

# CORA

NINETEENTH EDITION  
JUNE, 1999



CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

## From The President

What is the role of government in trails?

by Lee Asbury

Governor Sundquist's proposal to create a "linear park" consisting of a trail for hikers and bicycle riders from Cumberland Gap to Chattanooga with some feeder trails is being presented to landowners along the way. They are being asked to sell or give titles or easements for the trail.

The problem (isn't there always a problem when a special interest group comes calling?) lies in the fact that only hikers and bicycle riders would be allowed to use the trail if trail proponents have their way.

It seems that the mystical state of euphoria experienced by hikers and bicyclers would be blighted if forced to come in contact with such a vulgar and common thing as a hunter, an ATV rider, a commoner on horseback or anyone of many other less environmentally sensitive ordinary people.

The usual reasons are advanced for keeping everyone else off the trail. Other users would create litter; other users would pose a threat to hikers and bicyclers; any noise or the presence of "undesirable" types would ruin the scene.

All of these are hogwash and are nothing more than a blatant attempt to claim an exclusive use for a very small number of people.

Does anyone believe that any Tennessee citizen who wants to walk cannot find a place to do so? There certainly are plenty of ATV users who

have to drive great distances to enjoy their sport on public land.

Isn't it time for our Governor and other public officials to recognize the need to be looking for ways to accommodate a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation enthusiasts rather than catering to an elitist few.

I would urge land owners along the route to permit use of their property only if it is open to everyone.

The first efforts of ATV users to organize into a meaningful lobby seem crippled by what can only be called the single interest syndrome.

The ultimate solution lies in all groups recognizing the concept of "multiple use," working together and making the only contest one to see who can and do the most good for the environment and for the mutual enjoyment of Tennessee's public lands. Technology is going to force us to come up with some 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas.

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# Royal Blue: King-Size WMA

by H. Lea Lawrence reprinted from AMERICAN HUNTER, June 1999

Almost everyone hears about urban sprawl, particularly folks living near cities. But how many people nowadays get to experience rural sprawl?

Strange as it may seem, that term could be used to describe Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a 50,000-acre tract in eastern Tennessee's hill country that spreads itself across a major portion of Campbell County and on into neighboring Scott County. Its boundaries contain some of the state's most rugged and (if you're up to the challenge) most rewarding hunting

grounds.

On one hand, Royal Blue could be classed as a new wildlife management area, since it was only acquired by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in 1991. While in private hands, however, public hunting was permitted. In fact, it was one of the few and among the most popular spots to hunt deer in eastern Tennessee back in the 1950s, and it has always been considered a prime location for squirrels, ruffed grouse, and raccoons.

Historically, the area was used for

timber cutting and coal mining. The timber harvest began about 1880 in conjunction with the first deep coal mines. By the early 1930s, strip mining was begun, and while mining is no longer carried out on Royal Blue, some is conducted on interior holdings within its boundaries. Recent mines have been reclaimed and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Royal Blue lies about 50 miles northwest of Knoxville, and is divided roughly in half by Interstate 75. Caryville, situated off Exit 41, is the closest town with restaurants, grocery stores, and motels. Typically, more hunting activity has taken place east of I-75, mostly because that side boasts more access. There is a maze of roads in this section, many of which are suitable only for ATVs, 4x4s, and other off-road vehicles.

The terrain is somewhat intimidating, with steep slopes and narrow, V-shaped valleys. Elevations of the higher peaks east of I-75 range from 2,000 feet to 2,800 feet; those west of I-75 generally reach from 3,000 feet to 3,200 feet.

The whitetail harvest on the area has steadily increased, and biologists predict it will continue to climb as more hunters take advantage of the growing population. The rugged nature of the area's terrain provides ample opportunity for deer hunters who want to get away from the crowds. Camping is permitted, and those who want to backpack into remote areas can spend several days enjoying all the elbow room they could

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### KING-SIZE, continued from page 2

possible wish for. In these backwoods some of the area's best trophy bucks are taken every year.

