

MASTER PLAN TRAINING

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION

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Key Concepts:

- What is a Master Plan?
- What does it do for a Project?
- Why is the Master Plan Important?
- National Statistics
- Relationship between Master Plans, OMPs, and SMPs



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WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.



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WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

- It is a dynamic operational document projecting what could and should happen over the life of the project and is flexible based on changing conditions
- Prior to 1999, Master Plans were considered (and named accordingly) to be one of numerous Design Memorandums prepared during project planning and construction phases. The Design Memorandum system was abandoned in 1999.
- It presents broad, conceptual resource management objectives and land classifications on project lands whether managed by the Corps or by others
- It does not focus on facility design details or details of daily project administration
- It ensures compliance with Federal law, policy, and regulation applicable to environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation management
- It is kept current through supplementation as needed or through periodic revision



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MASTER PLAN GOALS

The primary goals of the MP are to prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts. Surface water recreational use may be addressed at some projects. MP goals include the following:

- Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes
- Protect and manage project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs
- Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public demands created by the project itself while sustaining project natural resources
- Recognize the particular qualities, characteristics and potentials of the project
- Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other state and regional goals and programs



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WHY ARE MASTER PLANS IMPORTANT?

- Provides consistency in a world of frequently changing leadership
- Helps direct project use and development to support environmental sustainability and compatible outdoor recreation
- Prevents uninformed reactions to proposals for short-term economic gain that are incompatible with project missions
- Positions the project to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities
- Supports projects under intense pressure of competing interests



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MASTER PLAN INTERFACE WITH OTHER BUSINESS LINES

- MP's do not plan or approve changes or improvements to **Flood Risk Management, Hydropower, Navigation, & Water Supply**
- However, MP's must recognize, reflect, and be compatible with all other business lines



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RECENT HISTORY OF CIVIL WORKS MASTER PLANS

- In 2003 the Corps adopted a national performance measure master plans to be compliant with criteria specified in ER and EP 1130-2-550.
- In 2007 the Army Inspector General determined the master planning process for operational lakes to be “dysfunctional.....projects are not planning for the future”
- In 2009 CECW-ON convened a PDT to review current MP guidance, make recommendations for improvement, and implement approved recommendations



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GOALS OF THE 2009 PDT (PER APPROVED PMP)

- Recommendations to improve existing regs
- Recommend methods to streamline process
- Identify need for changes to MP process
- Determine responsible lead to develop MPs
- Update definitions in ER/EP
- Identify procedures to improve MP use (develop training material)
- Evaluate relationships between MPs and related documents and guidance



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MAJOR RECENT INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE NATIONAL STATUS OF MASTER PLANS

- In 2011, new Master Plan performance criteria/data entry was developed and implemented in the Environmental Stewardship (ES) component of OMBIL
- In 2012 CECW-ON began the process to prepare new Environmental Stewardship budgeting guidance to, among other initiatives, place emphasis on revision of high-priority master plans. In part, this effort requires some ES budget packages to be moved to other business lines which “caused” the need for the budget package (such as a budget package related to a Biological Opinion for an endangered species)
- The OD Master Plan PDT successfully revised ER and EP 1130-2-550 which was approved for implementation in January 2013
- For FY-15 funds were reserved at the top of the ES budget with the intention of funding the initiation of numerous high priority master plan revisions across the nation

