

Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision

Stakeholders Meeting
February 8, 2018

Objectives of Stakeholder Meeting

- Get advice on how best to shape public meetings to achieve our goals
- Learn what ideas and concerns stakeholders have about the master plan revision
- Get ideas about how to get a true cross-section of the public input
- Give you information about how the process works
- Give you answers to your questions
- Assure you that public input can and will affect the outcome of the plan



What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.



Why are we revising Raystown's Plan now?

- Corps project master plans are prepared for a lifespan of 15-25 years.
- Raystown's current Master Plan was approved in 1994, making it 24 years old



Projects around the Corps have been revising master plans for the past several years

- The revision at Raystown is part of a Corps-wide effort



WIIN Act 2016

- SEC. 1309. HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the updating of the master plan for the Juniata River and tributaries project, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, authorized bby section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 . . .

(2) ensure that alternatives for additional recreation access and development at the project are fully assessed, evaluated, and incorporated as a part of the update.

More WIIN Act

(b) Participation.--The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

(c) Inventory.--In carrying out the update under subsection (a), the Secretary shall include an inventory of those lands that are not necessary to carry out the authorized purposes of the project

Who is on the team?

- Project manager
- Operations Project Manager
- Chief, Flood Risk Management Branch
- Supervisory Park Ranger
- 2 Park Rangers
- Economist
- Archaeologist



- Geographer
- Real Estate Specialist
- 2 Natural Resources Specialists
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Geologist
- Hydrologist
- Attorney

What's in a Master Plan?

Let's look at the parts



What's in a Project Master Plan?

Project setting
and influencing
factors

Resource goals
and objectives

Land allocation
and
classification

Resource plans for
each classification
(includes needs and
objectives for each
recreation area)

Special Topics

Agency and
Public
Coordination

Mapping

Master Plan Land Classifications

1. Project
Operations

2. High Density
Recreation

3. Mitigation



Master Plan Land Classifications

4. Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Master Plan Land Classifications

5. Multiple Resource Management Lands

- a. Low Density Recreation
- b. Wildlife Management
- c. Vegetative Management
- d. Future or Inactive Recreation



Master Plan Water Surface Classifications

1. Restricted
2. Designated No-Wake
3. Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Open Recreation



1994 Raystown Master Plan

Land Classifications include:

