



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

J. Percy Priest

Lake Casts



www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/jpp/rec/

Spring 2008

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

Cutting of trees or the damage or removal of any vegetation for any purpose, including timber harvesting, creating views of the lake, pruning, landscaping, developing trails, 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, and may be tried and sentenced in accordance with the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3401.

Due to the convenient location to nearby Nashville, LaVergne, Mt. Juliet, and many other communities,

the lake and the surrounding public property are well known to a diverse group of outdoor recreationists, attracting more than 6 million visitors annually.

The 14,200-acre lake and adjoining 213 miles of beautiful forested shoreline draw those visitors and prompt them to add more than \$104 million to the local economy as they pursue outdoor recreational activities such as wildlife viewing and photography, boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, or just simply sight-seeing.

Outdoor enthusiasts are not the only folks being drawn to J. Percy Priest Lake. Surging development adjacent to public property is rapidly depleting the natural primitive landscape of trees and wildlife habitat that once surrounded the lake. In many cases where public property used to neighbor acres of pri-



vately owned timber or farmland, it is now at the back door of major housing developments. Unfortunately this increasing pressure can result in actions by property owners adjacent to public land that involve the destruction of the environmental features of the lake and surrounding forested shoreline. Not only are these actions destructive, unsightly, and unlawful, but they can also create potentially severe erosion problems. The presence of the natural shoreline is necessary to maintain the water quality of J. Percy Priest Lake. Natural vegetation along the shoreline acts as a buffer and helps to purify run-off water and control erosion along hillsides. The cities of Murfreesboro, Smyrna, and LaVergne all depend on J. Percy Priest Lake for their drinking water.

Individuals who illegally cut trees and vegetation in this 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 J. Percy Priest Lake 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. These violators are doing more than simply destroying government property - they are stealing. They are stealing from their neighbors, friends, and visitors to the lake by removing the picturesque and remote quality that attracts many varied users to the lake.

In the past several years, the Corps has worked closely with violators to either restore the 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 without fully prosecuting the violators through the federal court system. However, a more effective approach is necessary to deter these acts of vandalism and to ensure the long-term environmental quality of the lake and surrounding shoreline. For this reason, all future acts of vandalism will be investigated and all findings 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.

During recent investigations of tree vandalism in the Nashville District, violators have provided false statements concerning the facts of the cases to Park Rangers. Providing false statements to federal officers is also a federal crime. Any person who provides a false statement to a federal officer is subject to prosecution under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

Local residents can help stop this degradation of our lake scenery. Although the Corps is making every effort to locate and take the appropriate action against offenders, our most important assets are 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 J. Percy Priest 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, Off Road Vehicle (ORV) activity, release of sewage and human wastes (treated or untreated) from boats, or the construction of unauthorized roadways onto government property is 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.

You can help protect the lands and waters of J. Percy Priest Lake. Please call the J. Percy Priest Resource Manager's Office at (615) 889-1975 , Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. As always, your help in better managing these resources is greatly appreciated.

Off Road Vehicles

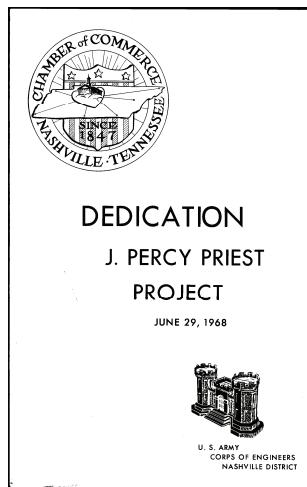
There are no areas on J. Percy Priest Lake where it is legal to operate a vehicle off road!

Driving off road on J. Percy Priest Lake is damaging to public lands, opens areas to illegal dumping and can destroy critical habitat for plants and animals. It is also a violation of federal law at J. Percy Priest Lake. Violators may be fined or cited to appear in court. Anyone who wishes to report someone driving off road should contact the Resource Manager's Office at 615-889-1975. If someone is crossing your private property to access government land you may also contact your local law enforcement agency.

J. Percy Priest Reservoir Turns 40!

It is time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the dedication of J. Percy Priest Lake!

J. Percy Priest Reservoir was officially dedicated on June 29, 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson was present along with many other dignitaries to officially dedicate the project. Authorized by Congress in 1946 as Stewarts Ferry Reservoir, the name was changed in 1958 to honor the late J. Percy Priest, Congressman from the 5th Congressional District of Tennessee. Construction at J. Percy Priest began in June 1963, and was completed and lake impounded in 1968.



Project authorized purposes include hydropower generation, flood reduction, and recreation,. J. Percy Priest Reservoir continues to provide valuable service to local communities and the Nation. The Natural Resources Management Staff at J. Percy Priest is responsible for operation and management of over 19,000 land acres and over

Official Dedication Pamphlet

14,000 water acres at normal summer pool elevation 490.0 feet above mean sea level.

J. Percy Priest offers visitors a multitude of recreational opportunities, and with over six million visitors in 2007, is consistently in the top 10 of most-visited Corps of Engineers projects. For additional information pertaining to the project dedication, visit the J. Percy Priest Lake Visitor Center or call the Resource Manager's Office at (615) 889-1975.

VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers that have contributed their time and efforts to our lake this past year. Volunteers do make a difference!!

