



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Forest Management Activities at Jennings Randolph Lake (JRL) Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment

Comment Period: March 27, 2026 - April 27, 2026

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed continuation of forest management activities at the Jennings Randolph Lake (JRL) Project in Garrett County, Maryland and Mineral County, West Virginia. The proposed forest management activities would occur over a period of 10 years on approximately 500 acres of the JRL Project. The objective for the overall forest management program includes conducting, on average, approximately 50 acres of forest management each year. The JRL Project is a multipurpose water resources project constructed and operated by USACE. Project lands and waters provide flood risk management, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, plant habitat, and timber. These lands are primarily forested and managed to ensure the long-term sustainability of forest resources and values.

The project is authorized by the Forest Cover Act of 1960, PL 86-717, September 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 817. This authority directs USACE to develop and maintain reservoir areas under its jurisdiction through forest management and conservation practices to ensure the future availability of timber. Engineering Regulation (ER) 1130-2-540, titled "Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies," establishes land management policy for USACE-administered project lands and provides guidance for the forest management project.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), USACE has prepared this draft EA and evaluated potential effects on the human environment. All applicable environmental laws have been considered. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts from the proposed project would result to recreational resources, topography and drainage, soils, air quality, surface water, fisheries and aquatic life, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, aesthetics, and noise. Short-term minor beneficial impacts associated with socioeconomic factors are anticipated due to employment opportunities for the harvesting, hauling, and processing of timber resources. Long-term beneficial impacts to recreational resources, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetics would result from increased stand growth and vigor, enhanced available food and cover for a variety of wildlife species, benefits to recreational opportunities, and improved aesthetics. Appropriate steps to minimize potential adverse impacts, such as the implementation of best management practices, would be incorporated into the project.

USACE requests comments regarding the draft EA and FONSI within 30 days of the date of this notice. For federal and state agencies receiving a copy of this notice, we request that you provide comments concerning your responsibilities. The draft EA and FONSI are available at the USACE website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/home/public-notice/ops-public-notice. Comments can be submitted electronically to grant.m.cunningham@usace.army.mil. Written comments can be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Grant Cunningham, Planning Division, 10th Floor, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Cunningham, project planner, by email at the address above.

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division