In addition to Project Operations areas

1,740 acres Recreation

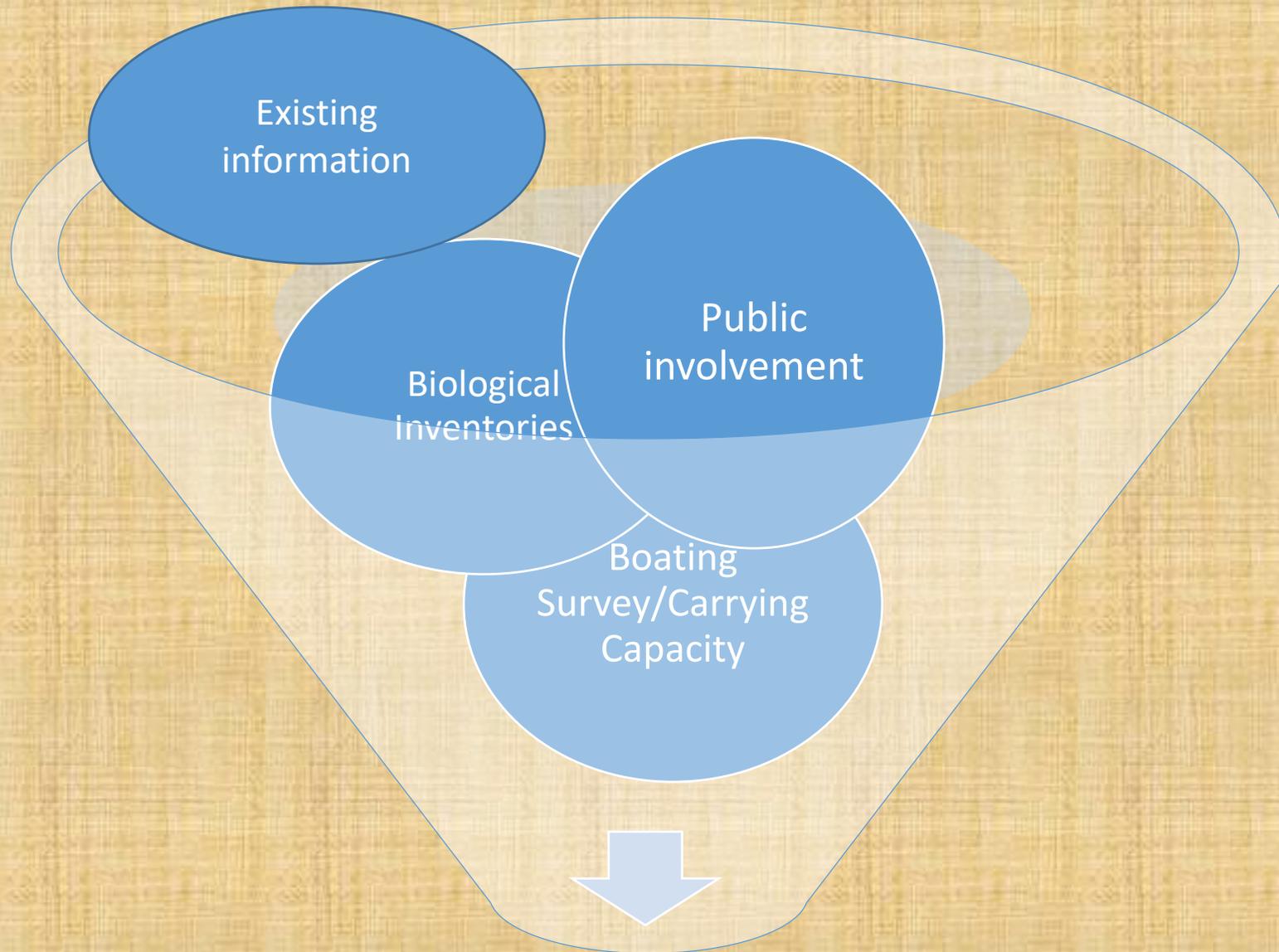
3,000 acres Mitigation

2,300 acres Environmentally Sensitive Area

9,200 acres Multiple Resource Management Lands

Includes

- a. Recreation – Low Density
- b. Wildlife Management General
- c. Vegetation Management
- d. Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas



Existing
information

Biological
Inventories

Public
involvement

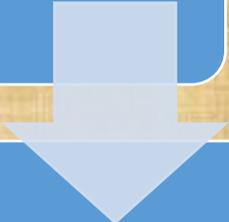
Boating
Survey/Carrying
Capacity



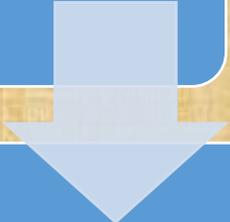
Information to the team

What kinds of meetings will be held?

