

post-authorization studies and reevaluation of completed projects.

#### § 279.2 Applicability.

This regulation is applicable to all OCE elements and all field operating agencies having Civil Works responsibilities.

#### § 279.3 References.

(a) Pub. L. 89-72, "Federal Water Project Recreation Act," July 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 213 *et seq.*).

(b) ER 1105-2-200, Multiobjective Planning Framework (33 CFR part 290).

#### § 279.4 Definitions.

For the purposes of this regulation:

(a) *Resource use objectives* are clearly written statements, specific to a given project, which specify the attainable options for resource use as determined from study and analysis of resource capabilities and public needs (opportunities and problems).

(b) *Natural resources* are those elements, features, conditions, etc., of land and water that can be characterized as physiographic, biological and/or aesthetic.

(c) *Public benefits* are the tangible and intangible gains to society directly attributable to a water resource project that satisfy the expressed or observed needs of the public (*i.e.*, individuals, groups, organizations and local, county, state and federal governmental agencies).

(d) *Boundary plans* are Division/District wide maps clearly delineating the limits of each regional recreation market area for one or more Civil Works water resource projects.

#### § 279.5 Policy.

(a) It is the policy of the Chief of Engineers that all water resource projects administered by the Corps will have es-

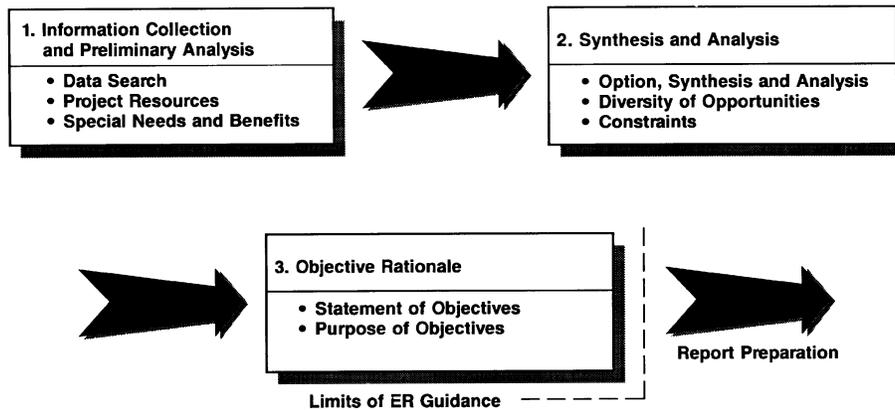
tablished a set of resource use objectives. These objectives will be based upon the expressed preferences of the residents of the region served (social option) and will be in keeping with the capabilities of the natural and man-made resources of the specific project (resource option). A regional analysis is required to tailor each project to serve expressed preferences within its resource capabilities and consistent with Federal laws and administrative cost-sharing policy. Preparation of regional studies and establishment of these objectives will utilize an interdisciplinary team with leadership by planning, and participation from engineering, design, real estate, and operations elements. Each project will emphasize those specific resource use objectives determined, through public participation, to achieve the greatest overall public benefit. Subsequent aspects of planning, development, and management for the specific project will be directed to achieving the approved resource use objectives.

(b) The implementation of this policy requires that the public be fully involved in the regional studies and development of resource use objectives and management plans for each specific water resource project, including at least one public meeting. The establishment of resource use objective may be addressed at a general public meeting held for the project if adequate discussion can be achieved. If not, the district engineer should conduct a separate meeting for this purpose.

#### § 279.6 Overview of objective setting process.

The process of determining resource use objectives flows through three overlapping steps and considers three main sets of data. Figure 1 presents an overview of this process.

## Figure 1. Overview of Resource Use Objective Process



### § 279.7 Information collection and preliminary analysis.

(a) *Data search.* This effort consists of collecting existing data and accomplishing the minimum additional studies necessary to obtain the information required to generate and analyze the likely options. State and local agency input should be sought during this phase. The initial work will be to determine separately the options for resource use and public needs. A preliminary analysis comparing the two parts and their relationship to authorized project purposes and administrative constraints should be conducted prior to further public and agency input.

(b) *Project resources.* The natural and man-made resources of the project area are to be identified and the inter-relationships analyzed to generate the options that are most viable to the overall region. The environmental information and analysis, among other things, should define and describe the physical limitations of the project, aquatic and terrestrial vegetation, game and non-game wildlife species and distribution, fisheries, terrain, soils, minerals, climate, capacity and sensitivity of these resources to public use, archaeological and historical resources, management

techniques, and ecosystem interactions.

(c) *Social needs and benefits.* The problems, opportunities, and desires of the people of the region to be served by the project must be identified in order to determine options that are in the best overall public interest. The basic approach for determining public needs and benefits is through a market analysis and a public involvement program. In considering options, the analysis as a minimum should include the identification of the various publics served, views of other agencies and organizations, existing and planned recreational facilities in the market area of the consumer, the population base and distribution, institutional analysis of potential cost-sharing partners, constraints, the transportation network, the needs identified by local, State and Federal agencies, and the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

### § 279.8 Synthesis and analysis.

(a) *Option, synthesis and analysis.* The project resources and market area information should be aggregated and analyzed to determine what trade-offs can be made among the possible options to establish objectives that can