



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers®**

Dale Hollow Lake
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Celina, Tennessee 38551

News Release

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Dale Hollow Lake

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Notice to the Media

CELINA, TENN, Feb. 6, 2004 — In the Wednesday, February 4th edition of the Citizen-Statesman, an article addressed the topics of the Clay County Commission meeting, including the “total closure of Pleasant Grove Recreation Area on Dale Hollow Lake.” As stated, the information contained in the article could easily be misconstrued.

While visitors will note some minor changes in the operation of the park, the day use area will indeed not be closed and was never planned for closure. Pleasant Grove Recreation Area is acknowledged as a great resource to the local community, regional tourism, and one that provides convenient access to Dale Hollow Lake. The day use area will remain open providing for boat launching, swimming, mainland picnic sites, swinging bridge, walking trail, and picnic shelter with the option of reservations. The mainland portion of Pleasant Grove will continue to be operated and maintained to the highest level of quality reflective of Corps of Engineers developed facilities.

The only operational change at Pleasant Grove involves the island portion of the park. This area contains 28 walk-in camping sites that receive minimal usage during the summer recreation season. Unfortunately, the campsites are extremely under-utilized and it is simply not cost-efficient to continue to operate and maintain the camping program on the island. Therefore, island camping at Pleasant Grove is being closed. It is the only such facility on Dale Hollow Lake that will be closed for the 2004 recreation season.

This action is part of The Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “Recreation

To Better Serve The Public

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Excellence at Army Lakes,” or R.E.A.L. program for 2004

<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/Issues/REAL/>. Under the plan, some sites in the Nashville District were selected for closure or operational changes based on low visitation and utilization rates. The closures will prevent valuable financial resources being expended at little-visited areas. Reallocation of those resources will allow the Corps to provide a higher level of service expected by visitors at preferred locations.

“We regret the operational change on Pleasant Grove Island,” said Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manger Ronnie Smith. “But I want to emphasize that Pleasant Grove Recreation Area is not being closed and the Corps will continue to provide quality recreational opportunities in the park. And while the island camping closure may inconvenience a few, as stewards of taxpayer resources, this reallocation of financial resources will help ensure the maximum benefit for the most people on beautiful Dale Hollow Lake.” With the closure at Pleasant Grove to campers, alternative camping sites are located at nearby Dale Hollow Dam Campground, designated remote primitive camping sites around the lake, and selected camping provided by some of Dale Hollow’s commercial marinas.

Resource Managers at District lakes always strive to provide the highest possible level of service and convenience for visitors. The Corps of Engineers recognizes its role as a key recreation provider and is very concerned with the long-term sustainability of the recreation program. This action is one more measure to help the Nashville District and Dale Hollow Lake continue to provide first-class recreation services over the long-term.