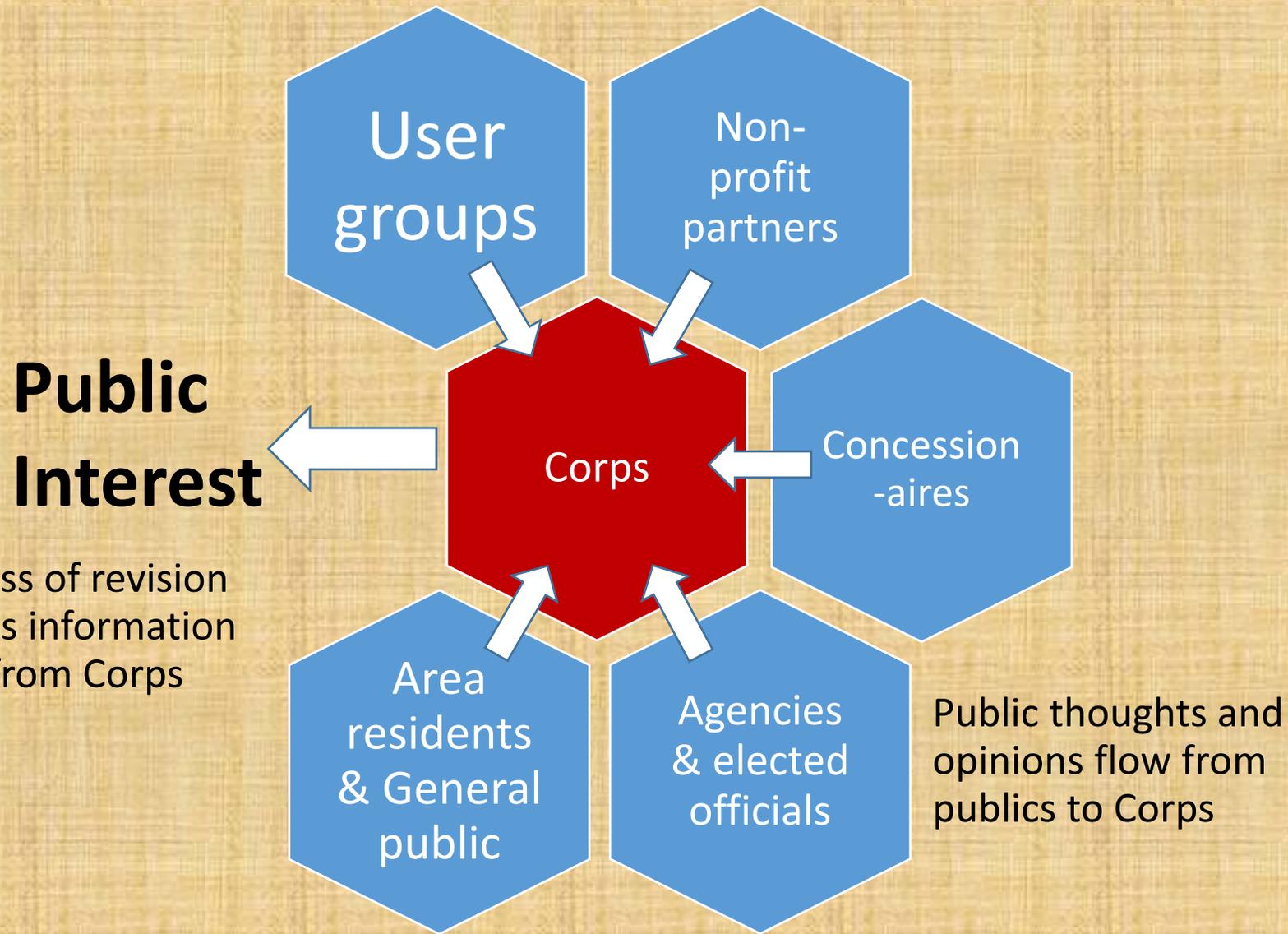
Stakeholder Meeting – reps of agencies, concessionaires, organizations with official relationship with Corps [February 2018]



First round public meetings – one upstream location, one downstream location – open to all, including media
[tentative April 2018]



Second round public meetings – one upstream location, one downstream location – open to all, including media
[tentative August 2018]



