



### *Ice Storm 2009*



*Entrance to LBL's Administrative Office after the ice storm.*

This year 2009 greeted much of LBL the same way it greeted most of western Kentucky, northwestern Tennessee, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana—under a blanket of ice. On January 26 and 27, a major winter storm passed over the region, leaving over an inch of ice clinging to every exposed object. Like nearly 93 other counties in Kentucky and countless other cities and towns along the way, LBL suffered major damage to its infrastructure as falling trees wreaked havoc on powerlines, buildings, and road/trail corridors. Turkey Bay was one of many LBL facilities that experienced damage halting everyday operations, as well as presenting major trail clearing issues.

Approximately 50% of Turkey Bay trails received significant damage from falling limbs and downed trees. Aside from clearing major roads property wide, Turkey Bay was one of the first facilities where crews were dedicated to clearing storm damage until it was safe for public use. Chainsaw teams and heavy equipment operators worked for three

## **Gearing Up for the Future at Turkey Bay OHV Trails**

weeks, first clearing their way through the main trails, then concentrating on the hardest hit secondary and tertiary trails.



*Downed trees and hanging snags were removed from approximately 50% of the OHV trails.*

Once the trails were clear of all debris, a contracted tree service supplied tree climbers to remove aerial hazards, such as hanging limbs and broken tree tops.

Turkey Bay opened back up on March 20 with much enthusiasm from the public. The Turkey Bay staff wishes to thank everyone who offered to help with cleanup efforts. It made weathering the storm much easier knowing Turkey Bay users genuinely care about the area and are willing to dedicate their time to ensure its existence.



*Removal of hanging tree limbs was a major part of ice storm recovery efforts.*

### ***Spring Clean-up Day 2009***

The annual Spring Clean-up Day took place on April 18. The 10 participants contributed 67 total hours to complete trail clearing tasks, Turkey Trot trail maintenance, and general litter pick-up in the camping areas. The volunteer efforts and hours accumulated will be highlighted in several upcoming grant applications to substantiate Turkey Bay's need of state and federal funding for sustainable operation. Thanks to all who generously donated their valuable time to help. Your hard work is very much appreciated!

### ***Turkey Bay Restoration Projects***

Restoration efforts continued in Turkey Bay over the fall and winter months to rehabilitate some heavily impacted hillsides and streams. Watershed improvement was the primary objective behind these efforts, as funding was awarded via a National Forest Foundation grant and USDA Forest Service Region 8 Legacy monies.

Hillside work was completed west of the rock garden and between points 3 and 4 on the main trail. Approximately 5 acres of old trails located in these areas were decommissioned by using an excavator to break up the linear trails/hillsides profile, and recontour in a random fashion to slow the runoff water velocity. The project areas were then seeded with warm- and cool-season grasses and covered with biodegradable mats and downed trees and brush. These mats not only serve as

a cover for the newly prepared seedbed, but also allow water to effectively percolate into the soil.

### ***Erosion Control Article***

Several projects completed in Turkey Bay were recently highlighted in the May issue of *Erosion Control* magazine, the official journal of the International Erosion Control Association. *Erosion Control* is a monthly publication that addresses a wide array of issues, solutions, products, techniques, and latest innovations regarding soil conservation.



*One of seven OHV crossings chosen by this project to reduce downstream sedimentations.*

The article about Turkey Bay focused on several topics such as rehabilitation of "The Wall" area near Kentucky Lake, introduction and installation of hardened creek crossings, and the steps taken and progress made to involve riders with other projects located within the boundaries. The mere recognition by this article is a big step in the ongoing efforts to raise awareness that good things can be done to protect the hobby and sport we all enjoy so much. LBL will continue to implement a proactive management technique, whereby rider safety and trail sustainability are the highest priorities. The LBL staff wishes to thank all visitors for understanding our "hands-on" management style to ensure Turkey Bay remains available for generations to come.

Please visit [www.erosioncontrol.com/may-2009/turkey-bay-recreation.aspx](http://www.erosioncontrol.com/may-2009/turkey-bay-recreation.aspx) to view the article in its entirety.