J. Percy Priest Lake offers many volunteer opportunities. We are the stewards of 33,000 acres of public land and water. The wise use of these precious resources today and their conservation for tomorrow are important and critical responsibilities. Contact Park Ranger Robert Davis for more information at (615) 889-1975.

Corps Project Will Improve Stones River

Motorists on Interstate 40 will witness a watery display of scenic proportions next summer at J. Percy Priest Dam when a project to benefit the aquatic environment in the Stones River is complete. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, the project will involve the installation of a Howell-Bunger Valve, donated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The display of water will look much like what might come from a huge fire hose," said Project Manager Craig Carrington. "Motorists will not be able to miss it."



The valve will make several things possible, all of them positive. Carrington indicated that the valve will allow the Corps to set a water release goal of 150 cubic feet per second in the Stones River below J. Percy Priest Dam and return the river to what it may have looked like before the dam was built. The amount of rainfall received might impact that goal. The valve will add dissolved oxygen to the water as it is released in a huge plume and this will allow the Stones River to again meet the state water quality standard of 5.0 milligrams per liter for a warm water environment. Such a release will also decrease the amount of taste and odor problems caused by hydrogen sulfide, prevalent in previous discharges. The unpleasant odor is frequently detected when releases of water occur during the summer months. Finally, it will also reduce the amount of iron and manganese in the discharged water.

All of the above benefits were used to justify modifications to J. Percy Priest Dam for the Ecosystem Restoration Project, which will be cost-shared by the sponsor.

The Corps sometimes released water through the flood gates to create a minimum flow in the Stones River but success of that method was limited. The Howell-Bunger valve will be installed at the end of a 36-inch-by-pass line that terminates near the tailwater. Construction of the Ecosystem Restoration Project will be completed before next summer.

Get Ready - It's Camping Season!

The warm temperatures and longer days mean that it is time to enjoy the great outdoors. J. Percy Priest Lake provides many opportunities for both individuals and families to enjoy their favorite outdoor activities such as boating, swimming and camping. There are three campgrounds at Percy

Priest that offer campers a variety of recreational opportunities. These include:

Seven Points Campground: April 1 – Oct 30

Location – Stewart's Ferry Pike, Hermitage

Poole Knobs Campground: May 1 – Sept 30

Location – Jones Mill Road, La Vergne

Anderson Road Campground: May 15 – Sept 2

Location – Anderson Road, Nashville

J. Percy Priest Lake also has picnic shelters that can be reserved at the following recreation areas: Jefferson Springs, Smith Springs, Anderson Road Day Use, Cook Day Use, and Seven Points Day Use. Campsites or picnic shelters may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) by calling toll-free 1-877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

New Amenities at J. Percy Priest

Ships ahoy, kids!!! The staff at Percy Priest is proud to introduce our new ship playground at Seven Points Campground. The Little Tikes Kid-Builder Modular Ship will provide a fun, interactive play area for the kids, adding hours of enjoyment for our campers. It has a variety of slides, bridges, and swings, and will bring out the pirate in all who use it!



Visitors of Seven Points will also notice improvements to some of the campsites, including 5 new concrete borders and additional chat/gravel on many pads. The bathhouses at Seven Points, Poole Knobs and Anderson Road campgrounds have also seen some improvements this season. These include new fixtures, partitions, and benches, fresh paint, and even new flooring at Seven Points.

The new bathroom at the Anderson Road Day Use beach is another source of pride for our staff. The construction for this project finished up right before the 2007 season and has proven to be a big hit.

We hope you take advantage of these new facilities and come back often to enjoy J. Percy Priest.

Resource Managers Office
J. Percy Priest Lake
3737 Bell Rd.
Nashville, TN 37214

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Corps Watch

To help protect our parks, the Corps has implemented a property protection program nationwide, under the title "Corps Watch", as a means of deterring crime and reducing property damage at projects. Each year, millions of dollars in property damage are lost due to vandalism, larceny, arson, and environmental and cultural degradation.



Corps Watch is designed to heighten public awareness of the impact of crime within and around dams, power production facilities, campgrounds, recreational areas, and other Corps Civil Works facilities. This program is similar to the various neighborhood watch-style crime deterrence programs. A toll free hotline number, 1-866-413-7970, is available for anyone who observes or has knowledge of theft, vandalism, or any other threats or suspicious activity occurring on or against Corps property. Callers can remain anonymous. Corps Watch contains a provision to provide cash rewards at 10% of the assessed value of damage or loss, not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$1,000.00, to individuals for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders. This program does not replace the 911 emergency systems that should be used if a crime is in progress.

J. Percy Priest Resource Management Staff

The J. Percy Priest Resource Management staff welcomes questions and comments. You can contact them at (615) 889-1975.

Resource Manager: Todd Yann

Conservation Biologist: Mark Vaughan – Hobson Pike to SR 840

Natural Resources Specialist: Courtney Wilson – Bryant Grove to Priest Overlook

Park Ranger: Lindsey Houchens – JPP Tailwaters to Hobson Pike

Park Ranger: Robert Davis – SR 840 to Bryant Grove

Park Ranger Student Co-op: Chris Cantrell

Student Aide: Sarai Perkins

Facility Manager: Greg Thomas

Civil Engineering Technician: Vacant

Supply Technician: Harry Newkirk

Construction Inspector: Jewel Spivey

Park Contract Inspector: Janice Nelson

Maintenance Mechanic: Joe Walker

Have a question about J. Percy Priest Lake? Check out the webpage: www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/jpp/rec/