

# Raystown Lake Project Master Plan Revision

November 3, 2019  
November 4, 2019



US Army Corps  
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# HIGHLIGHTS SESSION

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## Questions & Answers

Please hold all questions until the presentation is complete.



## Cell Phones

Please silence all cell phones.



## Recording

This session will be recorded.

# WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

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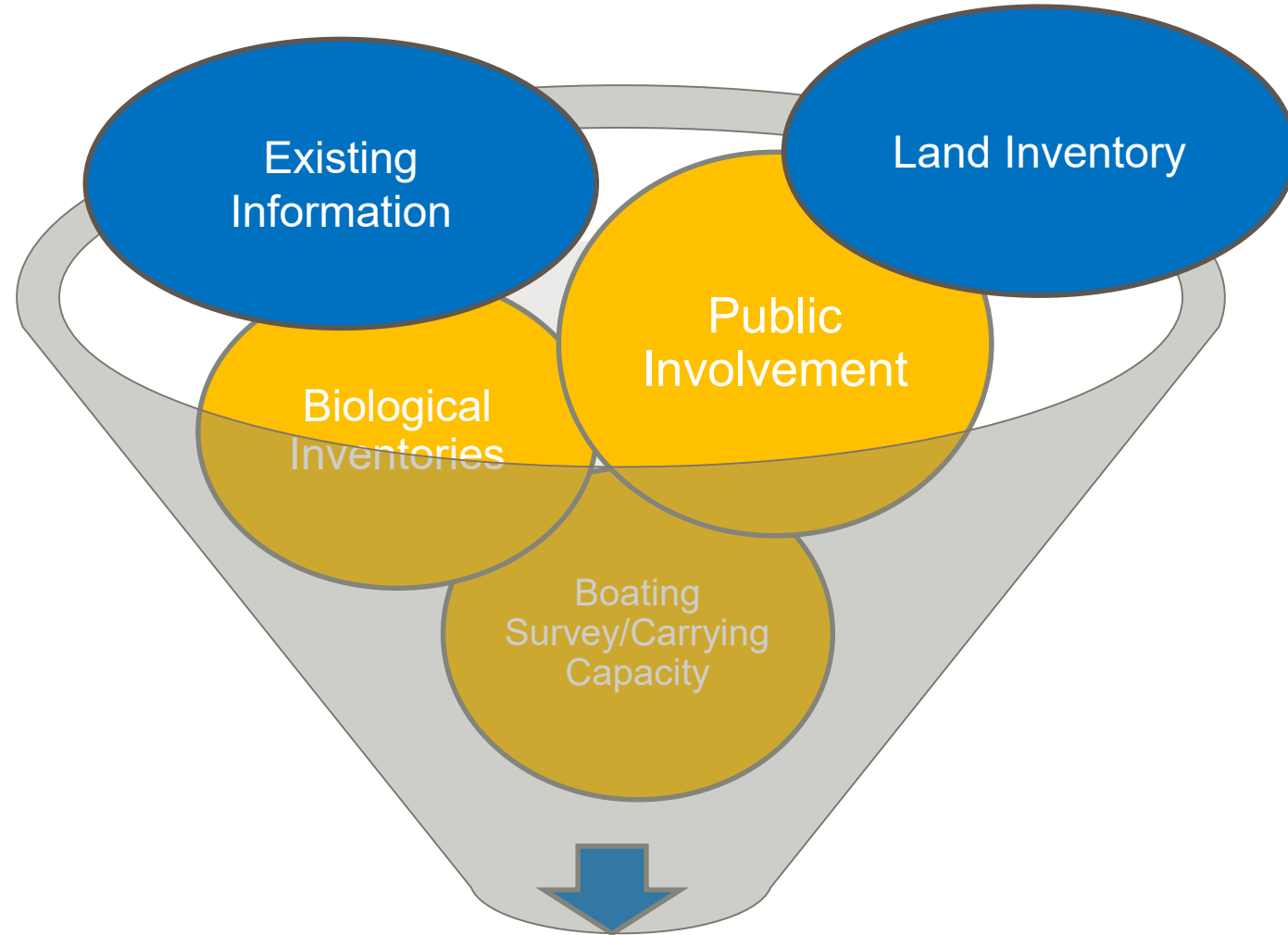
- A strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources.
- The Plan has been prepared for an effective lifespan of **15-25 years**.
- USACE manages project lands and waters in accordance with the classifications as determined in the Plan.