Turkey hunting is extremely popular, and the kill figure has risen steadily since the birds were first stocked west of I-75 in 1979, then east of the interstate in '82. In recent years, birds of the famous Missouri strain have been introduced, and an additional boost is being given the species by a habitat improvement program being conducted by hunter/conservation groups. As with deer, most turkeys are checked in at stations outside the area, so no accurate count of the harvest can be determined. Regardless, biologists know the number is very satisfactory and increasing annually.

Royal Blue has always been very popular among squirrel hunters, and with an already robust population, it is anticipated that it will continue to be one of the best bets for bushy-tails in the entire region. The area's large hardwood tracts are the key to the abundance of squirrels.

There's top-flight ruffed grouse hunting, also, and as management efforts continue, it is expected to get

even better. Chasing mountain grouse isn't for everyone, as a result, there's no threat of excessive pressure being placed on the birds; instead, they could be better described as under-hunted.

Of the other small game species, rabbits probably offer the most potential, and there's an indication that their numbers have increased somewhat in recent years.

Royal Blue has traditionally been one of the most popular raccoon hunting spots in all of eastern Tennessee, and the 'coon population is currently expanding. Special efforts are being made to increase protection so the species will be an even more attractive draw for those who pursue this traditional sport.

Beavers were stocked between 1979 and 1986, and the animals have established populations and dams over much of the area. The ponds they create, along with ponds resulting from old strip mine operations, provide hunters with limited opportunity to hunt waterfowl and snipe. However, success is sporadic, even among the few who specifically pursue the migratory birds.

But back to the word sprawl, because where it regards hunting, it has a broader

application that was first indicated. Here's why:

The Royal Blue's 50,000 acres is impressive, but there's actually additional public-hunting opportunity adjacent to it that expands the figure enormously. Surrounding the Royal Blue is the Cumberland Forest Public Hunting Area (PHA), occupying 80,000 acres in Anderson, Campbell, and Scott counties. To the northwest of Royal Blue in Campbell and Claiborne counties is the 51,000-acre Tackett Creek PHA. Both of these are parts of a cooperative effort between the TWRA and various landholding companies to provide public hunting with the landowner administering permits, and TWRA enforcing the rules and regulations governing these areas. Full information on all of the WMAs and PHAs, plus the current hunting rules and regulations, can be obtained from: I&E Division, TWRA, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204; 615-781-6502.

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# CORA Minutes

## CORA Minutes of December 1, 1998

The board meeting commenced at 7:04 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

**Invocation** by Chaplin Jim Shetterly  
**Board's Roll Call and Minutes** were read by Secretary Ray Wilson

**Absent:** Robert Burden, Jerry Lane, Ernie Lester, Jack Ethridge, Perry Vincent and Fred Walker

**Excused Absent:** Leonard Hooks, Mike McAfee and Pete Shelton

**November Treasury Reports** by Terry Lewis were approved as read.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Publicity** Chariman Mike McAfee: Absent, no report.

**Activities** Chairman Bill Bruce: No report.

**Newsletter** Editor Terry Lewis: Terry brought to the meeting the December 1998 (18<sup>th</sup> Edition) copies of the Newsletter for distribution.

### **Newsletter Distribution and**

**Advertising** Chairman Perry Vinsant: Absent, no report.

**Roads and Trails** Chairman Ted Fields: No Report.

**Membership** Committee Robert Burden: Absent, no report.

**Visitors** in attendance were: TWRA's Fred Jordan and Danny Akin.

### **Old Business:**

Membership letter for renewal of last year's membership needs to be reviewed for approval.

Hubert Rollins requested that all board members be furnished a list of all current members and their phone numbers.

### **New Business:**

CORA President Lee Asbury reported on his meeting with TWRA representatives Mr. Bob Ripley and Mr. Gary Meyers, regarding the use of ATV's on properties controlled by TWRA and other agencies. The purpose of this meeting was to focus more attention on problems being created on the Royal Blue WMA due to RVs being prohibited on the other areas including the Tennessee side of the Cherokee National Forest and the Big South Fork.

It appears that at the present time TWRA is the only agency that is trying to deal with this problem. President Asbury also discussed the procedures being

taken by TWRA regarding the Norris Lake shoreline. He said that since our discussion with TVA they have shown more interest in working with the public.

