

Lake Ashtabula Project Master Plan Update

St. Paul District, Mississippi Valley Division

Public Scoping Meeting

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Purpose of this Meeting

- Fully describe the purpose and intent of a Master Plan
- Explain why revision is needed
- Describe the revision process
- Answer questions
- Seek your participation and input



Lake Ashtabula & Baldhill Dam

- **Authorizations**

- ▶ Flood Control Act of 1944 – originally authorized for water supply
- ▶ Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 – required consideration of recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement

- **Dam Construction**
1947 - 1951



Lake Ashtabula Dedication 1950



Lake Ashtabula Project



Missions

- Flood Risk Reduction
- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Environmental Stewardship

Size

- Project: 8,116 acres
- Normal Pool: 5,340 acres
- Flowage Easement: 666.2 acres



VALUE to the NATION FAST FACTS

Lake Level Report LAKE ASHTABULA AND BALDHILL DAM NORTH DAKOTA

RECREATION 2016 US Army Corps of Engineers — Value to the Nation

Natural and recreational resources at the LAKE ASHTABULA AND BALDHILL DAM NORTH DAKOTA Corps lake(s) provide social, economic and environmental benefits for all Americans. Following are facts related to the Corps role managing natural and recreational resources in LAKE ASHTABULA AND BALDHILL DAM NORTH DAKOTA.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Facilities in FY 2016

- 10 recreation areas
- 41 picnic sites
- 145 camping sites
- 4 playgrounds
- 3 swimming areas
- 6 number of trails
- 64 trail miles
- 0 fishing docks
- 6 boat ramps
- 30 marina slips

Public Outreach in FY 2016

- 2,470 public outreach contacts

Visits (person-trips) in FY 2016

- 296,982 in total
- 47,309 picnickers
- 14,200 campers
- 38,714 swimmers
- 21,121 water skiers
- 171,829 boaters
- 60,780 sightseers
- 129,484 anglers
- 0 hunters
- 142,534 others

Benefits in Perspective

By providing opportunities for active recreation, Corps lakes help combat one of the most significant of the nation's health problems: lack of physical activity.

Recreational programs and activities at Corps lakes also help strengthen family ties and friendships; provide opportunities for children to develop personal skills, social values, and self-esteem; and increase water safety.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Economic Data in FY 2016

Visitation per year resulted in:

- \$13,587,577 in visitor spending within 30 miles of the Corps lake.
- \$8,407,596 in sales within 30 miles of the Corps lake.
- 112 jobs within 30 miles of the Corps lake.
- \$2,694,297 in labor income within 30 miles of the Corps lake.
- \$3,800,285 in value added within 30 miles of the Corps lake.
- \$2,882,835 in National Economic Development Benefits.

With multiplier effects, visitor trip spending resulted in:

- \$11,337,813 in total sales.
- 135 jobs.
- \$3,534,611 in labor income.
- \$5,346,237 in value added (wages & salaries, payroll benefits, profits, rents, and indirect business taxes).

Benefits in Perspective

The money spent by visitors to Corps lakes on trip expenses adds to the local and national economies by supporting jobs and generating income. Visitor spending represents a sizable component of the economy in many communities around Corps lakes.

[How these numbers were calculated.](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Resources in FY 2016

- 2,582 land acres
- 5,234 water acres
- 78 shoreline miles

Benefits in Perspective

Recreation experiences increase motivation to learn more about the environment; understanding and awareness of environmental issues; and sensitivity to the environment.



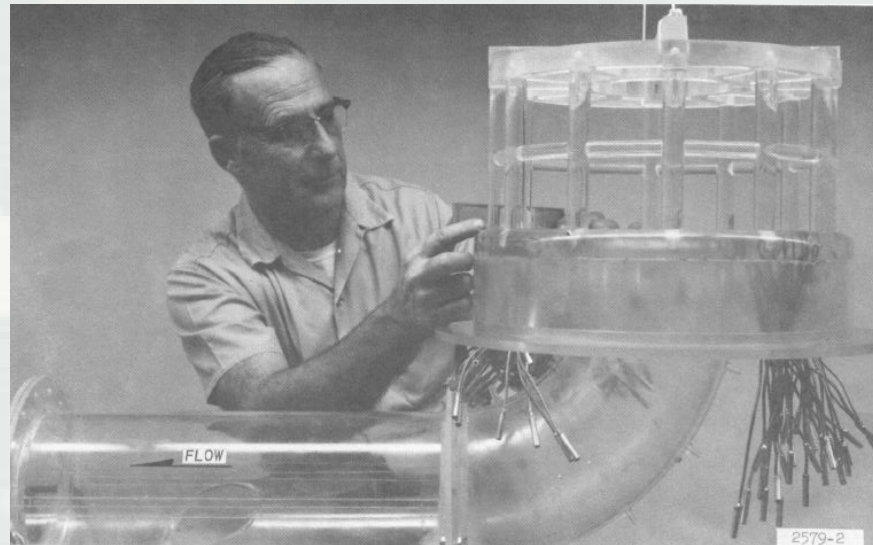
What is a Master Plan?

