



Restoration Efforts



Area shown is before hillside restoration

In order to keep progressing toward a more sustainable trail system, hillside restoration efforts continue in Turkey Bay. Watershed improvement is the underlying objective of the current restoration projects. All work sites are located in Turner Hollow Watershed, which encompasses 1,233 acres of Turkey Bay, and is considered threatened because of soil make-up, proximity to Kentucky Lake, acres being drained, and overall visitor use. According to LBL's Land and Resource Management Plan, two watersheds must show improvement over a ten year span. This goal will simultaneously aid the long-term sustainability of the trail system and ensure future riding.

Old trails, usually linear hill climbs and gullies, in these areas were de-commissioned. An excavator broke up the linear profile of the trails/hillsides and re-contoured them in a random fashion to slow the velocity of runoff water. The project areas were then seeded with warm- and cool-season grasses and

Gearing Up for the Future at Turkey Bay OHV Trails

covered with biodegradable mats, downed trees, and brush. These mats not only serve as cover for the newly prepared seedbed, but also allow water to percolate into the soil. This year, over 22,000 square feet of sediment mats have been installed, more than 250 pounds of seed have been sown, and 26 acres of formerly de-vegetated hillsides have begun a transition back into ground cover. It is important that all vehicles refrain from entering these areas, as any disturbance could dislodge the sediment mats and logs compromising seedbed viability. Riding responsibly will ensure future use of the trail system. Thank you for your cooperation.



Restoration efforts using biodegradable mats

Trails Update

Although the trails in Turkey Bay have been designated for a few years and LBL's Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) has been available since 2008, there are still measures being taken to improve the accuracy and practicality of the Turkey Bay trail map. In addition to previous trail blazing and ranking, crews are currently numbering the

trails to coincide with the MVUM. Each designated trail has a specific number assigned to it, but until now these numbers haven't been visible on the trails. This has been a goal of the Forest Service since 2005 when the Travel Management Rule went into effect. Next year's map revision will be updated to reflect each trail number, as well as the trail color, i.e. yellow, orange, or blue. These numbers will not only help visitors navigate better in Turkey Bay, they will also provide better locations when staff, EMS, or Law Enforcement respond to accidents. They will also aid in more accurate and timely search-and-rescue efforts. Be sure to check out the numbering scheme the next time you're in Turkey Bay or view the 2009 MVUM at www.lbl.org for more information.

Trail Reconstruction

Not long after ice storm clean-up efforts subsided, Turkey Bay was hit once again by an unexpected weather related closure. Heavy rains over a 36-hour period caused Turkey Creek to breach its banks, severely scouring the trail in many areas. Large washouts posed serious safety issues and compromised trail integrity. Since many other trails and legal roads in LBL were in the same condition, the decision was made to be proactive and not only repair the damages but improve the trails to prevent similar disasters in the future.



Trail damage resulting from heavy rains

Allocated funding, supported by the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act,

was used to hire truck drivers and heavy equipment operators to reconstruct Turkey Bay trails. For six weeks, a predominately clay-based material was delivered, spread, and shaped to repair damaged and/or entrenched trails. Water bars, lead-off ditches, and other water diversion structures were also built to further guide rain water off the trails. Tread repairs have since been completed and the re-constructed trails are holding up better than ever. The next time you're out enjoying the trails, see if you can tell where the recent trail repairs took place. The "color" of the trail should give it away!



Recently reconstructed trail

User related trail damage repairs were completed on the Turkey Trot area. Since opening in September 2008, the area has grown in popularity among children and parents as a place to ride and learn proper OHV operation techniques. However, many larger vehicles, above the posted 90cc regulation, have been using the ½ mile trail as a race track, creating deep ruts and causing safety issues for younger children. The staff at Turkey Bay regularly patrols the area, but also asks that individuals and rider groups self-police themselves to prevent future trail closures. Individuals operating inappropriate vehicles in the Turkey Trot area will be cited.

