



**Brent White, Sheriff**

Lyon County Courthouse

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September 24, 2021

Chief Randy Moore  
US Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Moore:

This correspondence is being forwarded to your agency following discussions with the US Forest Service (USFS) which began in July of 2019 and have culminated to today's difficult decision. Effective October 24, 2021, the Lyon County (KY) Sheriff's Office will no longer respond to primary calls for service in the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area (NRA).

As we have exhaustively discussed with your agency and with our Congressional delegation, the limited resources Lyon County has been providing to the LBL NRA are causing a financial and efficiency drain on our County. In 2019 the USFS pledged to Congress and our County they would work with us to rectify these matters; however, unfortunately, this has not come to fruition and now the USFS via the Southern Region (Region 8) leadership continues to ask us to do even more.

We've repeatedly requested the USFS either staff the LBL NRA with enough Forest Service law enforcement officers to adequately provide law enforcement to this 171,000-acre federal property or enter into a financial Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement to compensate our agency for the services we are providing to the LBL NRA. The response provided by the USFS this week is literally the same talking points submitted to us in 2019 which your agency failed to act upon, and which we do not believe addresses the issues in which three counties and two states have outlined to the USFS concerning the LBL NRA. In addition, we are now being told your USFS officers can no longer investigate motor vehicle collisions in the LBL NRA, and your Region 8 has decided our agency and/or others should fill this void. We are not able to provide this service under the current conditions.

Upon participating in two teleconferences with multiple members of the USFS LBL Review Team, the last of which occurred on September 23, 2021, we pledged, in good faith, to continue the discussion of these issues in order to work together with USFS personnel, only if all stakeholders were able to meet face-to-face, together, in one meeting.