



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

For Immediate Release:
June 20, 2011

Contact:
E. Patrick Robbins, 251-690-2511
E. Patrick Robbins@usace.army.mil

USACE Shoreline Management Plan update for Walter F. George Lake on hold

Mobile, Ala. – The Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today they have placed the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) update for Walter F. George Lake on hold.

“During the 45 day comment period we received a large number of issues and concerns about the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment and about some of the proposed changes in the draft Shoreline Management Plan,” Chief Public Affairs Officer E. Patrick Robbins, said. “In order to allow sufficient time to fully examine the issues raised, we could not meet the current schedule, so we are suspending the process.”

This suspension will also allow the update process to benefit from a regional effort by the South Atlantic Division to standardize SMPs across the nine projects and four Corps Districts that have such plans within the division.

“In the interim, to preserve the ability to move to regional consistency, new shoreline permits at Walter F. George Lake that authorize underbrushing will be issued for a one-year , fee prorated term and require strict adherence to the conditions in the Walter F. George Lake 2001 SMP,” Robbins said. “Existing permits that expire during the suspension period will be reissued for the normal term in accordance with the existing SMP.”

When the SMP update process is begun again, a revised schedule will be provided to the public and will provide for public meetings and a new comment period to ensure everyone has the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed changes.

“Our goal through this process is to meet our responsibility as stewards of public property. The long term benefits of a healthy lake for the general public and adjacent property owners are paramount to our mission,” Robbins said.

--30--