User groups

Non-profit partners

Concessionaires

Area residents & General public

Agencies & elected officials

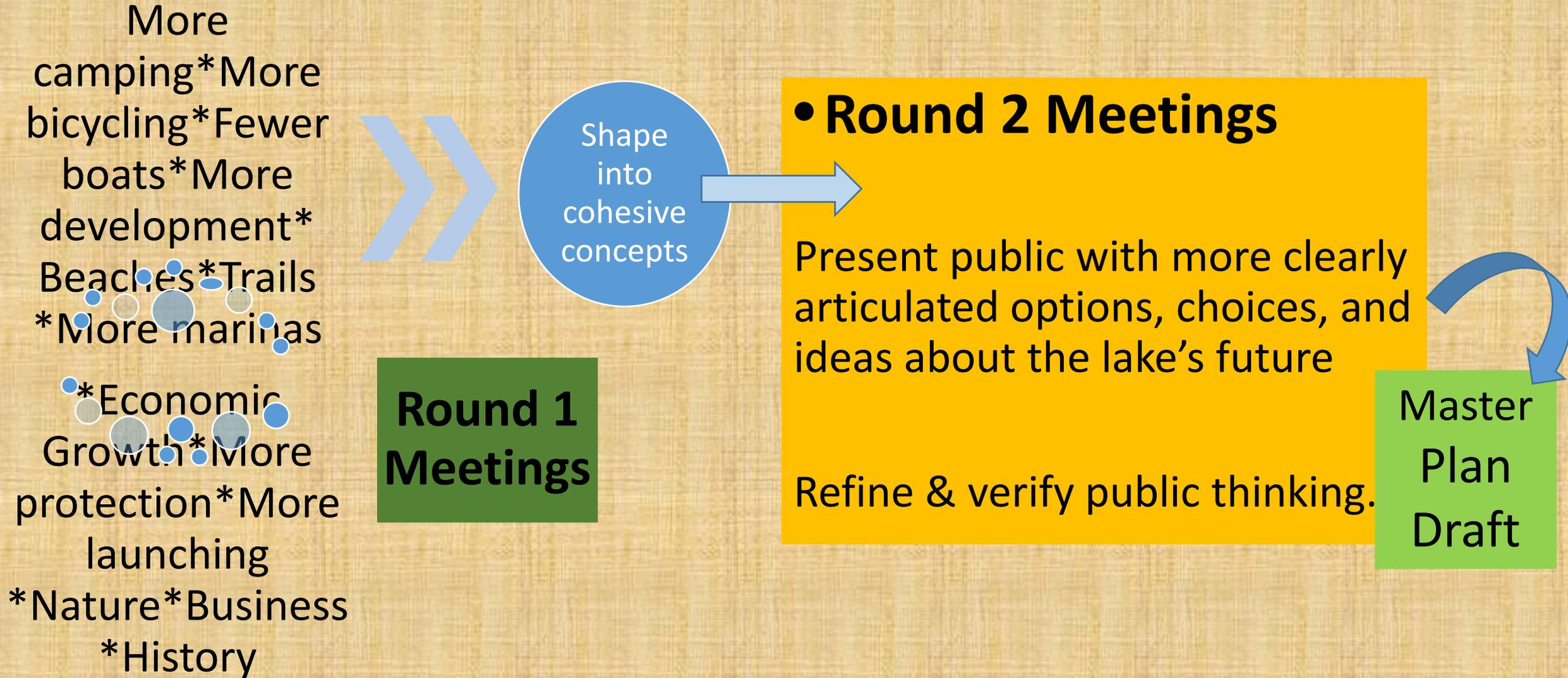
Public Interest

Corps

Progress of revision process information flows from Corps

Public thoughts and opinions flow from publics to Corps

2 Rounds of Meetings – 2 purposes



Is “public interest” a vote?

- No.
- The revised plan will shape the future of Raystown in a manner responsive to expressed public desires, consistent with good stewardship and applicable guidance
- The revised plan will reflect the greatest public interest, balancing conservation of natural resources with high-quality public outdoor recreation meeting the needs created by the project itself

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

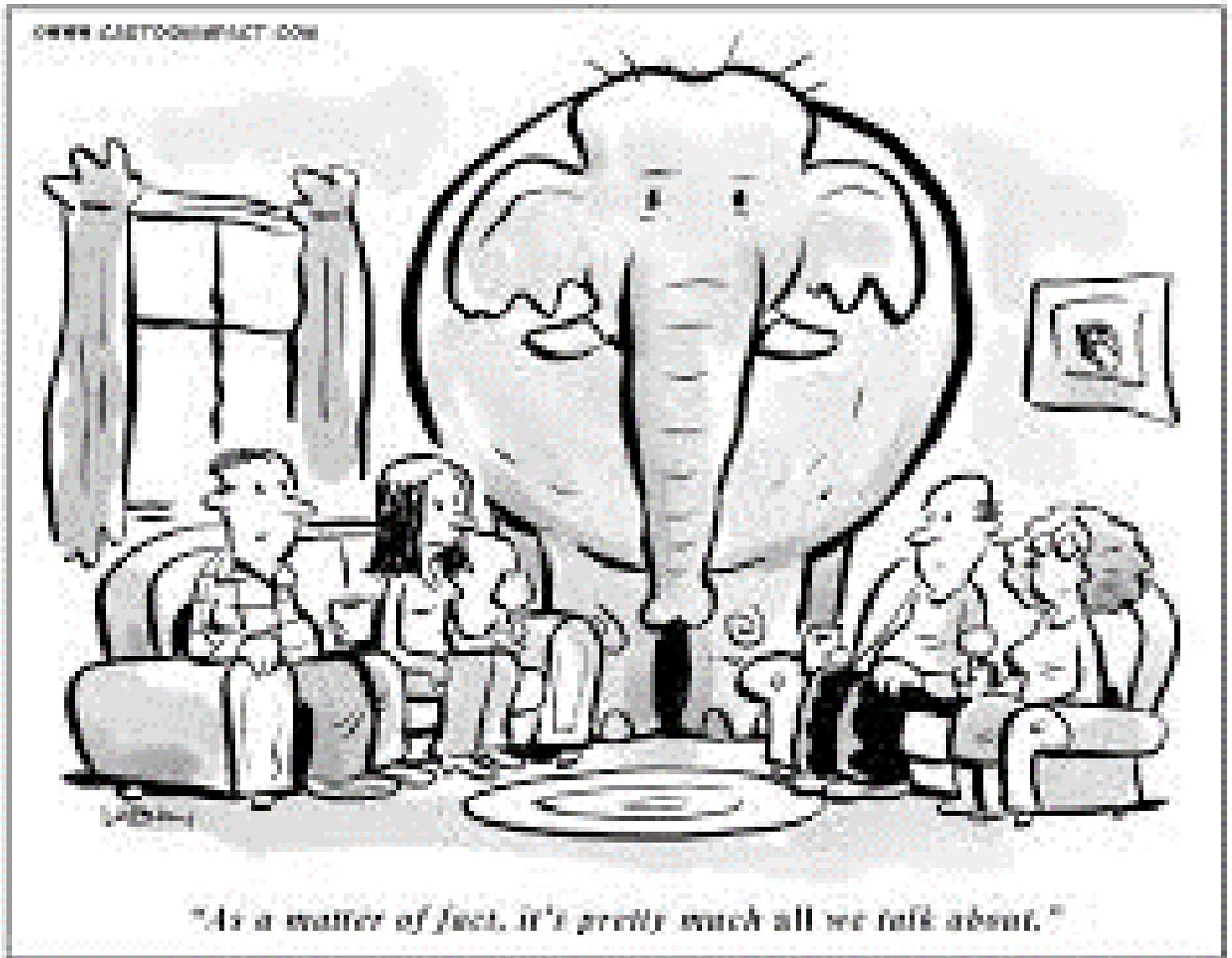
- NEPA process runs parallel with the Master Plan process
- Typically develops two alternatives:
 - Approve master plan as drafted
 - No action [project would continue to operate under existing master plan]
- If approval of the plan is found to have no significant impact, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is typically signed just before the Master Plan is approved