# INFORMATION NEEDED

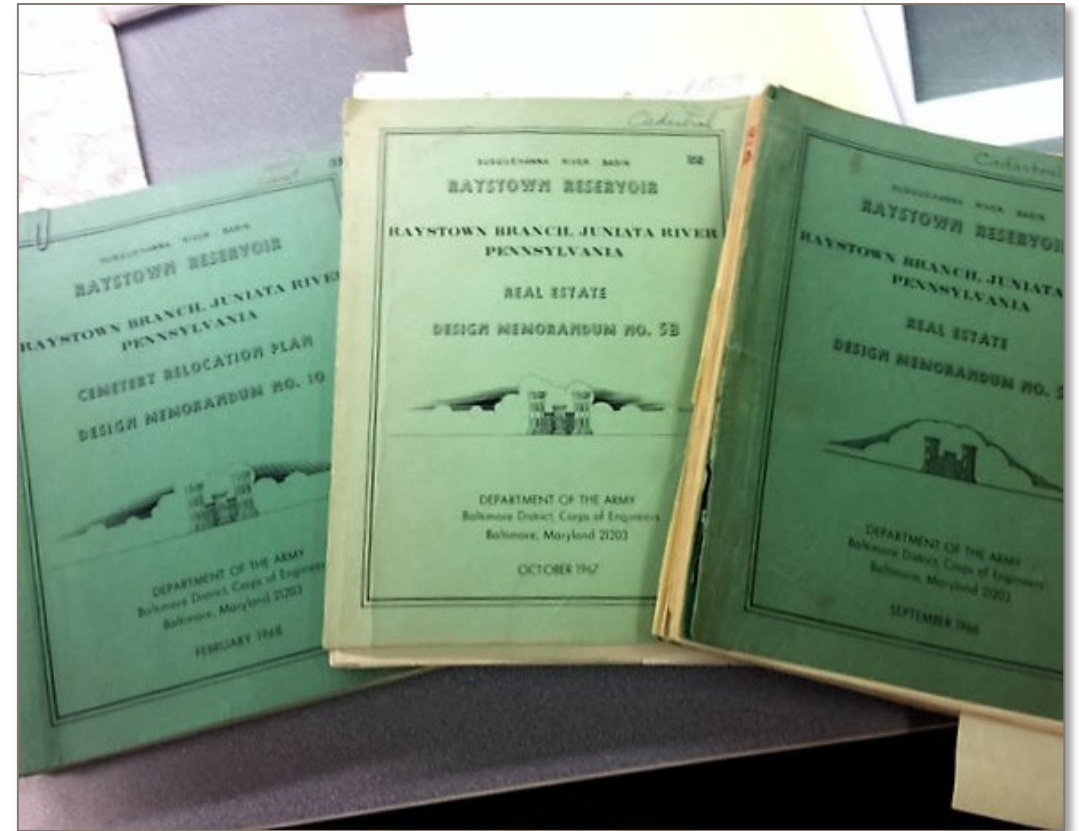
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**Information to  
the team**



# EXISTING INFORMATION UTILIZED

- Design Memoranda
- 1976 Master Plan
- 1988 Boating Capacity Study
- 1994 Master Plan
- Raystown Forest Management EA
- Raystown Biological Opinion
- Raystown Cultural Resource Management Plan
- PA State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory



# INITIATIVES - STUDIES

## Boat Carrying Capacity Study

**Raystown Lake Boating Carrying Capacity Study**


*Final Report*

**Prepared for:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201


**Prepared by:**  
CDM Federal Programs Corp.  
1050 North Reed Station Road, Suite D  
Carbondale, IL 62902

**Under Contract with:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Institute for Water Resources  
Contract W912HQ-16-D-0003  
Delivery Order # W912HQ17F1010


May 2019



## Biological Inventories



January 2019




**US Army Corps of Engineers**

**Shale Barren Mapping and Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys for Raystown Lake, PA: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District**

Prepared for USACE – Baltimore District  
Raystown Lake, 6145 Seven Points Road, Heston, PA 16647

Prepared by Michael P. Guilfoyle, Kevin D. Philley, Eric R. Britzke, Audrey B. Harrison, William T. Slack, and Neil Schoppmann

USACE-ERDC, Environmental Laboratory  
3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180



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## Public Comment



**THE DAILY**  
Your Hometown Newspaper

All Access  
Print | Online | Mobile

75c Vol. 98 No. 59

**Seeking public input**  
Ideas given at meeting for Raystown Lake master plan

By KYLIE HAWN  
Staff Writer

Statistics provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show that Raystown Lake sees 80 percent of the 1.2-1.3 million visitors that come to the lake each year between Memorial Day and Labor Day. To adjust to the ever-growing needs of those who visit the lake each year, area residents had their first opportunity to offer suggestions and concerns at a public meeting regarding the revision of the master plan for Raystown Lake at Tussey Mountain High School Wednesday evening.

Avis Kennedy, project manager for the Raystown Lake master plan revision, explained to those in attendance what a master plan is and the particular parts of a plan.

"The strategic land use plan document that we're developing is a comprehensive and development plan that will address recreational, cultural throughout the project," she explained.

"The plan was last updated in 1994, so the master plan for Raystown Lake is 24 years old," she said.

Approximately \$50,000 was appropriated to revise the master plan for Raystown Lake in 2017, and \$654,000 was appropriated in 2018, she added.

Kennedy couldn't determine whether they would be spending more than what's already been appropriated, she noted the amount is "a little more generous" than what's been given to the corps for a master plan.

Raystown Lake project manager Nick Krupa also noted that in addition to a master plan revision, there will also be a boat capacity study done and an environmental assessment study.

Additionally, parties to the 1994 master plan, not been completed, carried over.

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Let's Take a Closer Look!

# RAYSTOWN LAKE BOATING CARRYING CAPACITY STUDY

- CDM Federal Programs Corporation, under contract with USACE Institute for Water Resources (IWR).
- Methodology utilized WALROS.
- **Water and Land Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**, developed by the Bureau of Reclamation, a tool to assist in the inventory, management, and planning of lakes.

## 3 Significant Components

### 1. Aerial Boat Counts (Objective Measurement)

- To establish peak use counts.

