



NEWSLETTER

March/April 2018

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***"Don't wait for inspiration, build the foundation for it."***  
*Casey Williams, CE Tech John Redmond Lake, Innovations Team Member*

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## Welcome Hugo Lake Area to PRMA!

### HUGO LAKE



On February 9th, 2018, we officially welcomed the Hugo Lake Area to the PRMA family. This area includes 5 lakes; Hugo Lake, Pat Mayse Lake, Sardis Lake, Pine Creek Lake, & Broken Bow Lake. This now makes 27 Lake Offices that are now part of the Park Ranger Mobile App family.

Now that the Hugo Area is done, we are now at 100% deployment within the Tulsa District. If you would like to have PRMA come to your lake, please contact [jason.m.knight@usace.army.mil](mailto:jason.m.knight@usace.army.mil)

## Updating Your App for the Recreation Season!

For all of you Park Ranger Mobile App Lake Office POCs out there, make sure you are working on updates for your Lake Office's version of the App on the network. We are going to do another update prior to the Memorial Day weekend (like we always do) so that everyone has the latest and greatest on their smartphones to kick off the new recreation season. Also, please remember not to go into another lake's App and add or delete anything unless you have the responsibility for that App. If you do accidentally delete something, let us know ASAP.

This is also a great time to add GIS maps to your App, update personnel contact information, and check for errors. If you need any help with updating your App or creating something new for your App, please let me know.

The District Level will be ready for update by the week of May 14th through May 18th, which will be my last week in the Tulsa District until late July. So please test your apps out now, and, if you experience any issues, let me know so we can get them fixed before I leave.

## Innovation Workshops Prepare for May Launch



With deployments to Puerto Rico and various TDY opportunities across the district, it's more difficult than ever to bring everyone together for a workshop. To make the workshops more accessible, we spread them across two locations, one at Eufaula Lake on April 3rd and 4th, and then one at Canton Lake April 5th. Each subteam assisted in choosing the closest location for less travel time and to get as much accomplished as our May 1st pilot launch dates looms right around the corner. But just like all setbacks, our team is equipped to overcome them to get the best pilot prototypes possible for launch in May across the District.

## Self-service Campgrounds

For the April 4th workshop at Eufaula Lake, the Self-service Campgrounds subteam met to get their prototypes together and ready for pilot. Recently this innovation has become a very popular topic around the district with Project Managers and District Management. Due to honor vault thefts, the liability of collecting cash, and the inability to find Gate Attendants resulting in empty gatehouses for the recreation season, there was no better time for this innovation to come along.

With the majority of the lake offices in the Tulsa District having interest in Self Service Campgrounds, pilot locations were never a problem. However the subteam quickly found several roadblocks and hurdles they would have to overcome. One large hurdle was that inside the Tulsa District, there are no



## A New Way to Pay

exclusive campgrounds. So the team had to find some way to deal with the day use. The team plans to push for the recreation.gov site to find a way to offer day use fee payment by QR code, however currently this is not an option. So the team came up with the idea of making the day use inside those campgrounds Annual Pass/ATB Pass only, transitioning over a 3 year period. Once that hurdle was cleared, another issue arose when NRRS announced a moratorium on adding new sites in order for them to prepare for the new Recreation One Stop site which will launch October 1, 2018. Originally, the team had four pilot locations across the district. Two locations were going to try this prototype out as an extra service to the public. Two more locations wanted to try out this prototype with volunteer gate attendants, while the other location wanted to go completely self-service with no gate

## Self Service Campgrounds (continued)

attendants and go immediately cashless. However half of these locations were not already in NRRS and the deadline that the team discovered for making changes in the system expired. So the pilot will consist of two, possibly three locations this year all of which will be providing this prototype as an additional service to their customers for this seasons pilot. However, the ultimate goal is a cashless, self-service, volunteer run recreation area.

The team also discussed signage and came up with three different variations to use. They also worked on setting up the templates for the QR Codes and wording for the signpost at each site that the public will be using to scan, reserve, and pay at the site.

Bringing PAO into the mix is always a smart move, and will work with the subteam to create Facebook notifications and get the word out to the public about our new way to pay. With the accomplishments at this last workshop, the team is confident in the ability to launch this innovation pilot prototype the week of May 1, 2018.



## RETS Starter



For many on the RETS Starter subteam, this innovation has been a long time coming. With obstacles at every turn, the team has done a great job of producing a product that is adaptable to both Operations and Real Estate Divisions' ever changing needs inside the Tulsa District Office.

The first obstacle for this workshop was getting the required documents converted from eighteen portfolios to eighteen single pdf packages and unlocked usable documents. From

there, the team went through a training session on adding the help documents and auto-fill options into each package. With time running out, the team split up the number of packages between team members and, hopefully, will get these completed before the pilot deadline to add into the system.

The RETS Starter system is also a complex issue as it was built with the same technology as the Park Ranger Mobile App. However, to ensure there were no complications with usability, the decision was made to convert and code the entire program into html, so it could be stored anywhere, run anywhere, and would be compatible with all platforms. Also, this will give the capability of piloting the RETS Starter App anywhere in the district and not just at Lake Texoma. Currently, the system is being re-coded by members of the team and should be available to launch May 1. Of course, the pilot location will have the responsibility to assist with finding and correcting program errors.