NEPA Overview

- Social and economic conditions
- Environmental justice
- Public health and safety
- Surface and groundwater resources
- Air quality
- Cultural resources
- Threatened, endangered, and candidate species
- Other wildlife
- Vegetation and invasive species
- Recreation
- Soils
- Visual resources
- Geology and geological resources
- Wetlands
- Land use
- Roads and utilities

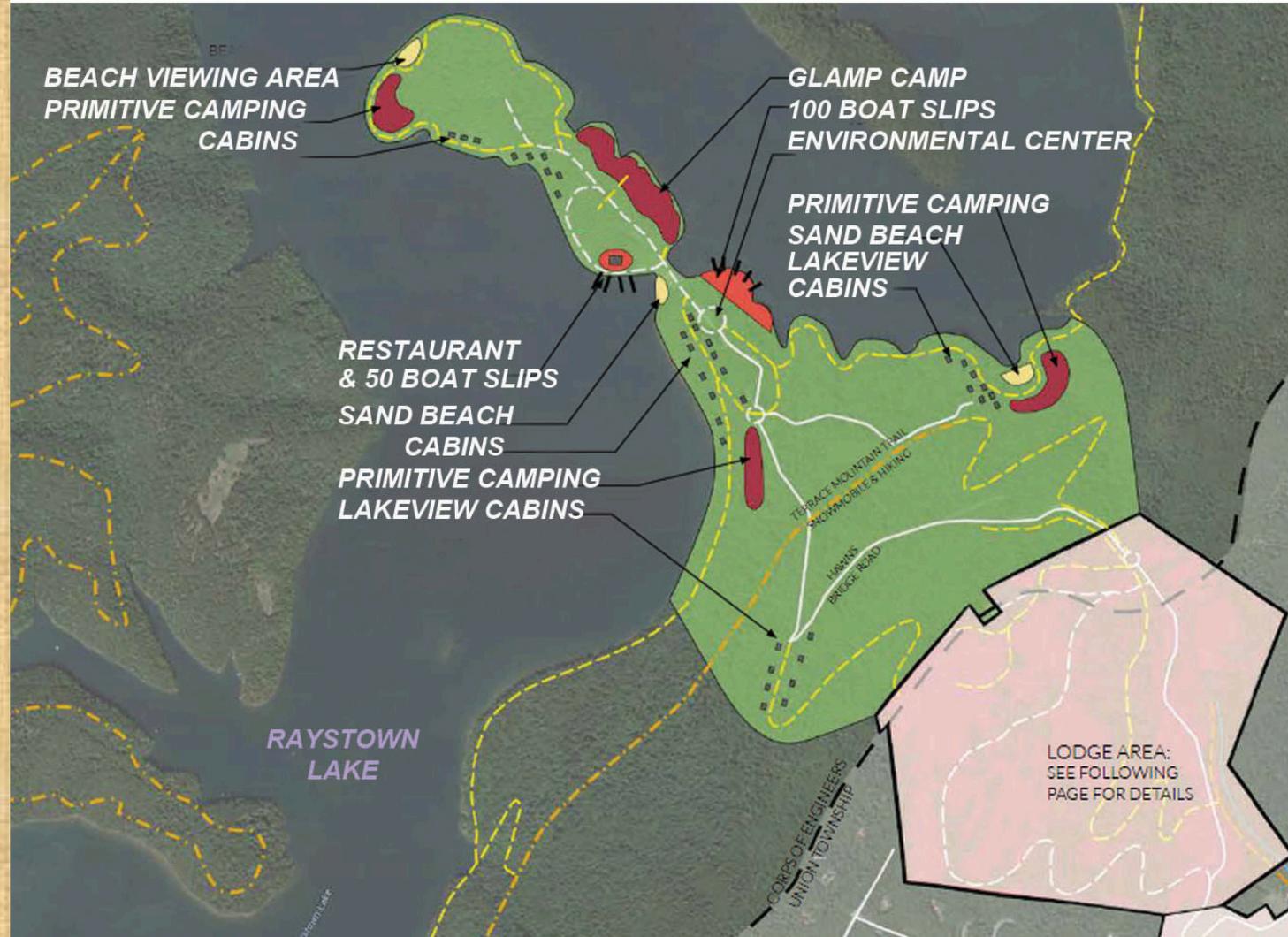
Is there an elephant in the room?