Regarding the quality Deer Management issue, Mr. Asbury said that his information was that those for and against are pretty evenly split. Discussion by our members proved that we too were about evenly divided. Wildlife planting on priority spots was discussed and the decision was made to look into seed procurement for the upcoming planting season.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ray Wilson.

## CORA Minutes of January 5, 1999

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

**Invocation** by Chairman Harry Burden  
**Board's Roll Call and December Minutes** were read by Secretary Ray Wilson and approved by the board.

**Absent:** Jerry Lane, Ernie Lester, Jack Ethridge, Pete Shelton, Fred Walker, Ted Fields and Leonard Hooks

**Excused Absent:** Ray Ivey, Jim Shetterly and Perry Vinsant

**December Treasury Reports** by Terry Lewis were approved as read.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Publicity** Chariman Mike McAfee: Absent, no report.

**Activities** Chairman Bill Bruce: No report.

**Newsletter** Editor Terry Lewis: Terry reported that he needed articles for the next newsletter publication.

**Newsletter Distribution and Advertising** Chairman Perry Vinsant: Absent, no report.

**Roads and Trails** Chairman Ted Fields: Absent, no Report.

**Membership** Committee Robert Burden: No report.

**Visitors** in attendance were: TWRA's Fred Jordan and Danny Akin.

### **Old Business:**

After a discussion by all members, a motion was made by Robert Burden and seconded by Terry Lewis to build a food plot on the top of Massengill Mountain. The plot will be built at the Old Tower

site and will include the Old Tom Watson fields. The TWRA will clear the fields and CORA members will do the planting. Seed procurement was discussed but no decisions were reached on just what the planting should be.

A new membership list was compiled by Treasurer Terry Lewis. The list begins with the new physical year. This list will allow us to better review the annual attendance records.

### **New Business:**

No new business at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ray Wilson.

## CORA Minutes of February 2, 1999

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

**Invocation** by Chairman Harry Burden

In the absence of Secretary Ray Wilson the Board's Roll Call and Minutes were read by Treasurer Terry Lewis and approved by the board.

**Absent:** Jerry Lane, Ernie Lester, Jack Ethridge, and Leonard Hooks

**Excused Absent:** Ray Wilson, Jim Shetterly

**January Treasury Reports** by Terry Lewis were approved as read.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Publicity** Chariman Mike McAfee: No report.

**Activities** Chairman Bill Bruce: No report.

**Newsletter** Editor Terry Lewis: Terry Lewis reported that we are close to the deadline for going to press for the next issue of CORA Newsletter. Additional articles are needed for this issue and should be submitted to Terry no later than February 20.

### **Newsletter Distribution and**

**Advertising** Chairman Perry Vinsant: Terry Lewis requested advertising committee members should go through the advertiser's materials to ensure we have no duplication or omissions in the ads. Terry complemented the advertising and distribution committee in that the newsletter advertising receivables are in better shape than ever before. Chairman

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Perry Vinsant commented that the success is due to good help from many of the CORA members.

**Roads and Trails** Chairman Ted Fields: A question was raised by Terry Lewis as to whether CORA should be concerned or involved in the Lick Fork access issue. A land company that owns several thousand acres in Campbell and Scott Counties (generally described as being located in the Elk Valley area) has leased hunting rights to a private group, reportedly from Knoxville. Many Campbell County citizens are upset, for a variety of reasons, about being denied access through the property. Several solutions to this issue are still being discussed, including the possibility of Campbell County taking possession of the road. This potential solution raises questions as to the County's responsibilities regarding maintenance of roads. Lee Asbury commented that most people are missing the point of the issue. This is not really a question of a road being opened or closed. Rather, it is another example of another large tract of land no longer available to the public. Lee Asbury emphasized CORA should be concerned about the larger public access issues.

The question of whether CORA should be involved in any way was posed to the directors and the audience by Lee Asbury. A wide ranging discussion ensued about leasing of private lands by hunting clubs and other groups. Some CORA members reflected that CORA should have tried to get involved and/or leased the property when it was available the first time, with the intent of eventually moving the land into public ownership. The current status of the lease to the hunting club was discussed. Lee Asbury agreed to an action item to check the status of the property (lease arrangements) and report back to the directors at the next meeting.

