

Planning Division Notice of Availability

Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes Project Draft 2025 Master Plan and Environmental Assessment April 28, 2025

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) that assesses the effects of adopting the Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes 2025 Master Plan ("2025 Master Plan"). Tioga and Hammond Lakes are located on the Tioga River and Crooked Creek, respectively, within Tioga, Richmond, and Middlebury Townships in Pennsylvania (PA). Cowanesque Lake is located on the Cowanesque River near Lawrenceville, PA. All three lakes are located in Tioga County, PA.

The Proposed Action is to adopt the 2025 Master Plan that reflects changes in land management classifications, land and water uses, and USACE regulations and guidance that have occurred since the 2002 Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes Master Plan. Lands at the Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes Projects are classified as project operations, high density recreation, multiple resource management, and water surface. In addition to these classifications, the Cowanesque Lake Project also has mitigation lands.

A draft EA was prepared by USACE that determined that adoption of the 2025 Master Plan will have no effect on the natural, cultural, and human environment. Based on the preliminary findings in the draft EA, USACE prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Proposed Action is an administrative update and does not involve the construction of any physical projects. Projects that may be proposed at the Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes Project in the future will be evaluated in accordance with the 2025 Master Plan; NEPA; USACE regulations; and other federal, state, and local policies and regulations.

The draft 2025 Master Plan, EA, and FONSI are available for public review at the following link:

 $\frac{\text{https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/missions/dams-recreation/master-plan-revisions/tioga-hammond-and-cowanesque-master-plan}{\text{cowanesque-master-plan}}$

Physical copies of the draft Master Plan, EA, and FONSI are available at the Mansfield Public Library (Mansfield, PA) and the Elkland Free Community Library (Elkland, PA).

Comments can be submitted using the fillable form at the website above. USACE requests that comments be submitted within 30 calendar days of the date of this notice. USACE will consider all comments received within the 30-day comment period in preparation of the final 2025 Master Plan and EA.

If you would like to request a public meeting or if you have any questions, please contact Laura Searles at (410) 371-2855 or at Laura.K.Searles@usace.army.mil. Additionally, comments can be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Laura Searles, Planning Division, Floor 10, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201.

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