

TO:

US Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
Project Planning Branch

FROM:

Ralph Swallows
President
Derby City Fly Fishers



Derby City Fly Fishers (DCFF) is an active club dedicated to education, conservation and introducing new anglers to our great outdoors and the sport of fly fishing. DCFF has over 200 members and many are avid promoters and users of Wolf Creek Dam and the Cumberland River. We welcome this opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the current Wolf Creek Dam and Lake Cumberland Water Control Manual (WCM).

Simply stated, the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam is one of the most significant fisheries in our region – potentially the only fishery in Kentucky supporting naturally reproducing trout populations. Any proposed changes to the current WCM are of vital interest to DCFF, our members, and their families.

DCFF members take many trips, individually and as a club, to the Wolf Creek Dam area throughout the year. Our club is currently scheduled to make six (6) trips to the area this summer and there are also multiple individual member trips already planned. DCFF activities in and around the Wolf Creek Dam area make a substantial positive economic impact on the local businesses and residents every year.

DCFF activity, however, is just a small fraction of the overall economic impact that anglers and recreational users have on the area. We realize how important the operation of Wolf Creek Dam is to the region's residents and businesses. Our desire is to balance the needs of the local population and recreational users to attain a positive outcome for all. DCFF has often witnessed how improvements in conservation and recreational policy have also led to positive economic impacts, both directly and indirectly, that subsequently benefit the people of the region significantly.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and formally submit the inputs below from Derby City Fly Fishers for consideration in drafting any changes to the current WCM.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ralph Swallows
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DERBY CITY FLY FISHERS COMMENTS

1. Concentrate periods of generation in the late afternoon and evening whenever possible.

2. Include periods of NO GENERATION (but at least minimal acceptable flow) during the day for up to eleven (11) hours.

-- Under the current generation regimen, wading in the Cumberland River downstream of Wolf Creek Dam has become:

- a.) Limited in duration, and
- b.) Much more dangerous.

3. Any NO GENERATION periods longer than eleven (11) hours should be interrupted with minimum levels of generation to maintain at least a minimal acceptable flow.

-- Keep river levels from getting too low to avoid:

- a.) Drying out the riverbed, and
- b.) Reducing macroinvertebrate populations.

4. Keep the Ramp Rate at no more than two (2) turbines.

-- When starting from zero (0) turbines this will ensure water levels do not rise too rapidly for:

- a.) The safety of anglers and recreational users downstream, and
- b.) To limit unnecessary erosion.

5. Publish three (3) day release schedules and deviate only when conditions require.

-- The 3-Day schedule (especially over weekends) will:

- a.) Benefit business and recreational users in planning, and
- b.) Increases the safety of the people that enjoy this unique and valuable asset.