



Lake Red Rock Project
MASTER PLAN

CHAPTER 7

Public Engagement

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CHAPTER 7

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

7.1. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement and gaining public input were paramount in creating a Master Plan for the Lake Red Rock Project that reflects public values and vision. The Corps went beyond requirements in public engagement because we felt public input was so important. Working with focus groups on developing conceptual alternatives allowed us to develop and/or nurture partnerships that are the foundation on which the majority of these concepts will become reality.

Public engagement includes the general public; lake visitors; stakeholder organizations; and local, state and Federal stakeholder agencies/government.

Following are the categories of stakeholders who provided input:

- Nature Enthusiasts and/or Specific Interest in Prairies, Woodlands, etc.
- Birders
- Hunters and Fishermen
- Boaters, Kayakers, Canoeists
- Bicyclists
- Campers and Other Lake Visitors
- Hikers and Walkers
- Horseback Riders
- Off-Road Vehicle Riders
- Health and Wellness Experts
- Local Schools and Colleges
- Neighboring Landowners
- Agricultural Interests
- Economic Development Organizations
- Local, State and Federal Elected Public Officials
- City, County, State and Federal Agencies

7.2. FOUR PHASE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Lake Red Rock Master Plan Team used a four phase public engagement process as outlined below. Please reference Appendix B, *Agency and Public Coordination* to follow this process in more detail and read the actual and summarized comments received.

Public Engagement Process for Red Rock Master Plan Overview of Tools and Methods Used for Gaining Input

PHASE 1. PUBLIC SCOPING

Purpose: To gain a broad prospective on potential future benefits from Lake Red Rock Project environmental and recreation missions

- Small Group Input Meetings and Comment Forms
- On-site Comment Forms (Visitor Center, Day Use Areas & Campgrounds)
- Website E- Comment Forms
- School Children Drawings
- Agency Coordination

PHASE 2. FOCUS GROUPS DEVELOPED CONCEPTS

Purpose: To develop alternatives for primary concepts discussed during public scoping

- Environmental Focus Groups
- Recreation Focus Groups
- Connections Focus Groups

PHASE 3. PUBLIC REVIEW – DRAFT GOALS AND CONCEPTS

Purpose: To gain public input on draft Master Plan goals and recommended alternatives for concepts

- Public Open House and Comment Form
- Website Posting and E-Comment Form
- Agency Coordination

PHASE 4. PUBLIC REVIEW – DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Purpose: To gain public input on final draft Master Plan goals and recommended alternatives for concepts

- Public Open House and Comment Form
- Website Posting and E-Comment Form
- Agency Coordination



