

Ecotourism at Big Bone Lick State Park, Kentucky: A Service-Learning Project

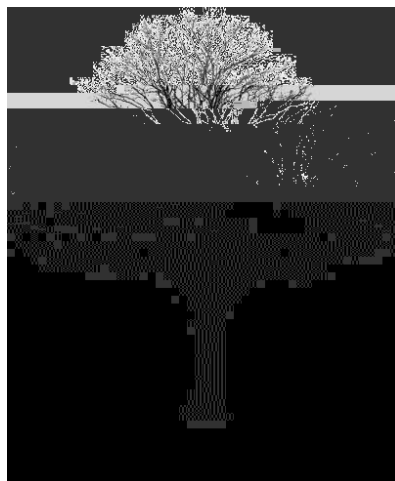
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This report documents an ethnographic research project on ecotourism at Big Bone Lick State Park (BBLSP), as collected by the Applied Environmental Anthropology Research Group (AEARG) at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) from June 2009 to June 2010. This report

Why people come to BBLSP

Everyone agrees that they come to BBLSP to get away and relax because it is a nice place to visit when the weather is nice. Most of the participants (87.09%) come to BBLSP because it is a good place to bring children. Most visitors (83.87%) also report that they use BBLSP for hiking and picnicking. Several (32.26%) of visitors initially came to BBLSP because of the sign on the highway. About the same amount of people initially visited BBLSP because they found it on the Internet (35.48%). Of the campers visiting BBLSP, about half (54.84%) are also visiting the Creationism Museum. The bison are a popular attraction with many (77.42%) of the participants stating that the bison are one of the reasons they came to BBLSP. Many (64.52%) of the participants came to BBLSP to fish.

