

CONCHAS LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PRESENTATION – DRAFT MASTER PLAN REPORT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District
Conchas Lake, New Mexico

31 August 2021



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Purpose of Presentation

- **Announce the availability of the draft revision** of the Conchas Lake Master Plan and accompanying Environmental Assessment.
- **Highlight changes** proposed in the revised Master Plan compared to the previous 1976 version.
- The draft Master Plan with Environmental Assessment documents are **available for 30-day public comment period beginning August 31, 2021 and closing on September 30, 2021.**



**DRAFT
CONCHAS
LAKE
MASTER
PLAN**
Canadian River
Basin

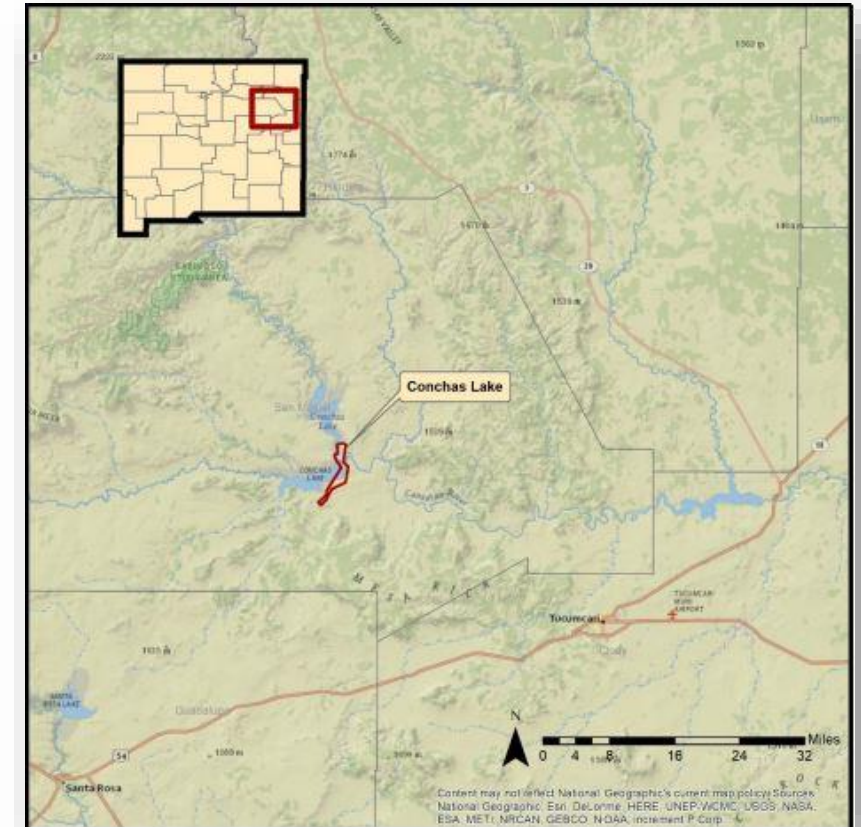
San Miguel
County, New
Mexico

August
2021

CONCHAS LAKE VISION
"The land, water, and recreational resources of
Conchas Lake are managed to protect, conserve, and
sustain natural and cultural resources, especially
environmentally sensitive resources, and provide
outdoor recreation opportunities that complement
overall project purposes for the benefit of present and
future generations."