*Alternative Spring Break college students planted tree seedlings for revegetation efforts.*

### ***Alternative Spring Break Groups Plant Trees in Turkey Bay***

In late March, groups from several colleges and universities spent a day or two of their treasured spring break week to help plant trees in Turkey Bay. A variety of tree seedlings were purchased from the local Kentucky Division of Forestry Nursery in Gilbertsville, KY, and the area known as “The Wall” was revegetated with native chestnut oak, silky dogwood, and Virginia pine. Although many small trees have already established themselves since the project began in 2006, conditions were optimal to give “Mother Nature” a little assistance in the revegetation process. In a few years when spring rolls around, we should be able to witness the benefits and blooming of each group’s hard work. Thanks!



*FS Firefighters used existing trails as firelines during a prescribed burn within Turkey Bay OHV Area.*

### ***Prescribed Burning in Turkey Bay***

In mid-January, some visitors may have been startled to see smoke rising in the woods near the rock garden. This was not an act of vandalism or the result of an out of control campfire, but rather an effort to promote responsible management of public land. Forest Service firefighters conducted a prescribed burn to properly manage the area around the wildlife ponds. Crews used driptorches to ignite 30 acres of leaf litter and tall grass fields with existing trails serving as controlled firelines. Predetermined objectives of improving wildlife habitat, reducing hazardous fuel loading, and deterring invasive species establishment and specific weather parameters guided the crews as they successfully completed the burn without any threats to the firelines or firefighter injury. The area is currently on a 3-year rotation for prescribed burning.



*Prescribed fire across 30 acres in Turkey Bay reduced leaf litter and will improve wildlife habitat.*

### ***2009 Kentucky RTP Grant***

Turkey Bay staff is once again working with Land Between The Lakes Association (LBLA) to apply for a grant to maintain and improve motorized recreation trails. The Kentucky Recreational Trails Program (RTP) awards funds to various non-profit organizations throughout the state every year. LBLA and Turkey Bay have been fortunate over the past few years to receive funding from these grants allowing a variety of trail projects, including main trail maintenance and several creek crossing installations, to be completed. This year, if selected, trail

projects will include rock garden expansion, upgrades to Turkey Trot (kid’s trail), annual main trail maintenance, and Road 167 improvements. For more information on RTP projects across the Commonwealth, please visit <http://dlg.ky.gov/grants>.

**“Call Before You Haul”**

The recent ice storm reminded many of us “Mother Nature” can be very unpredictable when we are not prepared for what lies ahead. With the traditionally soggy spring months upon us, please call LBL before you leave the house to make certain Turkey Bay is open for riding. Be proactive and visit [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org) or call 270-924-2000 for Turkey Bay status checks prior to making the trip to LBL, especially if you know significant precipitation has fallen in the area.

**ATV Safety Classes – 2009**

Turkey Bay will again host several ATV safety classes during 2009. Connie Hathorn of the ATV Safety Institute (ASI) will be the lead instructor for each class. If you or someone you know is interested in learning the basics of operating an ATV and hopes to gain more confidence out on the trails, please call 270-753-1902 to reserve a spot in the next class. Classes are tentatively scheduled at 8am and 12pm for June 20, August 29, and October 10.



For more information on MVUM, look for this logo at [www.lbl.org](http://www.lbl.org).

All legal trails in Turkey Bay serve as one component of the MVUM and all campground roads, legal back roads, and legal access routes. The MVUM is required by all National Forests and Grasslands and must comply with the Forest Service Travel Management Rule of 2005.



**KEEP IT SAFE  
KEEP IT LEGAL  
KEEP ON TRAILS  
KEEP THE PRIVILEGE**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

If you would like information regarding worthwhile and rewarding volunteer opportunities at Turkey Bay or other facilities throughout LBL, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Emily Schmadeke, at 270-924-2007 or [eschmadeke@friendsoflbl.org](mailto:eschmadeke@friendsoflbl.org).

For other information concerning Turkey Bay OHV Area and Trails, you may contact a staff member listed below:

Bill Ryan  
Natural Resource Specialist/Facility Manager  
270-924-2179  
[wryan@fs.fed.us](mailto:wryan@fs.fed.us)

Kyle Varel  
Assistant Manager – OHV/Trails  
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You may also obtain information from the Land Between The Lakes website at [www.LBL.org](http://www.LBL.org). New LBL Recreation Maps are now available at LBL facilities, including Turkey Bay.



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider.