

CORA

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CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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From The President

WHAT NEXT?

by Lee Asbury

CORA will soon be 20 years old. During that time she has played a major role in several really important developments. The acquisition of Royal Blue Wildlife Management A, the acquisition of the Don Sundquist Outdoor Recreation Area, the addition of the Jack Walls property on Walnut Mountain, the acquisition of the Alred property in Scott County, the Mattie Randolph boat ramp in Norris lake, the promulgation of regulations that provide for multiple use of Royal Blue and the Sundquist area, the reintroduction of Elk to Tennessee are some of the highlights.

As important as these things are, now is no time to get complacent. There will always be issues that deserve our attention.

The ant-hunters are always at work. Some groups seek advantage for their special interest to the exclusion of everyone else. Elected leaders and agency personnel get complacent and look for reasons to coast along and say no rather than be innovative and deal aggressively with problems.

A huge reservoir of volunteers willing to commit time, money, machinery and other resources remains virtually untapped while various State agencies complain of lack of personnel and budgetary constraints.

At the same time membership in hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation groups decrease and the average age of members goes up.

Older people can remember when there were no deer or turkey, when a limit squirrels was a rarity, when an experienced hunter with a good dog did well to catch 20 coons a year, when East Tennessee had enough quail and rabbits to justify keeping a bird dog or a beagle.

Younger people need to be made to understand that the battles for preservation and enhancement of our wildlife resources, the need to develop ways to fairly share outdoor recreation areas as population continues to increase, habitat enhancement to make Tennessee a year round feeding ground for game along with clean environment initiatives are essential if further generations are to have the same opportunities we enjoy.

I understand how easy it is for young folks, surrounded by all kinds of fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation opportunities to have trouble realizing how it was in the past or being able to fully appreciate what might happen in the future.

Our generations' successes, wonderful as they are, will not be complete unless we instill the need to enhance and improve in the generation to follow.

I would feel a lot more comfortable if I could be around to experience an upswing of interest in the future of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation in Tennessee among the next generation of users.

Making that happen may be our greatest challenge. Time will tell if we are up to it.

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The National Public Lands Report

by Brian Hawthorne, Public Lands Director

Dale Bosworth, Chief at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service has identified unmanaged recreation, especially impacts from OHVs, as one of the key concerns facing the nation's forests and grasslands today.

In a speech he delivered April 22, 2003, he said, "The issue is this: back when we had light recreational use, we didn't need to manage it [recreation]; but now that it's heavier, we do..." "At one time, we didn't manage the use of off-highway vehicles, either. But the number of people who own OHVs has just exploded in recent years. In 2000, it

reached almost 36 million. Even a tiny percentage of impacts from all those millions of users is still a lot of impact. Each year, we get hundreds of miles of what we euphemistically refer to as 'unplanned roads and trails'. So, the great issue is unmanaged recreation."

Jack Troyer, the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region (Region 4), is heading up a National OHV Policy Team that has been tasked to implement this change. The new policy is based on three pillars that are designed to minimize or eliminate impacts from unmanaged OHV use.

1. Moving the agency to a designated use system. Travel will be allowed, restricted, or prohibited on roads, trails and specifically designated off-highway use areas. This means that wheeled OHV travel will be allowed only on designated roads, trails and in designated areas.

2. Cross-country travel by wheeled OHVs will generally be prohibited.

3. The decisions of which roads, trails and areas to designate for OHV use will be made at the field level.

For now, the policy change will be limited to wheeled OHVs, and not snowmobile use.

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Is This A Bad Thing?

Not necessarily. Our analogy is this: "Everyone thinks the hen house is a mess and needs to be cleaned up. The only problem is that the Fox is in charge of the job!" I wouldn't be doing my job properly if I didn't say that the Chief has hit the proverbial nail on the proverbial head. The problem is unmanaged recreation.