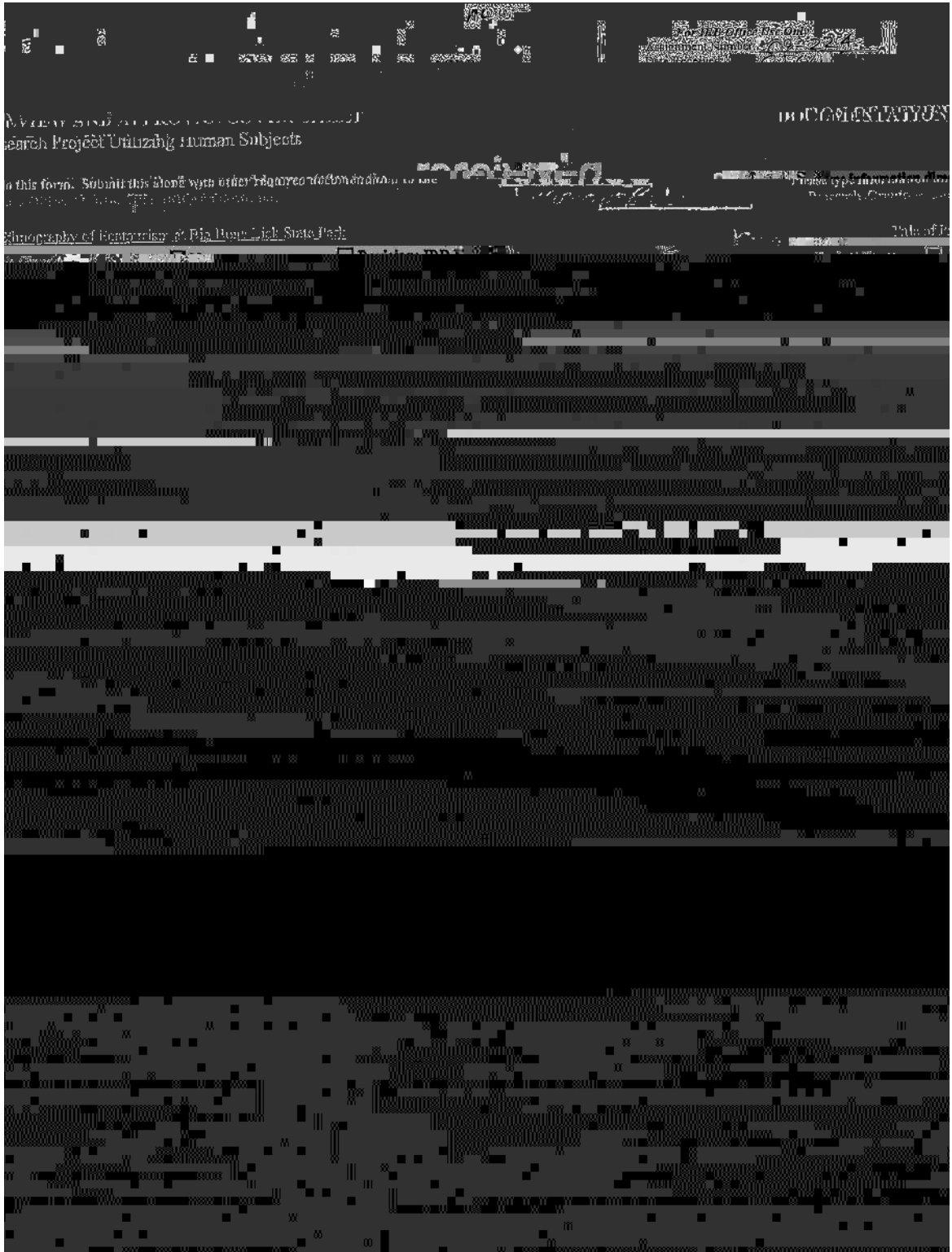
What people like about BBLSP

While there are multiple aspects of BBLSP that people like, the top 15 answers from the qualitative interviews were used in the survey. All participants agree that they like the scenery and trees at BBLSP as well as finding it a peaceful place to visit. Visitors also are in unanimous agreement that they like BBLSP because it preserves history. All of the participants also agreed that they liked BBLSP because it is clean. All but one participant agrees that they like BBLSP because it is not crowded (96.77%) and all but two participants think that BBLSP was well organized (93.55%). Most (87.1%) of the participants like BBLSP because of the activities available for children. Another quality that people like about BBLSP is the hiking trails (93.55%). Many (83.87%) of the visitors report that they like the lake at BBLSP and that they like the fishing areas (70.97%).

What the people would like to have at BBLSP

A majority of what people would like to have at BBLSP is linked to the lake area. The majority of the survey participants want benches by the lake (90.32%). A large majority of the participants report that they would like

9. Many people come to BBLST to see the bison, a majority of the visitors would like more information concerning the bison.
10. Of little mention was the museum and nature center, so better promotion of the two sites might provide more interest.





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MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

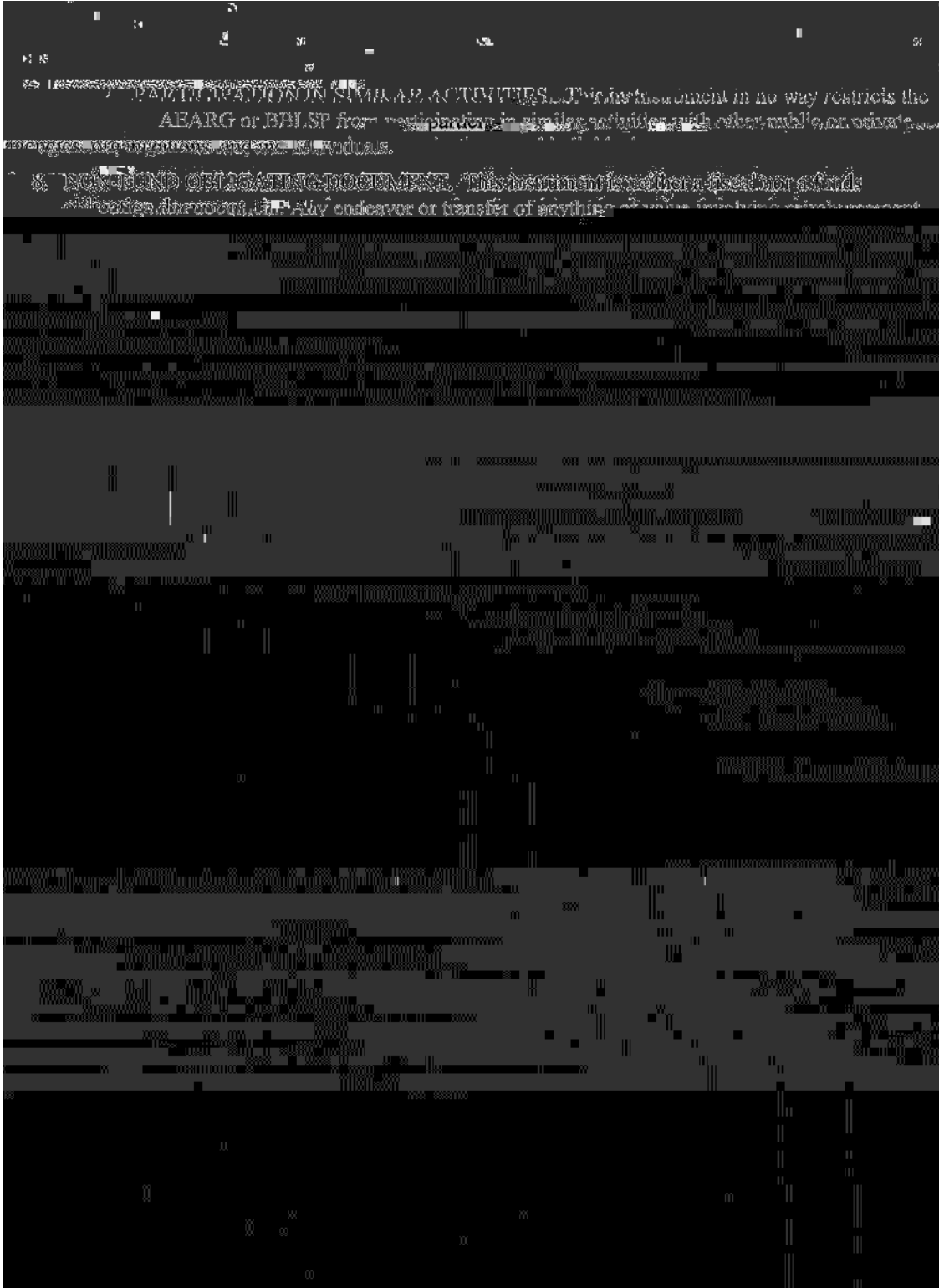
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
RESEARCH GROUP, HICKMAN CAMPUS, NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
AND
THE RESEARCH GROUP, HICKMAN CAMPUS, NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

