities are in moderate supply. Mast producing trees are in good supply. About half of Lake Shelbyville's fee land is above the 10-year flood pool. Consequently, these lands are not subject to frequent inundation. When floods do occur, the production of wildlife within the low areas will be jeopardized. However, since this does not occur often, it does not greatly affect vegetative planting and manipulation techniques or nesting habitat.

Land management on lower areas will be aimed at maintaining a disturbed soil characteristic that will favor annual weed production and the maintenance of openings. The objective of field management will be to prevent large, thick single-type vegetation blocks, which provide little food or edge for wildlife species. Future land management plans for wildlife are contained in the Operational Management Plan, under separate cover.

b. Endangered and Threatened Species. Presently, no critical habitat for federally listed species of plants or animals is known to exist at Lake Shelbyville. However, the Federally threatened Bald Eagle, the endangered Indiana Bat, and species of concern – Loggerhead Shrike, may find seasonal, non-critical habitat in this vicinity. Potential habitat exists, but there have been

no documented sightings of the Indiana Bat or the Loggerhead Shrike at Lake Shelbyville. The Lake Shelbyville project and vicinity provides habitat for one state threatened plant species, the False Hellebore.

Measures will be taken to create a public awareness of endangered species through the posting of informative material on the animal if sightings occur. Lake personnel will report any observations of endangered species to the Natural Resource Specialist at the District Office. Personnel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources at Springfield, Illinois, will then be notified of the sightings.

c. Wildlife Related Programs. Three sites are currently being monitored at Lake Shelbyville for the presence of gypsy moths. No gypsy moths have been trapped on public lands in either Shelby or Moultrie counties. Monitoring stations for zebra mussels were placed around the lake in the mid 1990's. No evidence of zebra mussels has been found in Lake Shelbyville. Other non-native species that might become pests in the future include but are not limited to the Japanese beetle and Asian longhorned beetle.

Under the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forest Watch Program one site at Lake Shelbyville is being monitored. The site is located on the south side of Lithia Creek and is monitored by the Shelbyville High School Biology Class. The purpose of this program is to note changes in the forest composition over time and any adverse changes caused by environmental pollution or disease.

d. Wildlife Management Objectives. The objective of the Corps of Engineers' Wildlife Management Program is to sustain wildlife species desired for the use and enjoyment of the public, consistent with the joint-use objectives of the lake. An objective will be that the wildlife resource should contribute to the greatest good of the most people over the longest time. Non-consumptive uses of wildlife, such as sightseeing and photography, will receive equal consideration with that of consumptive uses, such as hunting. Vegetative and water level manipulation will be the principal methods of fish and wildlife habitat management, and will be consistent with other joint uses and basic physical limitations at Lake Shelbyville.

Much of the land is relatively dense forest with a moderate amount of openings. In the existing openings, edge is maintained/developed through succession control and/or plantings. Maintaining edge effect can be very beneficial to a number of wildlife species and is therefore a crucial part of providing favorable wildlife habitat.

The importance of shrubs to wildlife is widely recognized. Wildlife Management research has pointed out that nearly half of the 369 mammal species and 58 percent of 714 bird species indigenous to North America are

associated with woody cover, of which shrubs are an important component. In the forest understory and in fields and prairies the presence of shrubs leads to niche diversification, which permits a greater number of individuals and species to occupy the habitat. Besides providing food, shrubs supply necessary cover where wildlife can escape predators, rear young, and can be protected from the elements.

e. Nursery Pond Management. A seven-acre Fin & Feathers Fish Nursery Pond constructed in 1993 is located north of Woods Lake. It is managed in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The pond is designed to raise two crops of fish a year. In an eight year period, over $216,000 worth of largemouth bass and walleye were produced in this pond.

Two new fish nursery ponds are proposed for the Dam West Recreation Area and Whitley Creek Bottoms Multiple Resource Area. The addition of these ponds is necessary to maintain an adequate fish population in Lake Shelbyville, which is experiencing declining fish habitat for production and rearing. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has suggested that thirty to forty surface acres of nursery ponds would be ideal to supplement the Lake Shelbyville fishery program. With the existing nursery pond north of Woods Lake and with the addition of the new nursery ponds that need would be met.

Future actions include converting the Whitley Creek land treatment system pond into a fish nursery pond after the system is connected to the City of Sullivan Force Main.

f. Wetland Management. Thirty-seven acres of developed wetland is located in the Okaw Bluff Group Camp area. This wetland area is used by numerous waterfowl and shore birds and is part of the Illinois Watchable Wildlife Program. Facilities that enhance this area include a nature trail, information boards, observation blinds, and an observation platform.

A 146-acre wetland project is proposed in the Whitley Creek Bottoms Multiple Resource Area. The project would be located entirely on Federal lands in Moultrie County, Illinois. Once established, this wetland will significantly reduce sediment loading into Lake Shelbyville and into the Kaskaskia River by providing a settling basin for the 33,000-acre Whitley Creek watershed. It would also provide food supply and resting areas for waterfowl and shorebirds during spring and fall migrations. The Continuing Authority Program or some other cost sharing program will be pursued to implement this project.

g. Prairie Habitat Enhancement. Prior to westward expansion, large portions of Illinois were covered with native grasses and other plants. The Prairie Habitat Enhancement Program helps reestablish some of those grasses and plants. Several demonstration prairie plots are located in various areas around Lake Shelbyville. The most dominant area, which has 11 acres of

demonstration prairie plots, is located within the Camp Camfield Environmental Study Area.

Approximately 15 acres of prairie grasses and forbs is proposed to be established in the Dam East and Spillway East Recreation Areas.

h. Environmental Study and Demonstration Areas. Two areas have been designated as environmental study or demonstration areas: Camp Camfield ESA and the Okaw Bluff Group Camp (EDA).

Approximately 226 acres of the 443 acres in the Camp Camfield Multiple Resource Area has been designated as the Camp Camfield Environmental Study Area. This area contains 11 acres of prairie demonstration plots that are part of the prairie habitat enhancement program. An oak-hickory timber association is present throughout the area in various successional stages. Lowe Pond is located in this area and is visited by fishermen. This area also includes a trail system, amphitheater, vault comfort station, picnic shelter, picnic area, stage area, and two fire rings.

After the housing facilities are removed at Okaw Bluff Group Camp, as stated in the Shoreline Erosion Plan, the group camp area will be re-designated as the Okaw Bluff Environmental Demonstration Area. This multi-purpose area provides on-site environmental education and interpretive opportunities, Watchable Wildlife program opportunities, and contains 37 acres of developed wetland that is part of the wetland management program. Other facilities that enhance this area include a nature trail, information boards, observation blinds, and observation platform. A multi-purpose building that will provide an indoor classroom area is proposed to replace the Stone House facilities in this area.

10-02. FEE SYSTEM AND COLLECTION

a. Authority. User fees are charged for all Class A and B overnight camping areas under authority vested in the Secretary of the Army by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897), and as amended by Public Law 92-347 (86 Stat. 459) and Public Law 93-81 (87 Stat. 178).

b. Campground Fee Collection. Campgrounds at Lake Shelbyville do not present special fee collecting problems. Each area can be easily controlled without disruption of other activities. All Corps of Engineers managed campgrounds fall under the criteria for Class A campgrounds. The campgrounds include the following facilities: flush toilets, potable water, showers, sanitary disposal station, paved access and circulation roads, designated tent or trailer spaces, and visitor protection control. In addition to these, the standard amenities of picnic tables, grills, lantern hangers, and refuse containers are also provided.

Contract gate attendants are stationed at all of the Corps of Engineers operated campgrounds at Lake Shelbyville. One of their primary duties is to collect campground fees. A portion of the campsites in every campground can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service™(NRRS™).