The plain fact of the matter is, very little of the Forest Service's recreational travel route inventory was "planned." The vast majority of routes used by recreationists today were constructed for other purposes such as logging, mining or access to grazing allotments. If the general public waited for the federal land managers to "plan" recreational travelways we would still be waiting.

Please see PUBLIC LANDS, page 9



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Tips, Strategies and Tactics

Hypothermia—Know The Signs

During the fall and winter months, Tennesseans all across the state will take to the outdoors to enjoy their sport. Whether it's hunting, fishing, bird watching, or just hiking, fall and winter means the arrival of colder temperatures that may lead people to encounter a condition that can have serious if not fatal results. This condition is hypothermia.

Hypothermia is when the body loses heat faster that it produces it, causing a lowering of the body's inner temperature. Hypothermia is usually classified into two types: chronic and acute.

Chronic hypothermia occurs over a long period of time. It results from exposure to wind and wetness combined with exhaustion. A victim of hypothermia may become blue-gray in color. Violent shivering develops which may give way to muscle spasms and even loss of use of the arms and legs. Confusion and drunken behavior also may indicate a person could be hypothermic.

To protect yourself from chronic hypothermia, **STAY WARM AND DRY!!** Put on rain gear before it rains. Wear several different layers of clothes that can be added or removed as the situation warrants. Wool clothing can help considerably because wool traps body heat even when wet. Know the effects wind has on cold weather. You may be in 40-degree weather with the sun shining, but a 10 mph wind lowers the temperature to 28 degrees and a 20 mph wind lowers it to 18 degrees.

Acute hypothermia is the type waterfowl hunters and fishermen might

encounter. Acute hypothermia occurs when one falls into cold water. Life expectancy is greatly reduced, but there are ways to increase the chances of survival. When on the water, always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) because it helps to insulate against heat loss. Don't discard clothing; it helps to trap the body's heat. Try not to thrash around, because it only leads to exhaustion and swirling water takes heat from the body more rapidly than still water. To conserve heat a person should draw their knees to their chest and wrap their arms around the legs in what is called the self-huddle. The best survival technique is for a group in the water to huddle together with arms wrapped around each other's shoulders.

Treatment for hypothermia means getting heat back to the body and raising

the inner temperature. Get dry and warm as soon as you can. When a fire can be built, start one right away. Stay by the fire until someone comes for you or until you are thoroughly dry and know you can reach shelter unassisted. Drink lots of warm liquids. **NEVER DRINK ALCOHOL TO TREAT HYPOTHERMIA.** The advanced stages of hypothermia are very dangerous and treatment should be done only by doctors.

TWRA recommends that all Tennesseans should take a first aid class before going afield to learn how to take care to the first stages of hypothermia and other life threatening situations. Hypothermia is a killer, but it can be prevented if you know its causes and use your head to avoid them.

—TWRA

REMEMBER—ASK FIRST BEFORE HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) would like to remind all hunters that Tennessee State Law (TCA 70-4-106) requires all hunters to have permission before hunting on private property.

Every year TWRA Offices across the state receive calls from landowners about people hunting without permission. TWRA Law Enforcement Personnel will, as in past years, assist

landowners who wish to sign a warrant and prosecute hunters for hunting without permission.

TWRA urges all hunters to obtain a *2004 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide* and review the information before hunting. Each year, hunters are issued citations for violations that a few minutes of reading could have prevented.

CORA Minutes

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2004

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

The Board's Roll Call and January Minutes were read and approved.

January Financial Reports were not read as Treasurer Ray Wilson was absent due to a county commission meeting conflict.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill asked for a meeting with TWRA and interested members to set up plans to work on targeted habitat projects. Bill asked TWRA what would be required of the volunteers before they were allowed to work on the area. TWRA Officer Danny Akins indicated that volunteers would need to submit names, addresses and social security numbers to the agency in order for the agency to provide the necessary clearances for the volunteers to be authorized to perform work within the area.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis indicated that he was working on the next issue of the newsletter and that he should have the newest issue at the March meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

Glen held a discussion on the collection of past due advertiser accounts. After much debate it was determined that Lewis would send the advertisers a new billing by regular mail and Glen would follow up after the advertisers had time to receive those billings. Some past due accounts were written off as uncollectible.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: New

Business: Terry Lewis read a financial report from the TCL on the state of the TWRA's provided by the budget committee.

