

# Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

July 17, 2025 Submitted

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Land Between the Lakes, National Recreation Area

AGENCY: United States Forest Service, USDA

### ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the USDA-FS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with efforts to eradicate non-native invasive plant species on Land Between the Lakes, National Recreation Area (NRA). The proposal is for a comprehensive approach to eradication through the use of multiple methods and covers the entire NRA.

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE:** The intent of this EA is to establish a consistent, programmatic method for addressing non-native, invasive plant species (NNIPS), and for maintaining stakeholder engagement and public involvement. This EA does not specify specific project areas or tools to be used for a specific NNIPS problem. The NRA will produce an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) to be released to the public by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of each fiscal year. One of the items included in this plan will be the previous year's project results (except for the first plan produced in 2025). The plan will also include detailed analysis of the upcoming year's proposed project. The AOP will have specific project areas, proposed actions, effects, design features, best management practices, and maps. Again, these notifications will be annual and afford the public an opportunity to comment on proposed projects and to engage in project design.

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS, EMAIL: [comments-southern-land-between-lakes@usda.gov](mailto:comments-southern-land-between-lakes@usda.gov) and include "NNIPS EA" in the subject line. If the subject line is improperly labeled, your comments will not be considered. This comment period will be open July 17<sup>th</sup> and close by 12 a.m. central time August 1<sup>st</sup>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Andy Mowrey at [andrew.mowrey@usda.gov](mailto:andrew.mowrey@usda.gov) or (270)-924-2131.

The EA can be found on the Land Between the Lakes website at <https://www.landbetweenthelakes.us/managing-land/managing-the-land/projects/>

Any final action by USDA related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.