Okaw Bluff Group Camp, which is not considered a typical group camp, is comprised of two fully functional houses that can be reserved and rented throughout the year. Reservations for this group camp are taken at the Lake Shelbyville Project Office. A contract gate attendant is located at the group camp to collect the fees.

c. Day-Use Area Fee Collection. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act – Day Use Fees, signed 10 August 1993 (Public Law 103-66), contains provisions by which the Corps of Engineers may collect fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, including swimming beaches, and boat launching ramps, but excluding a site or facility that includes only a boat launch ramp and a courtesy dock and with minimal security and illumination.

Fees for use of the beach and boat launching at the Dam West Recreation Area are collected from a booth by contract fee collectors and through self-registration vaults. At the other public beaches and launch areas, day-use fees are collected by the use of self-registration vaults. The self-registration vaults are being redesigned due to an extensive amount of vandalism and theft that has occurred. Potential fee collection problems may occur if day-use fees are required for activities other than boat launching or beach use at Lake Shelbyville.

Customers can purchase a day-use annual pass for $30 that is good for one calendar year. It is a one-time annual purchase that allows customers to avoid paying the day-use fee each and every time that they utilize a boat launching ramp or beach. The annual pass can be used at any Corps of Engineers project across the nation. Places where the annual passes can be purchased at Lake Shelbyville include the Administration Building, Visitor Center, and gate attendant stations.

d. Picnic Shelter Fee Collection. Reservations for picnic shelters (except Dam West Large Group Shelter) are made through the National Recreation Reservation Service™ (NRRS™). These reservations cannot be made in person. They have to be made either by calling a toll-free number or through the internet. There is a $30 user fee associated with reserving a picnic shelter, and the fee must be paid at the time the reservation is made.

Reservations for the Dam West Large Group Shelter are made by calling or visiting the Lake Shelbyville Administration Office. There is a $50 user fee associated with reserving this picnic shelter, and the fee is collected at the Administration Office.

e. Special Event Permit Fee. The Lake Shelbyville Administration Office distributes Special Event Permits for such things as fishing tournaments and other events that take place on Corps of Engineers land. A $50 administrative fee (other fees may be charged as per Chapter 9, ER 1130-2-550) is associated with Special Event Permits and is collected at the Lake Shelbyville Administration Office.

f. Conclusion. Fee collection for camping is proceeding without problem. Collection of day-use fees at beaches and boat launch areas is improving as public awareness and acceptance increases. Any future camping and day-use development should include provisions for fee collection in the design of the facilities.

10-03. ROAD NETWORKS

The road network that provides vehicular access to recreation areas at Lake Shelbyville is shown on Plate 4. A detailed description of the existing condition of these roads is given in Section 5-04.

a. Primary Roads. Roads 1, 2, 3, and 4 on Plate 4 and described in Section 5-04 comprise the four primary roads of the network. The primary roads include Illinois Routes 16, 128, 32, and 121.

1. Illinois Route 16 has been significantly improved by the completion of a new Kaskaskia River bridge and a road-widening program completed in 1979. This provides easier access into the Spillway, Dam East, and Dam West Recreation Areas. Corps of Engineers project roads connects this primary route to the Dam East and Dam West Recreation Areas. Lithia Springs Recreation Area, Lithia Springs Marina, and Lithia Springs Chautauqua Area can also be accessed off of this highway.

2. Illinois Route 128 provides access to the Opossum Creek, Coon Creek, and Lone Point Recreation Areas. The Eagle Creek State Park and Findlay Marina can also be accessed from the highway.

3. Illinois Route 32 provides access to the Bo Wood, Whitley Creek, and Sullivan Beach Recreation Areas, Okaw Bluff Group Camp, Camp Camfield Environmental Study Area, and Sullivan Marina and Campground.

4. Illinois Route 121 provides access to the Wilborn Creek Recreation Area and to the Administration Office of the Lake Shelbyville Wildlife Management Areas.

5. A major project of interest that is tentatively scheduled during FY 2004 – 2008 time frame includes the new Interstate 57 interchange north of

Mattoon in Coles County. The Illinois Department of Transportation had the construction of a new interchange and 9 miles of connecting highway programmed in FY 2005 at a cost of $22.3 million. The new highway will connect the interchange to US 45 and the Bruce-Findlay Road to the west and Illinois 130 to the east. Completion of the interchange will provide a direct interstate highway link to Lake Shelbyville.

b. Secondary Roads. Roads 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 on Plate 4 and described in Section 5-04 comprise the secondary roads of the network. These roads are generally in fair condition with a pavement width of 16 feet to 22 feet. Pavements are either asphalt, concrete, or oil and chip. Most have narrow dirt shoulders. The problems related with the secondary roads are the narrowness and pavement type. A 16 foot wide road with a verily crowned pavement surface, which exists on some sections of these roads, causes hazardous conditions during peak weekends when wide campers pulling boats meet oncoming vehicles of the same type. Another problem is the oil and chip surface. During hot summer days, this type of pavement tends to "melt" causing the oil and gravel to be thrown by a vehicle's tires onto either a towed or following vehicle. This condition does not exist with asphalt or concrete pavement with at least a 20-foot width, preferably 24 feet with 5-foot shoulders.

(1) Area townships maintain most of the secondary roads that are located around Lake Shelbyville.

c. Tertiary and Access Roads. Tertiary and access roads provide access from secondary roads into project areas. The main tertiary and access roads are shown on Plate 4. Tertiary road locations according to sectors and access road descriptions are presented in Section 5-04.

(1) Road conditions are generally excellent to poor with road surfaces varying from 20 feet asphalt to 12 feet dirt. The major problem of some tertiary roads is the narrowness of the pavement. These roads are 12 to 14 feet in width. Minimum should be 20 feet, and like the secondary roads, a 24-foot pavement is desirable into an access area. When any tertiary road is improved, it should be widened to at least 20 feet in pavement width.

d. Moultrie County Roads and Bridges Periodically Inundated Due to High Lake Levels. The Corps of Engineers is working with the township road commissioners in Moultrie County to improve roads and bridges that become inundated during high lake levels to ensure that some areas remain accessible to the public. These include the roads in Moultrie County where the following bridges are located: Austin Bridge (1500N, 475E), Joe Pound Bridge (1275N, 1350E), Butts Bridge (1575N, 600E), and Gary Melvin Kaskaskia River Bridge (1125N, 1675E). Locations of these bridges are shown on Plate 4.

e. Bo Wood Recreation Area Access Road. Renovate entrance road into Bo Wood Recreation Area by raising a section of it that has a dip in it. This section of road is located on the east side of the recreation area. Currently it goes underwater when the lake rises during flood conditions and as a result the recreation area has to be closed. Renovating this roadway will eliminate this problem.

f. Priority of Need.

(1) The first priority is to improve roads and bridges in Moultrie County that become inundated during high lake levels.

(a) Austin Bridge: Located approximately 2 miles southeast of Bethany (1500N, 475E) in Marrowbone Township. Improvements include additional embankment fill (approaches to be raised to 620 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD)), erosion control protection, added bridge decking and roadway. The initial planned improvement does not include raising the grade of the bridge approaches.

(b) Joe Pound Bridge: Located approximately 3 miles southeast of Sullivan (1275N, 1350E) in East Nelson Township. The grade elevation for the proposed construction of the high water bridge approach will need to match the top of the bridge elevation of 619 feet NGVD.

(c) Butts Bridge: Located approximately 5 miles northwest of Sullivan (1575N, 600E) in Sullivan Township. The grade elevation for the proposed construction of the high water bridge approach will need to match the top of the existing bridge elevation of 614.10 feet NGVD.