A discussion was held by President Asbury on CORA's desire to be more active in requesting some modifications to the current seasonal hunting dates for small game. Asbury stated that if CORA wanted to be effective in providing requests to the TWRC commission that the members needed a more Proactive approach to this issue. Asbury asked for members to assemble a list of season lengths and their respective recommendations for any changes thought to be appropriate for further discussion at the March meeting. Asbury offered to help Mike MacAfee and Bill Bruce put together a proposal for small game seasonal changes to be sent to the TWRC for consideration.

Glen Massengill asked how other states provided for their season hunting schedules and a short discussion was had on deer and deer populations and its respective impact to the number of days available to hunt and the conflicts between big game hunting and its impact on small game seasons.

Hubert Rollins discussed the PETA movement, a short discussion Bob Hodge's article on PETA was held.

Officer Akins provided a short update on the Elk program. He indicated a cow had to be captured from the New River area and officers transported the cow back to the release site.

Bill Bruce asked TWRA for information about a proposed ramp extension to the Mattie Randolph boat launch. Neither Officers Akins or Harrison could provide any information about any work scheduled for that launch.

Leonard Hooks asked the visiting county executive Jerry Cross about the cemetery above the Wynn's school and the public access over a private landowner's property. Mr. Cross responded that private land owners could not prevent access to cemeteries located within their private land holdings as access to gravesites could not be denied.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:15 pm

MINUTES OF March 2, 2004

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

The Board's Roll Call and February minutes were read and approved.

February Financial Reports for the General and Newsletter Accounts were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the meeting with TWRA. Lee asked who should attend the meeting and Officer Akins indicating that Stan Stooksbury, Officer Akins and Fred Jourdan would be present representing TWRA in the meeting concerning the habitat improvement efforts some CORA members were planning for the future.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:

No report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

Glen held a discussion on the new distribution process he intends to implement.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: Ted discussed the few roads the had been closed by slides from the recent rains.

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: New

Business: Ray Wilson discussed the possibility that the county would be dropping the bounty program on the coyote. The county budget of \$6,000.00 was cut back to \$1,000.00 and the program had spent less than \$600.00. Ray indicated the county was considering curtailing the program.

President Asbury introduced the guest speaker of the evening TWRA Region 4 Supervisor Mr. Bob Ripley. Mr. Ripley addressed the board members with lighthearted discussion about his retirement from the agency. Mr. Ripley has enjoyed a long and successful relationship with CORA and with

President Asbury. Ripley spoke of the many positive things that have been accomplished by the cooperation between TWRA and CORA for the good of the sportsmen in the area. Ripley recounted many memories of the struggles to bring the positive changes to the area's wildlife and new property into the agencies management and control.

Mr. Ripley discussed the need for CORA to remain focused on its agenda of protecting and acquiring new areas for the public's best interest. Ripley expressed the Agency's desire to remain connected with CORA into the future and urged those who would follow CORA's current leadership to cultivate the future relationship with TWRA.

President Asbury thanked Mr. Ripley for all of his past efforts to help CORA protect the area's resources and users rights to enjoy these lands we hold so dear. President Asbury spoke of the retiring leadership at both of the organizations and the need for CORA's members to press forward with our programs by visiting officials in Nashville. As our directors retire, others need to rise to the surface and lead others forward in the effort to further our ideals.

Many members told of their personal memories of the early days in Nashville and of the struggles overcome by will power and exhaustive efforts.

A motion was made by Treasurer Ray Wilson to honor Mr. Bob Ripley with a life long membership into CORA organization. That motion was seconded by Secretary Terry Lewis. President Asbury held a vote and the motion was unanimously passed with Bob Ripley being inducted as a life time member of the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association.

