

RECREATION ISSUE SHEET
MARTIN ISSUE GROUP FIVE (MIG5)

Determine the adequacy of present and future recreational facilities on Lake Martin.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the need for additional recreational opportunities, access, and increased law enforcement/safety on Lake Martin.

Specific issues or areas of potential effect include:

Access

- Impacts of 4-wheelers in lake bed and on other property
- There is a need for more bank fishing
- Accessibility to Irwin Shoals area
- Avoid overcrowding on shoreline at mouth of Madwin, mouth of Manoy, on whole lake on all inlets
- Extending ramps for low water

Navigation

- Mark a safe channel in the shallows of upper reservoir
- Hazard buoy markings become critical at these levels (elevation 486 ft - 484 ft msl)
- Hazards in the main body of the lake - some areas need to be marked or removed
- High density development in sloughs (houses and boat docks)
- Boat congestion and safety issues
- Mark hazards at 485 ft and 483 ft; remove hazards
- Need night time navigation aids on Lake Martin; need lighting on hazard buoys
- Need for additional parking at Kowaliga launch
- Need for additional public ramps and need for improving existing ramps - Blue Creek, Castaway ramps are both in bad shape

Enforcement

- Should be requirements to include lighting on boat docks for safety
- Enforce noise regulation for boats

- Need to have regulations for fires on project lands
- Evaluate how no wake zones are determined
- Consider property damage and siltation/erosion in addition to safety and look at all the high use areas
- APC should add more no-wake zones
- Limit mooring buoys especially around natural/undeveloped areas
- Speed limits on water - coves, no wake zones, etc.; boat traffic in sloughs

Operations

- Water patrols (Alabama Marine Police) should be involved in relicensing process
- Consider establishing a carrying capacity - look at boat lengths, boat numbers, boat horsepower, speed limits (Lake Lanier is bad)
- What is the carrying capacity of the lake? Identify capacity of the lake, and recreation development
- Measure the opportunity cost of lost recreation due to water level management - see study done in 1990s on this issue by Auburn University and funded by APC; update this study
- Area of Madwin Creek and DARE Park should be permanently undeveloped
- Effect on socioeconomics/economic from lake level drawdown proposals and existing operations
- Consider public recreation and commercial needs and get the economic value of recreation (boating and fishing) on the Lake to aid in making balanced decisions about water level management
- Keep future recreational lands as natural/undeveloped

Recreational Facilities

- Need for more formal and primitive camping and provide trash containers at boat ramps
- Add more "DARE" parks on the Kowaliga side
- Need for shoreline restoration around Scenic Overlook; also need repairing of picnic tables, and debris removal at Overlook
- Need for additional hiking trails around the Martin Project, especially in the upper reservoir
- Additional passive recreation areas are needed (walking, biking, etc.)
- Address ADA facilities/access
- Impacts of camping on islands in regards to littering, etc.

- Litter/debris removal issues at Sturdivant Creek Ramp and other areas
- At public use areas it would be nice to have trails (walking, biking), ecological signs/info, better accessibility by Smith Mountain and DARE Park

ADDITIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM PAD QUESTIONNAIRE

- Existing APC sites need improvements to meet current accessibility standards; in particular courtesy docks gangways are often not barrier free. The SOBA design manual is very helpful for these issues
- Boat ramps are on the APC maps but little is known about bank fishing sites
- We need a comprehensive survey of current boating and bank fishing sites and potential sites that are on project land and potential land that may be considered for public access
- Conduct a recreational assessment
- Add set-asides for public use
- There is a need for more public access, in particular, boating access to reduce the congestion at existing sites and to "spread" fishing tournaments over a wider area as most seem to be in the Wind Creek area. Boat ramps are needed in the Kowaliga Creek arm both south of the bridge and the northern end of this arm of Martin. Also a need for a boat ramp exists at the very upper part of the reservoir such as Irwin Shoals/Jay Bird Creek area

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

- APC-owned lands within the Project Boundary

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CURRENT ANALYSIS/STUDY

- APC is conducting a recreation facility inventory
- APC is conducting a Boat Density Study, beginning in May 2007
- APC is conducting a Recreation Use Study, includes traffic counters in shoulder seasons
- APC will use the recreation use study data to determine future use estimates

ADDITIONAL INFO/STUDY

- Develop a Martin Recreation Plan
- Evaluate effects on recreational facility use on as result of rule curve changes