**Membership** Committee Robert Burden: No report.

**Visitors** in attendance were: TWRA's Fred Jordan and Danny Akin.

**Old Business:** The potential food plot on Massengill Mountain was discussed again. The food plot was described as approximately 4-5 acres. TWRA clarified they have agreed to prepare the soil for planting. CORA is responsible for seed

and planting.

A discussion followed concerning what to plant, soil amendment requirements, how to plant and when to plant.

No decisions were reached.

**New Business:**

The boat ramp on Norris Lake at Matty Randolph hollow was discussed. CORA President Lee Asbury reported construction is expected to begin in the fall of 1999 and should be completed by spring 2000.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ray Wilson.

**CORA Minutes of March 2, 1999**

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

**Invocation** by Chaplin Jim Shetterly  
In the absence of Secretary Ray Wilson the **Board's Roll Call** and **February Minutes** were read by Treasurer Terry Lewis and approved by the board.

**Absent:** Jerry Lane, Ernie Lester, Jack Ethridge and Ray Wilson

**Excused Absent:** Lee Asbury and Perry Vinsant

**February Treasury Reports** by Terry Lewis were approved as read.

**Committee Reports:**

**Publicity** Chairman Mike McAfee: No report.

**Activities** Chairman Bill Bruce: Terry Lewis raised the question of another turkey calling contest this spring. The contest will be held at the April monthly meeting of the CORA board. Hubert Roland was asked to judge the calling contest. Hubert will also purchase prizes for the winners. CORA will pay for the prizes.

**Newsletter** Editor Terry Lewis: Terry reported we are close to the deadline for going to press with the next issue of the CORA Newsletter. Additional articles are needed for this issue and should be submitted to Terry no later than March 20.

**Newsletter Distribution and**

**Advertising** Chairman Perry Vinsant: Absent, no report.

**Roads and Trails** Chairman Ted Fields: Ted said various trails had trees down and you needed to take a chain saw with you if you were going to ride much.

**Membership** Committee Robert

Burden: No report.

**Visitors** in attendance were: TWRA's Fred Jordan.

**Old Business:** The potential food plot on Massengill Mountain was discussed again. The food plot was described as approximately 3-4 acres. TWRA's Fred Jordan clarified that he had dozed the site. CORA is responsible for preparing the site and for the seed and planting.

Terry Lewis brought soil sample containers. Bob Burden agreed to obtain the samples for later analysis from the State of Tennessee. No decision was reached on food plot planting.

Harry Burden expressed his opinion that the recently approved boat launch would have never been possible without CORA's involvement.

Lick Fork—The gates and the road are open now. A small group of CORA officers and directors met recently to discuss the issue of private land being leased to private groups. The general question was what could and should be done by CORA? The outcome of the discussion was the intent to contact large landowners to start a dialogue on the possibility of leases for public access. The need for the development of a plan of action. The Nature Conservancy has approached CORA with an interest in leasing recreational rights on large tracts of land. The potential of the Tennessee legislature providing incentives to private land owners for making land available for public use. The board elected to wait until the next board meeting to take any action.

**New Business:** Linear Park—A meeting will be held at the Campbell County High School to discuss this topic sometime in March. The thought at this point is a trail from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap for hiking only. Several members expressed concern of this proposed action for "hikers only" without considering other uses and interests. The board and all CORA members are urged to attend the March meeting at the High School. A motion was made by Terry Lewis that CORA condemn the current single use proposal. CORA supports multiple use of public lands. The motion was seconded by Bob Burden. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

A member of the audience raised a



question on the possibility of a boat launch on Big Creek at some point in the future. A general discussion ensued on public and private issues associated with TVA lake property. No decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ray Wilson.

**CORA Minutes of April 6, 1999**

The board meeting commenced at 7:05 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

**Invocation** by Chaplin Jim Shetterly

The **Board's Roll Call** and **March Minutes** were read by Secretary Ray Wilson and approved by the board as read.

