



News Release

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District**

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Public Affairs

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Corps of Engineers and Forest Service solicit public input on draft of revised reservoir operating plans

SAINT PAUL, MINN. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and the U.S. Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest, will host five public meetings Aug. 21-24 in northern Minnesota to review a preliminary draft of the proposed Headwaters' reservoir operating plan and to solicit comments regarding the plan's potential impacts and acceptability. Potential system-wide and site-specific impacts and benefits, along with the inherent trade-offs will be a focus of the meetings.

Reservoirs being looked at in this study include Cass, Winnibigoshish, Leech, Mud/Goose, Pokegema, Sandy, Whitefish Chain and Gull lakes.

The meetings will be held in an open house format with a short presentation repeated every half hour, followed by opportunities to ask questions and gather comments from those attending. Participants are welcome to attend any meeting location and at any time during a meeting.

The public meetings will be held at five locations along the Upper Mississippi River:

Cass Lake: Monday, Aug. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pike Bay Town Hall, 15514 State Highway 371 NW

Aitkin: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1-3 p.m., at Aitkin City Hall, 109 1st Ave. NW

Grand Rapids: Tuesday, August 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 Pokegema Ave.

Walker: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 5-8 p.m., at the Walker AmericInn, 907 Highway 371 N.

Brainerd: Thursday, Aug. 24, 5-7:30 p.m., Administration Building of the Gull Lake Recreation Area, 100867 E. Gull Lake Dr.

Public comments will be used to further develop the proposed plan, which is scheduled for public release this winter in a draft project report and an Environment Impact Statement.

For more information, contact Steven Clark at 651-290-5278, or John O'Leary, Headwaters operations manager, at 218-327-4027. Information can also be obtained by visiting the ROPE website at: www.mvp.usace.army.mil/rope

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, serves the American public in the areas of environmental enhancement, navigation, flood damage reduction, water and wetlands regulation, recreation sites and disaster response. It contributes around \$134 million to the five-state district economy. The more than 650 employees work at more than 40 sites in five upper-Midwest states. For more information, see www.mvp.usace.army.mil.