President Asbury asked Officer Akins if he could report anything on the Elk program. Officer Akins told of the loss of more Elk and the suspected reasons behind those deaths. Asbury asked about the possibility of feeding the elk hay during the toughest part of the winter season. Akins responded by saying that the Agency as part of the original agreement with the State Vet. would not supplemental feed the elk in a food lot condition.

A member of the audience asked

Ripley about the parasites found in the elk and wondered if the elk were susceptible to those parasites. Ripley responded by saying that all of the elk released were all treated with Ivermectin for parasites before their release here in Campbell Co.

Ray Wilson asked about the seed program this year and if there would be any available soon. Officer Akins indicated that the seed should be available sometime next month.

President Asbury discussed the bill Senator McNally was attempting to sponsor allowing local residents to use the WMA without paying a fee as currently required. Asbury wrote a letter to the sponsor McNally to protest the idea that some users would not be required to pay their way and others would have to support certain other users.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:20 pm

MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2004

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

The Board's Roll Call and February minutes were read and approved.

February Financial Reports for the General and Newsletter Accounts were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed starting work at Cove Creek. Bill has picked up the herbicide to begin the spraying process. A motion was made by Bill to allow the herbicide to be paid for by the CORA general account. That motion was seconded by Terry Lewis and vote was held and passed by the board. Bill asked TWRA'S Fred Jordan about the seed for the property with Fred indicating that April was the month the seed is normally given out.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:

No report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen

Massengill: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted

Fields: Ted discussed the gate at Hackle Knob on Chestnut Ridge being closed.

Ted indicated Stan had said he would

open the gate one week before the Turkey season. However it was not open at this time. President Asbury asked Fred to have Stan call him at Stan's convenience to discuss the access issue.

Membership Chairman Robert

Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: New

Business: President Asbury indicated that he had written a letter to Bob Ripley thanking him for all the past cooperation an induction into the CORA membership.

President Asbury spoke of the passage of house bill 1479 allowing TWRA commissioners to set its own fees. The date the bill is to be in effect was unknown at this time.

A short discussion in the benefits of NO-Till planting the food plots was had by members of the board.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 7:45 pm

MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2004

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis; however the June minutes were not read and approved due to the secretary's absence last month as no minutes were kept.

The July Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson, those financials were approved as read

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the sowing of 4 different tracts in Cove Creek this past month. Bill reported that his group had fertilized and planted corn, grain sorghum, Mixed Sorghum and Milo.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis indicated that he was working on the next issue of the newsletter

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen
Massengill:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted

Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert

Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: Ray Wilson

presented President Asbury with a Christmas present of a new jacket, a present from the CORA board members.

New Business: Lee provided a report concerning the quail restoration program for Cove Creek and his discussion with TWRA's Ron Saunders on wild quail available and TWRA's pledge to provide birds to the area within a reasonable time frame.

Lee also discussed the meeting that he and Terry had with TWRA's Stan Stooksbury concerning the Fountain Forestry issues as well as issues in general concerning the Royal Blue WMA.

Lee lead a discussion on the position that CORA is attempting to take on the small game season and conflicting issues that affect the quality of the small game hunting experience here in East Tennessee. Lee had asked Mike MacAfee to provide a statistical report on the number of days that grouse hunters have available and the amount of conflicting big game hunting days. Mike surmised the issues by explaining that small game hunters only have 8 days to hunt grouse that are not affected by the big game season. The results of the discussion was that CORA should provide a letter to TWRA recommending that the number of days small game hunters had to hunt without being in conflict lengthened. Lee asked Mike to revise the report and provide it to him so he could include that report with the letter of recommendation from CORA on the small game season.

Glen Massengill gave a short report on TVA's future coal mining plans and the public meetings being held concerning the impacts that coal mining has on the known historical sites that are within the TVA coal mining targeted areas. Those meetings included information on the methods and amounts the different types of mining practices would have on the local environment and the impact to the historical sites within those areas where TVA has its asset holdings.

