



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

NOV 30 2015

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND  
DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Revisions to ER and EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 3, Master Plans

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to make interim clarifications to the ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 3 Master Plans.
2. These clarifications and guidance are effective immediately and will be incorporated in the subject ER and EP when they are revised.
3. Background. After the subject ER and EP were published in Jan 2013, funding for revision of outdated master plans was given a high priority within the Operations community and many Districts initiated the revision of one or more master plans. During this time, field personnel identified the need for clarification of page limits and terms of reference for master plan documents.
4. Revisions.
  - a. Page limits. Recommended page limits for master plan chapters are:
    - (1) Chapter 1 - Introduction (10 pages)
    - (2) Chapter 2 - Project Setting and Factors Influencing Resource Management & Development (30 pages)
    - (3) Chapter 3 - Resource Objectives (5 pages)
    - (4) Chapter 4 - Land Allocation & Land Classification (10 pages)
    - (5) Chapter 5 - Resource Plan (50 pages)
    - (6) Chapter 6 - Special Topics/ Issues/ Considerations (15 pages)
    - (7) Chapter 7 – Agency and Public Coordination (10 pages)
    - (8) Chapter 8 – Summary of Recommendations (as needed)
    - (9) Chapter 9 – Bibliography / References (as needed)

(10) Appendixes (as needed)

b. Use of the term Design Memorandum. The term "Design Memorandum" is no longer used in the Corps and will not be used in the title of any revised Master Plans or subsequent supplement. The Design Memorandum system was discontinued in 1999 as a way of organizing the many phases of a civil works project. It is appropriate to reference prior Design Memorandums in the text of a revised Master Plan, but the term should not be used in the title of the revised Master Plan.

c. Appendix V and EC 1165-2-209. EC 1165-2-209 has been replaced by EC 1165-2-214 (Civil Works Review Policy). However, the intent and content of Appendix V has not changed. In addition, Paragraph 4a of Appendix V should read V-1 not G-1. For complete guidance on the review requirements dictated by EC 1165-2-214 refer to Memorandum dated December 20, 2012 Subject: Programmatic Review Plan for Routine Operations and Maintenance Products.

d. Need for a Natural Area Land Classification. There is confusion over the use of the land classification "Environmentally Sensitive Areas." There have been suggestions to establish another classification for "Natural Areas." Natural Areas was a classification used prior to 1987 when ER 1120-2-400 was revised and the term Natural Area was replaced by the term "Environmentally Sensitive Area."

Natural Areas were defined as "fee lands set aside for the preservation of scientific, ecological, historical, archeological or visual values. Lands managed to protect rare and endangered species of flora or fauna will be allocated as natural areas. Normally, limited or no development is allowed on such areas. Such lands may or may not be available for low-density use."

Environmentally Sensitive Areas are defined as "areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to just lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act or applicable State statutes. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted. Typically limited or no development of public use is allowed on these lands. No agricultural or grazing uses are permitted on these lands unless necessary for specific resource management benefit, such as prairie restoration. These areas are typically distinct parcels located within another, and perhaps larger, land classification, area."

The only significant difference between this prior "natural areas" classification and the current "environmentally sensitive areas" is the term "values" being changed to "features." Some have commented that a "feature," in the current Environmentally Sensitive Area definition, is a comparatively small spot on the landscape and does not apply to larger areas. The PDT assigned to develop training material for the revision of master plans recognized the subjectivity of this classification and provided expanded guidance in Module 8 of the training material to address this definition. This material is posted on the NRM Gateway and should be used by all PDTs working on master plan

revisions. For the immediate future no change will be made to the current land classifications but CW-CO-N will monitor this topic as more master plans are revised.

e. Acreage of Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The definition of Environmentally Sensitive Areas states that “these areas are typically distinct parcels within another, and perhaps larger, land classification area.” Some have misunderstood this to mean that the ESA acreage should be included in the acreage total for the surrounding land classification. This is not correct; the Environmentally Sensitive Area acreage is a stand-alone acreage that is not part of the surrounding land classification.

f. Inundation of Private Lands There is no land classification to appropriately address private lands inundated during project operations, possibly as a result of inaccurate government estimates, shoreline erosion, or other causes. If this situation is a significant issue at a project it should be identified and addressed in Chapter 6 - Special Topics/ Issues/ Considerations of the project master plan. The areas in question can be identified on the master plan land classification maps or a special map to be referenced in Chapter 6.

If it is determined that a real estate interest in the private land(s) is needed for project purposes, the government should acquire the necessary interest. In recognition of the complexity of these situations, project personnel are to work closely with Real Estate Division and Office of Counsel before taking action.

5. The point of contact for this guidance is Ms. Mary Coulombe, Chief, Natural Resources Management, and can be reached at (202) 761-1228 or [Mary.J.Coulombe@usace.army.mil](mailto:Mary.J.Coulombe@usace.army.mil).



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