



**File Code:** 5310 (8563976)

**Date:** AUG 23 2019

The Honorable James Comer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1037 Longworth House Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

Thank you for your letter of July 15, 2019, on behalf of Judge Executive Wade White regarding Law Enforcement and First Responders at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (NRA) in Lyon County, Kentucky. I understand the challenges experienced in Lyon County outlined in Judge White's letter. In addition to this written response, we will arrange a meeting with Judge White and Lyon County Sheriff Brent White to discuss these items.

Please see the following responses to Judge White's questions below:

1. The Land Between the Lakes NRA property was acquired under the Weeks Act of 1911 and is governed under concurrent jurisdiction. Under current jurisdiction the responsibilities of leading search and rescue responses along with the response to crimes against persons and private property are generally the responsibility of the respective county sheriff, local chief of police or State law enforcement agency.
2. Section 513 of the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act requires the lands be subject to the provisions for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code. PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. In fiscal year 2019, Lyon County received \$147,051 for the 62,000 acres of National Forest System lands in their county.
3. There are Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements in various locations across the country between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and County Sheriff's department to provide supplemental law enforcement support in areas where Forest Service Law Enforcement is limited or unavailable. The Forest Service uses Memorandums of Understandings for Law Enforcement support as well.
4. Due to limited funding, the Forest Service, Southern Region Law Enforcement and Investigations Unit is not available to enter into new Cooperative Law Enforcement agreements at this time. In the future, this can be a topic of discussion. Additionally, Forest Service will increase law enforcement officer presence at Land Between the Lakes from four to six officers. This addition will lessen some of the responses by Lyon County Sheriff's office.
5. The Forest Service Law Enforcement at Land Between the Lakes NRA has strived to provide a timely response to all activities within their authority and continue to work cooperatively with the State and local law enforcement agencies that govern the Land Between the Lakes.