Lee indicated he would ask Stan Stooksbury to attend the August CORA meeting to provide a better understanding of some of the issues like the TVA mining impacts and the newest concerns with the Fountain Forestry timbering practices on the Sunquist WMA. Lee indicated he would like for

the board to be better informed on these issues before CORA took its formal position on this important issues.

A report was given by Terry Lewis on the meeting and discussions he has attended this month with TWRA, TCL and others concerning the new OHV Law and the impacts it has to users of OHV.

A discussion was also held on the Hatfield Viewing Area and its progress.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:55 pm

MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2004

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis;

The July Minutes were read and approved as read by Secretary Lewis;

The August Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson, those financials were approved as read

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the replanting of some of the food plot areas that did not germinate from the first planting.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis indicated that he was working on the next issue of the newsletter

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen

Massengill: Glen held a discussion on the collection of funds owed the newsletter account.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted

Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert

Burden: Bob discussed the current membership has expired and indicated the memberships run from the end of July to the end of July the next calendar year.

Review Old Business: TWRA's Steve Bennett discussed the viewing area and indicated that the Hatfield Viewing area was something that TWRA was very interested in and wants to pursue.

Steve indicated that it could be possible that we could get some elk from LBL this year if any became available. However no elk would be coming from Alberta this year due to the restrictions from CWD. Bennett also asked if CORA members would help with a calf watch and record all elk calves that they seen along with the areas from which they seen them.

Stan Stooksbury discussed the TVA mining issues and options; additionally Lee indicated that CORA should attend any public meetings with TVA concerning the mining issues.

Fountain Forestry issues was also discussed and the many problems that not following the BMP's was causing. A discussion was held concerning what roll CORA could play in this issue. No resolution was had at this time.

New Business:

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 9:10 pm

EPITAPH AND REJOINDER

A visitor strolling through a country graveyard, paused before one gravestone to read these words:

"Pause, stranger, when you pass me by.
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be;
So prepare for death and follow me."

The visitor pondered that message, and then added his own beneath the chiseled words:

"To follow you I am not content
Until I know which way you went."

—Author Unknown

Wildlife Viewing Area Being Planned For Hatfield Knob

by Bob Hodge

Having a place to hunt elk in Tennessee is still several years away, but having a place to watch them might be here before next Thanksgiving.

In a move spearheaded by Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association and Tennessee Conservation League, plans are being made to develop an elk viewing area at the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area. The proposed site is about 5 miles north of LaFollette on top of Hatfield Knob.

"The elk are already there," said Terry Lewis, an officer with CORA. "It's an area where TWRA had previously cleared off the land and the topography lends itself to viewing wildlife."

The viewing area is the brainchild of Lewis, who owns a farm not far from the site. It also has the backing of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

"This would help fulfill part of what elk were brought back to the state for," said Mike Butler, executive director of TCL. "We wanted a population that was huntable and we wanted a population that was viewable by the public."

If the viewing area makes it past the concept stage the plan would be to have a viewing shelter that blends in with the environment and a parking area that would keep traffic well away from the elk. A limited access trail would be constructed between the parking area and the shelter.

The viewing shelter would be a two-story, open-air log structure that would require a minimum of maintenance. The view from the shelter would encompass the top of the knob, which is approximately 100 acres of reclaimed strip mines.

"But you could see for thousands of acres," Lewis said. "The 100 acres would be where we would have done habitat work to bring the elk in."

With permission from TWRA, Lewis has already done some habitat work at the site. He has cleared much of the area and

made sure that animal-friendly plants are already in the ground.

The cost of the project, not including work on the 4½-mile road which leads from Highway 25 to Hatfield Knob, would be about \$30,000. That includes the cost of constructing the viewing shelter, a trail-head shelter, parking lot and the placement of informational signs around the area.