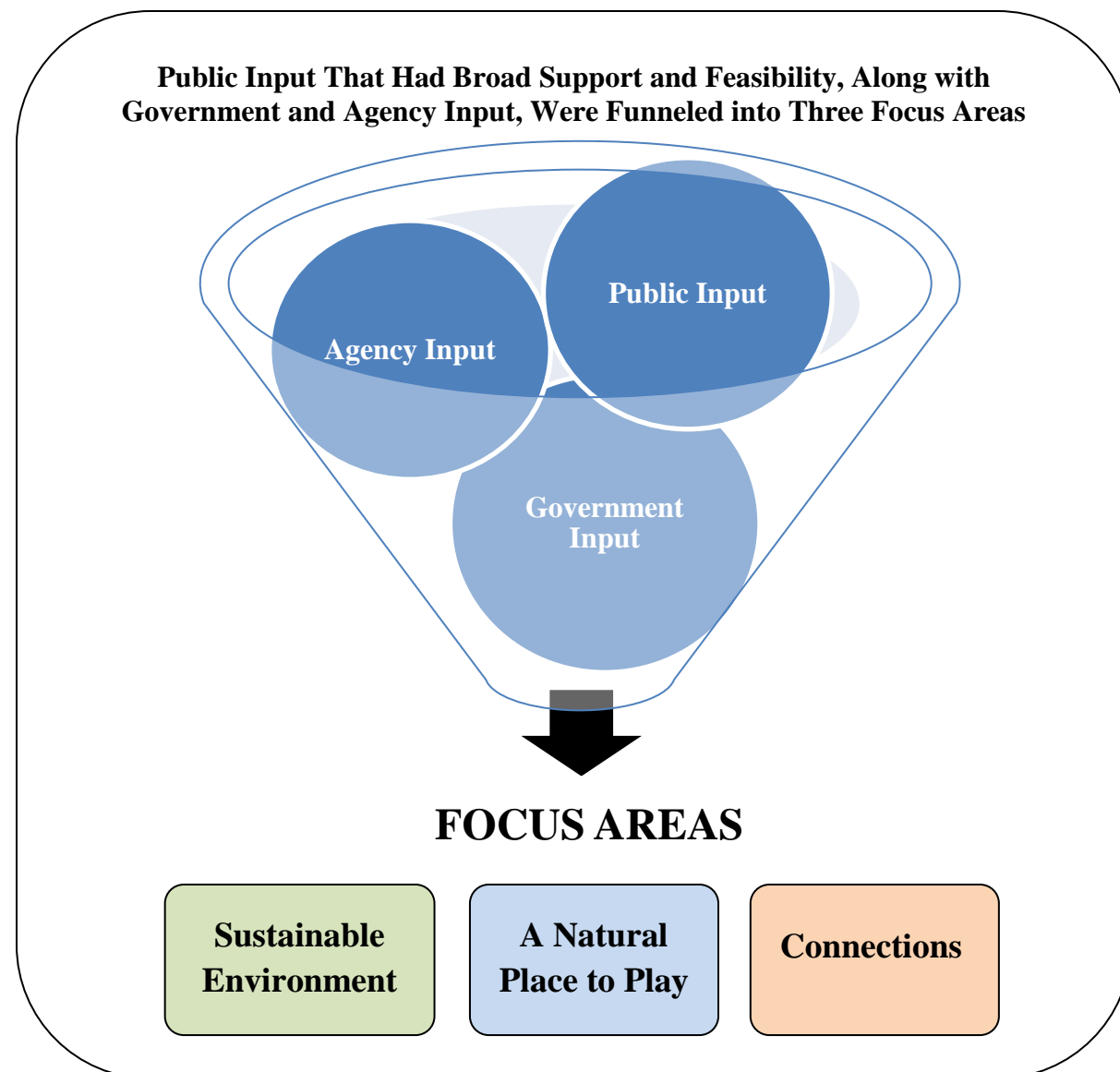
7.3. PHASE 1 - PUBLIC SCOPING

The Master Plan Team received a significant volume of stakeholder and public input on the future vision for Lake Red Rock and potential threats to their enjoyment and use of the project.

This broad input was then put into the topics shown in Table 7-1. Some topics were not able to move forward in the Master Planning process due to:

- Conflict with public law
- Topic is not within the scope of the Master Plan (reservoir water regulation is planned & managed through the reservoir regulation manual)
- Conflict with resource objectives

Topics that had broad support and feasibility were funneled and led to development of three Focus Areas—Sustainable Environment, A Natural Place to Play, and Connections—under which goals and concepts were further explored and refined in Phase 2 and Phase 3.



7.4. PHASE 2 - FOCUS GROUPS DEVELOPED CONCEPTS

In Phase 2, focus groups were convened to assist with further development of the highlighted topics into concepts. The focus groups further developed alternatives for these concepts and identified the pros and cons associated with each alternative.

The Master Plan team had sufficient input and information to move forward with planning on the non highlighted topics without the use of focus groups. See Appendix B, *Agency and Public Coordination*, for further details of this process.

Table 7-1. Input Topics Moved Forward From Phase 1¹

- Significant concern with sedimentation affecting recreation, aesthetics, & environment
- Significant concern with water quality affecting recreation & environment
- **Desire for fisheries improvements**
- Desire to maintain public hunting
- Protect the natural resources
- Maintain natural feel of Lake Red Rock
- Control invasive species
- Maintain current recreation opportunities
- Desire expanded marina & rentals
- Desire expanded food concessions
- **Desire expanded hard trails & connections**
- **Desire expanded archery range**
- **Desire expanded equestrian trails**
- **Desire development of soft trails**
- **Desire development of water trails**
- Value current interpretive opportunities
- Desire expanded interpretive opportunities
- Desire to connect with nature
- Desire access to public land
- Desire reduced habitat fragmentation
- **Desire effective signage & wayfinding**

¹ Yellow highlighted topics were further developed by focus groups



7.5. PHASE 3 - PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT GOALS AND CONCEPTS

The purpose of this public review was to gain input on the goals and concepts that had been developed as a result of the initial scoping and refinement of that input.

On December 11 and 12, 2012 the Corps hosted public input open houses in the neighboring communities of Knoxville and Pella. This opportunity for input was well advertised via press releases and direct invite to a large number of stakeholders. Additionally, the draft plan was available for review and comment on the Lake Red Rock website.

Posters were displayed at the open houses that showed Master Plan focus areas; goals; and concepts that had been developed as a result of the initial public scoping. Posters showed alternatives that had been considered for many of the concepts, along with notation of the Corps recommended alternative for that concept.

The open houses were attended by 88 individuals. Overall the comments were extremely positive and in agreement with the concepts and ideas presented. Many comments complimented the quality of the open houses and overall planning efforts. All comments received at the open houses are presented in their entirety in Appendix B, *Agency and Public Coordination*.



Master Plan Public Meeting

7.6. PHASE 4 - PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Work on incorporating comments from Phase 3 and further refinement of the Draft Master Plan was slowed due to the retirements of long-term management staff and competing project interests.

The *Draft Final Lake Red Rock Master Plan with Environmental Assessment* was distributed to interested agencies, organizations, and individuals for an opportunity to make comment. The public review period was March 27, 2015 to April 27, 2015. A press release announcing the opportunity for final review and comment was issued on March 26, 2015. This final comment period provided the public and agencies an opportunity to make comment before the Finding of No Significant Impact statement was signed by the District Engineer. The *Final Lake Red Rock Master Plan with Environmental Assessment* incorporated, as appropriate, review comments received on the *Draft Final Lake Red Rock Master Plan* from the public, organizations, and representatives of local, state and Federal agencies.

All comments received during the final comment period along with Corps responses can be found in their entirety in Appendix B, *Agency and Public Coordination*.