**Absent:** Jerry Lane, Ernie Lester, Jack Ethridge, Perry Vinsant and Fred Walker.

**Excused Absent:** Leonard Hooks and Galen Wiseman.

**March Treasury Reports** by Terry Lewis were approved as read.

**Committee Reports:**

**Publicity** Chariman Mike McAfee: No report.

**Activities** Chairman Bill Bruce: No report.

**Newsletter** Editor Terry Lewis: Terry

reported we are close to the deadline for going to press with the next issue of the CORA Newsletter. Additional articles are needed for this issue and should be submitted to Terry no later than April 20.

**Newsletter Distribution and Advertising** Chairman Perry Vinsant: Absent, no report.

**Roads and Trails** Chairman Ted Fields: Ted reported that the roads were in good condition at this time.

**Membership** Committee Robert Burden: No report.

**Visitors** in attendance were: TWRA's Fred Jordan.

**Old Business:** The Lick Fork gate is down at this time and the roads are open as a result of a resolution by the Campbell County Court in recognizing this to be a public road and directing the road superintendent to remove the gate.

Ted Fields and Clarence Ward reported that they had inspected the proposed food plot site at the old tower location and determined that it needed further work before it could be sowed. TWRA's Fred Jordan agreed to use James Madison's dozer which is stationed in the area to further trim the fields. Terry Lewis reported that the soil samples should be back from the state by the next meeting.

CORA President Lee Asbury discussed

the meeting concerning the Linear Park walking trail which is proposed to pass through Campbell and Claiborne counties. This trail would be for the exclusive use by hikers. ATV users and hunters would not be allowed to use or cross this trail. CORA's position is that we would not oppose this trail if everyone is able to use it, but would object to its exclusive use by any special interest group. Mr. Asbury stated that Matt Holley with the Huber Land Co. will follow our lead in this issue. Huber will not allow the use of their land for this purpose without the consent of the CORA members.

**New Business:** Mr. Mike Butler with Tennessee Conservation League discussed the proposed deregulation of the electric power companies and its possible effect on the management of the lands surrounding the reservoirs. At issue, he says will be private investors trying to obtain land around the lakes. CORA has always taken the position that we want this public land to continue to be maintained for public use.

On deer management Mr. Butler stated that many problem areas exist, especially in west Tennessee, due to too many deer. He proposes that 20,000 more doe

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## Opening Dates for TVA Campgrounds

**March 19**

Douglas Dam Tallwater  
Mallard Creek (Wheeler)

**March 28**

Barton Springs (Normandy)

**April 2**

Loyston Point (Norris)

**April 18**

Watauga Dam  
Cherokee Dam  
Douglas Dam Headwater

**April 22**

Foster Falls

**Open year-round**

Melton Hill Dam  
Pickwick Dam  
Wilson Dam

## Recreation Facilities Get Facelift

TVA is improving facilities at several recreation areas this year, including the following:

- Building new launching-ramp courtesy piers at Melton Hill Dam Reservation, the Round Island boat ramp on Wheeler Lake, and the Bussell Ferry ramp below Fort Loudoun Dam.
- Adding water and electric hook-ups to several campsites at the headwater campground on Douglas Lake and the Loyston Point campground on Norris Lake and refurbishing campsites at Foster Falls recreation area near Jasper, Tennessee.
- Renovating restroom facilities at Mallard Creek campground on Wheeler Lake, at the Foster Falls recreation area, and on the south side of Guntersville Dam Reservation.
- Expanding parking facilities at the Oseola Island recreation area below South Holston Dam.
- Building a new group picnic pavilion at Fontana Dam Reservation.

Reprinted from *TVA River Neighbors*, April 1999 issue.

# Food Plot Strategies

by Terry Lewis

It is that time of the year again when outdoorsmen start thinking about planting food plots for wildlife. But to be successful, before we just go out in the woods and spread some seed, we should give it some careful thought. What do we want to accomplish with the plantings? Many considerations should come into the process of planting food plots. Questions like: Annuals or Perennials? What is the correct PH of the soil? Size of the plots? Planting dates? What types of wildlife do we want to target? Locations for the plots? Tillage of the soil. Maintenance and weed control. Periodic mowing of the plots? And many other questions just like these that will impact the end results.

