



# United States Department of the Interior



National Park Service

Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226

40-00040(MWR-P/G)  
40-00049;40-00079

Mr. Hardy Watkins  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department  
120 North Robinson  
Suite 600  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

FEB 23 2009

Dear Mr. Watkins:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009 letter providing an update for Lake Texoma State Park. The additional information is useful as we prepare to assist you through the next phases of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) conversion process as well as our responding to public inquiries related to this matter. Roger Knowlton and I will contact your Grants Section staff shortly to discuss these next steps and each conversion prerequisite that remains to be addressed.

Beginning in 2005, your agency has regularly communicated to us the State of Oklahoma's intentions to sell portions, and potentially all of Lake Texoma State Park. Our mutual assessment of this proposal from the beginning is that it will constitute a conversion of use to non-public outdoor recreation purposes which will conflict with the L&WCF Act (Public Law 88-578, as amended). Accordingly, we have also mutually agreed that the appropriate remedy is to process this action pursuant to the L&WCF conversion regulations.

In order to effect this conversion, your Grants Section has been working to address the various prerequisites necessary for conversion approval in a manner consistent with other Oklahoma L&WCF conversions successfully processed. Mr. Knowlton and I will continue to serve in an advisory role as necessary. Once your agency has addressed all prerequisites, you will forward this information to us in a set of documents detailing the overall conversion proposal with a recommended course of action for replacing the converted parklands. At that time, we will undertake an independent review of all materials submitted and make the decision to approve or deny the recommended actions. In the event of a negative decision, we shall provide the basis and possible solutions for the identified issues.

As mentioned above, we are aware that since 2005 extensive effort by your agency has gone into addressing the conversion prerequisites and that much more is underway and planned. We know you are coordinating with other state and federal agencies, negotiating for replacement lands, and participating in environmental analysis. We also understand that due to the scale and complexity of the overall proposal, circumstances can change quickly. Accordingly, we recommend continued interim communications between our offices throughout the course of the conversion process.

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Because of your agency's previous and continuing efforts to address and document the various details of the overall conversion at Lake Texoma State Park and its associated replacement lands, we consider Oklahoma currently compliant under the L&WCF program. We remain confident this will continue by your Grants Section providing knowledgeable and experienced guidance to the appropriate Oklahoma state officials and to any Oklahoma citizens that may also have an interest in this proposal.

Any questions you have may be directed to me at 402-661-1540 or to Roger Knowlton at 402-661-1558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Anderson".

Robert Anderson  
Chief, Grants Division

cc:

Ms. Kristina S. Marek, Director, Oklahoma State Parks, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation  
Department, Department of Parks, Resorts and Golf, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Ms. Susan Henry, Grants Coordinator, Grants Section, Division of Conservation and Planning,  
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Department of Parks, Resorts and Golf,  
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