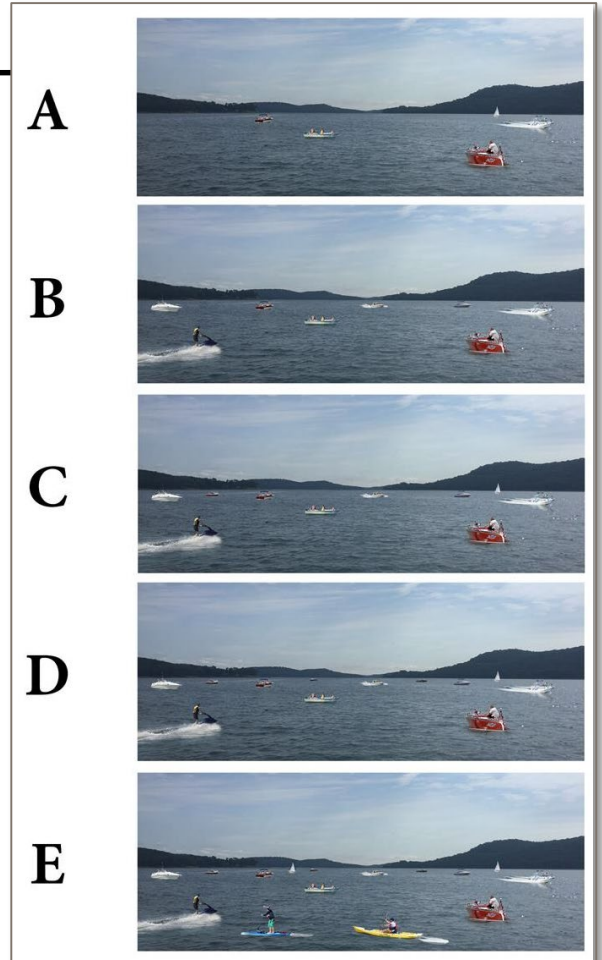


### 2. Questionnaire (Subjective Measurement)

- Social Carrying Capacity
- Perceptions of Crowding and Safety
- Crowding Threshold
- Displacement

### 3. Literature Review:

- Other Lake Studies (their capacities and density recommendations)
- Other analyses of density recommendations



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# SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA: BOATING CARRYING CAPACITY STUDY

- All study results indicate that the carrying capacity at Raystown Lake has been reached and exceeded.\*
- The observed peak density at Raystown Lake reached 5.7 acres per boat.
- A recommended boating capacity range identified for Raystown Lake was calculated at 10 to 20 acres per boat.
- More than 2/3 of surveyed boaters feel somewhat to moderately crowded on the water, and more than half indicated there is a moderate to big problem with too many boats on the water.
- Raystown Lake has, on average, 7 boating incidents per year (PA Fish and Boat Commission), with two to three caused by crowding. These crowding-related incidents at Raystown Lake resulted in bodily injury 68% of the time.



*\* The boating carrying capacity study was performed through the USACE Institute for Water Resources, under a solicited contract with CDM Federal Programs Corporation.*



# SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA: BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

## 4 Primary Components:

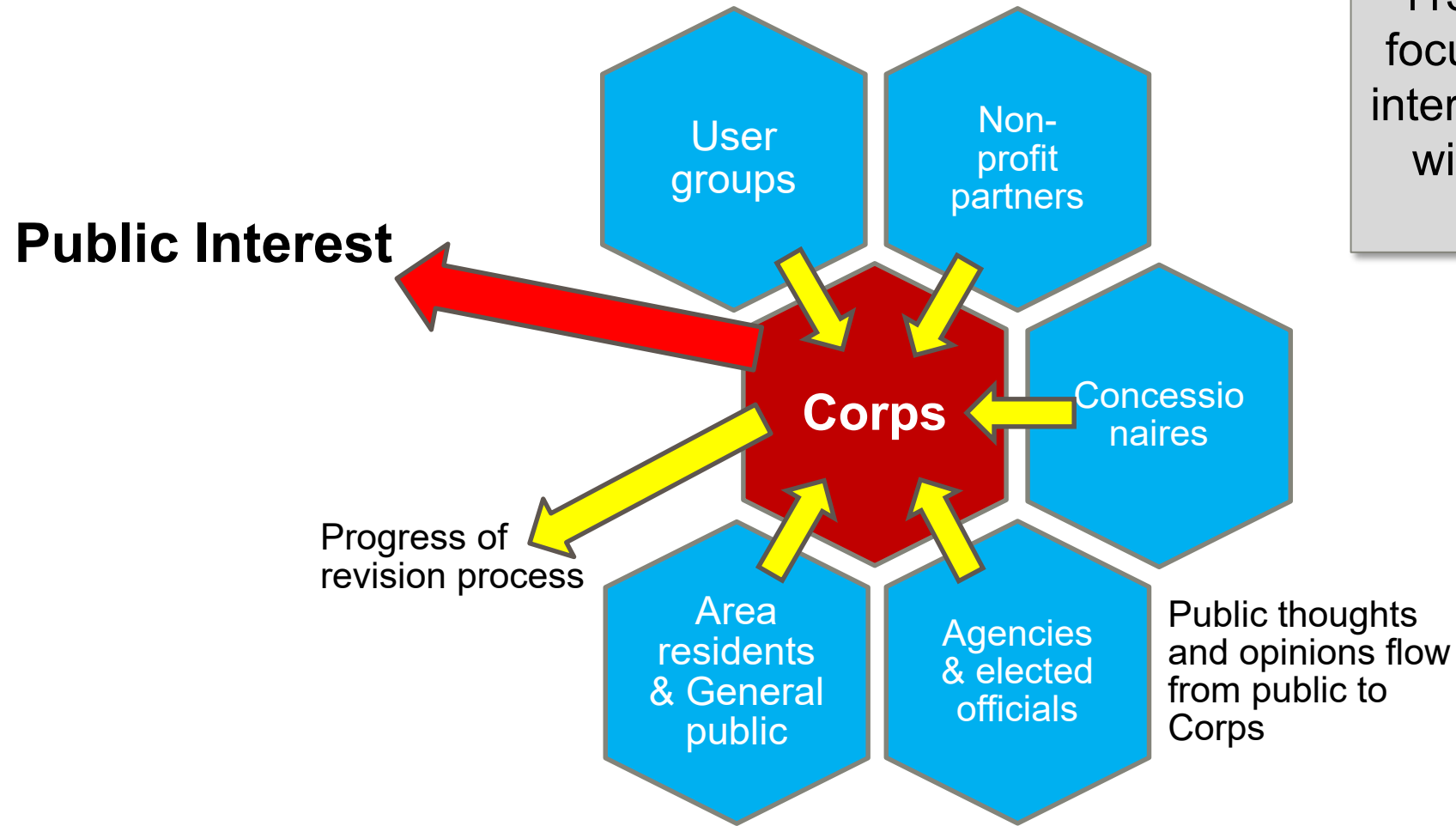
- (1) Survey and map shale barren plant communities;
- (2) Survey shale barrens for the presence of endemic Noctuid moth species;
- (3) Conduct acoustic bat surveys with a focus on continued documentation of the presence or absence of federally and state listed species;
- (4) Invertebrate surveys of aquatic insects and fresh water mussels in the headwaters, tributaries, and tail water portions of the Project.



