

Hagerty, Karen H MVR

From: holly heusinkveld [mailto:emalf@care2.com]  
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2009 2:25 AM  
To: Hagerty, Karen H  
Subject: MYCA comments

1-2-03

To whom it may concern,

Why I am in opposition to the Muslim Youth Camps of America proposal.

My name is Holly Heusinkveld, I am almost 22 years old and have lived at 2037 Scales Bend Rd., across the street from the disputed area my entire life. In this time I have witnessed many life processes of the peninsula surrounding Scales Bend Rd. Hence my credibility and bias can be inferred.

Many humans have come to inhabit this place, more and more encroach upon the area with daily sprawl and increasingly threaten the integrity of the local ecosystem, which in turn compacts a global problem. This one proposal will not damn all humanity to a perpetually degraded relationship with our planetary compatriots; in fact it suggests to do just the opposite and teach valuable lessons in relating young people to nature; however to try and fulfill this goal here is hypocritical.

It does not matter who's proposal this is.

This proposal and its theoretical half size comparison are both too big for the intended sight.

This is for several reasons. Most alarmingly is that each would require a waste water variance for disposal of 'our' shit. To found a center of nature appreciation upon an exception to a rule established to prevent ecosystem abuse is absurd, rude and insulting to the ideals of the proposal, the law and humanity.

This is also true due to the number of buildings (10 cabins, 12 tent platforms, a boat house, a caretakers house) the large size of the main lodge/ hotel and conference center (260x100 ft) the numerous parking spaces (52 spaces/ ???? sq. ft.), beach construction and the vastly increased human use such things invite. Once these things are established there will be very little of the desired nature left.

I'm not sure how to best express and emphasize this except to invite the reader to come walk the land and see how close the lodge would be to the high water line. Come see how many old trees and bird homes die to provide a place for leaked oil and other toxins.

On the note of toxins I must mention that as lovely as this place is, it is not a pristine ecosystem, primarily due to the nastiness of the reservoir's water and its high volume of motor boat traffic. Considering this one may assert that this proposal won't be untraditional in its lack of concern for habitat stability. But it does seem that this is not an ideal sight for the ideals of the project.

So one may wonder what the ideals are and why it was chosen. Among the goals are teaching urban Muslim youth an appreciation of nature based upon the values of the Islamic faith, while also providing computer skills and recreation. So why then do we need such a large conference center/hotel to rent out in the winter to whomever for whatever?

Why would the corps approve such a large facility in an area originally designated in the master plan as a low impact area. Though now deemed a high impact recreational area the idea under consideration is still too much. But this is not reflected in the Environmental Assessment due in part to its inaccuracies, including a missing well, boundary distance errors and such, which are best explained by other neighbors with more specific information.

Among these types of concerns are those relating to fire safety, emergency service and road maintenance for such a large facility. All of which cost the community and will be compensated by as potentially little as \$1 per year. And let us make no mistake, once this or any facility is invested in, it will be permanent.

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As it is now, this area is an incredible resource for its immediate neighbors and surrounding township. There are higher impact uses, such as an 'away' sight for MYCA with some 'primitive' camp sights and other less intrusive uses that could be more readily acceptable to many involved. Most essentially to the organisms inhabiting the area.

2-7

Admittedly my preference would be to leave it alone entirely and develop the biodiversity lowa so desperately lacks. Let it remain as intact as possible because these water way green spaces are increasingly rare and essential. Especially for the local raptor populations directly across the water, and others up on the food chain with so many dependencies upon functioning cycles of Earth.

2-17

There are a number of possibilities available that would be more diversly acceptable. There

really needs to be a more inclusive, less erroneous EA as well as much more time for community and regional discussion, Just as I hope this proposal would not be dismissed on political grounds, I would also wish it is not accepted upon such a basis. Soon it will have had its just and due deliberation and hopefully d

you are the dream

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