## Jr. Ranger App

On March 5th, the Jr. Ranger App subteam had a productive workshop at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. The team met with the six Software Engineering Students assigned to the program along with University professors. The SWOSU students worked with our subteam to show what had been accomplished on the App so far and to get direction for additional features for the App.

On April 5th, the Jr. Ranger App subteam met at Canton Lake to finalize plans to launch their App. Hoping to cement a long-lasting partnership between SWOSU and the Tulsa District Innovations Team, the team also looked for help in gathering resources outside the University. Once contacted, The Corps Foundation quickly came to the sub-team's rescue and already has begun working with local vendors to help secure financing for the badges, brochures, and banners that will make the Jr. Ranger App more than just an App, but rather an experience. This innovation would not be possible without a strong subteam leader, partnerships, and the Corps Foundation's assistance.

Scheduled to launch the week of May 1st, our progress is right on track as, hopefully, the app, partners, and licensing all fall into place for full launch at Canton Lake.



## What's Your Innovation?

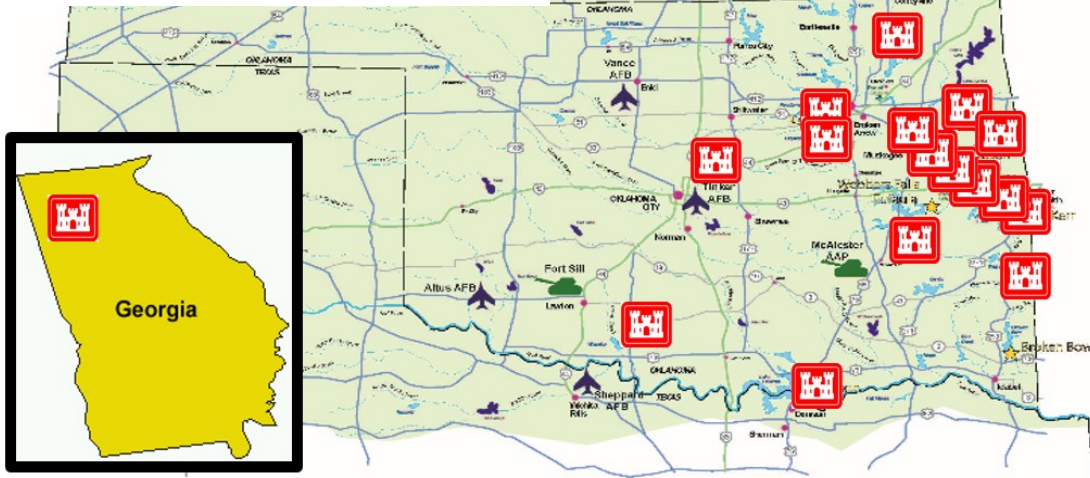
This newsletter is always full of Innovation that is happening inside the Tulsa District, delivered six times a year. However, every district and division in the Corps of Engineers has something Innovative going on, and we would like for you to share with us. If you have something Innovative going on in your District or at your lake office, please share with us at [jason.m.knight@usace.army.mil](mailto:jason.m.knight@usace.army.mil) so we can include these in future newsletters.



**Outdoor Recreation in America**  
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While our recreation and environmental stewardship mission comes first, it is also important to become better at what we do, pushing the limits of what is possible. So our Innovations Team has taken up the challenge of pursuing innovation not only inside our district, but beyond. Starting in FY 2018, our Innovations team plans to send one member to Partners Outdoors Conference in Washington DC and Public Lands Alliance Conference. These representatives will build contacts, look for new ideas, and present their findings at the next following Innovations Summit.





## ***PRMA Current Participants:***

Allatoona Lake (SAM) 2013	Kaw Lake (SWT) 2017
Oologah Lake (SWT) 2015	Skiatook Lake (SWT) 2017
Tenkiller Lake (SWT) 2015	Birch Lake (SWT) 2017
Webbers Falls L&D (SWT) 2015	Copan Lake (SWT) 2017
Keystone Lake (SWT) 2016	Hulah Lake (SWT) 2017
Arcadia Lake (SWT) 2016	Hugo Lake (SWT) 2018
Heyburn Lake (SWT) 2016	Sardis Lake (SWT) 2018
Lake Texoma (SWT) 2016	Pat Mayse Lake (SWT) 2018
Waurika Lake (SWT) 2016	Broken Bow (SWT) 2018
Truscott Lake (SWT) 2016	Pine Creek (SWT) 2018
Ft. Gibson Lake (SWT) 2017	
Newt Graham L&D (SWT) 2017	
Chouteau L&D (SWT) 2017	
Eufaula Lake (SWT) 2017	
RS Kerr L&D (SWT) 2017	
W.D. Mayo L&D (SWT) 2017	
Wister Lake (SWT) 2017	

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***The Park Ranger Mobile App...Inspired, Developed, Created, & Maintained by Park Rangers...Always.***