



File Code: 1950

Date: January 13, 2010

Dear Friend of Land Between The Lakes,

The US Forest Service Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) is seeking your involvement in a proposed prescribed fire project. I am requesting your input, early in the process, in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 40 CFR 1500-1508.

Proposed Action

LBL is proposing using a "Categorical Exclusion from further documentation in an Environmental Analysis" for a prescribed burn of 3,359 acres in the Devil's Backbone area. This burn is proposed to restore and maintain shortleaf pine forests, reduce the number of and competition from non-native invasive species, and improve wildlife habitat as per Area Plan direction (see the Vision and Goals in the Area Plan). The proposed Devil's Backbone Burn project is located on the southern end of LBL and includes the Devil's Backbone State Natural Area (cooperatively managed with the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation) in Stewart County, Tennessee, in the Core Area Land Allocation Prescription 1.B (pages 30-31 of the 2004 Land and Resource Management Plan). The project area as shown in attached map is west of The Trace, north of Highway 79, and south of FS Road 230.

Category of Action

The category of these actions is Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30, 31.2 Category Number 6, "Timber Stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction."

Public Involvement

This proposed action is in the developmental stage and is not a decided action. I invite your comments and suggestions to improve this proposed action. To foster a collaborative approach to managing LBL please provide your input, with supporting information, specific to the proposed Devil's Backbone prescribed fire. With this letter I am beginning the public scoping, process to gain your insight on this project.

Your input should be emailed to comments-southern-land-between-lakes@fs.fed.us with the proposed Devil's Backbone Prescribed Fire in the subject heading or sent through regular mail to Land Between The Lakes, Attn: Jim McCoy, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, KY 42211. If you have questions on technical aspects of this proposed project, contact Area Fire Management Officer Jim McCoy at jrmccoy@fs.fed.us or 270-924-2048. Thank you for your interest in resource management at LBL.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM P. LISOWSKY
Area Supervisor

Enclosure