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# PUBLIC INTEREST



Corps guidance found in EP 1130-2-550 requires us to focus on “expressed public interests that are compatible with **project authorized purposes**”.

# SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA: PUBLIC COMMENT

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- Nearly 1,000 public comments were received – over half were directly relatable to the re-classification of the Hawn's Bridge Area and the specific development request.
- 91% comments received via Public Meetings and the master plan web page, 5% comments received via pre-fabricated cards, and 4% received via written letters or email.
- Of all comments received, approx. 16% supported general recreational development.
- Of all comments received, approx. 27% opposed general recreational development.
- Of the comments received which specifically referenced Hawn's development, 3 out of every 4 did not support re-classification of the Hawn's Bridge Area to High Density Recreation.





# DRAFT PLAN – WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

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**CHAPTER 1** - Introduction

**CHAPTER 2** - Project Setting and Factors Influencing Management and Development

**CHAPTER 3** - Resource Objectives

**CHAPTER 4** - Land and Water Use Classifications

**CHAPTER 5** - Resource Plan

**CHAPTER 6** - Special Topics

**CHAPTER 7** - Agency and Public Coordination

**CHAPTER 8** - Summary of Recommendations

**CHAPTER 9** - Bibliography

**APPENDIX A** – Draft Environmental Assessment

**APPENDIX B** – Agency and Public Coordination

**APPENDIX C** – Land Allocation and Land Use Classification Maps

**APPENDIX D** – Park Maps (High Density Recreation, Future Recreation Areas, and Trails)

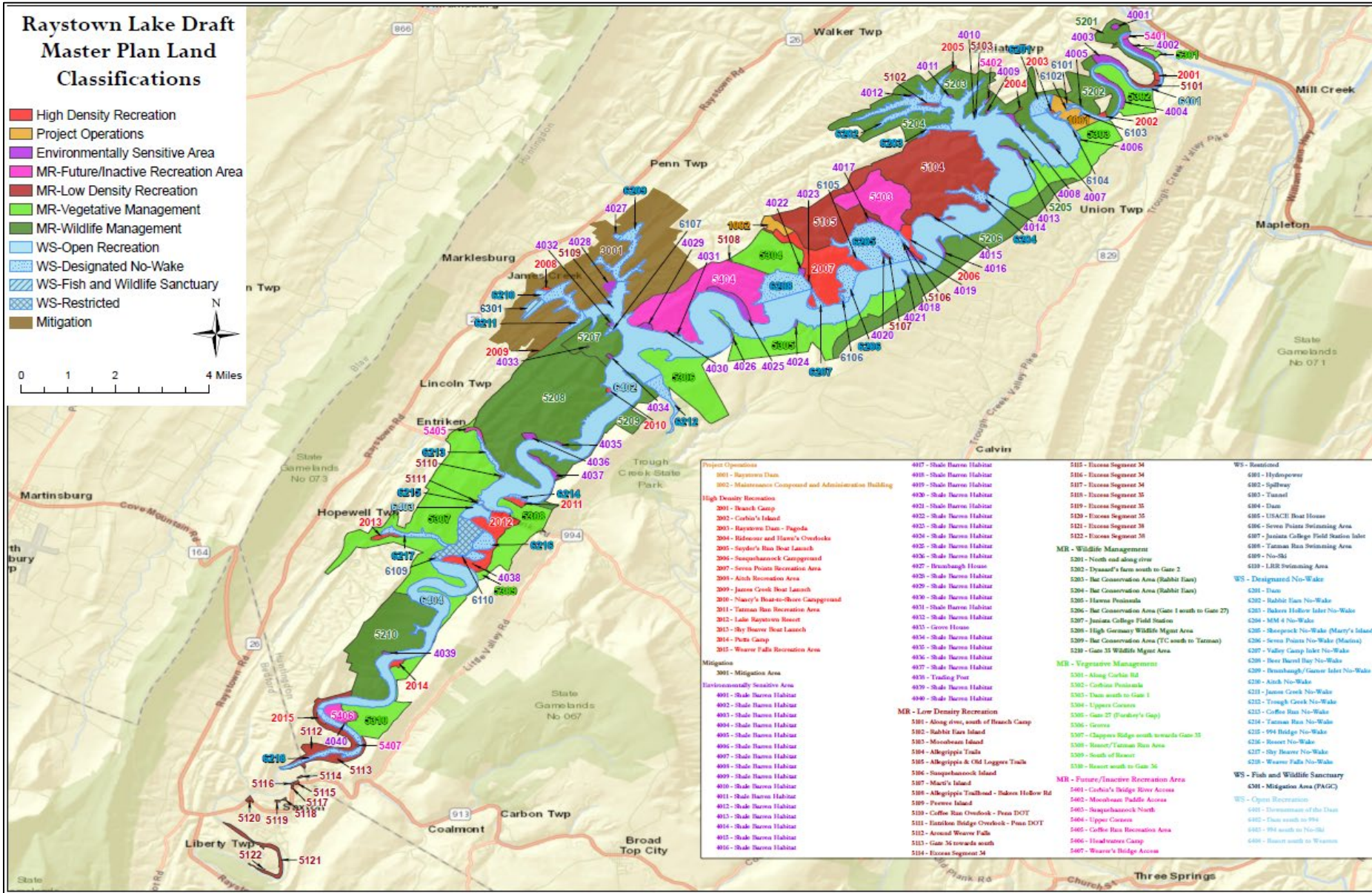
**APPENDIX E** – Utility Corridors

**APPENDIX F** – Land Inventory

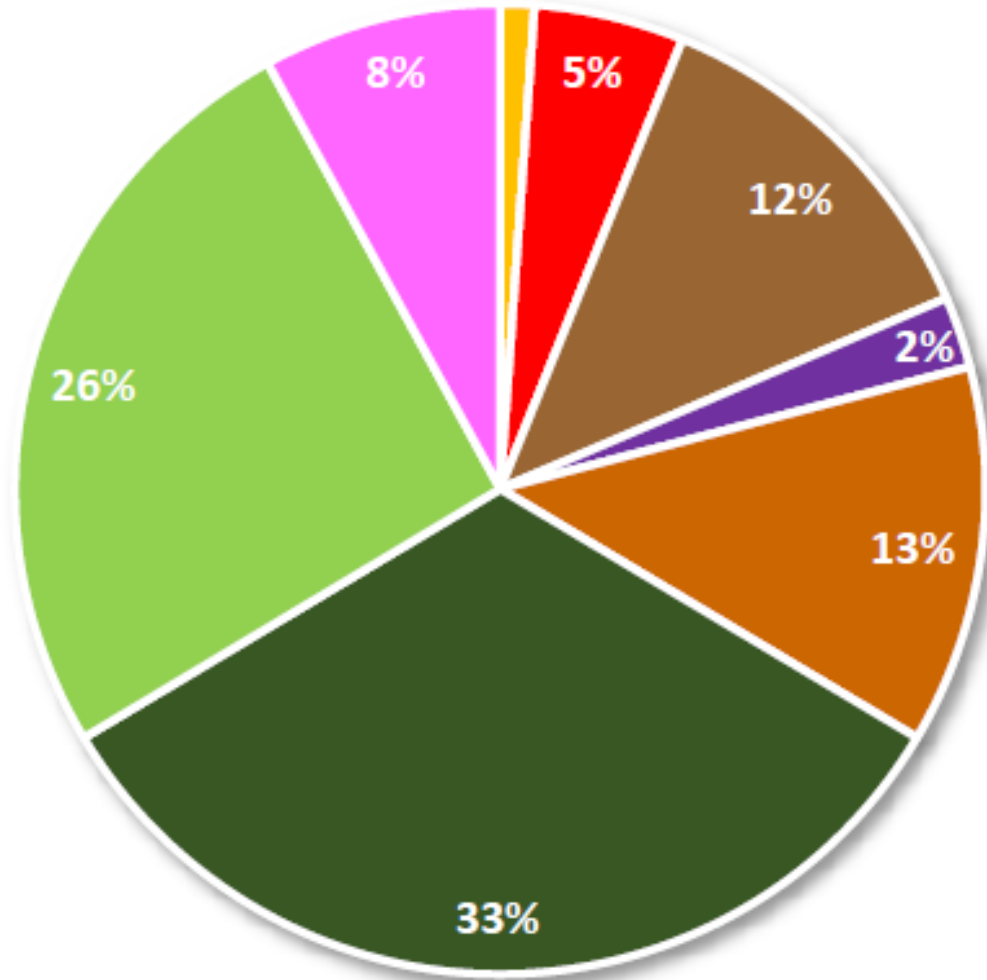
**APPENDIX G** – Boating Carrying Capacity Study

**APPENDIX F** – Biological Inventory

# LAND AND WATER USE CLASSIFICATIONS (CHAPTER 4 & APPENDIX C)



# LAND AND WATER USE CLASSIFICATIONS (CHAPTER 4)



## Land Classification Acres

- Project Operations
- High Density Recreation
- Mitigation
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- MRM Lands: Low Density Recreation
- MRM Lands: Wildlife Management
- MRM Lands: Vegetative Management
- MRM Lands: Future/Inactive Recreation