Butler believes funds can be raised to complete the project without the cash-strapped TWRA having to use its money.

"It doesn't even have to cost that much because what we are looking at now is a Cadillac version of a viewing area," Butler said. "As far as other costs, habitat management and maintenance, most of

that will be done by volunteers. The viewing shelter would be open air with no electricity or insulation so it would need little or no maintenance.

"What we are talking about is some sticks and tin. This would be a self-directed experience."

Issues that will need to be addressed before the project goes forward are reaching agreements with the companies that hold the mineral and timber rights to the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area.

Bob Hodge covers the outdoors. He can be reached at 865-342-6314 or hodge@knews.com.

Donations Given To Hatfield Knob Viewing Area

Each year the National Wild Turkey Federation distributes Super Fund money. These are funds given to help in the aiding of preserving conservation and wildlife habitat.

This year the Pine Mountain Longbeards Chapter of Campbell County is proud to be able to show their support to the Wildlife Viewing Area on Hatmaker Ridge. A check from the "Super Fund" in the amount of \$1,000.00 has been awarded. Local NWTF Chapter President, Ray Ivey, would also like to pledge donation of his chapters manhours. These hours would be a part of helping in future work at the viewing site.

The National Wildlife Turkey Federation would like to recognize and say a special "thank you" to Terry Lewis and his wife Jane. Without their dedication and hours

of hard labor they have put forth, this viewing area may have never become a reality. This viewing area and the feeding plots, will be enjoyed by both man and animals for generations to come. So again we say "Thank You."

—Ray and Mitzi Ivey

Happy Holidays!
May you and yours
have a blessed and
peaceful New Year!

The Thrill of it All!

by Jane Lewis

It was such a thrill to go and watch elk being released in East Tennessee after they had been absent for around 150 years. But, you know what, it is so exciting, a greater thrill to be able to go to Hatfield Knob most any evening and be able to sit or stand and wait and be able to see elk. Hatfield Knob is just a couple of miles from our farm in Campbell County. Last fall we worked up a patch of the soil and planted an oat and Austrian pea plot for the wildlife. Then, when spring came, Terry planted soybeans in the same plot, right

over the oats. He did some dozer work at clearing, making more plots and disking. He had the help of Fred Jordan working on our dozer with dozer work. One Saturday, Terry and I were at Hatfield Knob working the plots. I was disking a new food plot while he was on the dozer clearing for more food plots. You know what, four (4) elk came out into the oat plot while I was disking nearby. I radioed over to him on the dozer and told him. He hid in some trees and watched them for a while, then he drove over in the Ranger to where I was and he took over the tractor while I got into the Ranger and then I went and watched them for a while. That was the beginning of our addiction.

We can hardly wait on Friday's to get to the farm, rush to unload and head straight to Hatfield Knob and hide in the woods line and wait for elk to come out to feed. We do this every weekend that we get a chance because we are so excited about the elk. We started with eleven (11) there and now there is sixteen (16). We have seen as many as thirteen (13) in a group. Calves, cows and bulls, all herded together. What a Beautiful site, and these animals are so

massive. One of the cows, we named Barkie. She is the guard, she does a lot of barking when she knows for sure that

where he wanted to sit, it wasn't but a few minutes till out came 13 elk, Cows, calves, yearlings, and yes, two (2) bulls.



you are there. They also mew, we heard that one week end as we were getting ready to leave. They were mewing from every direction. That is also the first time that we knew for sure that we still had at least two (2) big bulls there. The mews were to my right as I was walking down the road, the bulls were instantly in front of me. I had been spotted, they stopped and stood watching me as I stooped down to sit and keep quiet and watch. They stood and watched for quite some time and then, one went left and one went right. Man, what beautiful animals.