- ▶ Overall **land use management plan**
- ▶ Guides comprehensive **management and development** of:
 - Recreation
 - Natural Resources
 - Cultural Resources



The Master Plan does not...

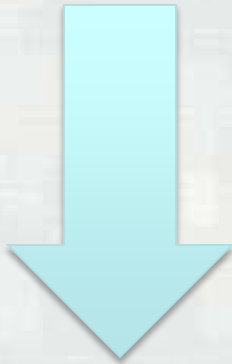
- Address the specifics plan for flood risk management or water level management. (Water Control Plan)
- Provide the details of design or daily project operations (Operational Management Plan (OMP)).



The Master Plan provides **authority**, NOT **funding**



■ Master Plan (MP)



- The “Mother” Planning Document
- Conceptual
- Reviewed every 5 years

■ Operational Management Plan (OMP)

- Detailed
- 5 –year work plan

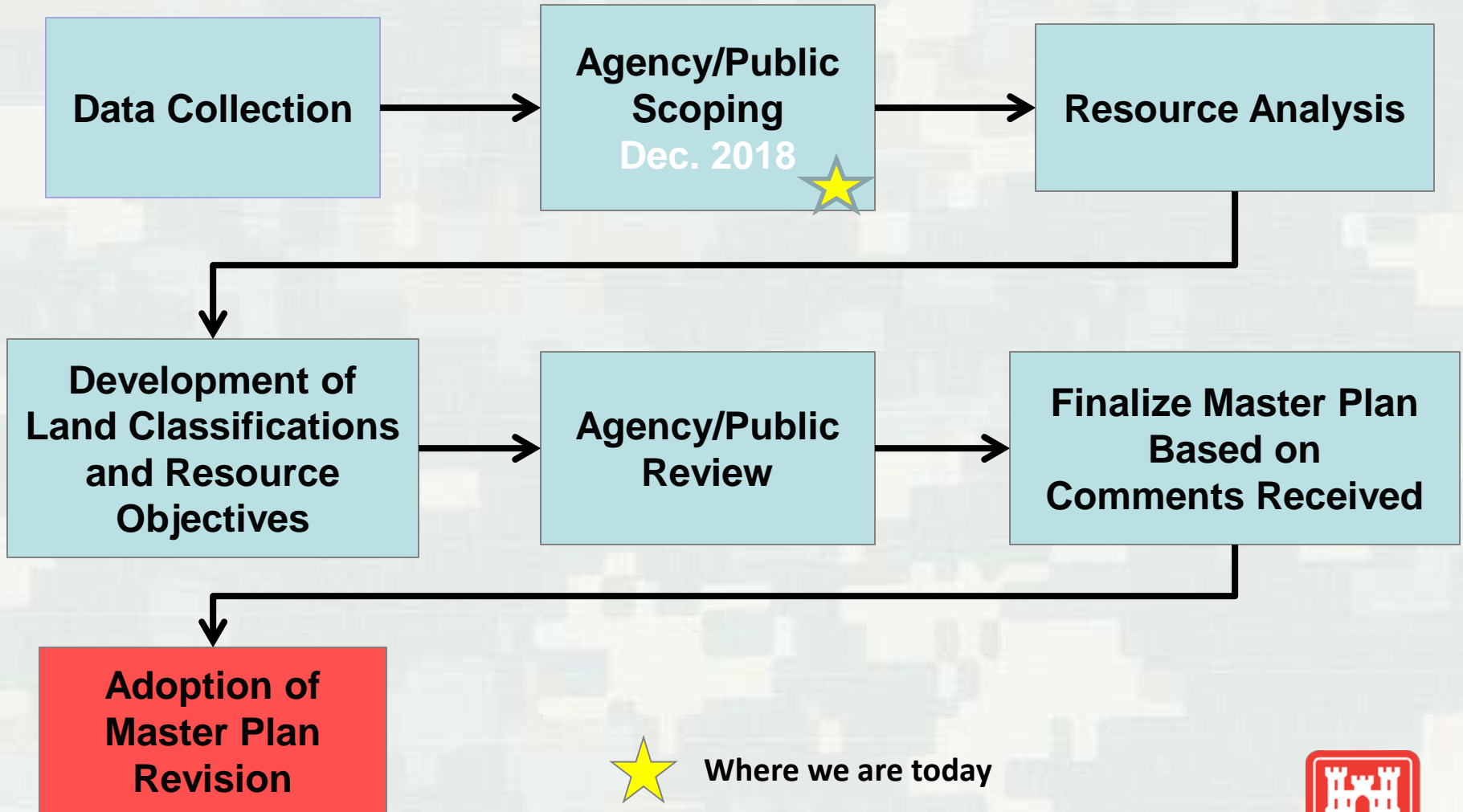


Why do we need a revision?

- Existing Master Plan was completed in 2006.
- To ensure effective management practices & be responsive to existing & future needs.
- User group changes in the region.
- To better reflect current Corps policies, regulations, & processes.



The Master Plan Revision Process



The Corps' vision for Lake Ashtabula

The land, water and recreational resources of the Lake Ashtabula Project will be managed to protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities that complement project resources for the benefit of present and future generations.



Major Accomplishments Since 2006

- New Water Bourne Facilities at East Ashtabula Crossing and Mel Reiman
- Updated electrical service at East Ashtabula Crossing, Eggert's and Mel Rieman
- Improved interpretation displays as a result of partnership with the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway
- Updated boat launching facilities at Eggert's Landing, Sibley and West Ashtabula Crossing
- Added two pollinator friendly food plots in wildlife management areas
- Continued renovation of woodland areas focusing on conversion of non-native to native plants
- New Playgrounds added at Sundstroms and Eggerts
- Continued Work on Boundary Maintenance
- Overlaid Asphalt at Mel Rieman Recreation Area
- Closed Katie Olsons Landing due to safety concerns with hill movement
- Added canoe access to the river below the Baldhill Dam



What changes are needed in the current Master Plan?

- Prepare new Resource Objectives
- Review Classification of all project lands
- Update Project Maps
- Prepare new Resource Plan
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared



Updated resource objectives

- ▶ That reflect environmental habitat and open space needs