“As a matter of fact, it’s pretty much *all* we talk about.”



Terrace Mountain

Proposed Hawk's Bridge Recreation Area



Terrace Mountain proposal was formally rejected by the Baltimore District, primarily because it was inconsistent with the current Master Plan.

The Hawn's Bridge area is currently classified as Multiple Resource Management. Development at the Hawn's Bridge area is specifically excluded in the 1994 plan.



What is Multiple Resource Management – Future or Inactive Recreation Areas?

Areas with site characteristics compatible with potential future recreational development or recreation areas that are closed. Until developed or reopened, managed for multiple resources.



If Hawn's Bridge is reclassified as Multiple Resource Management-Future or Inactive Recreation, will the Terrace Mountain proposal automatically be approved?

NO! There would be a number of steps that would have to occur before the proposal could be approved.

- Corps would have to determine additional recreation facilities are needed

- Site would be subject to additional biological and cultural resources reviews

- Site would then be reclassified to High-Density Recreation

- Site would be advertised for development in a competitive process open to all offerors

- Best proposal would be selected

- If/when a lease is awarded, another NEPA process would occur, based on the specifics of the proposal

How can you be part of the process?

- Represent your organization at the Stakeholder meeting
- Attend and participate in public meetings
- Submit comments on the Raystown Lake website
- Submit comments in written form to any team member
- Ask to be added to our e-mail list
- Check your local newspapers



Submit your comments on our new Master Plan webpage

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Address Bar:** <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision>
- Page Title:** Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision Schedule
- Text:** A full schedule of project milestones will be posted here soon.
- Submit Button:** A green button labeled "Submit An Official Comment".
- Form Fields:**
 - Recipient:** A dropdown menu with the text "Choose a Recipient".
 - Your Name:** A text input field.
 - Your Email Address:** A text input field.
 - Subject:** A text input field.
 - Message:** A large text area for the comment.
 - Contact Me:** A checkbox labeled "Contact Me: A response is requested."

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 11:41 AM on 2/7/2014.

After information is gathered

- Plan is drafted, including land and water classifications
- NEPA proceeds in parallel
- Draft is presented to the public for review
- Public and agency comments are incorporated
- Internal review
- If Finding of No Significant Impact is reached, FONSI is signed
- Approval by Commander, Baltimore District



How long will it take?

- Information gathering through October 2018
- Plan preparation, draft review, internal review, NEPA completion, approval about 12 more months
- *Tentative* completion October 2019
- **Schedule not yet approved**

Questions?

(Don't try this! Always wear your life jacket!)



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