

Process for Nominating Pilot Lakes for the Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration Laboratory

In proposing nominations for the pilot lakes program please consider the following:

1. Identify lakes, downstream reaches, and other water related recreation areas where there are situations, issues or opportunities that could benefit from experimental or special attention actions that could improve recreation activities, particularly where joint management is possible.
2. Identify areas where partnerships exist and recreation related activities are conducted that could benefit from the extra attention that a pilot lake designation might give it.
3. Other examples for possible pilot lake status may include:
 - a. an experiment with reservoir water levels for above dam recreation activities, and water releases to better accommodate downstream recreation uses;
 - b. areas where you want to showcase newly implemented recreation management policy actions;
 - c. a joint study that identifies recreation needs and possible solutions;
 - d. an area that needs a commercial recreation business plan;
 - e. experimenting with different federal and non-federal management partnership arrangements;
 - f. highlighting a local or regional campaign like a clean boating campaign.
4. No additional funds have not been budgeted to selected projects, therefore new money should not be a deciding factor. In some cases a potential pilot lake may already be scheduled for funded activities that could be the basis of a pilot lake demonstration – it may be a planned fisheries habitat improvement project, an area where there is a cooperative effort to upgrade recreation areas, or where facilities that will be accessible to the disabled are scheduled for construction.

Review the Considerations and Guidelines below and then prepare your pilot lake nomination using the attached Nomination Form (Attachment 4). Field Offices should send their nomination forms and supporting documentation, as you determine, to their respective state offices for consolidation and transmittal to Rodger Schmitt, National Recreation Group Manager, WO-250. **Nominations must be received no later than October 11, 2000.** Additional information may be requested from you at a later date. If your nomination is ultimately included in the demonstration laboratory, periodic status reports will be requested so that relevant information can be shared with the other Council member agencies and other interest entities. Managers and key recreation personnel at each pilot lake will be asked to attend and participate in the pilot lake managers workshop tentatively scheduled for early December 2000.

Considerations for Selecting Pilot Lakes for the Demonstration Laboratory

In keeping with the intent of a demonstration laboratory the following considerations are to be used as a guide, but are not all inclusive or required. Maximum flexibility should be exercised to satisfy user demands, solve problems and create opportunities at the local level. Selected lakes should represent a diversity of geographic settings, cooperating federal and non-federal sponsors, and recreation opportunity diversity. Lake size should not be a limiting factor.

When nominating pilot lakes, consider the following:

1. There is the existence of latent recreation demand.
2. More than a single entity would be involved in the provision of recreation.
3. There is support of local communities, elected officials, and other stakeholders.
4. There is a viable funding strategy.
5. There is an opportunity for significant improvement of the quality of recreation.
6. Any proposed actions would be compatible with other project purposes.
7. There is reasonable potential that solutions to problems could have broader application.

Guidelines for “Pilot Lakes” in the Reinvention Laboratory Demonstration Program

(For your reference, these guidelines are from the Report of the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, page 84).

1. Development and maintenance of facilities should be sensitive to and compatible with the existing environment.
2. Water quality should be maintained to the highest standard for all authorized uses.
3. Full consideration and accommodation should be given to all authorized uses.
4. Safety is a priority of all operation and activities on and around the demonstration lake.
5. Active support and involvement of local communities, interest groups, and stakeholders should be required in support of the application.
6. Recreation opportunities should be provided for active and passive water-related activities, though not necessarily at the same lake or even at all lakes.
7. Projected increased recreation activities should not diminish the quality of other recreation experiences at the demonstration lake.
8. Demonstration lakes should be easily accessible to the general public, and facilities should accommodate people with disabilities.
9. Creative public-private partnerships should be employed in the development and operation of all recreation facilities.
10. Comprehensive recreation and water management planning should be required, including planning for downstream recreation and riverine habitat.