



File Code: 1950

Date: April 13, 2011

I am proposing to implement an action titled Bark Camp Trail Bridge Replacement project. This proposed project includes reconstruction of the Bark Camp Trail Bridge and an associated 3300 foot extension of the Sheltopee Trace National Recreation Trail along Bark Camp Creek (see attached map). The management actions will include construction of one foot bridge (30 to 40 foot span), a 20 inch wide foot trail (3300 feet in length), a 60 inch wide access trail (800 feet in length), and a temporary aerial cable tram (450 feet). The proposal includes the construction of the 800 foot access trail and aerial cable tram for the purpose of transporting construction materials from Fishing Creek Road (Forest Road 551) to the new bridge site. The four management actions are described in detail below:

- 1) Construction of the wooden footbridge: The bridge span will be 30-40 feet across Bark Camp Creek. Two holes will be drilled into each boulder to hold the support rods on which the bridges will be built. Upon completion of the bridge structure, approximately two cubic yards of building stones will be used to build a pier under each end of the new bridge. The bridge will be approximately 15 feet above the creek and will require a set of stairs at each end. The stairs are needed to access the top of the boulders on which the bridge will sit.
- 2) Construction of a 20 inch wide foot trail: The majority of the trail, approximately 2400 feet, will be constructed along the south side of Bark Camp Creek. This section will go from the old bridge site to the new bridge site and will serve as the new section of the Bark Camp Trail. The remaining section of new trail (approximately 900 feet) will connect the new bridge site with the end of the 60 inch access trail. This trail will be used to transport much of the bridge materials and workers to the site. After the project is complete the trail will remain in place to form part of a loop foot trail. The tread area of these trails will be made of native materials currently in place at the proposed trail locations. All work in the construction of this trail will be completed with hand tools.
- 3) Construction of a 60 inch wide access trail: The trail will be built from near the southern end of Forest Road 551 to the top of the cliff line and the upper end of the second 20 inch trail described above. This trail will be constructed with a bulldozer and a tractor will be used to transport bridge material to the top of the cliff. After construction is complete, the trail will be down-sized to a 20 inch tread area to remain in place and form part of a loop foot trail. The tread area of this trail will be made of native materials currently in place at the proposed trail location.
- 4) Construction of an aerial cable tram: The cable tram will be at the southern end of the 60 inch wide trail, continuing across Bark Camp Creek at the bridge construction site to the



opposite side of the creek. The tram will be used to transport large construction pieces and equipment from the top of the cliff to the construction site. The cable system will be removed after this project is complete. No ground disturbing activities are associated with this portion of the project.

The need for this project is to fulfill demands for recreational use of the Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trail and the Bark Camp Trail by replacing the previous trail bridge. The previous bridge was destroyed by flooding and no longer exists. Visitors are currently crossing the stream by using a user-developed route over rocks and logs near the site of the old bridge. This route is not consistent with trail management direction for crossing a creek. Reconstruction of access across Bark Camp Creek will require the bridge to be built approximately 0.4 miles upstream to an area less prone to flooding. This new location was chosen to reduce risk of flood damage to the new bridge. Placing the new bridge in a more protected location will create increased public safety through consistent availability of a safe water crossing. The new bridge location will create an additional need for an approximately 3300 foot extension to the Sheltoewe Trace Trail in order to provide access to the existing southern portion of the trail.

You can help me in the planning process by sharing any concerns or information you may have about this proposal. Your comments will be used to help focus the environmental analysis.

Comments on this proposal are due to me by May 6, 2011.

Your comments should include the title of the proposal. Please include your name, address and phone number so I can keep you informed throughout the planning process or contact you if I have questions about your comments.

Written comments can be sent in one of several ways:

- 1) By mail or hand delivered to: USDA Forest Service  
761 S. Laurel Road  
London, KY 40744
- 2) By facsimile to: 606-878-0811
- 3) By computer, electronically to (please include the project title in the subject line): *comments-southern-daniel-boone-london@fs.fed.us*

For additional information, contact Eloyce Promenschenkel, Project Team Leader at the above address or by calling (606) 864-4163.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Derek J. S. Ibarguen*  
DEREK J. S. IBARGUEN  
District Ranger