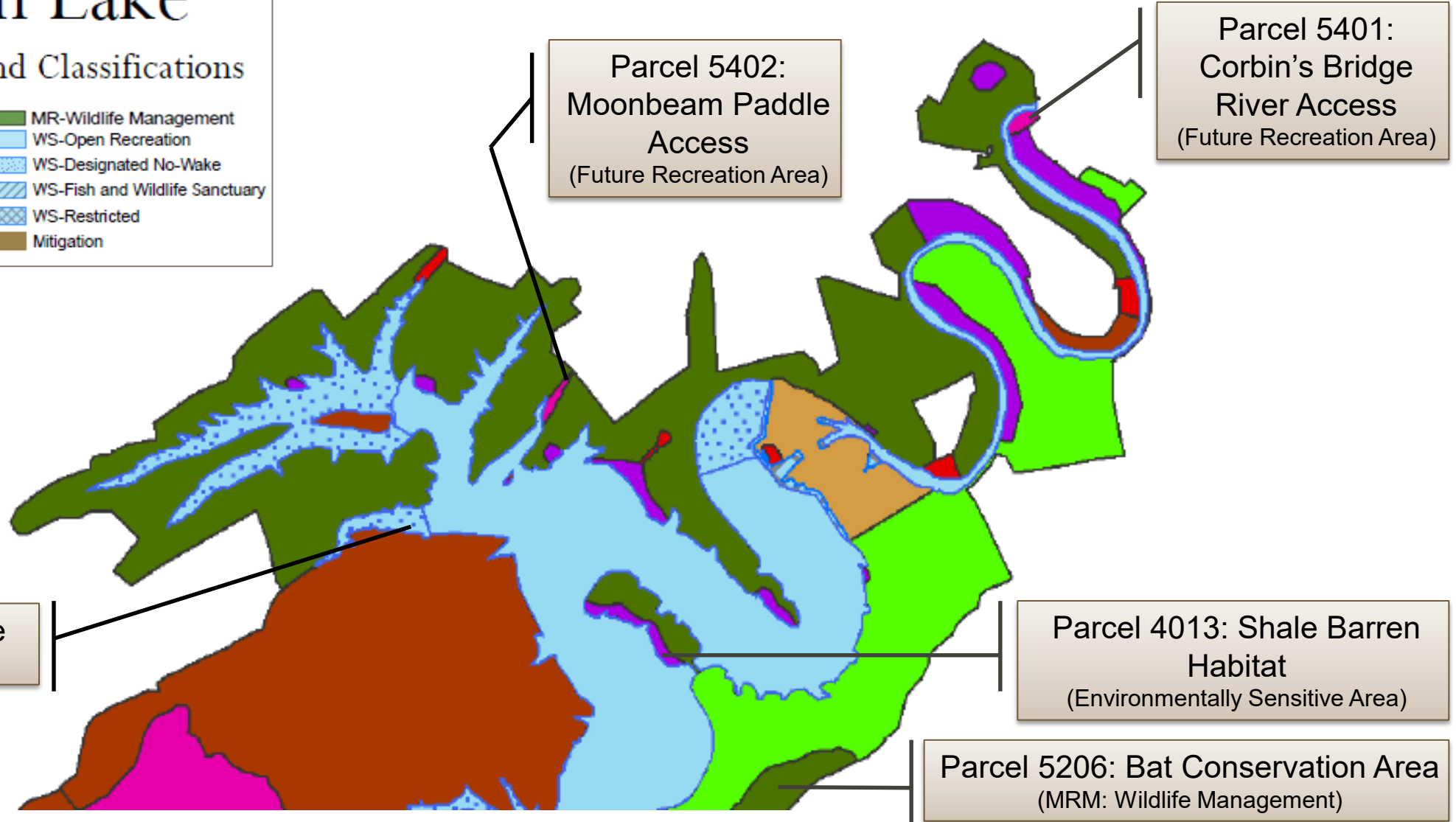


# LAND CLASSIFICATION EXAMPLES:

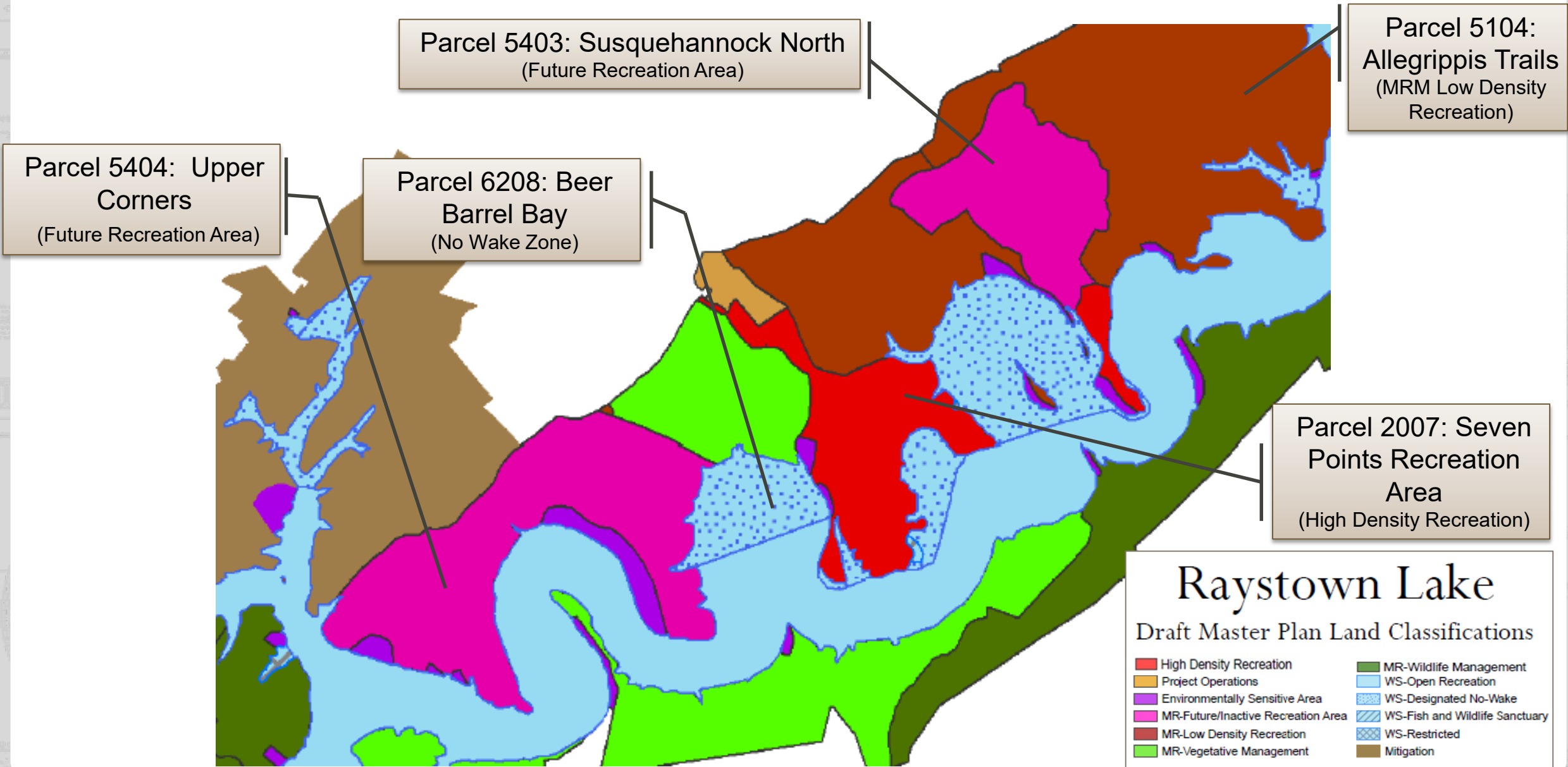
## Raystown Lake

### Draft Master Plan Land Classifications

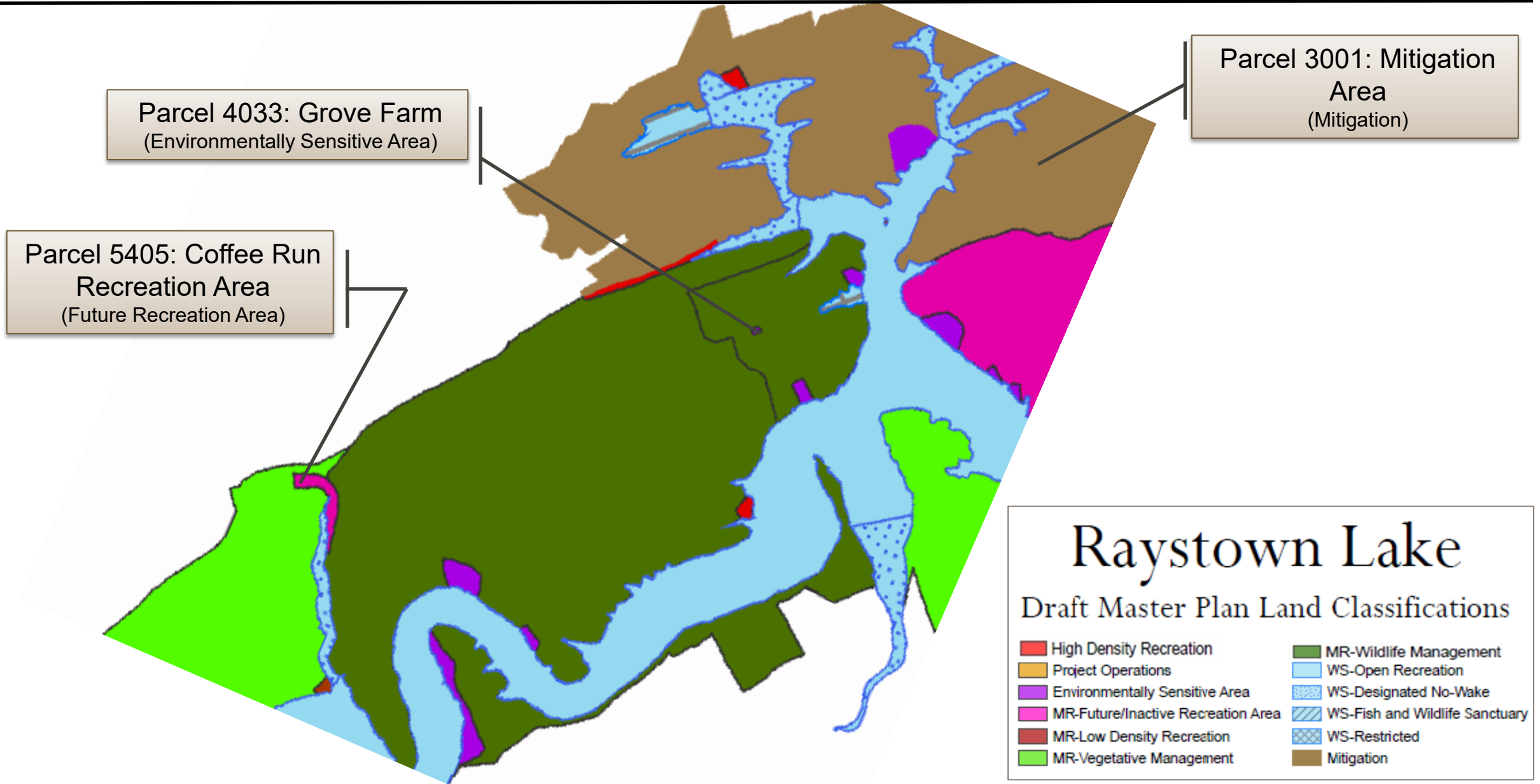
High Density Recreation	MR-Wildlife Management
Project Operations	WS-Open Recreation
Environmentally Sensitive Area	WS-Designated No-Wake
MR-Future/Inactive Recreation Area	WS-Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
MR-Low Density Recreation	WS-Restricted
MR-Vegetative Management	Mitigation



