

Fax, E-mail and US Mail Postmark Deadline Friday, July 8th. Congressional Testimony Questionnaire #2 Future Use And Access to Lake Berryessa

Honorable _____
US House of Representatives

Below are my concerns and testimony regarding the future use of Lake Berryessa. Please take note of my responses to the statements and my personal comments below. Please share my concerns with the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Resources Committee in the House of Representatives. Please consider a copy of this document as valid as the original.

Dear Multiple-Use and Private Property Advocate:

The Bureau of Reclamation is waging a war against public use at Lake Berryessa. They are trying to make the lake "eco-friendly" by locking out traditional uses. They are destroying forty years of family recreation history by choosing certain approved populations who can stay and forcing other populations to get out. They call it eliminating exclusive use. They forced the Boy Scouts out by calling them an exclusive use. If they get rid of enough exclusive uses, they won't have to worry about public use. It will be gone.

The Bureau will have to make final decisions on the future of the lake in the next few weeks. Congress and the Bush Administration will be looking at these plans. You have a chance to change to course of history at Lake Berryessa by filling out this Testimony Questionnaire, writing your Congressman's name in the appropriate place, and mailing it back to the American Land Rights Association ALRA.

Lake user groups are working together to protect your use of Lake Berryessa. Please DO NOT FAIL to fill out and mail back this Testimony Questionnaire. It will be hand delivered to your Congressman as well as key officials in the Bush Administration. Help us save Lake Berryessa for all kinds of users, not just a select few groups "approved" by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Amazing as it sounds, the Bureau of Reclamation is planning to force all 7 present resort owners at Lake Berryessa out by 2009. All the public services they provide will be gone. They plan to eliminate most motorized watercraft and cut total watercraft from over 3,000 to only 700. BOR plans to reduce tent campsites from 504 to 250, dock slips from 1438 to 600, dry boat storage sites from 1068 to 100, and long term trailer sites from 1347 to 0. Their plan will greatly reduce family use and cut accessibility to the handicapped and elderly.

BOR has become anti-people and anti-public use. You can do something about it. Please note that multiple-use and private property advocates AGREE with all the statements below, but you don't have to. You may edit the following statements. This is your testimony.

Please circle your answer – You may write additional comments by each question or in the comment section on the back. Your personal comments make this document more valuable.

—1. BOR is requiring the removal of long-term sites at Pleasure Cove Resort by November 1, 2005 even though the BOR plan is not final and the law allows long-term sites to remain until May 26, 2009. BOR is ignoring Congress and ignoring the law.

AGREE

DISAGREE

NO OPINION

—2. BOR is trying to force long-term users out early by making things as difficult as possible. The BOR should honor the paid tenancy fees already paid by permittees since it has seized control of the resort.

AGREE

DISAGREE

NO OPINION

—3. The total lake frontage used by the resort owners is 12 miles. There are over 170 miles of shoreline undeveloped. BOR should have to make plans to share the lake. Instead of multiple-use, BOR is attempting to make it largely special interest group environmental friendly, largely closing down the developed areas.

AGREE

DISAGREE

NO OPINION

—4. The environmental special interest groups are highly organized and have staged a coup to take over Lake Berryessa. Motorized watercraft users and long term users are more dispersed and have not been organized enough to compete with the special interest groups. All this feeds the basic Bureau of Reclamation bias against motorized watercraft and any kind of "exclusive use."

AGREE

DISAGREE

NO OPINION

—5. The BOR is so against any kind of what they call "exclusive use" that they forced the Boy Scouts of America out of their camp at Lake Berryessa. By driving out all these user groups, BOR is actually making Lake Berryessa a largely an exclusive use area for environmental special interest groups.

AGREE

DISAGREE

NO OPINION

—6. Because BOR plans to allow only 700 boats, down from 3,000, some motorized watercraft users may think they will survive. Actually, the 700 boats are just being left as a token to try to deflect criticism of the BOR plan. Once all the other boat owners are gone, the environmental special use groups and BOR will go after the 700 boats and the rest of the resorts. The environmental groups want all developed use removed.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—7 The land used by long-term sites is NOT needed for public access. Eighty percent of the land used by long-term sites is too steep and unusable as short-term sites.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—8. BOR is requiring the removal of long-term sites at Pleasure Cove Resort (PCR) by November 1, 2005 even though the Record of Decision has not been decided and Public Law 96-375 allows long-term sites to remain until May 26th 2009 even if the ROD requires their removal. This seems completely unfair at best and illegal at worst.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—9. New concession contracts with the current concessionaires will save the BOR \$15 million dollars in cleaning up permittee improvements. The current concessionaires and permittees are willing to upgrade their facilities as part of the Resort Owners Plan (ROP) at NO COST to the BOR.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—10. BOR has deliberately undermined boat use by having the gasoline company remove the only tank at the lake that serves special boater needs with 100 octane gas. Many boat owners will be unhappy without access to the proper fuel for their boats. This will drive more of the public away from Lake Berryessa.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—11. BOR plans to reduce campsites form 504 to 250 thereby cutting public access. BOR should encourage the resort owners to add more campsites which is what they want to do..

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—12. BOR is proposing 300 RV sites less than the 440 in the Resort Owners Plan. There is no excuse for reducing public access to Lake Berryessa. There is so much unused area that could be used if the public were allowed to use it.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—13. BOR wants to reduce proposed rental units from 740 to 148. The resort owners want to increase the available facilities for the public, families, handicapped and elderly.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

—14. BOR is reducing dock slips form over 1400 to 600. Just another way BOR is trying to drive out motorized watercraft.

AGREE DISAGREE NO OPINION

(Your written comments here will make this document more valuable)

(If needed, use additional sheets or attach a personal letter)

To validate your comments please fill in completely (PRINT or TYPE) and be sure to sign.

Signature _____ Name _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please do not fail to send this testimony questionnaire even if you receive it late.

Please return testimony questionnaire to American Land Rights Association, PO Box 400, Battle Ground, WA 98604.

Phone: 360-687-3087 — Fax: 360-687-2973 — E-mail: alra@landrights.org — Website: <http://www.landrights.org>

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