



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District**

Cordell Hull Lake

Lake Carts



Spring 2008

Cutting, Damaging, or Destroying Trees on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Property is a Federal Crime

In certain areas of the country, trees and vegetation on publicly-owned lands surrounding some Corps lakes are being damaged, cut, or destroyed by individuals who own private land adjacent to public property. In other cases, trees located on adjacent privately-owned lands have been cut and allowed to fall onto trees on public lands, resulting in damage that often proves fatal to those trees.

Actions by property owners adjacent to public land that involve the destruction of environmental features of the lake and surrounding forested shoreline can also create potentially severe erosion problems. Individuals who illegally cut trees and vegetation in the important and sensitive "buffer zone" on public property are committing federal criminal acts of vandalism.

It is the Corps' goal to maintain and preserve the outstanding features of federal natural areas for the full benefit of the general public and future generations of Americans. Replacement of 100-year-old trees along the boundary line is far more difficult than repairing a vandalized restroom door at a park recreation area or a picnic table at a campsite.

Cutting of trees or the damage or removal of any vegetation for any purpose, including timber harvesting, creating views of the lake, pruning, landscaping, mowing, or underbrushing is a federal crime and is punishable under the provisions of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 327. Any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

Previously the Corps has coordinated with violators to either restore damaged areas or to collect the

monetary value of the damages and utilize the money to enhance or protect the natural resources at the lake.

Any new acts of vandalism will continue to be investigated, and if necessary will be turned over to the United States Attorney's Office for prospective prosecution through the federal criminal court system. The Resource Manager and Park Rangers have identified this as a high priority, and are working diligently to locate, investigate, and consider federal prosecution in all cases of destruction of public property.



Local residents can help prevent the degradation of lake natural areas. Although the Corps makes every effort to locate and take the appropriate action against offenders, our most important asset could be the eyes and ears of the general public. Community members are invited to help protect this important natural resource and provide timely assistance by calling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resource Manager's Office at Cordell Hull Lake if they hear a chainsaw or bulldozer at work in an area they believe is government property.

Reporting violations such as dumping of trash, release of sewage and human wastes (treated or untreated) from boats, or the construction of unauthorized roadways onto government property are also strongly encouraged. The identity of all individuals that report unauthorized activities will be

kept confidential or anonymous, and all reported violations will be investigated.

Anyone who observes or has knowledge of theft, vandalism, or any other threat or suspicious activity against Corps property is also encouraged to participate in the "Corps Watch" program, which is a nationwide crime-watch program developed to protect Corps of Engineers property. Each year, millions of dollars are lost due to property damage from vandalism, larceny, arson, and environmental and cultural resource degradation. This program is designed to heighten public awareness of the seriousness of the impacts of crime within or around dams, lakes, locks, recreation areas, and other Corps of Engineers property and facilities, and national funding is available to issue rewards of up to \$1,000 to individuals for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders. "Corps Watch" uses a 24-hour-a-day toll free hotline that assures the identity of the caller is protected, and the proper authorities are notified. To report theft, vandalism, or any threat or suspicious activity against Corps property, please call the "Corps Watch" hotline at 1-866-413-7970.

You can help maintain the timeless beauty of Cordell Hull Lake. Please call the Resource Manager's Office at (615) 735-1034, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, CST for additional information or to learn how you can help safeguard the lake's outstanding environmental quality. As always, your help with our efforts to better manage these resources is greatly appreciated.

* * *

Giving Something Back...to Cordell Hull Lake

Ask just about anyone if they can recall John F. Kennedy's most famous quotation and most likely they'll be able to recite his immortal words "...*my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.*"

On Saturday morning, September 29, 2007, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Scout leaders, and members of the general public were doing just that as they took part in the annual National Public Lands Day, held at Cordell Hull Lake.

The morning began with a flurry of activity

as youngsters and adults signed up at Defeated Creek Recreation Area, and then set out in multiple directions for the different volunteer activities scheduled to take place around the lake.

Altogether, 101 volunteers proved to everyone they're willing to get involved and give something back to their country. Bluebird boxes, grill posts, and benches were erected, bags and bags of trash were cleaned up from the shoreline, the basketball court improved, a trail was cleared, and invasive species and unsightly graffiti removed.

"I was impressed by how hard these kids worked" said Cordell Hull Resource Manager Mark Herd. "When it was time to stop work and go to lunch, they didn't want to quit - they wanted to keep on working."

This event was coordinated by Park Ranger and National Public Lands Day Coordinator Stacy Bilbrey, who was pleased by the successful turn-out, saying "I'm grateful so many Scout groups took part in this year's event...nearly three times as many as we've had in previous years."

