



File Code: 1950

Date: November 3, 2006

Dear Friends of Land Between The Lakes:

On June 2, 2006, I issued a project scoping letter seeking your input on the Continued Maintenance of Open Lands project in Land Between The Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area. Your collaboration on this project is appreciated and very important. All comments and concerns you provided were considered by the analysis team to determine issues for this project.

After reviewing the internal and public comments and concerns, no significant issues were identified. The scoping and issues summary available on the Internet at <http://www.lbl.org/LRMPPProjects.html> provides an explanation of consideration of significance given to each comment. With no significant issues identified, the analysis team refined the proposed action and has now drafted preliminary alternatives.

Invitation to Comment

In an effort to make collaboration on this project more transparent and meaningful, I decided to provide opportunity for comment before the alternatives are finalized. Rather than proceeding with finalizing the alternatives and beginning analysis, I am inviting you to comment at this critical stage in the process. I want to ensure all comments and concerns are addressed before the analysis team finalizes the alternatives.

Contained in this package are the comment summaries, the refined purpose and need, and draft alternatives which are the result of Forest Service internal and public comment. Please read through these documents and let us know if we captured your thoughts, comments, and concerns correctly.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement will continue with the upcoming official Notice and Comment Period, the "Call-in-Session," and project updates posted on the website in the winter and spring. The Five Steps of the Continued Maintenance of Open Lands Environmental Assessment (EA) provides a timeline of where we are in the process. I anticipate the EA will be published in spring 2007.

On November 16, 2006, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. CST, LBL will host a "Call-in-Session." During this time our subject specialists will be available by phone to answer questions and provide clarification. Each caller will have up to 15 minutes with a subject specialist and follow-up appointments may be scheduled for anyone needing additional time. To participate in the "Call-in-Session," call 1-800-525-7077 between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. CST, on November 16.

The "Call-in-Session" will be very similar to an informational meeting when subject specialists are available to discuss a project with you. We are trying a "Call-in-Session" to better



accommodate all of our busy schedules and various geographical locations. If you are unable to participate in the “Call-in-Session” on such short notice, please contact Steve Bloemer at 270-924-2069 to arrange another time for discussing your questions.

The Five Steps

1. Project was initiated on the SOPA list January 2005. The proposed action and scoping letter was released June 2, 2006. Public scoping comment period was June 2, 2006 to July 5, 2006.
2. The issues and draft alternatives are developed. The official Notice and Comment Period will begin upon publication of the notice in the Paducah Sun, which is expected to be November 7. An opportunity to speak with a specialist is available during the “Call-in-Session,” November 16, 2006, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. CST.
3. Based on public involvement, LBL will finalize alternatives and refine issues, to be completed by December 15, 2006.
4. Effects analysis on the alternatives will be completed by resource specialists prior to the final decision.
5. A final decision will be made and the Environmental Assessment document published around March 30, 2007.

Important Next Step

We are conducting this official Notice and Comment Period at this critical stage of the process so we can be assured your comments are incorporated in the development of the final alternatives and considered in the final decision. While your comments are always welcome, **this is the official Notice and Comment Period required by the appeal regulations (36CFR215)**. There will not be another official comment period for this project. This official Notice and Comment Period complements public involvement throughout the project. We encourage you to stay involved as we update our progress on the Internet at <http://www.lbl.org/LRMPPProjects.html>.

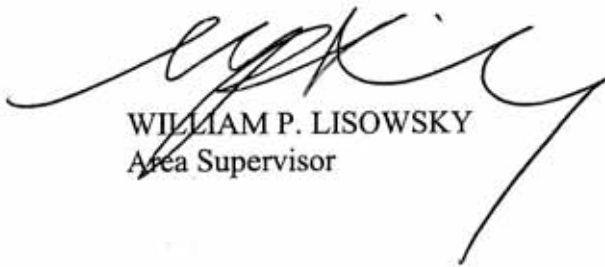
How To Comment

Please send comments by e-mail in common digital format with Open Lands Management as the subject (without attachments) to comments-southern-land-between-lakes@fs.fed.us, or by postal mail to Steve Bloemer, Wildlife Biologist, Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, KY 42211. Comments can be hand delivered between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at this address. Only those providing comments or otherwise expressing interest by the close of the comment period will have eligibility for appeal purposes (36CFR215.6). In order to have appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. **Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days following the date of publication of the Request for Comments Notice in the legal notices of the Paducah Sun.**

If you have questions on the technical aspects of the proposed project, please contact Steve Bloemer at 270-924-2069 or at the email address just mentioned.

You may also access the Continued Maintenance of Open Lands project information, maps, and updates on the LBL web site at <http://www.lbl.org/LRMPPProjects.html>.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM P. LISOWSKY
Area Supervisor