



## Gearing Up for the Future at Turkey Bay OHV Area

### ***Update on Trails Designation***

The Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area staff continues to make progress designating a safe, enjoyable, and sustainable trail system. The new facility/trail map has been available at the Turkey Bay OHV Area Gatehouse, Golden Pond Visitor Center, both North & South Welcome Stations, and on the Internet at [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org). Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive regarding the new map, especially from first-time visitors. All designated trails are being entered into a national database that will determine accuracy of global positioning system (GPS) coordinates and sustainability.



Look for this logo at [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org) for more information on MVUM.

The new OHV facility/trail map is part of the Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The new facility/trail map includes more detail than the MVUM, but it is important to have both maps on hand. The LBL MVUM is legal documentation that identifies designated roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. MVUM, required by all national forests and grasslands, complies with the Forest Service Travel Management Rule (TMR) published in 2005. The TMR is a rule that

designates roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. Designated routes and areas reduce damage to natural resources, and help sustain motorized use over the long run. LBL's MVUM will be available Fall 2008 and updated annually.

### ***Restoration Projects***

Several restoration and reclamation projects have been completed in Turkey Bay since the last newsletter. The goal of each project was to prevent accelerated erosion by reducing impacts and stabilizing the soil.

One project area is located down the main trail from Point F. Workers used equipment to "rough up" old trails with the intent to slow down water run-off and reduce the amount of soil loss after heavy rains. Annual rye was then spread into the new seedbed and covered with leaf litter, brush, and downed trees. The woody biomass serves as extra water-breaks, giving run-off a chance to soak in and heal the hillside.

A second project area, located down the main trail from Point 1, serves as a continuation of a restoration project completed in Spring 2007. Biodegradable mats and sediment logs were installed on the hillsides to reduce the volume and velocity of surface run-off while simultaneously providing cover for the annual rye seed. The mats and sediment logs are composed of aspen shavings and bound by a biodegradable mesh, similar to those used along roadway construction sites. New vegetation began to sprout only a few days after completion.

The third project is a new hardened creek crossing installed near Point 8 on the main trail. The intent of this crossing is to preserve the integrity of the streambed by keeping rider impacts at a minimum, especially during times of extended stream flow. This is the third of its kind in Turkey Bay and all seem to be sustaining the impacts without any defects.



*The hardened stream crossing helps reduce erosion and provides a sustainable surface.*

Please respect these areas while the landscape heals. We encourage you to help share the message to other trails users as to why such restoration efforts have been implemented.



**KEEP IT SAFE  
KEEP IT LEGAL  
KEEP ON TRAILS  
KEEP THE PRIVILEGE**

### ***Weather Creates Extended Closures***

This has been an unusually rainy year for our area with more than 24 inches of precipitation since January 1, the average being 16 inches. This has created significant washouts on trails and the main road prolonging area closures. Operators worked diligently to repair these

safety hazards and fortunately their efforts have held up very well.

Wet weather across the Midwest also contributed to Turkey Bay's extended closure. Kentucky Lake levels surpassed 363 feet (4 feet above summer pool) on March 21, and crested at 365.7 feet on April 7 (6 feet above summer pool). This left most camping areas and trails near the lake underwater for several weeks. This closure was safety related as well, since high water can be dangerous to traverse and large deposits of debris (driftwood, bottles, fishing line, etc.) can be present. If users elect to ride street-legal vehicles on LBL designated roads, keep in mind the *Tread Lightly* and *Respect the Resource* messages; responsible riding equals future riding.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during closures. They are intended for rider safety, to minimize trail impacts, to maintain sustainability, and ultimately, keep Turkey Bay in operation and available for future generations.

### ***Interested in a Riding Area for Children?***

Turkey Bay staff is seeking interest and support in the development of a riding area designated for children. This area would be safer for parents to teach their children the basics of proper ATV riding. Such a trail or area provides children a place to improve their comfort and confidence riding an ATV. If you have questions, comments, or are interested in volunteering regarding this project, please contact Kyle Varel at 270-924-2031 or [kvarel@fs.fed.us](mailto:kvarel@fs.fed.us).

### ***New Turkey Bay Entrance Bridge and Information Boards***

The entrance bridge to Turkey Bay received a facelift. Construction began in early February and has since been completed. The new bridge provides for a safer entrance/exit for Turkey Bay users.