The purpose of this MOU is to continue to develop and expand a framework of
collaboration between ARACU and BRISU to develop

2. UNDERSTANDING, AGREEMENTS, SUPPORT AND RESOURCE NEEDS. The
collaboration is being comprised of

6. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of this instrument



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9. to camp (visiting the Creationism Museum).	Agree 17 (54.84%)	Disagree 5 (16.13%)	Not Answered 9 (29.03%)
10. to get away.	Agree 29 (93.55%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
11. to go fishing.	Agree 20 (64.52%)	Disagree 5 (16.13%)	Not Answered 6 (19.36%)

7. leaving a lot of nature alone.
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Answered |
| 29 (93.55%) | 1 (3.23%) | 1 (3.23%) |
8. preserving lakes and rivers.
- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Answered |
| 28 (90.32%) | 1(3.23%) | 2 (6.45%) |
9. preserving things for the future to enjoy in its natural state.
- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Answered |
| 28 (90.32%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
- 10.

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5. it is peaceful.	Agree 31 (100%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 0 (0%)
6. it is preserving history.	Agree 31 (100%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 0 (0%)
7. of the activities for kids.	Agree 27 (87.1%)	Disagree 2 (6.45%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
8. of the bison.	Agree 28 (90.32%)	Disagree 1 (3.23%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
9. of the fishing areas.	Agree 22 (70.97%)	Disagree 3 (9.68%)	Not Answered 6 (19.36%)
10. of the hiking trails.	Agree 29 (93.55%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
11. of the lake.	Agree 26 (83.87%)	Disagree 2 (6.45%)	Not Answered 3 (9.68%)
12. of the scenery.	Agree 31 (100%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 0 (0%)
13. of the staff.	Agree 27 (87.1%)	Disagree 2 (6.45%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
14. of the trees.	Agree 31 (100%)	Disagree 0 (0%)	Not Answered 0 (0%)
15. of the various activities.	Agree 25 (80.65%)	Disagree 2 (6.45%)	Not Answered 4 (12.90%)

E. Nature is:

1. a place not manipulated by man.	Agree 25 (80.65%)	Disagree 4 (12.90%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)
2. a place that is undisturbed.	Agree 22 (70.97%)	Disagree 7 (22.58%)	Not Answered 2 (6.45%)

3. anywhere there are not houses, cities, and shopping malls.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
26 (83.87%)	3 (9.68%)	2 (6.45%)

4. god, the creator; the holy trinity.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
24 (77.42%)	3 (9.68%)	4 (12.90%)

5. god's given beauty.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
29 (93.55%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

F. I would like Big Bone Lick to have:

1. a better map of the grounds.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
17 (54.84%)	9 (29.03%)	3 (9.68%)

2. a petting zoo.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
21 (67.74%)	7 (22.58%)	3 (9.68%)

3. a porta-potty by the lake.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
18 (58.07%)	8 (25.81%)	5 (16.13%)

4. a trail around the lake.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
23 (74.19%)	2 (6.45%)	6 (19.36%)

5. benches by the lake.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
28 (90.32%)	1 (3.23%)	2 (6.45%)

6. better access to the lake.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
22 (70.97%)	4 (12.90%)	5 (16.13%)

7. better marked trails.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
18 (58.07%)	9 (29.03%)	4 (12.90%)

8. boat access.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
14 (45.16%)	9 (29.03%)	6 (19.36%)

9. camping places near the water.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
22 (70.97%)	5 (16.13%)	4 (12.90%)

10. canoe access.

Agree	Disagree	Not Answered
19 (61.29%)	4 (12.90%)	8 (25.81%)

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11. full hookups at the campground.	Agree 24 (77.42%)	Disagree 3 (9.68%)	Not Answered 4 (12.90%)
12. more information on the bison.	Agree 23 (74.19%)	Disagree 5 (16.13%)	Not Answered 0 (0.%)