- ▶ That reflect major recreation needs

Identified in the **North Dakota Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)** and through **public input.**



Land Classification

Project Operations:

- Lands required for the dam, spillway, storage yard, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for project operations.



Land Classification

High-Density Recreation:

- Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and locations for concessions, resorts, marinas, etc.



Land Classification

Multiple Resource Management:

Low-Density Recreation

- Minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreation use (e.g. hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).

Wildlife Management

- Fish and wildlife management activities.



Land Classification

Multiple Resource Management:

Vegetative Management

- Management activities for the protection and development of a specific vegetative cover.

Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas

- Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporary closed. These lands will be classified as multiple resource management in the interim.



Land Classification

Environmentally Sensitive Areas:

- Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure the sensitive areas are not adversely impacted.



Land Classification

Water Surface:

Restricted

- Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.

Designated No-Wake

- To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety.



Land Classification

Water Surface:

Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary

- Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.

Open Recreation

- Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use.



Projected Trends in Recreation Activities

- Outdoor Recreation Facilities Where Demand Exceeds Supply (*ND SCORP*)
- The facilities for which the highest proportion of providers say demand exceeds supply include:
 - ▶ 1. Paved multi-use trails (31%).
 - ▶ 2. Modern campgrounds (30%).
 - ▶ 3. RV/camper sites with electricity/water hookups (30%)
 - ▶ 4. Unpaved multi-use trails (27%).
 - ▶ 5. Playgrounds (27%).
 - ▶ 6. Modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (26%).
 - ▶ 7. Campgrounds with RV dump stations (23%).
 - ▶ 8. Mountain biking trails (23%).
 - ▶ 9. Off-highway vehicle (ATV, dirt bike or side by side) trails (22%).
 - ▶ 10. Group picnic shelters (22%).