Entrance Upgrades

Many of you who frequent Turkey Bay may have already noticed a few changes to the entrance since last year. In early 2008, a new pre-cast bridge was installed over Turkey

Summer/Fall 2009

Creek. That spring, a new vault toilet and information kiosks were constructed near the gatehouse. The bridge and its transition off The Trace were recently paved as well. Volunteers installed nearly 500 feet of split-rail cedar fencing to accommodate the new pavement and mirror the look of the kids' Turkey Trot area. Last but not least, a stone sign base similar to those at the Golden Pond Visitor Center and Elk & Bison Prairie has been constructed near The Trace to welcome all visitors.



Entrance to Turkey Bay gets a face-lift

A few other facility-based improvements have also been completed since the last newsletter. Twenty additional picnic tables have been placed throughout the camping areas along with extra fire rings. These were moved from Fenton Lake Access Area when US68/KY80 highway construction closed several campsites. Two soybean-based dust abatement applications were applied to the main road and parking lot in September. This will curtail the amount of wind and vehicle derived dust during dry times.

These improvements, along with the hillside restoration, depend heavily on user compliance to help pave the way for additional future improvements.

2009 Grant News

This year, *Friends of LBL*, the Forest Service's non-profit partner, was fortunate enough to receive a grant aimed at maintaining and improving motorized trails in Turkey

Bay. The funding was provided by Kentucky Recreational Trails Program (RTP). *Friends of LBL* and Turkey Bay have been fortunate over the past few years to receive funding from this grant source to complete a variety of trail projects creek crossing installations. Upcoming trail projects include rock garden expansion, upgrades to the Turkey Trot area, annual main trail maintenance, and Road 167 improvements. For more information on RTP projects across the Commonwealth, please visit <http://dlg.ky.gov/grants>.

The Forest Service is also applying for regional Legacy Roads and Trails Restoration Initiative funding for 2010. This funding has been used previously in LBL and Turkey Bay for road decommissioning, stream stabilization, and hillside restoration projects.

Welcome!

Some of you may have noticed a new face in the gatehouse recently. Brittany Brewer was hired as LBL's newest Integrated Resource Apprentice (IRA). The IRA program is a 2-year apprenticeship whereby individuals split time between timber, outdoor recreation, and wildfire programs at LBL. Brittany has an anthropology degree from Middle Tennessee State University. She has filled one available vacancy recently occupied by Bret Sparks and Corey Large. Please welcome Brittany to LBL!

Marshall County Safety Day 2009

Several staff members represented Turkey Bay and the Forest Service at the annual Marshall County Safety Day on September 26 in Draffenville, Kentucky. Equipped with ATVs and UTVs, Integrated Resource Apprentices Bobby Jackson and Brittany Brewer talked to school children about ATV safety, protective riding gear, and proper outdoor ethics. They reported that the kids thoroughly enjoyed seeing the vehicles firsthand and had lots of "four-wheeler stories" to tell. Thanks to Bobby and Brittany for contributing to this worthwhile event!

“Call Before You Haul”

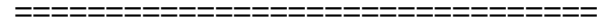
As this year’s ice storm reminded many of us, Mother Nature can be very unpredictable, often when we are not prepared for it. With the traditionally soggy winter months on the horizon, please call LBL before you leave the house to make certain Turkey Bay is open for riding. Be proactive and visit www.lbl.org or call 270-924-2000 for Turkey Bay status checks prior to making the trip over to LBL, especially if you know we’ve had significant precipitation in the area.



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

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like information regarding worthwhile and rewarding volunteer opportunities at Turkey Bay or other facilities throughout LBL, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Emily Schmadeke, at 270-924-2007 or eschmadeke@friendsoflbl.org.

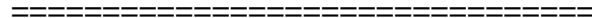


For other information concerning Turkey Bay OHV Area and Trails, you may contact a staff member listed below:

Bill Ryan
Natural Resource Specialist/Facility Manager
270-924-2179
wryan@fs.fed.us

Kyle Varel
Assistant Manager – OHV/Trails
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You may also obtain information from the Land Between The Lakes website at www.lbl.org. New LBL Recreation Maps are now available at LBL facilities, including Turkey Bay.



For more information on MVUM, look for this logo at www.lbl.org.

All legal trails in Turkey Bay serve as one component of the MVUM and all campground roads, legal back roads, and legal access routes. The MVUM is required by all National Forests and Grasslands and must comply with the Forest Service Travel Management Rule of 2005.



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