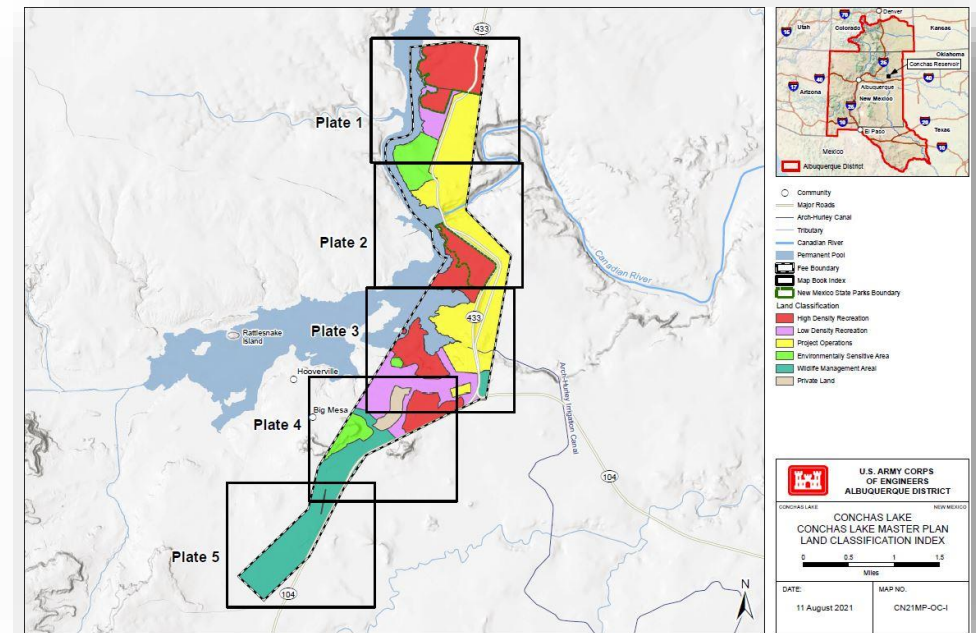
Process Followed to Date

- Initial **public involvement presentation** was announced and available for viewing on May 7, 2020.
- **All comments were considered.** See Chapter 7 of the draft Master Plan for comments and Government response.
- **A draft Environmental Assessment (EA)** was prepared and is available in the draft Master Plan as Appendix B.



What is a Master Plan?

- The master plan is a **25-year comprehensive land use management guide** for recreational, natural, and cultural resources.
- **Adheres to Federal laws** to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop project lands, waters, and associated resources, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation.
- Provides **land classifications** and **resource management objectives** that are broad and adaptive over time.
- Requires and encourages **public involvement**.



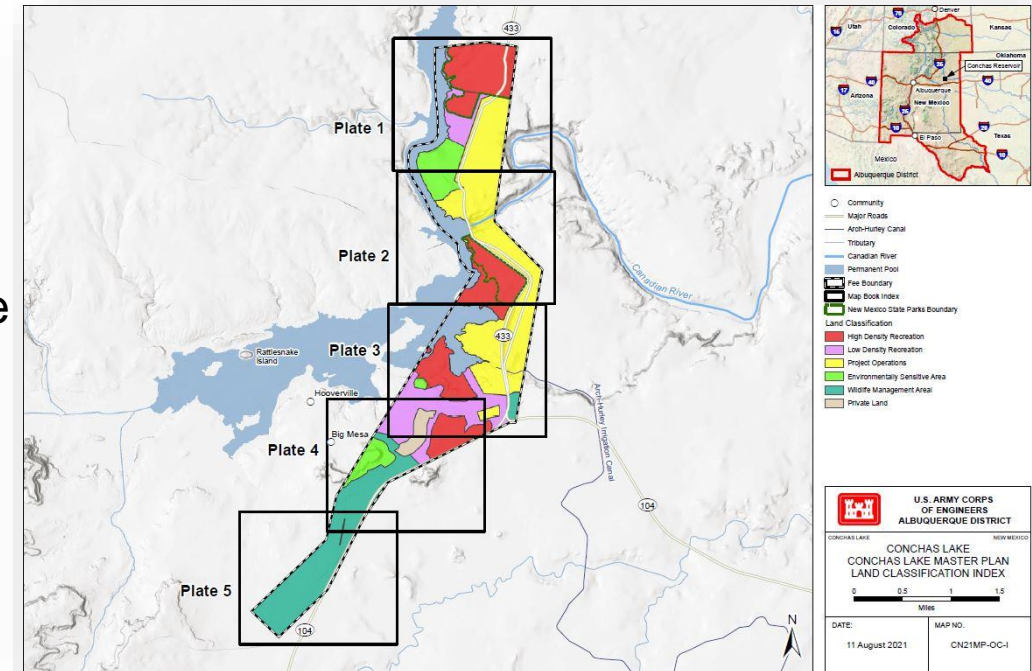
What Master Plans Are Not

- Master Plans **do not address** the technical aspects of:
 - Water management for **flood risk management**
 - Regional **water quality**
 - **Water supply**
 - **Shoreline management** (a USACE program specifying rules for private uses of Federal land such as mowing)
 - **Water level management**
 - **Hydropower** (if applicable)
 - **Navigation** (if applicable)
 - **Facility design** details
 - Details of daily **project administration**



Principal Changes from Current Master Plan to Revised Plan

- **Changes to Land Classifications**
 - Approximately 600 acres of the existing 2,591 total acres were updated to the new land classifications.
 - Resource management plans were created for each of the land classifications.
 - The water surface was updated to the new water surface classifications.





Land Classification Definitions

Source: Engineering Pamphlet or EP 1130-2-550

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Lands required for the dam, spillway, levees, office, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and campground areas for commercial concessions, and quasi-public development.
Multiple Resource Management Lands	Recreation - Low Density: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g. trails, primitive camping, wildlife observation, fishing and hunting)
	Wildlife Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
	Vegetative Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.