Let's look at some of these concerns at length. What kind of wildlife we want to target with the plantings will have a lot to do with the type of plants required. For this article we will look at whitetails as the type of wildlife to be considered. Let's look at the areas best suited for the food plots and the size required. For the most part the population of whitetails in Campbell County per square mile is approximately 10 to 20 animals. The turkeys are even more numerous in some areas. Therefore, several smaller plots are preferable to one large plot. The plots should be positioned to allow the maximum amount of sunlight each day. The plots are utilized more if they are back away from any roads that have traffic. The plots are more effective if they are long and narrow and at least 1/4 acre in size. Once we have located the appropriate sites we should stake off the area and measure of sizes in square feet, this will allow us to convert from acres to sq. ft. Then soil samples should be taken from several locations in each plot. Call the soils conservation department and ask where to send the sample for analysis. At this time we will be asked what the planting will be. Let's discuss the nutritional needs of the whitetail at different times of the year.

Not only do I want to see deer across the four seasons, I also want to make a difference in their well being. An April clover planting will have a minimum

impact this year as it won't be available until well after bucks have started their antler growth and does have dropped their fawns. To be helpful now, the plot should have been seeded late last summer.

Contrary to popular belief and with the exception of severe snowy winters, the critical period for most whitetails isn't necessarily January and February. Rather, it's between then and the spring green up that nutritious natural foods are minimal and the need to restore lost minerals and body fat is most demanding.

That's when established food plots will have their greatest value. Clovers planted the previous spring or fall (or earlier) will quickly green up as winter releases its grip, supplying protein and carbohydrates to aid early antler growth and bolster the health of pregnant does.

It's a matter of understanding a bit of deer biology and proper timing. Sometime between mid-March and late April bucks begin their annual antler growth cycle. Coincidentally, does, many carrying twins, must also rebuild the reserves depleted over the past few months. Ironically, when whitetails need nutrition the most is the time when it's unavailable. That's where we can help out.

Deer most require high quality foods from late winter into early summer, therefore we should consider timing for maximum protein.

Everything from healthy fawn production to getting a jump start on antler growth hinges on deer entering spring as fat and sassy as possible.

Clover plots planted in spring will not be ready to provide the necessary carbohydrates and protein at the most critical times. Antlers may be as much as half way through their 200 day growth cycle and does are already nursing young when such food plots become available.

The other time of the year that is a stress period is August and early September, just before the mast begins to fall from the oak trees. This period of the year is when the trees and plants are still green, but the plants are already

dying. The food value at this time has diminished greatly. History says that two out of five years will be mast crop failure. During a mast crop failure, food plots can be the difference between whether bucks come out of the rut in reasonable shape for the antler growth season.

Let's look at some of the different types of plants that we can use. Clovers are a perennial which means they reseed themselves. Clovers are a good choice as they provide a solid source all year and even provide some amount during the winter. They green up very quickly in early spring. Winter Oats and Austrian Winter Peas are another type of foodplot planting. Planted on September 15, oats and peas provide forage during the winter months. The oats and peas receive very heavy use during January through April and after the oats mature and die the seedheads are used by both deer and the turkeys. Soybeans are another type of summer planting that receives heavy use during August and September. Soybeans planted the last of June provide tender forage at a time most other natural forage has passed its prime. Round Up Ready Soybeans are a new product that allows the use of the weed killer Round Up to be sprayed directly upon the soybeans and not harm the soybean but kills almost all other weeds in the plot. I will plant clovers in the areas that stay wetter and plant Alfalfa in areas that are drier as the Alfalfa has a very deep tap root to reach to moisture that clovers could never reach. I use a combination of the above plants to provide the local whitetail population a year round solid nutritional base. This allows the whitetails to get all the nutrition they need from one location and not to have to travel to someone else's property to get their requirements or worse, do without.

