



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

Guidelines for Shoreline Use

Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes



General

A primary objective of the Corps of Engineers in managing Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes is to provide opportunities for quality outdoor experiences through sound stewardship and responsible management of the natural resources on public lands and water. Management Plans for both lakes have been developed to provide maximum benefit to the public while preserving the unique characteristics of project resources.

This guide has been compiled to provide general information about activities permitted on government-owned land around both lakes. It outlines the procedures for applying for permits or licenses for various activities or uses of government-owned lands. Space does not permit a complete listing of all possible activities, but this discussion covers most of them. Complete rules and regulations governing public use of Corps projects are contained in Part 327 of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulation (CFR). Copies of these rules and regulations are available at the Mountain Home Project Office.

Shoreline Use Permits

Ownership of private land near the lake or adjoining government property does not convey any exclusive rights to use of the lake or the adjoining public lands. An application must be made to the Operations Manager for a permit before construction of boat mooring facilities, alteration of government land, or modification of vegetation on the lake shorelines. These shoreline use permits are issued for (1) boat docks and (2) vegetation modification. Permits are issued and enforced in accordance with provisions of section 327.19, Chapter III, Title 36, CFR.

A charge will be made for shoreline use permits to help defray expenses associated with issuance and administration of the permits. Fees of \$30 for a 5-year permit on a boat dock and a fee of \$10 is required for other shoreline use permits. All permits are non-transferable, and fees are nonrefundable. Personal checks may be written for these fees to: FAO, US Army, SWL.

1. Private Floating Recreational Facilities (Boat Docks)

Privates floating recreational facilities (PFFs) are permitted only in areas designated for limited development. A map showing the locations of these areas is on display at the Project Office in Mountain Home, Arkansas. The density of development in limited development areas will depend on ecological and aesthetic values and the availability of satisfactory mooring and parking areas. The number of docks permitted in a limited development area will normally be limited by a spacing of a minimum of 100 feet apart at conservation pool level.

Applicants for floating facilities in the limited development areas must have ready access to the shoreline either by public road, ownership of adjoining property or legal right-of-access across adjoining property. Ownership of land adjacent to government property is not required. The facility must serve as the home port moorage for the individual boats, and the owner of each boat in a dock must also own an interest in the dock. A copy of the current state boat registration will be required. An individual will not be permitted more than one PFF. PFFs must meet the minimum design standards developed by the Little Rock District Office of the Corps of Engineers. A copy of these standards is available from the Mountain Home Project Office. Dock plans must be approved prior to construction and the dock must be inspected at the time of installation. Park Rangers will randomly inspect each permitted facility for compliance with existing rules and regulations for the type of facility. Noncompliance with the terms of the permit and the regulations may be grounds for revocation of the permit or removal of the dock.

Electric lines to private boat docks must be licensed or otherwise approved by the Corps of Engineers and must meet all local and state codes and the National Electric Code in effect at the time the docks are installed.

2. Vegetation Modification

Adjacent landowners must obtain a permit from the Operations Manager prior to modification of vegetation characteristics of the area (meandering foot path and fire protection permits only). Permits will not be granted to persons for use of lands allocated as public recreation areas, including their buffers, or on lands allocated as prohibited access areas. An on-site inspection by a Park Ranger is required prior to issuance of a permit. Forms and assistance in completing them are available at the Project Office. Shoreline modifications are subject to the following restrictions:

- Trimming of trees or brush to obtain a view is prohibited.
- Only hand operated tools may be used. The use of heavy equipment such as tractors is prohibited.
- No flowering trees or shrubs such as dogwood, redbud and serviceberry of any size may be removed.
- Trees larger than two inches in diameter (measured at ground level) may not be removed.

a. Access Paths

Pedestrian access paths may be constructed to the shoreline. The paths must follow a meandering route to prevent erosion and to avoid the need for removal of trees and vegetation. The use permit does not convey the right to construct any structures (steps, bridges, etc.) in connection with the path. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from pedestrian paths.

b. Cutting Dead Trees

Only dead trees that present a potential safety hazard to pedestrians or to a boat dock or other structure will be approved for removal. A Park Ranger must have previously inspected dead trees before they may be cut. A permit may be issued and the tree will need to be cut before the expiration date of the permit. This permit must be carried at all times while cutting the dead tree. Burning on government property is prohibited.

c. Mowing

Mowing of the shoreline will be permitted for fire protection purposes only. The limits of mowing will depend on the proximity of habitable buildings to the government boundary. A maximum mowed radius of 33 feet from habitable structures is allowed for fire protection. A Park Ranger must inspect and mark the area that is proposed to be mowed and a permit issued before mowing is begun. Individual sites will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A Park Ranger prior to renewal will perform reinspection and reevaluation.

Project Boundary Lines

Most of the boundary line on both lakes has been surveyed and monumented. The boundary line is defined by survey monuments placed at ground level. The survey markers are 3-1/2 inch diameter brass caps stamped to show the monument number, the year surveyed, and the agency, Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. A 5-foot white steel fence post is set about one foot from the survey marker as an aid to location. Normally the project boundary is a straight line between survey markers. The elevation and distance between these survey markers vary. Some trees along the boundary line are marked with a 4 inch wide white band as an additional aid to location of the line. These trees, however, are off line and only indicate that the line is nearby. Park Rangers are available to assist in locating boundary lines.

Real Estate Instruments

Real estate instruments refer to leases, licenses, or other legal outgrants issued for commercial or individual activities not covered under Shoreline Use Permits and involve grade, cut, or fill and construction of structures including masonry walkways, boat launch ramps, and parking areas. A written request must be submitted to the Operations Manager. Each request for a license will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistance in preparing applications for real estate instruments is available at the Project Office.

Hunting

Hunting and trapping are permitted on the waters and on the surrounding government owned lands of the projects and are subject to all applicable Federal, state and local laws and regulations. Officers of these same agencies will carry out enforcement. A free permit is required to be carried at all times when hunting on project lands and waters. These permits are available at the Mountain Home Project Office. Hunting is prohibited in developed parks and other areas designated by the District Engineer and marked by the posting of appropriate signs.

Permanent blinds or stands may not be constructed on project lands. Portable blinds or stands may be left standing from one week prior to the first day of archery season to one week after the last day of archery season. They must be labeled with the hunter's name, address and telephone number. Commercially made "screw-in" type climbing steps may be used, otherwise, no nails, spikes, screws, or other objects may be driven into trees.

The vast majority of bow hunting accidents occur from falling out of trees. Please always wear a safety belt when using tree stands.

Applications

The first step in submitting an application for any accepted activity is to contact a Park Ranger at the Mountain Home Project Office. Office hours are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday except on federal holidays.

**For more information, contact:
Mountain Home Project Office
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Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653
870-425-2700
ceswl-mh@usace.army.mil
www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/bullshoals/
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