(d) Gary Melvin Kaskaskia River Bridge: Located 6 miles Southeast of Sullivan (1125N, 1675E) in East Nelson Township. The grade elevation for the proposed construction of the high water bridge approach will need to be 620 feet NGVD, which is 1.23 feet below the elevation of the existing top of the bridge elevation 621.23 feet NGVD.

(2) The second priority is to renovate the Bo Wood Recreation Area access road. This will take place as part of the Bo Wood and Whitley Creek campground consolidation project.

(3) The third priority is to improve the narrow sections of the secondary roads.

(4) The major problem of the tertiary roads is similar to that of the secondary roads, narrow pavement and surface type. The fourth priority should be to widen any tertiary roads that provide access to the recreation areas.

(5) Roads of fifth priority of improvement include those providing access into future development. Improvements consist of pavement widening and improvement of surface type.

g. Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program.

The Amendment Relative to Construction of Roads through Public Lands and Federal Reservations originally established the Public Lands Highways (PLH) Program in 1930. Funding was provided from the General Funds of the Treasury. The intent of the program is to improve access to and within the Federal lands of the nation. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1970 changed the funding source for the program from the General Funds to the Highway Trust Fund, effective in FY 1972. The program has been continued with each highway transportation act since then, and the latest transportation act, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21, Public Law 105-178), has continued the program through FY 2003.

The PLH funds are available for transportation planning, research, engineering, and construction of the highways, roads, and parkways, or of transit facilities within the Federal public lands. Under 23 U.S.C. 204(h), eligible projects under the PLH program may also include the following:

1. Transportation planning for tourism and recreational travel.
2. Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
3. Interpretive signage.
4. Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
5. Provision for pedestrians and bicycles.
6. Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities.
7. Other appropriate public road facilities such as visitor centers.

The Corps of Engineers will work with County and Township Road Commissioners to seek improvements through this program.

Through a Challenge Partnership Agreement and this program the Corps of Engineers will work with the City of Shelbyville to find ways to improve Ninth Street and access roads to the Dam West and Dam East Recreation Areas.

10-04. DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

All signage on Government property conforms to the Corps of Engineers Sign Manual, and the signs have been entered onto the Lake Shelbyville sign plan. These signs will continue to be maintained to meet the guidelines.

Directional signs located on state-owned right of ways are provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation and meet their guidelines. This program is the result of a cooperative effort between the State of Illinois and the Corps of Engineers. Many directional signs located along county and township roads are provided and maintained by the Corps of Engineers with the approval of the managing authority. A Challenge Partnership Agreement is in place with the City of Shelbyville concerning directional signs located on city right of ways. All of the directional signs on county, township, and city right of ways meet Corps of Engineers sign manual guidelines and are easy to read and follow. These signs mark the entrance to recreation areas or direction to and from the areas.

In conformance with the state approved procedure for establishing a Rural Reference System, Shelby and Moultrie Counties have placed signs at every rural public road intersection. These numbered signs are helpful to government employees and the visiting public when traveling on rural roads.

10-05. CORPS OF ENGINEERS LEASE LANDS

a. Two public access areas are leased to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for recreational development under separate out grants. These areas, which include Eagle and Wolf Creek State Parks, are comprised of 3,429 acres and have been developed for maximum visitor usage. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources is licensed 5,669 acres for fish and wildlife purposes. These lands are contained within the Kaskaskia and West Okaw Wildlife Management Areas. Illinois State facilities provide significant additional recreation opportunities for the public.

b. The Dam West Recreation Area contains a section of federal property that the City of Shelbyville obtained use of in perpetuity; via a “deed reservation” at the time the Government purchased the property. This area is also known as the Hulick Addition. The area of land is located north of the City of Shelbyville’s Forest Park. This area is a proposed future resort concession site.

It is proposed that the Corps of Engineers lease approximately 6.8 acres of federal property to the City of Shelbyville. The area that will be leased to the City of Shelbyville is contiguous with the east side of the City’s Forest Park. This area will be used to expand the city park and its facilities.

c. The Corps of Engineers has three lease agreements with private operators to provide marina facilities and services. Further explanation of the marinas can be found in section 10-06.

d. The Lake Shelbyville Ag Lease Program has a total of 382 federal land acres that are leased out for agriculture purposes: 250 acres in Moultrie County and 132 acres in Shelby County. The areas are located in land compartments number 2, 3, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 37, 40, 44, 45, 57, 58, and 59.

10-06. MARINAS.

The US Army Corps of Engineers promotes recreational boating at Lake Shelbyville by making public land available under lease agreements to private operators for provision of marina facilities and services. There are three existing public marinas on Lake Shelbyville.

Lithia Springs Marina is located on the east side of the lake, north of Illinois Highway 16. Findlay Marina is located on the west side of the lake near the Findlay Bridge, which is located east of the village of Findlay. The Sullivan Marina and Campground is located on the Northeast side of the lake, east side of Illinois Highway 32.

Lithia Springs and Findlay Marina are full service recreational boating facilities, offering boat slip rental, fuel, convenience store, repairs, and long term dry storage. Lithia Springs also offers a restaurant facility. Sullivan Marina and Campground is a full service recreational boating facility, offering boat slip rental, fuel, and long-term dry storage. Sullivan Marina and Campground also provide camping units, restaurant facilities, and overnight lodging facilities.

10-07. RECREATION AREA EFFICIENCY MEASURES

Increasing the efficiency of project operations will continue to be evaluated. The following is a listing of measures that illustrate the efforts being made: Efficiencies are described more fully in the Operational Management Plan.

(a) Originally all of the recreation areas at Lake Shelbyville had numerous entrances and exits. These have been removed, and one entrance/exit is now provided to each picnic, camping, beach, and boat launch area with the exception of Whitley Creek Recreation Area, which has two entrance/exit areas. Better control has resulted in reduced vandalism, litter, patrol, and overall O&M costs. In addition, abandoned roads and traditional access routes have been closed.

(b) Campgrounds and day-use areas are operated on a staggered opening and closing schedule to meet visitor demands, yet reduce cost. The total time that areas are open is now 25% less than in the past. Visitors may not always be able to utilize a specific facility at the time they desire; however, other facilities are available for their use on the project. Extensive review has been made concerning the efficiency of recreation facilities at Lake Shelbyville. As a result, all areas were found to be extremely efficient based on the types of facilities offered.

(c) Mowing acreage has been reduced by approximately 40%. The areas that are mowed are cut regularly and well maintained. The current mowing contract expires in 2008 and is a hybrid contract. To increase efficiency the mowing contract includes both fixed price and indefinite quantity items allowing more flexibility in maintaining the recreation areas during wet and dry years.

(d) Contract gate attendants are used to staff the fee booths. The costs are significantly less than with hired labor and the hours of coverage per day and length of time covered is much greater. Additional protection of the resource, facilities, and visitors are achieved at less cost.

(e) Volunteers are used to perform several different tasks within the recreation areas. The work that the volunteers do supplements the hired labor work force. Duties performed by volunteers include cleaning facilities, mowing, facility repair, landscaping, tree maintenance, assisting with special events, and many others.

(f) Picnic areas are open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. One-half of the picnic sites were closed and removed in 1982 due to under utilization of the facilities. Beaches are open from 8 a.m. until sunset. Since the hours of operation have been implemented the areas are more secure requiring less patrol time. Vandalism has been reduced, which in return decreases O&M costs.

(g) Energy conservation measures implemented have been conversion of area lighting to high pressure sodium, removal of some electric hand dryers, use of small fuel-efficient vehicles, and more foot patrol by park rangers. Area lighting has been reduced to minimum and decorative lighting removed. Foot patrol has reduced fuel consumption plus provides for interaction between the visitors and project staff. Increased contact has been effective in helping to reduce many routine problems in the recreation areas such as noise problems, litter, and vandalism.