# LAND CLASSIFICATION EXAMPLES:



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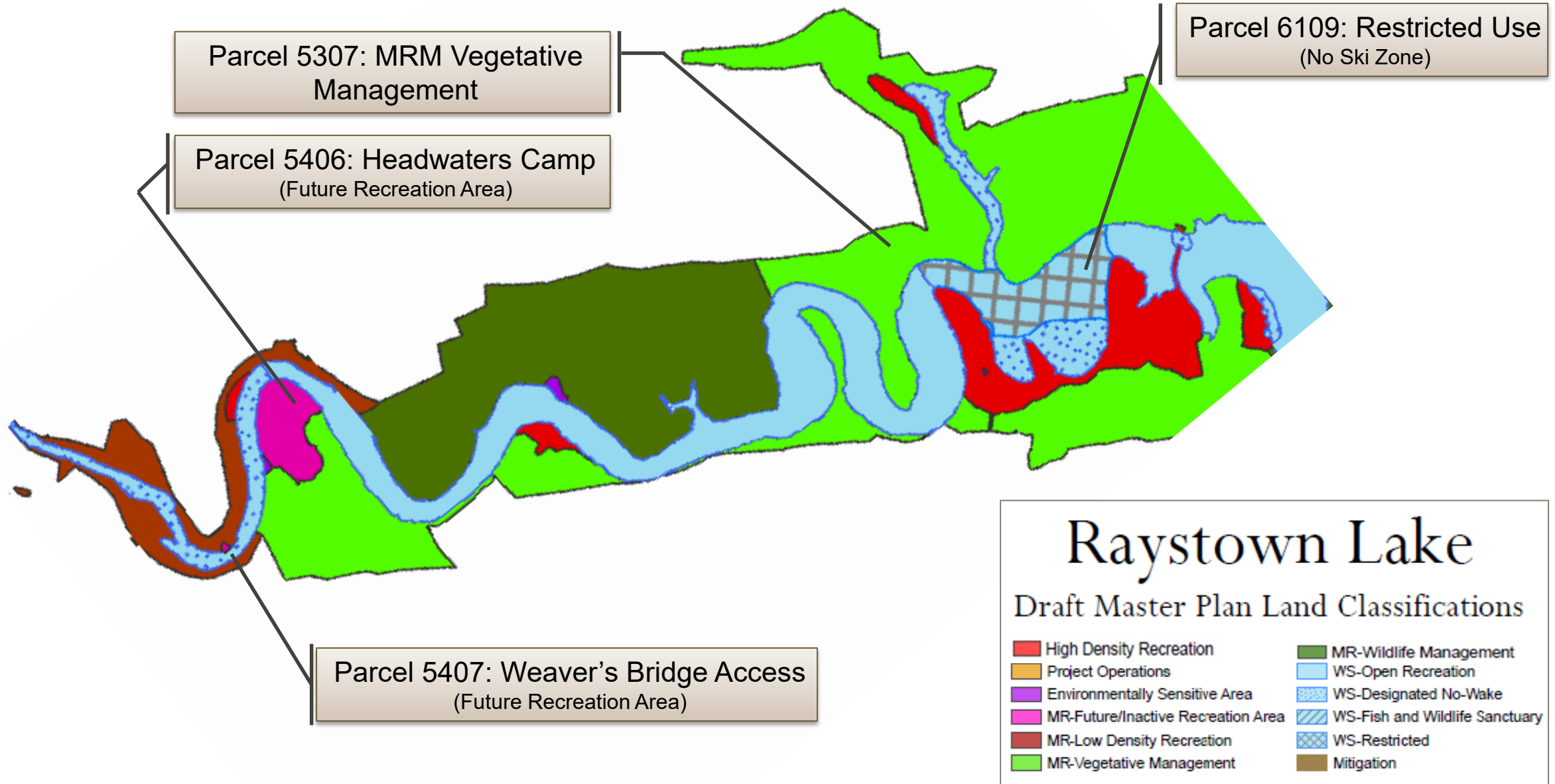
## Raystown Lake

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High Density Recreation	MR-Wildlife Management
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MR-Vegetative Management	Mitigation



# LAND CLASSIFICATION EXAMPLES:



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS (CHAPTER 8)

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- Continued focus on partnership efforts.
- Establishment of utility corridors.
- Does not include the addition of motorized boat access opportunities.
- Conducted a land inventory to determine the utilization of Project lands and identified potential excess parcels.
- Enhanced recreational opportunities for the public, foster environmental sustainability, and deliver a long-term management concept.





# WHAT IS NEXT

- 45 Days of Public Review and Comment
- Comment period ends December 7, 2019

## QUESTIONS:

Questions and comments can be sent to [RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil](mailto:RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil)

Updates and info can be found at:  
[www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/)

# RAYSTOWN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION

Stakeholder Update: October 2019

## Where to find the draft Master Plan

**Online:** You'll find the draft Master Plan available on our project website at:  
<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/>

**In-person:** You'll find the draft Master Plan in print-form at the following libraries:  
Huntingdon Public Library, 330 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652  
Saxton Community Library, 315 Front Street, Saxton, PA 16678

## How to submit an official comment

Comments can be submitted at any time during the official draft comment period from October 23, 2019 to December 7, 2019 through our project website at: [www.nab.usace.army.mil/Raystown-Master-Plan-Revision](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Raystown-Master-Plan-Revision), by email to [RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil](mailto:RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil) or by mail to:

*Raystown Lake Office  
6145 Seven Points Road  
Hesston, PA 16647*

## Where to learn more about the draft Master Plan

The entirety of the draft Master Plan is hundreds of pages and we recognize that reading all of those pages may not be feasible and/or preferred reading for some. So we've made a "highlights" of the plan available to view along with the plan. Our goal with the highlights of the draft Plan are to make it easier for anyone to get an overall look at the plan and provide a roadmap to where these pieces of information can be found within the draft Plan.

**Project Website:** You'll find our "highlights" information and other helpful resources for going through the draft Plan on our project website.

**Open House:** Project team members will be available for an Open House Nov. 3&4 to discuss specifics of the plan and answer any questions you may have. We'll be sending out more details on the Open House.

**Project Inbox:** Anytime you have a question, please feel free to ask it. You can do so by emailing [RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil](mailto:RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil) and one of our project team members will get back to you.



# THANK YOU

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