Changes in Land & Water Surface Classifications

1976 Land Class	1976 Acres	2021 Land Class	2021 Acres*
Project Operation	869	Project Operations	840
Recreation - Intensive Use**	1,243	High Density Recreation	683
		Environmentally Sensitive Areas	204
		Multiple-Resource Management Lands	
Low Density Recreation	105	Low Density Recreation	359
Natural Areas	532	Wildlife Management	505
Total Land Acres	2,749	Total Land Acres	2,591
		<i>Water Surface</i>	
		Open Recreation	6,000 (average)
		Restricted	7
		No Wake	4
Total Water Surface Acres***	6,000	Total Water Surface Acres ***	6,000 (average)
Total Fee****	3,530	Total Fee	3,413
Flowage Easement	20,112	Flowage Easement	20,079

Management Goals & Resource Objectives

- Chapter 3 of the Master Plan
- Consists of 5 Goals
- Consists of 5 Resource Objective Categories:
 - **Recreational**
 - **Natural Resource Management**
 - **Visitor Information, Education and Outreach**
 - **General Management**
 - **Cultural Resource Management**





National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Purpose of NEPA is to:

- Ensure federal agencies give proper **consideration to the environment** prior to undertaking a federal action.
- **Involve the Public** (scoping) in the decision-making process.
- **Document the process** by which agencies make informed decisions.

NEPA Scoping Process:

- Opportunity for **Public comments and questions** on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions.
- Includes comments from other federal, state, and local governments, and Tribal Nations.

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Conchas Lake 2021 Master Plan

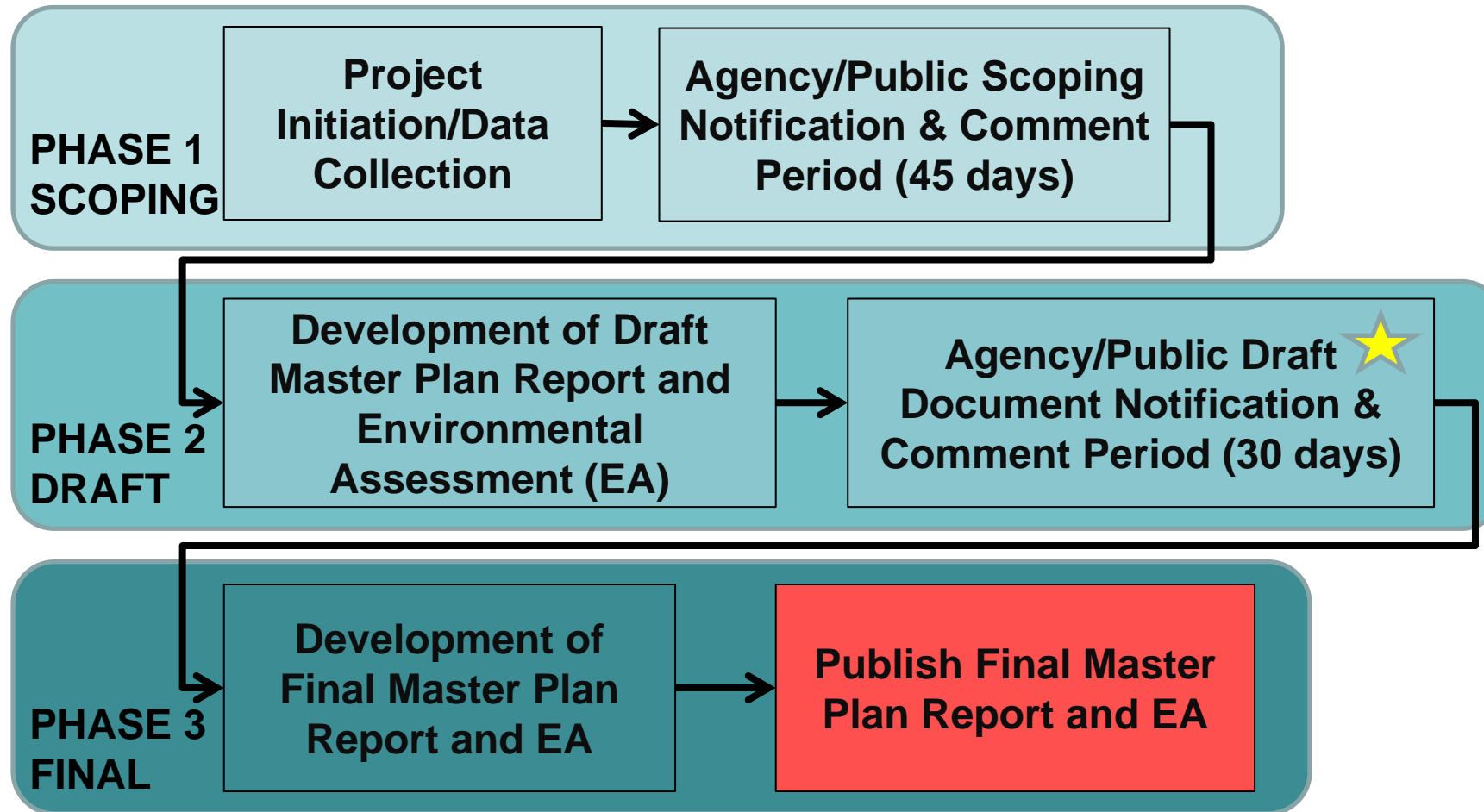
Canadian River Basin
San Miguel County, NM



August 2021



Where are we in the Process?



