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Comment Date: January 13, 2011 10:52:12AM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50107

First Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Middle Initial: [Withheld by requestor]

Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Organization:

Address: [Withheld by requestor]

Address 2: [Withheld by requestor]

Address 3:

City: [Withheld by requestor]

State: [Withheld by requestor]

Zip: [Withheld by requestor]

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Comment Submitted:

The GLMRIS is clearly an important study and I appreciate the opportunity for public comment. My only criticism is the way that the Buffalo, NY meeting (and presumably the others) was advertised and run. For a public input meeting, I saw very few stakeholders other than the Corps of Engineers, plus the expected leaders of a couple environmental and fishing groups. A town hall style meeting seems like a great idea to get input, but in this case, Army Corps of Engineers employees seemed to outnumber all other groups combined.

Also, despite the low number of responses during the final comment period, all speakers were cut short. I understand the need for three-minute speeches to keep the meeting on track, but even after it was made very clear that there were only going to be a few speakers, responses were still limited. Sure the meeting ended over an hour earlier than expected, but that could have been an hour of more candid, and maybe more productive, discussion.

Finally, I suggest that you contact college groups in the areas of the rest of the meetings. Groups like the American Fisheries Society and natural resources student organizations may be especially interested. Students that are studying natural resource management, environmental policy, or ecology right now will likely be involved in this study or other large-scale planning processes in the future as they begin their careers. It would be beneficial to both the Army Corps of Engineers and to the students to get them involved in the planning process.