

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Nashville District

Center Hill Lake

**Shoreline Management Plan
Review**

Q's and A's

For the 2005 Review

Q: (1 Comment-Cookeville) What is the Corps doing to minimize the chance of forest fires on public property?

Response: The Corps does not have an in-house or staffed fire prevention program, but rather works closely with the Tennessee Division of Forestry for fire prevention education and suppression on public lands at Center Hill Lake.

Q: (1 comment-Cookeville) Gratified to see the Corps protecting the natural resources and keeping public land "public" as a priority! TVA should follow the Corps' lead!

Response: Protection and enhancement of the natural resources at Center Hill Lake is one of the primary objectives clearly outlined in the Project's Master Plan, Operational Management Plan (OMP), and the Shoreline Management Plan, (SMP), (Appendix H of the OMP). This review process and workshop focused on the critical benefits provided to the public by sustaining the natural resources in relation to the overall operation of Center Hill Lake as a balanced multi-purpose project.

Q: (1 comment-Cookeville) The meeting was great! Thank you for the information.

Response: This SMP review and workshop was primarily designed to address the management and public use of the public property surrounding the lake (adjacent property owners), but limited additional information was provided to meet the informational needs of all multi-user's (e.g. day-users, boaters, hunters, fishermen, etc.).

Q: (1 comment-Smithville) The boat ramp at Coconut Ridge does not meet the water. Would the Corps suggest building or others applying for approval to construct a ramp to meet the water (maybe forming with 2'x8's and concreting)?

Response: This site is actually an old road end (pre-impoundment) at the water's edge that is neither outgranted to Dekalb County nor listed as an improved Corps recreational site. The Corps does not have plans for the future development of this site as an improved public launching facility or recreational site.

Q: (1 comment-Smithville) In reference to condition number 29 contained in the Standard Permit Conditions of Appendix A, 2005 Center Hill Lake Draft Plan, the comment is: "I would like to see the 14 day transfer period extended. In an emergency or the sudden death of a permit holder, the family may need extra time to see to the affairs".

Response: This 14 day requirement of condition 29 for the new owner of a previously permitted facility to make application for a new permit is a nationwide standard permit condition. If the new owner of a previously permitted facility requests in writing an extension beyond the 14 days for valid reason(s), the Center Hill Lake Resource Manager will work closely with the new owner to honor the request, if possible.

Q: (1 comment-Smithville Mail-in) Is the 50 feet distance for a fire-lane permit a safe distance from the structure? The Corps should consult with fire experts to determine a safe distance. It is more logical to be 50 feet from the property line. The Corps is way too strict on what can be permitted within a fire lane. The Corps should poll the public to determine public opinion on what should be allowed in a fire lane. Flower beds, bird houses, bird baths, etc. should be allowed in fire lanes. I believe the public would rather see flowers in fire lanes rather than the plant species listed in Appendix C of the 2005 Draft Shoreline Management Plan.

Response: The 50 feet fire-lane distance requirement has been in place at Center Hill Lake for several years (since the implementation of the 1979 Lakeshore Management Plan), and there have been no reported fire problems with adjacent properties or structures. Fire-lane permits may be issued to qualifying adjacent property owners for the sole purpose of allowing them to reduce the fire hazards immediately adjacent to their private residences.

One of the primary objectives of the Project Master Plan and the SMP is the maintenance and perpetuation of an undisturbed and naturally occurring shoreline plant community consisting of native plant species supporting habitat for native wildlife species. The plant species listed in Appendix C are native and naturally occurring plants found in the Center Hill Lake Area.

Q: (2 comments - Smithville Mail-in) Allow a provision in the updated Shoreline management Plan that would allow transfer of mowing permits to the direct descendents (sons and daughters) only of the current mowing permit holders. By prohibiting transfer to third parties upon sale or transfer of the property, the potential for financial gain by the property seller would be eliminated.

Response: These initial mowing privileges were authorized mostly by letters of no objection in the 1960's. In 1972, a comprehensive study was conducted to determine the long-range environmental impact of private exclusive use privileges at Center Hill Lake. This study resulted in the continuation of a policy existing since 1969, whereby no new private privileges for mowing or landscaping would be permitted. A Lakeshore Management Plan was implemented in June 1979. These letters of no objection were converted to grandfathered mowing permits under the provisions of this plan. In anticipation of increased demands from adjacent property owners, this plan clearly limited private exclusive use by adjacent property owners in favor of conserving the natural environment of the shoreline for use by the public. Adjacent property owners that were originally granted written permission to mow the public property adjacent to their private property in the 1960's will be allowed to retain that privilege under the authority of "grandfathered" mowing permits until the sale or transfer of said property, or death of the person or persons to which the permits are issued. At that time, the grandfathered Shoreline Use Permits will be canceled and the areas will be allowed to revert to their natural state.