



United States Training Center Fort Jackson, South Carolina



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Fort Jackson release draft environmental assessment and seeks public comment

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Fort Jackson officials released the draft Environmental Assessment of proposed alternatives for repairs to Weston Lake dam, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) today. There is a 30 day open comment period for the public now through Aug. 28.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the environmental, social, and economic impacts of a federal project prior to decision-making. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment, and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.

Fort Jackson is proposing to address issues with the Weston Lake dam. Ongoing embankment seepage and the potential loss of highly erodible soils in the earthen emergency spillway during large flood events have reduced the reliability of the structure. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4) would correct the Weston Lake dam embankment seepage and the emergency spillway deficiencies. These actions would reduce the safety risk to downstream populations with the least amount of impacts to wetlands and the Cedar Creek floodplain. Implementation of the preferred alternative would result in the permanent loss of 0.46 acre of wetlands associated with the placement of fill to repair the embankment structure. An additional 0.46 acre of forested wetlands would be converted to herbaceous vegetation.

In issuing a draft FONSI, the Army has determined the project will not significantly affect the quality of the human or natural environment.

In issuing a draft FONPA, the Army has determined there is no practicable alternative to the proposed action located outside of the floodplain. The Army will take all practicable measures to minimize impacts associated with the proposed action to and within the floodplain environment.

Post officials are seeking public feedback about the proposed alternatives for repairs before a determination is made. Anyone wishing to comment on the documents is encouraged to visit <https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/NEPA-Documents/> to view the documents. Comments should be directed to WestonDamRepairComments@usace.army.mil.