(h) Camping fees and administrative fees for picnic shelters and special use permits have increased.

Camping fees vary from $12.00 to $20.00 per site according to campground and facilities available. Campers are charged on a per site basis. Single sites permit up to eight people with one RV and three tents or four tents if there is no RV on the site. Double sites permit up to sixteen people with two RV's and six tents, or two RV's and seven tents, or eight tents if there are no RV's on the site. These limits are the maximum number of people and equipment allowed on the site. It is important to note that many sites will not physically accommodate that much equipment.

All picnic shelters, except the large pavilion in Dam West Recreation Area can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service™ (NRRS™). Reservations for the large pavilion in the Dam West Recreation Area are taken at the Lake Shelbyville Project Office.

The administration of Special Event Permits is conducted at the Lake Shelbyville Project Office. Special Event Permits have increased to $50.00.

(i) A project staffing study was conducted in 1980, which resulted in the staff being reduced. Seven permanent positions were eliminated. Further reductions in the staff will seriously hinder the protection of the resources, facilities, and the project visitors.

(j) Service contracts have been broken down by types of work and size of work unit to allow more persons/businesses to complete for them. Increased competition has reduced cost for procurement of services.

(k) An effort will be made to continually improve the efficiency of operations including the use of new or improved technology.

(l) Consolidation of camping facilities will increase efficiency. The campsites in Whitley Creek Recreation Area will be moved to the Bo Wood Recreation Area, and the campground portion of the Whitley Creek Recreation Area will be closed. Also, consideration will be given to removing and replacing some campsites from Opossum Creek and Lone Point Recreation Area to Lithia Springs Recreation Area. The objective is to have approximately 200 campsites in each of the campgrounds, as that number appears to be the minimum number of sites required to have maximum efficiency.

10-08. NON-FEDERAL HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT.

The Shelby Electric Cooperative has proposed the development of a hydropower facility in the spillway basin area. The basic design entails running a pipe from the west sluice gate through the stilling basin to a turbine house downstream of the stilling basin. The proposed hydropower facility will be operated as a run-of-the-river type operation. Outflows will not be modified for

hydropower purposes. The facility will only utilize the outflows that would normally occur.

References for this program include Engineer Regulation on Non-Federal Hydropower (ER 1110-2-1454, 15 July 1983) and Engineer Manual (EM 1110-2-3001, 30 April 1995).

The spillway area between the main dam and Illinois Highway 16 Bridge is a popular fishing spot. Some of this area will be lost. A safe distance downstream of the turbine will need to be determined, marked with signs and a safety cable across the river to restrict the area from boats getting too close. Warning devices that power generation is about to begin will need to be installed. A security barrier will need to be installed to prevent access to the facility from the land.

Coordination with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. EPA, and Illinois EPA has occurred throughout the study process and interim approval will be sought during application for a construction license. A preliminary environmental assessment has been conducted and no negative impacts were identified.

10-09. SECTION 1135 PROJECT.

Section 1135 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 allowed modification of completed projects to restore environmental benefits. The 754.5-acre restoration project area is situated in Moultrie County at the northern end of Lake Shelbyville on the Kaskaskia and West Okaw Rivers in the West Okaw and Kaskaskia Wildlife Management Areas.

The project consists of a series of low levees forming 16 management compartments, a ditch drainage system, water control structures, additional watering and dewatering capability, overflow weirs, rocked roadways to pump sites, levee revetment on all critical areas, fish nursery areas, and natural tree regeneration. The start date for construction is dependent on funding, but at the earliest is FY 06.

The total estimated cost of constructing the proposed modification is $6.1million. The state of Illinois will provide the 25% non-federal cost-share for the project's planning, design, and construction. The projects O & M (estimated at $32,665 per year, with no additional FTE requirement) will be the responsibility of the State of Illinois.

The modification would restore 754.5-acres of habitat and improve the water level management capability to a maximum extent. The complex is integral to the long-term restoration of wetlands at the Lake Shelbyville Project. The water

control system and levees, coupled with vegetation management will allow for the restoration of more natural hydric and vegetative conditions.

The draft Ecosystem Restoration Report with Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was completed and distributed for agency and public comment during September-October 2003. The final report is currently being reviewed by Corps' Mississippi Valley Division.

10-10. GENERAL DACEY TRAIL PLAN.

Walking and bicycling activities have become very popular. Over 50% of the public, who have access to a walking trail, will use the trail. Over one-third of the public rides bicycles. These represent some of the greatest users of public lands and facilities.

The General Dacey Trail Plan is a multi-partner regional initiative centered around Lake Shelbyville. This is more than a simple trail project. Upon completion, the proposed General Dacey Trail will provide almost one hundred and seventy miles of recreational opportunities for bikers, hikers, skaters, and cross-country skiers. Providing an off-road link to Lake Shelbyville and the other nearby communities, the trail network promises to increase tourism and to spur trail-use related economic development. This project will be pursued as a Challenge Partnership Agreement.

The proposed General Dacey Trail network is too large a project to complete in one phase. It is envisioned that several phases will be needed to construct the trail network through programs and authorities of numerous organizations and agencies. As organizations and agencies undertake respective trail development phases, they will use the trail master plan as the guiding document.

The initial phases of the projects include using both newly constructed and existing trails located on Corps of Engineers' property as well as designating existing roadways in the lake area. Whenever possible, it is recommended that additional right-of-way along roadways be acquired and a separate trail surface be constructed by non-federal partners. Trails that currently exist on Corps of Engineers property that will be renovated or realigned to become part of the General Dacey Trail Plan include the Illini Trail, Camp Campfield trail system, Dam West Snowmobile Trail, Woods Lake Access Trails, and Coon Creek, Bo Wood, and Okaw Bluff Nature Trails. Areas where new or existing trail segments are planned for future development include: Opossum Creek, Wilborn Creek, Whitley Creek, Lithia Springs, Dam East, and Spillway Recreation Areas, Wolf Creek State Park, Eagle Creek State Park, West Okaw and Kaskaskia Wildlife Management Areas, and Water Tower Point, McClure Pond, Slaughterhouse West, Adams, Refuge Point, Sand Creek, Big Red's Timber, Water Plant, Houser, and Seven Hills Multiple Resource Areas.

10-11. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities must comply will all applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations. Chief among the environmental laws is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which directs that public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Public involvement is to be encouraged and facilitated for decisions that will affect the quality of the human environment. Environmental consequences of proposed actions and alternatives are to be described in NEPA documents, which are circulated for public review.

The 1975 Lake Shelbyville Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges and states that the operation of Lake Shelbyville is intended to achieve the greatest possible benefit for each project purpose over the long run. Compromises are an inherent part of the operations and some adverse impacts are inevitable. Thus, according to Corps of Engineers regulations, many of the items proposed in this Master Plan are categorically excluded from the need for preparation of NEPA documents, because they do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Replacement or renovation of existing facilities, or construction of new facilities in developed recreation areas, such as shower buildings, comfort stations, campsites, and picnic sites, are examples of categorical exclusions. The preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) is required for actions that may result in environmental impacts. Examples of such actions are expansion of a campground into an undeveloped wooded area or construction of water control structures in natural habitats for the purpose of vegetation management. Before construction can proceed for actions requiring an EA, the review of environmental consequences must conclude in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which outlines the terms and conditions that are required to implement a project. If the review process results in a finding of significant impact, then an Environmental Impact Statement needs to be prepared before construction can commence.