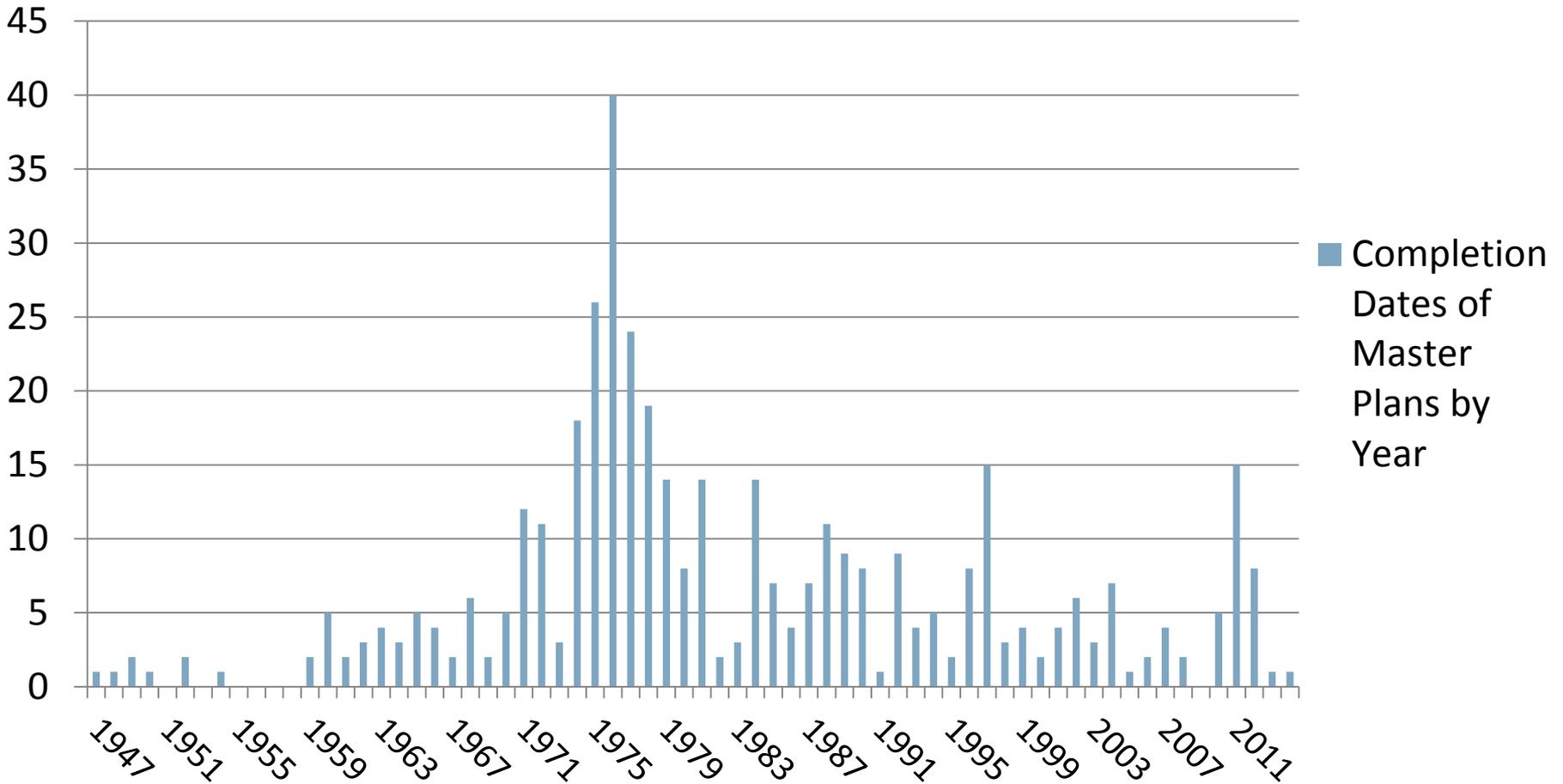


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CORPS WIDE STATISTICS

Date of Master Plan Completion across the Corps



Source: OMBIL FY13 Data



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MASTER PLAN AND THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Master Plan (MP)

- The “Mother” Planning Document
- Conceptual
- Requires Public Involvement and requires NEPA compliance
- Guides development of the OMP to implement O&M of the project
- **Reviewed every 5 years**
- **General goal is an effective lifespan of 15-25 years**

Operational Management Plan (OMP)

- Developed after the Master Plan – guided by and consistent with MP
- Details programs and activities to implement the concepts of the Master Plan
- Public Involvement limited with exceptions (e.g. SMP)
- Four main sections to the OMP
 1. Natural Resources Management
 2. Recreation Management
 3. Other Project Programs
 4. Shoreline Management* (append current shoreline management plan to OMP)
- Subsections under Sections 1, 2 & 4 above, address all applicable programs within a 5-year work plan
- Annual update (annual work plan) required
- *as applicable to the project



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RELATIONSHIP OF MASTER PLANS TO OMP AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMP)

- **Master Plans** – The “overarching” concept document that should dictate how project lands and water surface will be managed. Revision requires significant public involvement. Prepared by an interdisciplinary team.
- **OMPs** – A task oriented plan that implements the guiding concepts of the Master Plan. Prepared by project staff. Public involvement not required (but may be advantageous).
- **SMPs** – Focused on management of allowable private activities as set forth in ER 1130-2-406 (docks and vegetation modification). Subservient to land classifications in the MP. Revision requires public involvement and is normally led by project and Operations staff. For organizational purposes is included as a section within the OMP.



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RELATIONSHIP OF MASTER PLANS TO OMP AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMP)

- Guidance for SMP is set forth in ER 1130-2-406 and was established through a formal rule making process. This guidance is a part of Title 36 (see Part 327.30). Therefore, the guidance is not flexible as is the “policy guidance” for Master Plans....a big distinction!!
- ER 1130-2-406 states, in part, that “These (shoreline) allocations should compliment, but certainly not contradict, the land classifications in the project master plan.” This language gives Master Plans a trump card over changes in SMP.



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RELATIONSHIP OF MASTER PLANS TO OMP AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMP)

Should MP and SMP be revised simultaneously?

While it may seem more efficient to revise them at the same time, the sometimes overwhelming and very vocal pressure from adjacent landowners may cause the MP process to take a back seat to the SMP. For example, a segment of shoreline may need to be classified as Environmentally Sensitive in the MP, thereby eliminating potential for private docks. But adjacent landowner interests may be strongly opposed to such a classification. The MP land classifications should take precedence!



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