



# Fact Sheet

## *Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land and Resource Management Plan*

- The USDA Forest Service will soon release the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Land and Resource Management Plan (Area Plan) for the Land Between The Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area. This plan replaces the 1994 Natural Resources Management Plan.
- The LBL Advisory Board, established by the LBL Protection Act, advised LBL management on the means of promoting public participation for the planning process, and provided valuable recommendations that were utilized throughout the planning process.
- The Forest Service offered citizens a wide variety of opportunities to provide comments and work directly with staff during the planning process. We will continue to work with the public as we implement the Area Plan.
- Concluding a final round of careful scientific analysis, coupled with consideration of more than 280 public responses on the Draft Plan, officials for the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, approved the Area Plan.
- This Area Plan will guide the management direction for LBL over the next 10 to 15 years. The Area Plan is a strategic document, and as such, does not provide details on specific aspects of LBL's management; it provides a framework by which future management decisions are made.
- The Area Plan delivers a balanced mix of facilities and services that provide important benefits to the visiting public, as well as the local and regional communities surrounding LBL, along with stewardship responsibilities of our natural resources.
- Plan highlights include the following guidance for LBL management:
  - Continuing LBL's role as a destination point for visitors throughout the region and nation.
  - Balancing dispersed and facility-based activities to provide more overall opportunities, while addressing concerns for unmanaged recreation and operational costs.

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- Supporting and enhancing wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities through active forest and open land management. Techniques for active resource management will include; timber harvest, prescribed fire, establishing native grasses and forbs, and agriculture practices.
  - Providing tools for managers to actively maintain healthy and resilient forests, using the best available science.
  - Maintaining camping within the current Turkey Bay OHV Area, while sustaining natural resources for future generations to enjoy.
  - Providing two Nature Watch Demonstration Areas, one in Kentucky and one in Tennessee, to enhance the environmental education, wildlife, and recreation programs.
  - Increasing wildlife habitat diversification by establishing two Oak-Grassland Demonstration Areas to restore woodland conditions in the upland oak forests, similar to those which occurred at the time of European settlement.
  - Improving the ecological diversity of LBL through a wide range of proven and appropriate management methods.
  - Keeping timber removal at about the same levels as allowed in TVA's 1994 Plan.
  - None of the major facilities will be closed, and no new high-level facilities will be developed or reopened.
- This entire planning process was accomplished in less than 2 years, rather than the typical 4 to 6 years, through the efforts of dedicated staff and with collaborative support of the public. Accelerating the processing allowed for citizens to stay more connected with the process and resulted in significant savings to taxpayers.
  - Forest Service staff especially thanks those members of the public who have provided comments throughout the process. This valuable input has helped us identify and respond to needed changes, while improving both our analyses and the final decision. Ultimately, this will allow us to “care for the land and serve people” in a more effective way, as we implement the Area Plan.



For a copy of the Area Plan, FEIS, or Summary visit the LBL web site at [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org) (click on planning). Other sources for obtaining a copy include contacting the Area Planner's Office at 270-924-2161 or e-mailing a request to [focuslbl@fs.fed.us](mailto:focuslbl@fs.fed.us). Planning documents will be mailed to all groups and individuals who commented on the draft documents beginning December 1. Also, copies of these documents will be available at local libraries.