Spring 2008



*A side view of the new Turkey Bay bridge.*

In addition to the bridge, another new feature will welcome visitors this spring. A new information board will be installed by the gatehouse. This 3-paneled, roofed structure will supply both regular riders and new riders with pertinent riding and camping information associated with Turkey Bay. A similar structure will also be built near the prospective Child's Riding Area. The existing information boards will remain intact until the new ones are completed. Be sure to check it out!

### ***Rock Garden***

The garden is growing! In late November, over 200 tons of large rocks were added to the rock garden near Point C. The new rocks were obtained from Vulcan Materials, Inc. in Grand Rivers, Kentucky.



*The rock garden provides additional, sustainable opportunities for OHV users.*

Our intent is to make the area wider/longer to create additional challenges and obstacles as well as allow for more lines of travel for high clearance vehicles. If anyone has access to heavy equipment and is interested in donating some time to moving and arranging the rocks or would simply like to provide input for future rock additions, please contact Bill Ryan at 270-924-2179 or [wryan@fs.fed.us](mailto:wryan@fs.fed.us) or Kyle Varel at 270-924-2031 or [kvarel@fs.fed.us](mailto:kvarel@fs.fed.us). Be sure to check it out!

### ***LBLA Receives Grant for Turkey Bay***

In November, Land Between The Lakes Association, also known as *Friends of LBL*, received a \$30,000 National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant for Turkey Bay OHV Area restoration.

This year the NFF required grant applicants to focus on watershed management and improvement. The proposed project at Turkey Bay OHV Area is to reduce the erosive impacts to immediate watersheds, curtail user created trails within these watersheds, and continue to provide a sustainable trail system.

*Friends of LBL* and Turkey Bay staff will partner with other local agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local county soil and water conservationists to ensure this project meets the requirements outlined in the grant proposal.

The NFF is chartered by Congress and engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the National Forest System's 193 million acres. The NFF also administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of National Forests.

Turkey Bay has applied for additional regional watershed improvement funding to be awarded at a later date. Stay tuned!

Spring 2008



*Volunteers mark boundaries as a Work Day project.*

### **Work Days**

Three productive and successful work days were held at Turkey Bay during the fall and winter months. Projects included trash pickup in camping areas and on trails, clearing downed trees from designated trails, and painting boundary markers around challenge areas. More than 300 volunteer hours were tallied for the three work days! The Forest Service and Turkey Bay staff would like to thank all the participants, especially members of Bluegrass 4x4, Locked and Loaded Off-Road and Itsajep.org. You guys rock!

The Spring Clean-up Day is set for Saturday, May 10. All ages and vehicle types are welcome to attend. Sign in begins at 9 a.m.

### **ATV Safety Classes**

Turkey Bay will continue partnering with the ATV Safety Institute (ASI) to hold free ATV safety classes in 2008.

June 21      August 16      October 18

Please contact Connie Hathorn at 270-293-3401 to reserve your spot.

### **Call Before You Haul**

Facility and trail closures may occur at anytime. Turkey Bay's staff would like to remind you to "Call Before You Haul." During periods of heavy rain Turkey Bay will

close if the trails get too saturated. These conditions are unfavorable for riding, as they encourage soil erosion and promote unsafe riding situations for all users. If you know there has been heavy rain in the LBL area, please call 270-924-2000 and press 3, or visit [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org) to check the trail status under Trip Planning, then Trails Update. It may save you a trip.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are greatly appreciated and provide valuable assistance on projects. If you would like information on volunteer opportunities contact *Friends of LBL* Volunteer Coordinator, Kristy Jobe, at 270-924-2007.

**Turkey Bay Updates are  
available on the Internet at  
[www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org)**

For other information concerning Turkey Bay OHV Area you may contact a staff member listed below.

Bill Ryan  
Natural Resource Specialist/Facility Manager  
270-924-2179  
[wryan@fs.fed.us](mailto:wryan@fs.fed.us)

Kyle Varel  
Assistant Manager – OHV/Trails  
270-924-2031  
[kvarel@fs.fed.us](mailto:kvarel@fs.fed.us)

You may also obtain information from the gatehouse staff at Turkey Bay.

When the gatehouse is open, stop so a staff person may check your permit and provide any pertinent information for the day.



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