



Finding of Applicability and No Extraordinary Circumstances Bald Cypress Planting USDA Forest Service Land Between the Lakes, NRA Trigg County, Kentucky

Proposed Action

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) proposes to utilize Land Between the Lakes (LBL) roads and trails in order to access the shorelines where areas have been identified for bald cypress plantings. The plantings will occur below the Ordinary High-Water mark on the lake, and due to water access being limited from shallow depths in the winter months, land access is necessary at times. The only overland travel will occur immediately adjacent to the planting site on OHV's, and no new roads will be constructed. Any significant rutting or other damage to roads will be repaired by KDFWR.

Category

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The applicable category of action is identified in agency procedures (7 CFR Part 1b.4):

7 CFR 1b.4(d)(30) Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.

This category of action is applicable because bald cypress represents a native and historic species providing high quality habitat to wildlife species and critical land/soil stabilization along the lake shorelines. No herbicides will be used, and no construction will take place. This is purely to allow a partnering agency access for the purpose of a habitat improvement project with no negative impacts short-term or long-term.

Extraordinary Circumstances Review Compliance

I find that no extraordinary circumstances exists, as informed by the interdisciplinary review, that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account relevant resources as identified in agency procedures (7 CFR Part 1b.3(f)):

- ◆ Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat or species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat. [12/8/2025]
- ◆ Flood plains, wetlands, or other sensitive areas.



- ◆ Special sources of water, such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protected areas, municipal watershed or other water sources that are vital in a region.
- ◆ Areas having formal Federal or state designations such as wilderness areas, parks, or wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, marine sanctuaries; national natural landmarks; inventoried roadless areas, or national recreation areas.
- ◆ Specially managed areas, such as designed research or experimental areas, coral reefs, coastal barrier resources, or, unless exempt, coastal zone management areas.
- ◆ Important or prime agricultural, forest. or range lands.
- ◆ Property (e.g. sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance, as designed by Federal, Tribal, State or local governments, or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. 12/8/2025

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision is consistent with the Land Between the Lakes, National Recreation Area Land Management Plan.

James McCoy
Area Supervisor

Date

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