NEPA documentation will be prepared in the future for all actions proposed in this Master Plan that are not categorically excluded. It is the Corps of Engineers' policy to identify and avoid adverse impacts as early in the planning process as possible. Recreational and resource management projects will be designed to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Environmental compliance is solidly integrated into the day-to-day operation of the Corps of Engineers facilities. The Corps of Engineers use environmental compliance assessments as a means of attaining, sustaining, and monitoring compliance. Two types of assessments are conducted, external and internal. The compliance program requires an annual internal assessment of each

facility. Every five years an external assessment is conducted using district teams, contractors, or regulatory agencies.

Environmental compliance includes, but is not limited to the following categories: management of air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, natural resources, pesticides, petroleum, oil, lubricants, solid waste, storage tank, toxic substances, wastewater, and water quality. Documents that provide guidance include, but are not limited to the Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO), ER & EP 200-2-3 Environmental Compliance Policies, 30 October 1996 and ER & EP 1130-2-540 Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies, 15 November 1996.

10-12. PARTNERING.

The Corps has control and oversight of stewardship activities on the public lands and waters at Lake Shelbyville. Responsibility for recreation management is granted to the IDNR at Wolf Creek and Eagle Creek State Parks. The IDNR also manages the West Okaw and Kaskaskia Wildlife Management Areas.

Increasingly, competition for the use of these lands and waters and their natural resources can create conflicts and concerns among stakeholders. The need to coordinate a cooperative approach to protect and sustain these resources is compelling. Many opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness of federal programs through collaboration among agencies and to facilitate the process of partnering between government and non-government organizations.

To sustain healthy and productive public lands and waters with the most efficient approach requires that individuals and organizations recognize their unique ability to contribute to commonly held goals. The key to progress is building on the strengths of each sector, achieving goals collectively that could not be reasonably achieved individually. Partnering opportunities exist and can promote the leveraging of limited financial and human resources. Partnering aids the identification of innovative approaches to deliver justified levels of service, defuses polarization among interest groups and leads to a common understanding and appreciation of individual roles, priorities and responsibilities.

To the extent practicable, this Master Plan and a proactive approach to partnering will position the Lake Shelbyville Project to aggressively leverage project financial and human resources in order to identify and satisfy customer expectations, protect and sustain natural and cultural resources and recreational infrastructure, and sustain Corps management efforts and outputs at a justified level of service. An overview of some of the key, long-term partnerships the Lake Shelbyville Project Office is involved with relative to mission accomplishment is found in Section VI, Partnerships and Coordination.

Memorandums of Agreement, Legislative Authorities for Partnering and Coordination, or both are established to define partnering arrangements with other agencies or organizations. These partnerships have become vital in providing the levels of service that users of project related resources demand. The Lake Shelbyville Project continues to seek new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to accomplish project initiatives

10-13. FEDERAL LAKES RECREATION DEMONSTRATION LABORATORY.

In 2000, Lake Shelbyville as part of the Kaskaskia River Watershed was selected to participate in the Demonstration Laboratory. The idea behind the labs is to remove barriers placed in the way of efficient operations through removal of encumbrances established by agency policy and regulations except those established by law. Determining what is and what is not required by law is sometimes difficult. As such, each idea considered for implementation under the Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration Laboratory effort must be reviewed by the District Counsel and approved by the District Commander before the project may embark on the experiment. This is to insure that no one unknowingly circumvents provisions of law.

There is no specific timeframe for when a demonstration must end. Experiments of this nature normally last from 6 months to 4 years. Completion is achieved when proof is established that the goals set at the outset have been reached or when the demonstration proves that the ideas are not feasible. Following completion, it is incumbent upon the selected project to provide a report detailing the experiment conducted, the results achieved, and recommendations through the chain of command to Headquarters. Headquarters will review these reports and recommendations and make a determination as to whether the ideas warrant changes to Corps of Engineers policies or regulations. If changes to policies or regulations are warranted, Headquarters will make the necessary changes.

a. Recreation Modernization Initiative. The Recreation Modernization Initiative is part of the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 05 proposed budget. This initiative proposes implementing several financing and management mechanisms to improve the quality of recreation opportunities provided by the Corps of Engineers.

Beginning in FY05, the Corps of Engineers would be authorized to finance a portion of the cost of maintaining and modernizing recreation sites and facilities through the collection and retention of additional recreation use fees. This would be accomplished by obtaining legislative authority for the Corps of Engineers to participate in the existing Recreation Fee Demonstration Project, which the Departments of Interior and Agriculture currently operate. This would allow the Corps of Engineers to charge entrance and other use fees, as well as

to keep everything collected over a baseline of $37 million per year to finance modernization activities. Accordingly, recreation infrastructure could be maintained, protected and upgraded at no additional cost to the Federal government. Additionally, legislation will be included in the President' budget to designate 25% of receipts from real estate outgrants, such as marina concessions, recreation use fees. These receipts are currently deposited in the General Treasury and are lost to Corps of Engineers use. Once designated recreation receipts, they could be used to fund real estate support of recreation activities on Corps of Engineers land, such as compliance inspections and encroachment resolutions.

The Corps of Engineers has designated Lake Shelbyville as one of the six Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration Laboratory projects, at which the agency will demonstrate innovative planning, management, and financing partnership arrangements with non-Federal partners. These will be accomplished within existing authorities and will demonstrate the most effective means of encouraging and achieving mutually beneficial arrangements to assure the needs of the recreating public are met. Analyses to determine changes in customer satisfaction, quantity and quality of opportunities provided, visitor behavior, recreation fee collection and economic benefit to the Nation will be conducted. If techniques are proven successful arrangements will be implemented at other Corps of Engineers facilities in the future. The other five demonstration projects are:
Rathbun Lake, Iowa; W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, North Carolina; Texoma Lake, Texas; Wolf Creek Dam Lake Cumberland, Kentucky; and Beaver Lake, Arkansas.

10-14. RECREATION AREA MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (RAMP)

RAMP addresses the modernization of Corps of Engineers recreation areas. Visitors' needs and expectations have changed dramatically since the 1960's and 1970's when most Corps of Engineers lake projects were designed and built. More than 90 percent of the 456 Corps lakes and reservoirs were constructed 20 or more years ago. Lake Shelbyville is one of those lakes that were constructed during this time frame. Many of the Corps of Engineers managed areas are outdated and require modernization to meet the needs of present users, under served populations, and to allow for flexibility to make further modifications as equipment and demographics dictate. RAMP goals include providing safe facilities that meet customer needs and offer the level of service the public expects.

Facility design and services standards are being developed as a result of the RAMP initiative. When finalized, these U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Facility and Customer Service Standards will be applied to any new construction of Corps of Engineers facilities regardless of whether they are constructed using RAMP funds or by another funding source.

As of FY 2003, Congress has chosen not to include funding for the RAMP program because it is a new start. Since funding is in doubt for the RAMP program, Headquarters has selected 17 areas for priority funding whenever the program may be initiated.

Lake Shelbyville is one of those 17 areas that were selected. The proposed modernization at Lake Shelbyville includes moving the authorization of 86 campsites from Whitley Creek Recreation Area to the Bo Wood Recreation Area. Support facilities, such as comfort stations, drinking fountains, and shower buildings will conform to ADA standards and be barrier free. The proposed modernization also includes the demolition of existing facilities, such as shower buildings, comfort stations, and roads in the Whitley Creek Recreation Area campground. The projected cost of this modernization is $1,200,000.

10-15. COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS.

