

Cheat Lake Presentation

Hello,

I'm Joe Kotarsky, a campsite permit holder and originator of Cheat Lake Campers United.

Cheat Lake Campers United are camping enthusiasts and lessees desiring to preserve camping on Cheat Lake. We believe all concerned parties can have their issues accommodated, while preserving camping.

My family has been camping on Cheat Lake since the 1940's by rowing a family filled homemade boat to their favorite spot called "The Log". My father was one of the very first to be offered a campsite. While camping one day West Penn Power officials approached my him in a boat asking if he would like to lease a campsite! Of course he did! He was assigned a campsite and camping on Cheat Lake became official and very popular.

When someone would ask my father how to get a campsite like ours. His reply was, "Hard Work". The work it took to drag railroad ties into place, build retaining walls, level ground, create erosion protection, build decks and other general maintenance.

To put a proposed limit on the term of a current lease would take the hard work and expenses of current permit holders and hand it to someone who has not done the hard work. After all, we campers are the only ones that maintain the property.

Our family cherishes our site so much that my fathers headstone holds a plaque with the image of our campsite.

Many families have been camping for decades without serious incident and I've never seen or heard of a tragedy related to camping.

From a usage and commerce standpoint (though recreation is not profitable for a Lake Lynn Generation) the campsites bring visitors from many states. For me they include CO, FL, OH, KY, CA, PA and, WV.

I propose that camping builds an appreciation and respect for the lake and it's surroundings while the tradition of sitting around a campfire with family and friends is a valuable lifestyle.

Concerning SAFETY, again, I am not aware of any serious safety issues throughout the years.

My understanding is our lease agreements and additional insurance requirements release Lake Lynn Generation, Limited Liability Corporation from liability.

It's been said that campfires are a danger, whereas, I propose camp fires are not a threat. The habitat is not conducive to fires and even protected firewood is hard to keep dry. I contend that causing a, large out of control fire is impossible.

However, emergency procedures can be developed and I offer my time in developing such procedures.

AESTHETICS has improved significantly due to recent clean ups though there is room for improvement and I offer my time to help improve appearances.

SANITATION does not need to be a determining factor for campsites as some campers use portable toilets. Our campsite uses a composting toilet which is beneficial to the environment. Still others use the public toilets at the park.

Trash is an individual responsibility and awareness should curtail poor housekeeping.

I offer my time to work in CO-OPERATION WITH LAKE LYNN GENERATION and C.L.E.A.R. to perform Lake debris clean-up.

SUMMARY

- According to the Order Approving Recreation Plan Update Issued October 9th 2012. Page 4 Paragraph 9... "There are also 37 privilege permits or licenses issued for leased plots sometimes referred to as campsites. These leased campsites pre-date the recreation plan and have been grandfathered into the current plan."

- Thank you FERC officials for enacting the grandfather rule. We propose that overnight camping and current structures remain according to this decree.

- I welcome any conversation to elaborate on my statements.