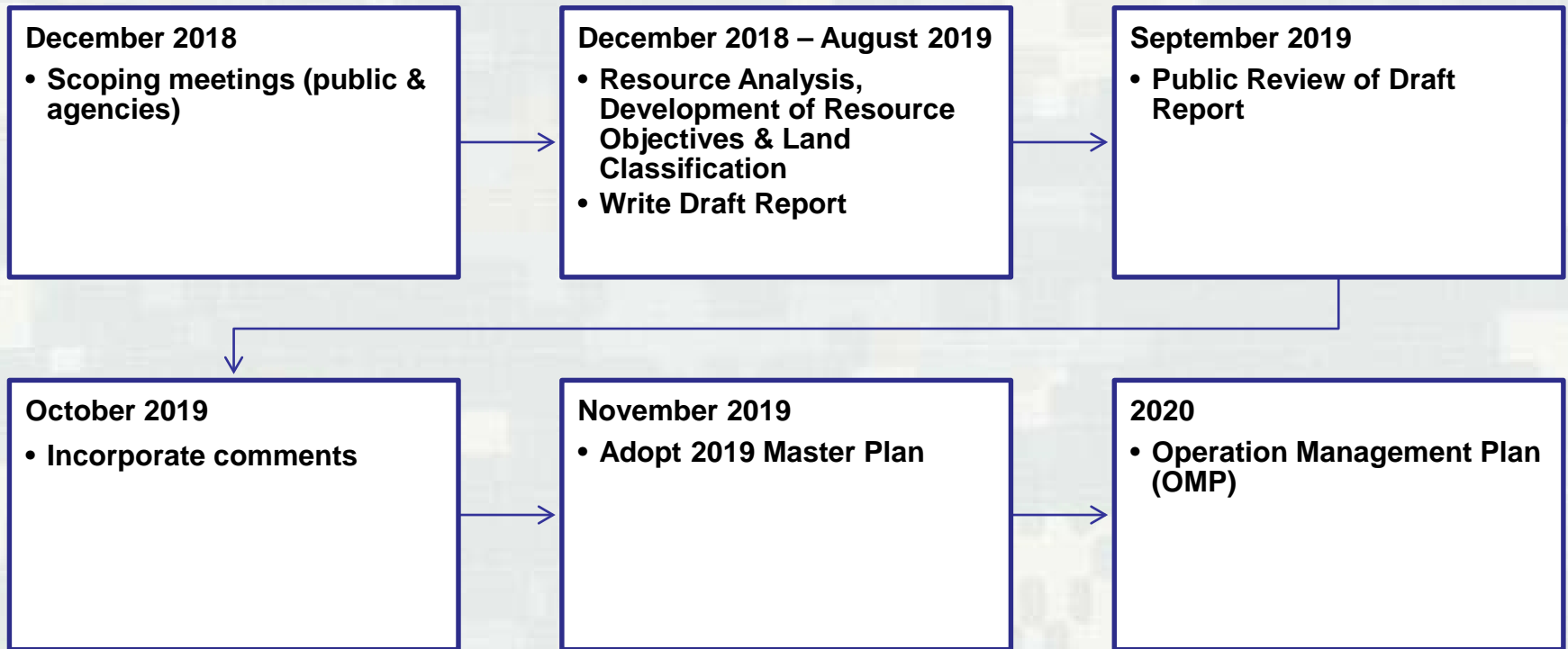


Projected Trends in Recreation Activities

- **Top User Needs in the Lake Ashtabula Region (ND SCORP)**
 - Non-Motorized Trails
 - Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities
 - Recreational Boating Facilities
 - Playgrounds
 - Picnic Areas
 - Open Space/Parks
 - Winter Sports Facilities
 - Motorized Trails
 - Swimming/Water Facilities
 - Shooting Sport Facilities
 - Golf Courses
 - Campgrounds
 - Sports Courts/Fields Specialty Facilities



Project Schedule



How can you help?

Please, provide your comments on how you would like to see the natural and recreational resources:

- Visit our website at:
 - ▶ https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Ashtabula_Homme_Master_Plans/
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later
- Drop off comments at the Lake Ashtabula Project Office



Questions

Please use our remaining time to visit with staff members, ask questions and help us produce an excellent Master Plan



Resource Objectives from 2006 Master Plan

General:

1. Water Quality
2. Environmental Interpretation

Project Operations:

Continue to operate the LAFCP with safe, efficient, cost effective procedures that provide the level of flood control and downstream flow regulation authorized

Recreation:

1. Accessibility – provide optimum recreational opportunities through universal access
2. Recreation, Low Density – continue to provide opportunities for high quality, low density types
3. Recreation, Intensive and Day Use – maximize existing project recreation resource potential
4. Boating – continue to maintain and modernize boating facilities and to educate the public on importance of water safety
5. Camping – continue to provide high-quality camping experiences for users

Fisheries:

1. Game Fish – in cooperation with USFWS, develop and maintain high quality fishery for warm water games fish, and continue stocking programs
2. Non-game Fish – in cooperation with USFWS, continue management methods and techniques to limit reproduction of rough fish species