Cooperating associations are used to accomplish such broad goals as natural resource management, interpretative services, and visitor service activities on civil works water resource projects, fee-owned lands, and other areas for which the Corps of Engineers has administrative and management responsibilities. Associations aid the Corps of Engineers through a variety of activities, which may include the following:

a. Supporting special events; interpretive, educational, or scientific activities; exhibits and programs; including presentations and demonstrations that further public understanding and appreciation of the mission of the Corps of Engineers or a particular water resource development project.

b. Supporting natural resource management or public programs at or near Corps of Engineers projects through conservation and educational activities and special events; and also by providing scientific, logistical, maintenance, and other support.

c. Acquiring display materials, historical objects, equipment, supplies, materials, goods or other items, or services appropriate for management, operation, interpretive, educational, and visitor service functions.

d. Providing services to visitors through the sale, production, publication, and/or distribution of appropriate interpretive and educational items, such as publications, maps, visual aids, audiotapes, pamphlets, handicrafts, and other objects directly related to the recreation, scientific, interpretive and educational goals and mission of a project, a group of projects and/or the Corps of Engineers as a whole.

e. Acting as a principal distribution medium for those educational and scientific publications of the government and trade that relate to the Corps of Engineers and/or project mission, mandate or management efforts and provide the public with inexpensive and technically accurate materials.

Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy Cooperating Association. A cooperative agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy was signed and put in place in July 2000. The Corps of Engineers authorizes the Association to provide, and the Association agrees to provide interpretive and educational services and/or research and scientific services to the public. As part of the agreement, the Association may operate a sales area on a continuous or intermittent basis. A sales area is located in the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center.

10-16. NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SERVICE™ (NRRS™).

NRRS™ is a joint program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies to provide customers with access to one-stop shopping reservations for camping facilities managed by these agencies. With over 49,500 camping facilities to choose from at more than 1,700 locations the NRRS™ is the largest camping reservation service in North America.

The public may make reservations for campsites and other activities (i.e. picnic shelters) through a toll-free telephone number, by accessing the Internet, or at project campgrounds. Customers making reservations are provided a variety of payment options including credit cards, personal checks, or cash.

All of the recreation areas that offer camping at Lake Shelbyville have a portion of their campsites in the reservation system. All of the picnic shelters, except the large shelter located in Dam West Recreation Area, are in the reservation system.

10-17. MANAGEMENT OF FLOWAGE EASEMENT LANDS

A total of 6,237 flowage easement acres have been purchased on privately owned property adjoining Lake Shelbyville and are administered by the Operations Manager. These easements provide storage for floodwater at the lake on those lands that lie between federal property and maximum flood pool elevations as well as protection against the creation of floatable debris and pollution of project waters.

Responsibilites. It is the policy that all applications for a flowage easement permit or consents be submitted to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will coordinate permits for normal structures with approval

authority resting with the Construction Operations Technical Policy Branch (CO-T). Applications for water control structures will be forwarded by the Operations Manager through CO-T to the Real Estate Management and Disposal Branch who will then coordinate with District elements to include, at a minimum the Regulatory Office, Engineering Office, and Office of Counsel. Consents for water control structures will be approved by the Deputy District Engineer, however, only the District Engineer will sign rejections.

Clean Water Act Compliance. It is the policy that flowage easement permits or consents will not be issued until a Section 404 Permit has been issued or until the Regulatory Office provides notice, in writing, that a 404 Permit is not required.

Normal Structures. It is the policy that permits for normal structures are administered in accordance with the "Requirements for Structures on Flowage Easement Lands…" at the locations specified in the Operation Management Plan.

Water Control Structures. It is the policy that water control structures are prohibited unless all of the following criteria are met.

a. Consent must be approved and executed by both the consentee and the Government prior to the commencement of work.

b. Consentees for water control structures must provide equal, compensatory storage for the volume of water that the proposed structure will displace. Compensatory storage facilities must be self-operating, requiring no mechanical operations such as pumping or draining. At Lake Shelbyville a total of 1,000 acre-feet of storage is set aside for wetland development with no more than 500 acre-feet of storage being utilized during the period of 1 March through 30 September of each year. In addition, no more than 250 acre-feet of storage will be utilized on any individual stream course feeding the lake to include: Kaskaskia River, West Okaw River, Sand Creek, Wilborn Creek, Wolf Creek, Jonathon Creek, Asa Creek, Marrowbone Creek, and Whitley Creek. Areas that are designed to meet the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wetland development standards may be eligible to participate. It is the responsibility of the Lake Shelbyville Project Office to inventory storage capacity for wetland development. The Lake Shelbyville Operational Management Plan will be the official tracking document.

c. Plans and specifications for a water control structure and its compensatory storage facilities shall be included with the consent application. Plans shall include design of the facility including dimensions, height of levees, if applicable, proposed depth of impounded water, etc. The Operations Manager is authorized to return to the originator those applications that do not

meet the criteria described herein. Signatures on approved consents, both Government and consentee must be notarized.

d. Consents will not be issued if the District Engineer determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that either the water control structure or its compensatory storage facility would cause direct or indirect drainage of any kind to property belonging to another person or entity. Further, all consents for water control structures shall provide for the District Engineer to alter or revoke consent if the consented structure is found to be detrimental to other property owners. Upon alteration or revocation of the consent the consentee shall proceed diligently to correct or remove the structure at the consentee's expense. Failure to pursue diligent correction or removal shall result in legal action by the District Engineer.

e. Compensatory facilities are to be maintained in proper working order by the consentee. Failure to properly maintain these facilities may result in consent revocation.

f. Once consent is approved, Corps of Engineers officials will conduct periodic compliance inspections during the construction phase and on occasional basis throughout the duration of the consent. By the acceptance of consent for water control structures, the consentee grants to the Corps of Engineers access to water control and compensatory structures for facility inspections.

g. Consent for water control structures shall run with the land and shall be binding upon all subsequent owners of the property or be removed by the landowner prior to sale or transfer of the property. The consentee shall be required to file the consent upon the local county land records and furnish the District with the original recording document with verification of the recording document with verification of the recording contained thereon.

It is the policy that the Real Estate Management and Disposal Branch shall file each permit or consent with the records for the appropriate flowage easement tract.

Third Party Consents. Third party consents shall be handled in accordance with ER 405-1-12, paragraph 8-40, Consent Agreement.

10-18. KASKASKIA RIVER WATERSHED

a. General.

The Kaskaskia River is an important and prominent natural feature in Central and Southwestern Illinois. It is the second largest river system within Illinois, originating in Champaign County and flowing in a southwesterly direction for

approximately 292 miles, where it unites with the Mississippi River, in Randolph County. The Kaskaskia River Watershed (KRW) covers all, or parts, of 22 counties and encompasses an area of 5,746 square miles (3,677,787 acres) or 10.2% of the entire state. There are 8,680 miles of tributary streams, including the main river channel, (33% of the state stream-miles), and 843 lakes or ponds covering 79,037 acres. Two large U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reservoirs, Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville, add another 37,000+ acres of surface water. The elevation at the Kaskaskia River headwaters is 740 feet NGVD, and drops to 368 feet NGVD at the Corps Kaskaskia River Navigation Project Lock and Dam near the confluence with the Mississippi River.

Agriculture is the predominant land use within the Kaskaskia River Basin, and 82% (3,016,000 acres) of the land is used for agricultural purposes. Of that 82%, most is cropland, (63%), with other significant land utilized as grassland, (19%). Corn and soybeans are important to the region, but producers also grow 25% of the entire state's crop of wheat. Livestock production, including dairy, swine, poultry and beef cattle is a significant industry, especially in Clinton, Randolph and Washington Counties.

Forest cover within the watershed is significant (9% of land area 331,000 acres), particularly along the streams. Good wetland resources also occur (4.5% of land area, 165,500 acres), along streams, where clay soils drain poorly and flooding makes development improbable. The climatic differences from the headwaters to the mouth are substantial, and create a great diversity in the native flora and fauna found within the watershed.