Let's look at the planting process itself. After we have sent our soil samples we can begin the process of preparing the soil. Access to a farm tractor and implements can be very helpful here. First clear all trees and brush from the site but do not burn the brush. It will be better to

Please see STRATEGIES on page 8



stack or push the brush into piles along the sides of the plots. Small wildlife will benefit from the places to hide within these piles. It will provide cover for deer and turkeys to feel secure at the edges. First spray the areas with roundup to kill the weeds and fescue. After a couple of weeks the plants should have the chemicals down to the roots for a good kill and we can then disk the areas to loosen the sod and soil. By now the soils analysis should be back from the laboratory and we can now begin to see how much lime and fertilizer we shall need. Use bagged granulated lime from the Co-op as it can be transported and spread easier than powdered lime. Apply the correct amount of fertilizer and lime at this time. Lime requires approximately six months to begin to break down in the soil, so get it on as soon as possible. Lime is one of the more important elements to a successful foodplot. The PH of the soil should be between 6.5 and 7.0 for the optimum plant production. This will allow the plants to produce the most protein and carbohydrates.

We then use a tractor mounted tiller to till the soil, tilling the lime and fertilizer into the soil. A tractor mounted tiller can be rented from most equipment rental companies for approximately \$50.00 per day. The seed can be drilled onto the soil or you may broadcast the seed. If broadcasting seed I always double the planting rates for food plots. The birds will eat some and when you harrow the seed bed to cover the seed, some of the seed may be covered too deeply to allow it to reach the surface. Clovers must not be covered more than 1/4". Be sure all seed has been properly inoculated before planting.

I prefer to make my food plots approximately 12,000 sq. ft. each and

divide them into three separate plots within one plot (A, B and C). I will fall plant oats into Plot A, and overseed clovers into the oats. Into Plot B I plant soybeans in June to allow the plants to be tender in August and September. Into Plot C I'll plant oats and Austrian Winter Peas. In the spring the oats will be mowed off and clovers will be rich and thick. This clover should last approximately four to five years before the weeds become too thick for the small clovers.

Planting in this manner has resulted in a plot that has food available at all times of the year. Remember we are growing foliage and not the seed for the deer. Oats require nitrogen more so than legumes as legumes produce their own nitrogen as they grow. If you apply nitrogen to soybeans it will result in a very aggressive weed problem. Mowing of the clovers when they are 10" to 12" tall will help control many of the weeds. Today there are not any chemicals we can use on clovers to control broadleaf weeds. Applying the chemical Post will kill the grasses, but not the broadleaves. Weedmaster and 2-4D can be used on Oats and Grasses to kill the broadleaf weeds. Weedmaster kills soybeans, peas and all clovers. Round Up Ready Soybeans are good choices as they allow you to kill almost all weeds and not kill the soybeans.

Try not to use too many chemicals as the deer will be eating the foliage and then you will be eating the deer, get the picture? If you want to keep the deer healthy and promote maximum herd growth the planting of food plots will set the dinner table for the whitetail and allow you the opportunity to set your own dinner table and feel good about giving back to the land from which we take.

should be harvested annually to maintain a healthy balance.

On Elk Restoration Mr. Butler says that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is inquiring about reestablishing Elk from Utah in the Land between the Lakes and the Big South Fork areas. He reports that the league passed a resolution two years ago to assist in their reintroduction in areas approved by TWRA. From our discussions it is expected that there will be some objection from adjoining land owners and farmers due to the wide range of the Elk and their ability to cross fences. The last Elk in Tennessee was killed in Obion County in 1860. Motion was made and passed that we discuss this further.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ray Wilson.

## Big South Fork General Management Plan—Update

Revisions to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area's General Management Plan are underway. Staff at the Big South Fork have completed a scoping process, and have informed the public as to the laws and enacting legislation of the area. The next step in the process will be to integrate public comments into draft alternatives for management of the area. The League will follow these developments and will offer management suggestions that will improve wildlife habitat within the area. If you would like to learn more about the Big South Fork call 423-569-9778.

Written by Michael A. Butler and reprinted from *Tracks*.



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# TWRA TO PROPOSE SOME CHANGES TO BIG GAME SEASONS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will propose some changes to the big game hunting seasons affecting deer, bear, boar, and wild turkey, when the Wildlife Commission meets on May 26-27.