2006 Resource Objectives

Wildlife:

1. General – efforts to improve habitat quality and restore animal populations should continue in cooperation with federal, state, local, private agencies
2. Waterfowl – in concurrence with regional needs and desires, and in accordance with the NAWMP, restore and maintain high quality levels of waterfowl reproduction and diversity in nesting habitat environments ‘
3. Habitat – improve habitat quality and diversity should continue in cooperation with state, local, federal agencies, with goal of reaching and maintaining a sustainable yield/level that will meet the demands realized by the achievement of the objectives set forth
4. Threatened or Endangered Species or Habitats – comply with federal, state, local laws, regulations and ordinances to prevent adverse impacts to listed species or their habitats

Vegetation:

1. Woodland – establish a forested environment that will provide the quality, beauty, and privacy necessary to satisfy the desires of visitors to project lands
2. Prairie – efforts to restore these areas to their original condition by elimination of exotic species and the reintroduction of native greases and forbs will be continued.
3. Wetlands – emphasis in managing wetlands will be on restoration and enhancement of waterfowl nesting and brood rearing habitat
4. Threatened or Endangered Plant Species – comply with federal, state, local laws, regulations and ordinances to prevent adverse impacts to listed species or their habitats

Cultural Resources:

1. Comply with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances that pertain to the protection of cultural resources to ensure that known and undiscovered resources are not disturbed as a result of District activities at the project.



2006 Management Unit Resource Objectives

General – continue to upgrade every recreation area in terms of usability, sustainability, ease of maintenance, and aesthetics.

Recreation Areas:

1. Baldhill Dam Operations Areas – eliminate accessibility deficits in this area, provide safe public access
2. Mel Rieman Recreation Area – initiate plans to better use project resources – refine and concentrate resources
3. Sundstrom’s Landing – maintain current level of services and amenities; reorganize site layout, siting facilities with emphasis on accessibility
4. Katie Olson’s Landing – maintain current level of service and amenities
5. Eggerts Landing – initiate a plan to modernize site facilities
6. East Ashtabula Crossing – initiate a plan to refine and concentrate resources, maintain current levels of services and amenities for now, but investigate the possibility of splitting facilities between east and west crossings.
7. West Ashtabula Crossing – initiate a plan to modernize existing resources and expand the level of amenities, enlarging boat launch facility, construction of modern playground, and paving site road should be priorities.
8. Sibley (Keyes) Crossing – Maintain the current level of services and amenities.

Wildlife Management Areas:

1. General – continue to improve habitat available in each of the wildlife management units through habitat manipulation and management of the land use.
2. Katie Olson – rehabilitate existing woodland and maintain existing diverse rangeland acreage, implement erosion control measures, continue wildlife feeding program; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge.



2006 Management Unit Resource Objectives

3. Baldhill Creek – maintain native rangeland; improve shoreline vegetation; rehabilitate existing woodland; implement erosion control measures; continue wildlife feeding program; implement waterfowl nesting habitat enhancement program; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
4. Old Highway 26 – maintain existing native rangeland; increase acreage of woodland; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge; implement program to reclaim wetland via fencing/exclusion of cattle.
5. Sibley – rehabilitate existing woodland; reduce predator access on nesting island; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
6. Luverne North – improve native rangeland; rehabilitate existing woodland; improve shoreline vegetation and habitat; create habitat for early season migratory waterfowl broods via construction of sub-impoundment; improve pedestrian access; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
7. Sheyenne East – Maintain native rangeland via restrictive haying leases; prevent introduction of leafy spurge via inspection
8. Hannaford – enhance wood duck nesting potential; re-establish area of riparian woodland habitat; maintain native rangeland via restrictive leases; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
9. Karnak – maintain existing rangeland; prevent introduction of leafy spurge via inspection
10. Luverne South – establish riparian woodland habitat; re-establish areas of habitat via fencing and cattle exclusion; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
11. Martin – Continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge using herbicides and biological control (flea beetles); increase fingerling/fry habitat
12. Sheyenne West – prevent cattle encroachment and leafy spurge infestation via inspection
13. Creek View – Reclaim areas of native habitat via fencing and cattle exclusion; continue efforts to eradicate leafy spurge
14. Wieland – maintain area of native rangeland; introduce property signage in this area to prevent encroachment
15. Johnsons – maintain and improve a diverse native rangeland and woodland habitat, establish various tree plantings on the shoreline and upland areas, and prevent the spread of noxious weeds