The largest bottomland hardwood forest within Illinois, at 43,000 acres, is located on the Kaskaskia River floodplain between Carlyle Lake and Fayetteville. One tract within this forest is the single largest contiguous tract in Illinois (7,300 acres) and is approximately two miles wide at certain points. In addition, the vast majority of the state's high quality southern flat wood forest occurs within the watershed.

The population of the KRW in 2000 was approximately 553,000. Urban land use in 1990 was only 3% (110,300 acres) of the watershed. There are approximately 100 small villages and cities. Madison and St. Clair Counties in the East Metropolitan St. Louis area have the largest concentrations of the urban populations and urban sprawl is a concern in this part of the watershed.

Due to its overall size and its importance within the region, a better understanding of the history of the watershed and its present condition is necessary. Future plans to maintain the vitality of the watershed are being developed and implemented.

The health of Lake Shelbyville is directly related to the health of the Kaskaskia River watershed. The water quality of the streams that feed into the

upper Kaskaskia basin has an effect on the watershed. Issues of water quality, sediment control, and incorporating good conservation practices on lands adjacent to Corps of Engineers property are supported and encouraged in the effort to reduce impacts of sedimentation and poor water quality on Federal lands.

b. Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA)

There is a diversity of interests, stakeholders, and partners within the watershed that are dedicated to improving the natural resources, the economy, and the quality of life for all residents within the region. Issues do exist and must be addressed, but the residents of the watershed are looking to a healthy natural resource, positive economic benefits, and better quality of life. There is agreement that the watershed is important and that a better, healthier, and more prosperous resource will be good for all.

The Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA) was created to represent the entire watershed while recognizing the uniqueness and diversity within the river. They started meeting together in 1996 and incorporated and received their non-for-profit status in 2002, with equal representation from each group. Their goal is to develop, enhance, and protect the ecological and socio-ecological values of the natural resources within the Kaskaskia River Watershed. Eight different coalition groups within the watershed are working together under the KWA umbrella to coordinate and invest resources to address watershed concerns, issues, and opportunities.

In combining the groups to form the KWA in a not-for-profit status from the headwaters of the Kaskaskia River at Champaign to the confluence of the Mississippi River the stakeholders realize the watershed is very diverse but their goals are the same: communication, erosion, siltation, recreation, fish and wildlife, flood damage reduction, water supply, industrial, navigation, economic development, and eco-systems. Working together the coalition is able to combine resources of people, past investments, and existing economics and programs to further their goals and objectives in enhancing and preserving the watershed. Key organizations by river reach are as follows.

1. Reach I – Champaign to Lake Shelbyville Dam
    - Lake Shelbyville Development Association (LSDA)
    - Upper Kaskaskia C2000 Ecosystem Partnership

2. Reach II – Lake Shelbyville Dam to Carlyle Lake Dam
    - Carlyle Lake Association (CLA)
    - Mid Kaskaskia Coalition
    - Carlyle Lake Watershed C2000 Ecosystem Partnership

3. Reach III – Carlyle Lake Dam to Fayetteville
    - Okaw River Basin Coalition (ORBC)
    - Original Kaskaskia Area Wilderness, Inc. (OKAW)
    - Kaskaskia River/Shoal Creek C2000 Ecosystem Partnership

4. Reach IV – Fayetteville to Confluence of Mississippi River
    - Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI)
    - Lower Kaskaskia/Silver Creek Ecosystem C2000 Partnership
    - Sinkhole Plain C2000 Ecosystem Partnership

The existing base of natural resources in the Kaskaskia River Watershed is under pressure, but with proper planning and implementation, a restoration and protection project can yield good results with minimal public costs. Federal and state agencies, in collaboration with local interests, have worked together to develop local initiatives that will lead future protection and restoration efforts within the watershed.

The Kaskaskia River Watershed stakeholders are ready to move forward with planning, restoration, protection, improvement, and development efforts. They are committed to a holistic approach based upon the broad concerns within the watershed. Funding to pay for these projects will have to come from local sources with assistance from state and federal agencies and legislators.

c. Upper Kaskaskia Ecosystem Partnership

- History of the Partnership. The Upper Kaskaskia River Ecosystem Partnership evolved from an organized group of landowners representing the seven county Farm Bureaus and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed. Since 1995, the group has sought to promote nitrogen management, filter strips, no-till, and other best management practices.

The organization was designated as an Ecosystem Partnership of the Conservation 2000 Program in 1998 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. This status has provided a mechanism, as well as funding, to bring interested stakeholders into a dialogue about the future of the watershed. The Partnership sponsored three public meetings in August of 1998 to identify resource concerns within the watershed and then appointed a Technical Advisory Committee to gather data regarding those concerns so that a plan could be developed to improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and address specific issues.

Goals of the Partnership.

The goals of the Upper Kaskaskia Ecosystem Partnership are to:

- Protect and enhance water quality in the Kaskaskia River Basin and Lake Shelbyville.

- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat in the Kaskaskia River Basin and Lake Shelbyville.

The Partnership is committed to pursuing these goals in ways that:

- Promote voluntary efforts of individual landowners and organizations.

- Maintain and improve the economy of the entire watershed.

The Partnership looks to its Technical Advisory Committee to provide the information necessary for developing a specific Plan of Action consistent with these goals and principles.

Plan of Action. In order to accomplish the goals of the Partnership, the Local Planning Council will continue to:

1) Pursue funding.

2) Establish sub-watershed stakeholder committees.

3) Participate in the larger Kaskaskia Watershed Association.

These three activities will provide the means for addressing the specific recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee. Recommendations are prioritized for each of the four main resource concern categories. Items with equal priority are designated with a letter after the numerical marking.

Water Quality.

1a. Install native conservation cover and/or native vegetative filter strips along each mile of channel in the watershed.

1b. Increase one-on-one contact with each owner/operator in the watershed to develop an awareness of water quality concerns and make them aware and encourage the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

2a. Help protect groundwater resources by helping landowners identify and properly seal abandoned wells and bore holes.

2b. Develop a real incentive program for nutrient and pesticide management implementation, documentation, and reporting.

Other recommendations not prioritized:

- Promote practices such as reduced tillage, diversified cropping, and others that increase soil organic matter, increase carbon sequestering, improve soil permeability, and reduce acidity (pH) levels of cropland in the watershed.

- Promote nutrient and pesticide management of all land throughout the watershed.

- Promote the construction of small ponds (1/2 to 1 acre) throughout the watershed to help trap pollutants.

- Inventory filter strips, grassed waterways, and other conservation practices within the partnership area.

- Analyze municipal discharges and other storm water management issues (i.e., volume and velocity of discharges, water quality)

Wildlife Habitat.

1a. Enroll land in conservation easements to permanently protect valuable habitat areas.

1b. Increase one-on-one contact with each owner/operator in the watershed to develop an awareness of natural resource concerns and to encourage CRP enrollment.

Economic Resources.

Suggestions for promoting economically and environmentally beneficial practices include:

- Target specific areas with special grant funding or programs (EPA 319 grants, IDNR C-2000 grants, NRCS EQIP priority areas) to address natural resource concerns.

- Improve economic resources by utilizing the CRP program more effectively thereby causing a significant influx of federal dollars into the watershed.

- Improve pasture and hay land management within the watershed area to promote more economic use of marginal farmland.

- Support research of new and innovative natural resource management techniques such as agro-forestry, water-table management, organic farming, cover crops, etc.

10-19. GROUP CAMP FACILITY PLAN.

Seven group camps currently exist at Lake Shelbyville. They are located at Okaw Bluff Group Camp Area (2 group camp facilities), Wilborn Creek Recreation Area (1 group camp), and Lone Point Recreation Area (4 group camps). Four will exist after the proposed changes are made and two will be included in future actions.

