

MEMORANDUM FOR CESAM-OP-BA-D & H

SUBJECT: Geocaching on the Black Warrior & Tombigbee Lakes Project (BW&T) Lands Policy Letter

1. Reference:

- a. CECW-CO Geocaching at Civil Works Projects Memorandum date 10 Jun 2005
- b. Guidelines for placing caches at www.Geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx

2. Purpose: Geocaching may be allowed on public lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 (CFR 36) and any applicable State or local rules and regulations, provided the activity is conducted in a nonobtrusive manner. Geocaching can be an appropriate and compatible recreational activity on public land and water, as long as common sense guidelines are followed. Some USACE projects have used the popularity of the sport as an innovative tool to distribute information, such as water safety, in geocaches on USACE managed lands.

3. Policy: In accordance with 36 CFR 327.19 or 327.21, District Engineers, or their designees, may develop permit systems or policies to track and/or control placement of geocaches on BW&T project lands, provided this use does not conflict with BW&T project missions or security. Simplicity and ease of compliance should be emphasized. Information needed from the proposed geocache owner will include the cache coordinates (location), his/her name, and his/her address and phone number. The intent of collecting this information is to keep track of the location and number of caches on the BW&T project and to contact the owner if the cache needs to be removed. This information is voluntary, however the applicants request can be denied for failure to comply with the information request. The BW&T project is required to store this information in a secure manner.

4. Restrictions: In addition to the restrictions outlined in the HQ memo the following are BW&T project specific.

At the BW&T project geocaching activities will not be allowed to occur:

- a. In any ecologically or environmentally sensitive area if the cache negatively affects the area around it any way. (e.g., areas with threatened, endangered or listed species, nesting or breeding grounds, or any other sensitive area).
- b. If the activity damages trees or disrupts the landscape in any way, specifically, digging, excavation or disruption of the earth.
- c. In archeologically sensitive areas or causes a disruption to any established cultural resource site.
- d. In designated "restricted" areas including but not limited to; Coffeenville Lock & Dam, Demopolis Lock & Dam, Demopolis Site Office, Warrior/Selden Lock and Dam, Oliver Lock and Dam, Holt Lock & Dam, Holt Site Office, Bankhead Lock and Dam, and any

of the BW&T projects permanently or temporarily closed parks or parks designated as restricted by BW&T project management.

e. If it is placed in any area that poses a safety or security risk as determined by BW&T project management, (e.g., unstable banks or cliffs, or near a dam or electrical switchyard)

f. In any area restricted for public use during management activities for timber harvest, wildlife management or prescribed burning.

g. If the cache contains inappropriate articles including, but not limited to: alcohol, tobacco products or any illicit material.

h. If the cache is hidden in bathrooms, outbuilding or other Corps facilities or structures.

i. If the cache is hidden in any BW&T project Class A Campgrounds including Service, Foscue Creek, Forkland, Jennings Ferry, Deerlick Creek, and Burchfield Branch areas.

j. In a leased/outgranted park without the geocache owner obtaining consent from both the BW&T project management and the leasee.

k. If the cache is hidden below normal pool levels or areas known to be prone to periodic flooding.

l. If the park is operated seasonally without measures are implemented to remove the cache and the link removed from the Geocaching website during the closed months of the park.

If any of the restrictions above are violated the cache will be removed by the BW&T project staff and the owner will be notified where to collect the cache and contents. If it is not picked up in 90 days the cache will be disposed. If any other situation or circumstance is determined to be inappropriate or incompatible by BW&T project management the Corps of Engineers reserves the right to remove a cache from Federal property at any time and for any reason.

5. Current Cache limits in BW&T Project Parks:

a. Demopolis Lake Parks & Limits:

Foscue Day Use Park	5	Lock 6 Park	2
Bigbee Bottom Trail Area	3	Forkland Day Use Park	1
Lower Pool Day Use Park	3	Lock 5 Day Use Park	3
Belmont Day Use Park	2	Arcola Boat Ramp	1
Runaway Branch Park	2		

b. Warrior Lake Parks & Limits:

Lock 7 West Boat Ramp	1	Damsite Lower Pool Selden	2
Finches Ferry Day Use Park	2	Jennings Ferry Day Use Park	2
Lock 8 Day Use Park	3		

c. Coffeerville Lake Parks & Limits:


Old Lock 1 Park	3	Service Park Day Use Park	1
Lenior Landing Park	2	Bashi Creek Park	2
Lock 2 Park	2		

d. Holt Lake Parks & Limits:

Rock Quarry Park	2	Rocky Branch Park (Seasonal)	0
Rocky Branch Trail	2	Rocky Branch Boat Ramp	2
Burchfield Day Use Park	2	Blue Creek Boat Ramp	2
Old Lock 15 Park	2	Deerlick Day Use Park (Seasonal)	0
Deerlick Boat Ramp	2		

e. Oliver Lake Parks & Limits:

Oliver Dam Fishing Pier	1	Mill Creek Boat Ramp	1
-------------------------	---	----------------------	---



LARRY E. DIXON, II
Site Manager