Later in the day a free lunch of pizza, barbecue, baked beans, and cole slaw was provided for the hungry participants, and free camping certificates for Defeated Creek Campground and one-day day-use passes were also awarded at the close of the picnic.

By the end of the day, the kids were wearing muddy tennis shoes, smudges of paint on elbows and noses, and big smiles - something tells me that if he was still with us, JFK would've been real proud!

Meet the Staff

If you're a newcomer to Cordell Hull Lake, or if it has just been a while since you have had the need to contact us, you may not be familiar with the Corps employees who work in the Resource Manager's Office.

The Cordell Hull Lake Resource staff is available to assist you in any way we can. The current staff is as follows:

Mark Herd – Resource Manager

Lesslie Williams – Office Management Assistant

Kenny Claywell – Conservation Biologist

Travis Wiley—Environmental Protection Specialist

Mark Willis – Environmental Protection Specialist

Stacy Bilbrey – Park Ranger

Stephen Gregory – Park Ranger

Aurora Scott—Ranger Trainee

Bert Merritt – Facility Manager

Ronnie Devlin – Civil Engineering Technician

Chris Vega – Park Contract Inspector

NATIONAL GREAT OUTDOORS DAY

JUNE 14, 2008

For Information:

www.CorpLakes.us

Lake Benefits Economy

Visitation to Cordell Hull Lake last year exceeded 2.3 million visitors. This figure not only indicates that a lot of people enjoyed the lake, but also means that there was an economic benefit to the regional economy.

Recent studies have shown that visitors spend an average of about \$16.03 per visit. These expenditures include lodging, food, fuel, bait, and souvenirs. In 2007 visitors to Cordell Hull Lake produced an economic benefit of approximately 38 million dollars.



Volunteer Clearinghouse
1-800-865-8337

Give a Helping Hand
[**www.corplakes.us/volunte**](http://www.corplakes.us/volunte)

Volunteer: Everyone Wins!

Have you ever noticed that everyone likes things that are free! Volunteers don't cost the public anything; the only expense is the person's time. Also, volunteers are a big asset to the Corps, the environment and the community. Opportunities include day use area hosts, trail work, helping with Lakeshore Cleanups and interpretative programs. Contact Ranger Stacy Bilbrey at the Resource Office for additional information.

Short Takes

CORDELL HULL FISHING INFORMATION:

The toll-free telephone number for fishing conditions on Cordell Hull Lake is **1-800-735-1050**. This voice-recorded report is updated daily and includes the lake elevation, water temperature, and generation schedule. The 800 number for the directory of other Corps of Engineers lakes in the Nashville District is **1-800-238-2264**.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?: For questions, comments, or information about Cordell Hull lake you can contact the resource Manager's Office by writing: Resource Manager, Cordell hull Lake, 71, Corps Lane, Carthage, Tennessee 37030 or calling (615) 735-1034.

DID YOU KNOW? Work accomplished by unpaid volunteers saved taxpayers over \$104,000 dollars at Cordell Hull Lake last year.

MARINAS PROVIDE SERVICES: Cordell Hull is served by two commercial marinas that are ready to serve you. Both marinas provide slip rentals, cabins, fishing licenses, restaurants, boats and motor rentals, fishing guides, and a variety of other services. For more information contact: Defeated Creek Marina (615) 774-3131; or Granville Marina (615) 653-4360.

**Resource Managers Office
Cordell Hull Lake
71 Corps Lane
Carthage, Tennessee 37030-1034**

**PRSR-T-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 559**

Lakecasts Page 4

Spring into Safety

We all want our visitors to be safe in, on and around water at Cordell Hull Lake. The following list will help you, and your family avoid potential water hazards.

- Learn how to swim and never swim alone.
- Keep a watchful eye on children and make sure an adult is present at all times. (Don't rely on substitutes such as inflatable toys that could puncture on a rock or debris.)
- Do not dive into unknown waters. Make sure it is deep enough before entering and clear of any underwater hazards.
- Restrict swimming to designated swimming areas to avoid boats and other underwater hazards.
- Make sure your boat is equipped with a coast guard approved lifejacket for each passenger. The life jacket must be in good, working condition and properly fit the intended user.
- Be aware of weather conditions while on the water. Watch for sudden storms, and make sure someone

knows where you will be.

-Become familiar with navigation channels around the lake and use common sense while underway. This guide is just the beginning to ensuring your summer fun is safe and enjoyable. To find out more on water safety and boating regulations visit the US Coast Guard website at www.uscgbuoating.org. National Safe Boating Week is May 17-23, 2008.