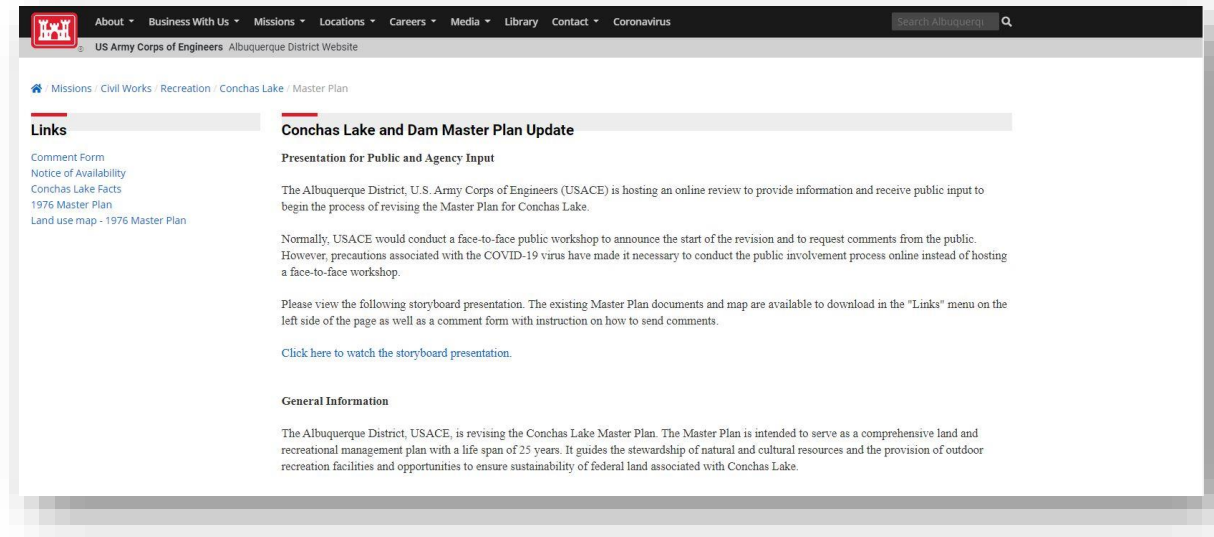
Where we are today



How to Participate

Submit written comments!

- **Review all documents** available on the USACE website:
<https://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Conchas-Lake/Master-Plan/>
- **Documents available** for review on the website include:
 - Master plan documents
 - Project maps
 - Comment form
 - Presentation
- **Spread the word** by telling your colleagues, friends and neighbors to participate



Comments are due on September 30, 2021



How to Submit a Comment

Comments will be accepted **only in writing**, some of the methods for submitting a comment include:

- You may **download the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out electronically, and email it to the Corps using the submit button on the comment form.
- Or you may **print the comment form** provided on the website, fill it out by hand, and mail it to the Corps at the address on the comment form.
- Or you may **write a comment or send an email** without using the comment form, and mail or email it to the Corps at the address provided on the website.



If You Have Questions

Questions about the master plan can be addressed by:

Conchas Lake Project Office at:

Gregory Carpenter, Conchas Dam Project Office

P.O. Box 1008 287 Bell Ranch Road

Conchas Dam, NM 88416

Email: Gregory.N.Carpenter@usace.army.mil

Phone: 575.868.2221

- OR -

Emailing the Corps at:

Email: Gregory.N.Carpenter@usace.army.mil



Projected Master Plan Schedule

Milestones	Schedule
Public Notification for Scoping	7 May 2020
Public Comment Period (45 days)	7 May – 22 Jun 2020
Draft Master Plan/EA Public Notification	31 Aug 2021
Public Comment Period (30 days)	31 Aug – 30 Sept 2021
Final Master Plan/EA Approved	October 2021



Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the master plan revision process at Conchas Lake.

Website address:

<https://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Conchas-Lake/Master-Plan/>

Send comments to:

Email:

Gregory.N.Carpenter@usace.army.mil

USACE Lake Office Address:

P.O Box 1008 287 Bell Ranch Road
Conchas Dam, NM 88416