

Shalonda Guy, District Ranger
1523 Hwy 270 E
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I am writing you in response to your Scoping Letter for the Gap Creek Project.

After careful review of the proposed Gap Creek Project, I find the proposed Gap Creek project is in conflict with the intent, tenor, and provisions of the Cooperative Management Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cooperative Management Agreement.

As the former Resource Manager of Lake Ouachita, I actively participated in the research, development, and implementation of the aforementioned Cooperative Agreement. One of the essential provisions/goals of such lands transfer from the U.S. Army, COE to the U.S. Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest was to protect the pristine view-scape from Lake Ouachita proper and in close proximity of developed recreation areas/facilities.

I contend the proposed Gap Creek Project would be in violation of the intent, tenor, and provisions of the Cooperative Agreement by virtue of visual impacts to the Tompkins Bend Recreation Area, the visual pollution from the lake surface proper, and the devastating impact to the area containing the LOViT trail (a USFS/USACE joint recreation facility).

I hereby lodge my objection to the proposed Gap Creek timber harvest in the area south of Tompkins Bend Recreation Area due to its violation of the Cooperative Management Agreement.

Richard D. Stokes, LOFO RM, USACE (RETIRED)