

## An Introduction to Land Between the Lakes

Since 1963, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area has provided a natural resource setting for a wide range of recreation opportunities and environmental education experiences. The area, rich in history and formerly under private ownership, now includes 170,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and open lands on a peninsula between Kentucky and Barkley lakes in Western Kentucky and Tennessee.

Visitors to Land Between the Lakes can choose from a wide range of the most popular outdoor recreational activities. Campers find ample accommodations at more than 1,500 campsites in Land Between the Lakes' developed recreation areas. There are thousands of acres of undeveloped areas that provide solitude for more primitive camping and exploring opportunities. Special use areas offer facilities specifically for equestrian sports and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding. Biking, hiking, and nature viewing enthusiasts are afforded many opportunities, challenges and rewards along more than 260 miles of non-motorized trails.

Land Between the Lakes also provides an extensive array of environmental education facilities, programs and specialists that support individuals, families, and school groups, and provide educational opportunities to visitors. The environmental education effort at Land Between the Lakes offers approximately 1,200 interpretive programs to the general public and 900 formal education programs a year at both developed facilities and remote sites.

Land Between the Lakes' focus on outdoor recreation and environmental education is clearly and carefully stated in The Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 which transferred administrative jurisdiction over the Recreation Area from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Secretary of Agriculture so that the Recreation Area may be managed as a unit of the National Forest System; "to protect and manage the resources of the Recreation Area for optimum yield of outdoor Rec/EE through multiple use management; to authorize, research, test, and demonstrate innovative programs and cost-effective management of the Recreation Area; to help stimulate the development of the surrounding region; and to extend the beneficial results as widely as possible."

## Land Between the Lakes



- 170,000 acres of public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service



- Unique peninsular land mass; bound by Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley



- Designated National Recreation Area, focused on maximizing outdoor recreation and environmental education



- Demonstration site with authority to test innovative programs and cost-effective management



- Place with strong community attachment and emotional ties; formerly under private, individual ownership

\*map taken from <http://chucksadventures.blogspot.com/2015/07/backpacking-land-between-lakes-in-ky.html>



