



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Boston Mountain
Ranger District

TTY 479-667-1931

1803 N. 18th Street
Ozark, AR 72949
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File Code: 1950-1
Date: August 26, 2016

Dear Reader:

The Boston Mountain Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests is proposing to issue a new special use permit for the operation and maintenance of the White Rock and Shores Lake Developed Recreation Areas in Franklin County near Fern, AR (see vicinity map). This letter serves as notification of the proposal to those who have an interest in forest recreation. If you do not have an interest, you do not need to respond.

The White Rock Recreation Area has been operated for over 25 years by the same concessionaire. That permit expires on December 31, 2016. As such, a new permit is required. Combining Shores Lake Recreation Area with the White Rock Recreation Area in one concessionaire permit would be cost effective, efficient, and a more viable business opportunity for the concessionaire. These two recreation areas are also in close proximity of each other.

The purpose of issuing a special use permit for concession management of both of these areas is to continue operations and provide high-quality recreational experiences for visitors. Concessions management is an effective tool that provides us with the necessary flexibility, economic partnership, and efficiency in the operation and management of developed recreation areas.

Concessions operation and maintenance of White Rock and Shores Lake would be in accordance with the special use permit operational plan for White Rock and Shores Lake Recreation Area Facilities and related Granger-Thye permit requirements. These documents are available at our district office. No changes to facilities such as constructing additional campsites, cabins, or any other ground disturbing activity are proposed. The only changes that would occur are administrative in nature: A new concessionaire would be operating and maintaining the White Rock Developed Recreation Area. In addition, the operations and maintenance of the Shores Lake Developed Recreation Area would shift from Forest Service work force to concessionaire work force responsibility. The Forest Service would still maintain ownership of the lands and facilities and retain operational oversight through the use of the permit instrument and associated operational plan. Activities at these areas, such as camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and swimming, would remain the same.



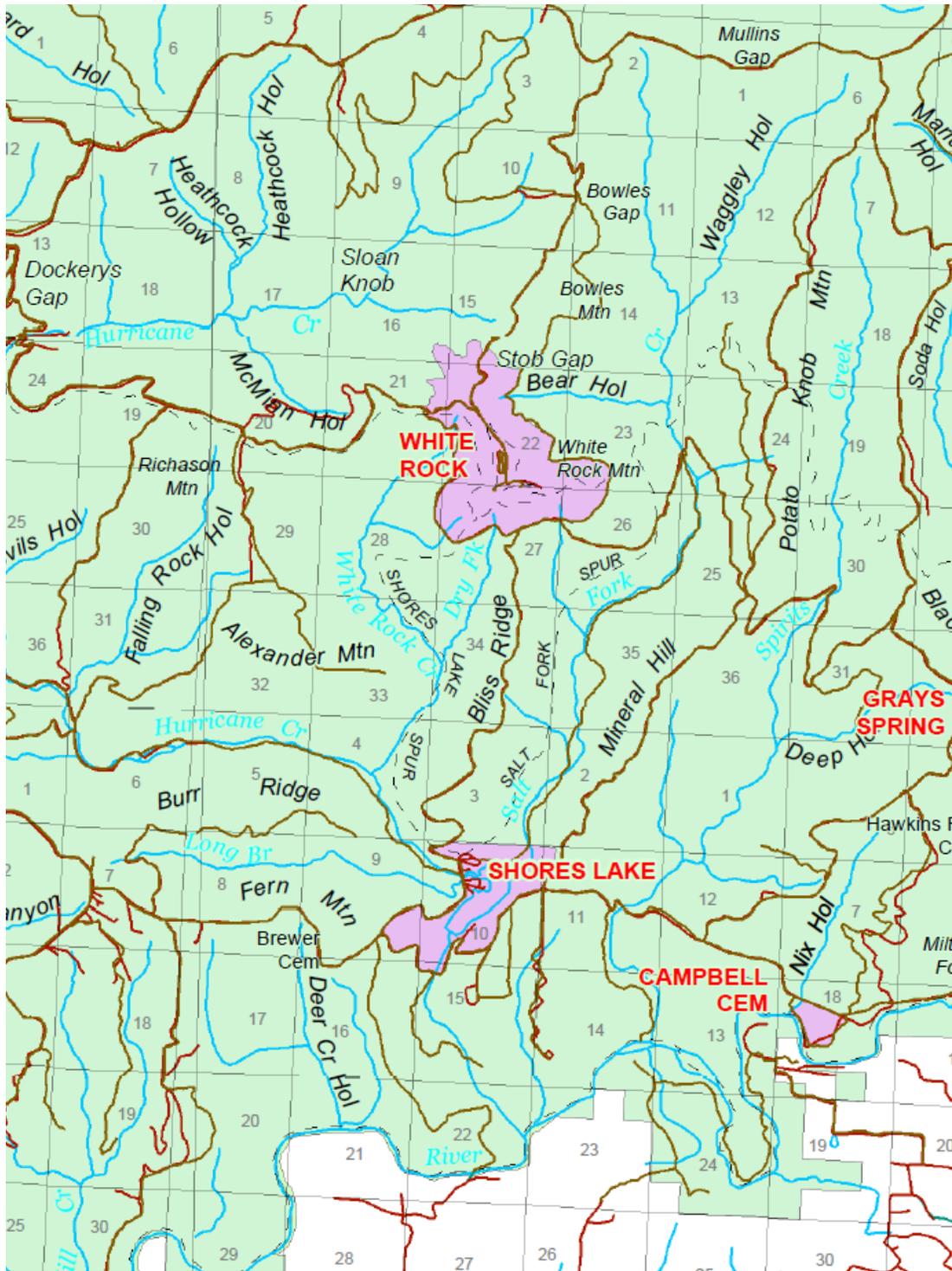


Figure 1. Vicinity Map (one square = one mile)

HOW TO COMMENT

I invite your comments on the proposed action. Your comments may identify any issues related to this proposal for my consideration. The team will summarize the disclosure of environmental effects in an environmental document which will be available to the general public on our website. The environmental document will be mailed to those who have commented on this proposal and to those who request a copy.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however we will not be able to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

For your convenience you may use the enclosed comment form. Our mailing address is: U.S. Forest Service, 1803 N 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. You may also call, or email your comments to: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Please state "White Rock/Shores Lake Concessionaire Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. If you have questions on this proposal or the analysis decision process, please call David Brickley or me at 479-667-2191.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM DUNK

District Ranger

White Rock and Shores Lake Developed Recreation Areas Concessionaire Special Use Permit.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments:

Would you like us to contact you about your comments? _____

Please mail your completed comment form to Jobi Brown at 1803 North 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. Comments are also accepted verbally at 479-667-2191 or TTY 479-667-1931, or by email at comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Your input is important.