A proposal will be presented to add a deer management unit A<sub>1</sub>. The counties which will be included in Unit A<sub>1</sub> are Bledsoe, DeKalb, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Rhea,

Sequatchie, Van Buren, and White.

Seasons and bag limits, which will be proposed to the Wildlife Commission, are as follows:

<b>Deer Hunting Seasons:</b>	<b>Season Opens</b>	<b>Season Closes</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
<b>Unit A and A<sub>1</sub> Archery</b>	Sept. 25 Nov. 15 Dec. 13	Nov. 5 Nov. 19 Dec. 17	4 either sex
<b>Unit A Muzzleloader/Archery</b>	Nov. 8 Dec. 6 * no more than one antlered deer	Nov. 14 Dec. 12	2 either sex* 2 either sex*
<b>Unit A<sub>1</sub> Muzzleloader/Archery</b>	Nov. 8 Dec. 6	Nov. 14 Dec. 12	1 either sex 1 buck only
<b>Unit A and A<sub>1</sub> Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery</b>	Nov. 20 Dec. 20	Dec. 5 Jan. 9	2 buck only
<b>Unit B Archery</b>	Sept. 25 * except buck only after Oct. 18	Oct. 24	2 either sex*
<b>Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery</b>	Nov. 20 Dec. 20	Nov. 28 Jan. 2	2 buck only
<b>Unit A, A<sub>1</sub>, and B Young Sportsman's Hunt</b>	Nov. 6 Jan. 15 *buck only during second segment in Unit B	Nov. 7 Jan. 16	1 either sex 1 either sex*

The opening of the second segment of the gun/muzzleloader/archery season is proposed to open on Monday to allow an additional weekend for small game hunters. The proposal adds 4 days to the season in Units A and A<sub>1</sub>, and 5 days to Unit B.

Regulations which allow only 2 antlered bucks per year on statewide hunts including the young sportsman hunt, and no more than one antlered buck per day are proposed to continue.

Antlerless hunts will not be set until the June meeting of the Wildlife Commission. Several counties had increased doe harvests last year, and

TWRA biologists want to review harvest figures and consider proposals before those seasons are set.

In addition to the usual bear and boar season, a new season will be proposed for bear and boar hunting. This will be a proposed archery-only bear and boar season for Blount and Sevier counties on Oct. 16-24. No dogs may be used on this hunt.

TWRA will propose a feral hog season west of I-75 and include all of Bradley, McMinn, and Polk counties. The season would be year-round on private land. Feral hog hunting is proposed to be open on public lands during scheduled deer

hunts with the exception of Catoosa WMA. Catoosa boar hunting will be addressed when other wildlife management area hunts are set.

These proposals will be considered by the Wildlife Commission at the season setting meeting which will be held at the Holiday Inn in Cookeville on May 26-27. The Committee Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26. The full Commission will meet beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 27.

The public and media are encouraged to attend this important meeting of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission.

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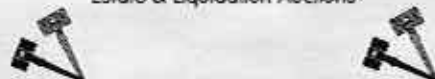
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## Public Notice

The Tennessee Valley Authority is seeking comments on a resource management plan for 1,562 acres of public land on Norris Lake in Campbell County, Tennessee.

With input from customers and stakeholder groups, TVA has drafted a management plan for its public land in the Davis Creek watershed. The Davis Creek Management Unit, which is located about eight miles east of LaFollette, is situated along the right descending bank of the Powell River arm of Norris Lake and along both sides of Davis Creek upstream of the creek's mouth. Another portion of the unit, which includes some agricultural lands, is located farther upstream along Doaks and Dossett creeks.

Many of the proposed actions demonstrate ways of improving soil and forest productivity, wildlife habitat, and user access while protecting watershed water quality. Activities include shoreline

stabilization, agricultural land conversion and silvicultural treatments and implementation of best management practices (BMPs), and community and lakeside cleanup projects.

The draft plan identifies alternatives for managing resources and associated public-recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife observation. Potential environmental effects of each alternative were analyzed.

For a copy of the plan, call 632-1539, 632-3791 or 587-5601 (area code 423 for all). Comments on the plan should be submitted in writing to the address below on or before June 1.

Stanford E. Davis  
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