



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

APR 28 2009

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS AND OPERATIONS
PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Moratorium on Adding/Creating New Recreation Areas and Changing a Project Site Area (PSA) Type in Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL)

1. Effective immediately, a moratorium on adding/creating new recreation areas and changing a PSA type in OMBIL is in place until the actions noted in paragraph 5 are completed.
2. There have been numerous requests from projects in recent months to add and/or delete a PSA or to change the designation of various PSAs in OMBIL. These requests generally involve combining existing recreation areas into one area, dividing an existing area into two or more different areas, or changing the PSA area type from a non-recreation category to a recreation category or vice versa. A great many of these changes are being requested as part of a legitimate and understandable effort to better align visitation reporting with the way that project work and budget plans are formulated.
3. These requests are also coming at a time when the recreation program is starting to lay the groundwork for new visitation surveys. The process that will lead to new visitation surveys is kicking off shortly with a recreation area and traffic meter evaluation exercise. As part of this exercise, projects will have the opportunity to review their current recreation areas and identify areas where changes are needed to improve visitation estimation or reporting. This creates an opportunity to roll project-requested changes and changes suggested by the assessment process into a single step.
4. Given the current link between OMBIL, RecBEST, RecSTATUS, and VERS data systems, there is a clear need for guidance defining a recreation area.
5. With this in mind, the OMBIL Recreation User's Group and Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) staff request a moratorium on adding/creating new recreation areas and changing a PSA type in OMBIL, until:
 - all projects complete the recreation area evaluation portion of VERS Modernization initiative (submission deadline is 31 October 2009), and
 - guidance is issued from Headquarters on the definition of a recreation area.

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After these actions have occurred, ERDC staff and/or the OMBIL Recreation User's Group will work with each project to ensure that changes in recreation area/PSA designations and visitation monitoring setup are completed before new surveys begin.

6. Incorporating requests for changes in recreation areas into the visitation modernization effort will eliminate the need to un-do recreation PSAs created now, without the benefit of definitional guidance or the results of the recreation area and traffic meter evaluation exercise. It also eliminates the need for project, OMBIL, and ERDC staff to coordinate all of the steps necessary to establish interim monitoring and reporting procedures for the new areas that are likely to be short-lived.

7. The POC in CECW-CO for the Recreation Business component of OMBIL is Mr. Pep Persio, (202) 761-0036. The Chairperson of the Recreation User's Group is Ms. Dena Williams, (615) 736-7827. Questions regarding OMBIL/Recreation may also be directed to respective POC's and User's Group members.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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