1. Okaw Bluff Group Camp includes two full-service housing units that were acquired when the lake was constructed. The two existing housing units combined can accommodate up to fifty-five people. These housing units are available to the public year-round by reservation. The US Navy Construction Battalion, commonly known as the Sea Bees, utilizes these units monthly. The Corps of Engineers utilizes these units to conduct an annual special event: the Deer Hunt for People with Disabilities.

The Lake Shelbyville Shoreline Erosion Plan identified the two housing units to be within the erosion limits of the shoreline and will be impacted in the near future. Impacts by erosion will necessitate removal from their existing location and re-allocating the authorized structures to another location. There are no other facilities at Lake Shelbyville that can provide the type of accommodations needed to serve the public and to conduct the Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities. This program has a fourteen-year history and would have to be eliminated if suitable accommodations are not provided.

In addition, the Sea Bees have provided a valuable service to Lake Shelbyville and the Corps of Engineers since 1980. They have generated an average O&M savings to the project of $40,000 annually. Their ability to continue to work at Lake Shelbyville will be eliminated if overnight accommodations are not available at Lake Shelbyville.

Proposed action includes removal and replacement of the Stone House facilities to a different area within the Okaw Bluff Group Camp Area and replacing the existing facilities with an enclosed universally accessible multi-purpose group shelter, six mini-shelters, and a mini-shower building. The feasibility of combining together the multi-purpose group shelter and mini-shower building facilities will be investigated before installation begins. The multi-purpose group shelter will have a kitchenette and fireplace. The mini-shelters will accommodate up to thirty people. The public will utilize these facilities by reservation when the Corps of Engineers or other partner groups are not using it for project operations. These facilities will also be used to enhance special events and on-site interpretive programs and workshops.

Proposed action includes removal and replacement of the Frame House facilities to the existing Group Camp located within the Wilborn Creek Recreation Area, consolidating the two group camp facilities, and replacing them with five mini-shelters, an enclosed universally accessible multi-purpose group shelter, and mini-shower building. The feasibility of combining together the multi-purpose group shelter and mini-shower building will be investigated before installation begins. The multi-purpose shelter will have a kitchenette and fireplace. The mini-shelters will accommodate up to 25 people. These facilities are explained in more detail below in section 10 -19.2.

2. Wilborn Creek Group Camp includes 15 primitive campsites, which can accommodate from 15 to 120 people, a flush comfort station, two water hydrants, and a fire ring. This camp is underutilized, but has potential to fill a niche that doesn't exist at Lake Shelbyville.

Proposed actions include renovating and consolidating the camp with facilities from Okaw Bluff Frame House in the following ways.

- Renovate fifteen non-electric campsites to 50-amp electrical service with impact areas. Remove and replace the campsites in the area if necessary.

- Day-use area comfort station #1 and picnic shelter have been removed due to underutilization and the existing group camp comfort station will be removed. The picnic shelter and two comfort station facilities will be consolidated with the Okaw Bluff Frame House facilities, and replaced with a multi-purpose group picnic shelter and mini-shower building as mentioned above in the Okaw Bluff Group Camp description.

- Five mini-shelters will be added to the group camp area as part of the consolidation of the two group camp areas.

3. Lone Point Recreation Area includes four group camps, which includes 31 campsites that can accommodate from 31 to 248 people. Three of the four group camps are located within the main campground. They were not designed as group camps and do not satisfactorily meet the customers needs for group camp facilities. The camps are intermingled with the rest of the campground so the group separation and gathering areas generally associated with group camps is not present. It is proposed that three group camps within the main campground be converted back to 21 individual sites. The remaining group area, Walleye Group Camp, which includes 10 campsites and picnic shelter, will remain and continue to be utilized as a group camp as it meets the proper design criteria. Comfort Station #3 in the main campground at Lone Point has

been removed and will be replaced with a mini-shower building within the Walleye Group Camp area.

4. Bo Wood Recreation Area. During the consolidation of Bo Wood and Whitley Creek campground, conversion of existing campsites in the Bo Wood campground into a group camp is proposed. With the layout of the new Bo Wood campground entrance road it would be feasible to convert existing campsites 47 – 55 (9 campsites), which will accommodate from 9 to 72 people, into a group camp. A flush comfort station and playground is located near these campsites and can be utilized when converted into a group camp. The comfort station will be removed and replaced with a mini-shower building. The day use picnic shelter in Lone Point Recreation Area will be removed and replaced with a new pre-fabricated shelter in this group camp area. Based on customer needs the group camp amenities will increase utilization and revenue generated.

5. Whitley Creek Recreation Area. Future action includes renovating a portion of the area into a group camp area. The area that will be utilized includes the area where existing campsites 59-84 (26 campsites), which will accommodate from 26 to 208 people, are located.

6. Opossum Creek Recreation Area. Future action includes adding a group camp in Opossum Creek Recreation Area. The area that would be utilized for the group camp is located west of the Opossum Creek fishing pond.

10-20. MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

The Corps of Engineers public relations campaign is designed to keep the public informed in hopes of them becoming better stewards and safer users of public lands and waters. The Corps of Engineers hopes that people will become interested in participating as volunteers or community leaders, and federal, state, and local agencies will become willing to enter into challenge partnerships or offer donations to enhance the resources at Lake Shelbyville.

Through public relations the Corps of Engineers makes a positive effort to foster the support of neighbors, state and federal agencies, local sheriff and law enforcement personnel, citizen groups, local chamber of commerce, tourism agencies, and the general public. Establishing relationships and cooperative alliances with the local community is a key element to long-term success in building partnerships that enhance our management objectives.

One aspect of a good public relations campaign is marketing, which is simply defined as a customer-focused way of doing business. Marketing involves a process of listening to our customers, then planning and providing products and services to meet their needs both efficiently and effectively within

our capability. Valuing customer's input is vital to creating happy customers who return and tell their friends about Lake Shelbyville.

The Lake Shelbyville Operational Management Plan identifies the Corps of Engineers specific marketing strategy and objectives along with target groups who can assist in achieving the three marketing goals. The Corps of Engineers first goal is to strengthen partnerships and seek new ones to leverage project fiscal resources. Second goal is to utilize available resources to positively impact perceptions, knowledge, and behavior. Third goal is to cooperate with efforts to identify opportunities to increase visitation and enhance economic impact to the region.

Ways to achieve these marketing goals can be as simple as a word-of-mouth referral or involve an intensive regional media campaign. The medium used to relay the message to potential customers or target audiences can include, but is not limited to, news releases, call-in information line, web sites, brochures, fliers, public service announcements, displays, newsletters, interpretive programs both on- and off-site, word-of-mouth referral, sports shows, welcome and visitor centers, special events, and radio, television, and newspaper interviews.

The majority of customers to Lake Shelbyville are from Illinois and its surrounding states. Lake Shelbyville competes primarily with other recreation and vacation destinations within the Midwest. The mode of travel to and from Lake Shelbyville is typically via private vehicles. Thus, any action that affects the use of private vehicles will affect domestic pleasure travel to and from Lake Shelbyville. Reduction in the supply or increases in the cost of gasoline could affect private vehicle usage and domestic travel patterns and may restrict travel for some people. Through proper marketing and public relation techniques local travel within the Midwest Region to make Lake Shelbyville a recreational and vacation destination can be enhanced.

Through an integrated public relations and marketing campaign, the Corps of Engineers will continue to work to increase the customer recall of Lake Shelbyville. To most effectively maximize the budget, the majority of the Lake Shelbyville promotional efforts will be focused on Illinois and its surrounding states. Partnerships with other entities, direct marketing, public relations, and the Internet will allow the Corps of Engineers to cost effectively reach beyond the primary market to other domestic travelers.