One weekend in latter August, we had our 5 year old granddaughter up there with us. The first night we didn't see anything, strangers were there with their dog sitting in the open. Then about the time the elk should have come out, they decided to walk out and leave. So that night was zilch. The next evening we went up, Terry wanted to take soil samples. While Terry was taking soil samples, Mackenzie and I sat in the Ranger at the top of the knob watching and waiting. She wasn't real quiet, but you know, when Terry was done with the soil samples and got himself positioned

I was taking pictures and looking through binoculars and she kept grabbing for my second camera because she wanted to take pictures. It was really cool to see them all together like that.

After dark, we went back to the farm and loaded up to go home. On our way back to Knoxville, our granddaughter said, "I had a very exciting day seeing all them elk." You know what, so did we!

Cranberry Pecan Pie

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup chopped pecans

In a large bowl, combine eggs, syrup, sugar, butter and vanilla until blended. Stir in cranberries and pecans. Pour into crust. Bake at 425° for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° for 35 to 40 minutes or until filing is almost set. Cool completely. Cover and refrigerate over-night before slicing. Enjoy!

PUBLIC LANDS, continued from page 2

OHV users; therefore, are unfairly criticized for the increase in "resource impacts," and "proliferation of new, unplanned roads and trails." Although these are important concerns that must be addressed in this planning effort, the situation is not reflective of "out of control" OHV users as much as an indication of the unmet demand for recreational infrastructure.

Compounding this situation is the way some land managers have responded to the increase in popularity in OHV recreation. Unwisely, rather than work to accommodate the increased demand for trails and trail systems, land managers have frequently reacted by restricting OHV opportunities. More importantly, opportunities to manage OHV use by marking roads and trails, providing usable maps, identifying OHV trails and systems; and entering into cooperative management agreements with OHV user groups have, by and large, been ignored.

Although, more pro-active management is clearly permissible within the existing management plans, a quick search on most National Forest websites finds land managers more often choose to implement parts of their OHV policy associated with limitations and closures, than management.

Generally, the Blue Ribbon Coalition supports the move away from allowing cross-country travel to allowing use only on designated roads and trails. Our concern is that the new policy be implemented pursuant to lawful planning, with full public involvement, accurate inventory of roads and trails, assessment of current recreational use, and with consideration to recreational value of existing roads and trails.

What Does This Mean to You?

The change in OHV policy will require a major effort from all OHV organizations. Just because your favorite road or trail was constructed years ago and is enjoyed by thousands doesn't mean that road or trail is on the FS's inventory. As individuals, and as organizations, we're going to have to become involved, or the Fox is going to eat us out of house and home!

I cannot emphasize enough how urgent it is to get involved with your local

Forest in this effort. This new policy won't go into effect tomorrow, it went into effect yesterday. The easiest way to track changes to your favorite road or trail is to call.

-Brian Hawthorne is the BRC Public Lands Director. He may be contacted at : 4555 Burley Drive, Suite A, Pocatello, ID 83202-1921. Phone: 208-237-1008. <Brian@sharetrails.org>

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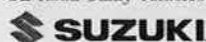
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Issues

**LANDOWNER LIABILITY EXEMPTION I
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE ACT
(S875* Ramsey- H1568 McCord)**

Authorizes an off-highway vehicle program, development of a voluntary off highway vehicle education program, and development of guidelines on land selection, trail design and maintenance. Makes it unlawful for any person to ride an off-highway motor vehicle upon the land of another without first obtaining the permission or approval of the owners of the land or of the person or persons in charge of the land who have authority from the owner to give such permission. Provides that the court may order restitution for damages caused by the violator. In connection with an arrest for a violation of this act, the OHV may be seized and impounded. The provision of this bill are enforceable and may be prosecuted by all law enforcement officers, including police officers, sheriffs,

agency officer, and other peace officers. Includes a provision that allows landowners to accept pay from individuals entering their land for recreational purposes without holding the landowner to a higher duty of care for liability purposes. Under current law, landowners are not liable if no pay is accepted but they are held to a higher duty of care if payor consideration is accepted. The landowner will be held liable for injuries only in cases of willful or wanton misconduct. FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS - BILL PASSED (P. C. 622)

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