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Surplus auction
Page 5

Answers to questions about proposed deer regulations

Managing a deer herd across 120 counties is a science for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

In some areas of the state, deer numbers are above desired levels. Overpopulation hurts herd quality, leading to smaller and less healthy deer. Too many deer also means increased habitat and crop damage. In other parts, particularly in areas of east Kentucky, biologists and hunters want more deer on the landscape.

“Hunting is the most effective way to manage the deer population,” Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Deer Program Coordinator Gabe Jenkins said. “Wildlife managers do so by adjusting seasons, bag limits and methods to achieve goals. We need hunters to take more does in Zone 1 counties.”

Changes to hunting regulations are sometimes necessary to work toward an ideal deer population, he added.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission [recommended a number of proposals at its March 23 meeting](#) that address both ends of the spectrum.

The proposals accepted by commission members are the culmination of a



three-year process of public input and scientific review. During this time, department staff compiled an extensive review of deer data, surveyed hunters, conducted numerous internal advisory group meetings, formed a deer working group of interested hunters to gather input and then discussed the proposals during public meetings of the commission's wildlife committee and the full commission.

Jenkins will discuss the proposals during a special Facebook Live program moderated by Kentucky Afield television at 8 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday, April 9. Visit the Kentucky Afield Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KentuckyAfieldTV) to watch this program and submit questions.

Following are answers to some of

the most frequently asked questions about the new deer hunting proposals.

Q: *Why expand the modern gun deer season from 10 days to 16 days in Zones 3 and 4 counties when populations are low and many of these counties in east Kentucky were hit hard by last year's epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak?*

Hunters have expressed to the department a strong desire to expand the modern gun season in Zones 3 and 4. Going from a 10- to 16-day

season would provide them with more days afield and simplify regulations.

The department understands some are concerned about potential overharvest in these zones, especially after last year's EHD outbreak. Some other modifications to harvest rules in Zones 3 and 4 were proposed to prevent overharvest and encourage population growth in the deer herd, yet still allow for a 16-day modern gun season.

Q: *What else is changing for Zone 3?*

In past seasons, hunters could harvest up to four deer (one antlered and three antlerless, or up to four antlerless deer total) in Zone 3. Two of the allowed four

See “Deer,” page 8

INSIDE:



3 Carp Madness



4 NASP tourney



5 New WMA

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This from Field to Fork participant David W. Lee –

“To the Field to Fork mentors at Kentucky Fish & Wildlife:

Well, it's been a year now. Starting out, all I knew was that I wanted to grow as an individual. Mission accomplished—and so much more!

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who has made my journey to becoming a hunter so enjoyable. Your knowledge and passion of hunting is remarkable, as is your eagerness in welcoming newcomers to the fold.

Special thanks to Becky and Chase Wallen, Easton Copley, Andrew Wooldridge, Courtney and Jacob Good-

man, Olivia Dangler, Samantha Seaton, Jamie Cook, Mossy Oak, NWTF, Ducks Unlimited, Best Case Farm and KFW.

KFW's Field to Fork and Hook & Cook programs have been exactly what I was hoping to find for ages! Since the spring of 2017, I've participated in turkey, migratory bird, deer, canning, and fishing classes. I've gone from knowing absolutely nothing about hunting, to harvesting my first deer, to becoming a volunteer Hunter Ed instructor to share my enthusiasm with new hunters.

I'm excited to continue learning and sharing experiences with this great group of people for many years to come, and I hope to share my passion of the outdoors with my kids.

Thanks again to all for access to such wonderful programs for hunter wannabes!”

This from Kirby Stevens in Henderson County:



“I would like to commend all of you guys for making it so affordable for kids to hunt. My son (Kirby) has been hunting since the age of 7. He's now 14 and absolutely loves the outdoors.”

Pictured above is Kirby with his Kentucky gobbler.

Cobban is new private lands biologist

Please welcome Bryan Cobban as the new private lands biologist in the Bluegrass region (filling the vacant position previously held by Jason Nally).

Bryan graduated from Murray State University with a degree in Wildlife Biology. He previously worked for the Department as a FW Technician in the Big Game program primarily assisting with deer research in Eastern Kentucky.

Additional experience also included working as a biologist for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to eradicate feral swine and to reduce nuisance wildlife issues in Illinois and Virginia.

Bryan is married to Elizabeth Cobban and about to celebrate five years of marriage. They live in Louisville and in their free time are fixing up their house. Bryan is an avid hunter and angler and a volunteer scoutmaster.



BRYANT RECEIVES 25-YEAR PIN

Ninth District Captain Stuart Bryant accepted his 25-year career pin from Major Shane Carrier this month while at Headquarters for a district captains meeting. Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Interim Secretary Regina Stivers, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Jimmy Bevens, and Acting Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Frank Jemley joined them for the presentation.

Carp Madness Returns to Western Kentucky in June

New bowfishing tournament offers top prize of \$10,000

Commercial anglers netted nearly 42 tons of invasive Asian carp from Kentucky and Barkley lakes during the inaugural [Carp Madness](#) tournament in 2013.

Carp Madness returns to the lakes in June with a new twist: it's a tournament for bow anglers. The top prize is \$10,000 for the team on the winning boat in each division, with total prizes of \$23,000.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are partnering with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Kentucky State Parks and the Bowfishing Association of America for Carp Madness 2. The tournament is set for the night of June 23-24.

The tournament is another way to remove carp from the lake while building awareness of the invasive fish.

"We anticipate that Carp Madness 2 will remove more than 100,000 pounds of Asian carp in a single night of bowfishing," said Ron Brooks, fisheries division director for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Proceeds beyond the cost of the tournament payouts and prizes will go to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which works with our department on fish and wildlife habitat, the Salato Wildlife Education Center and sponsoring the department's summer conservation camps for kids."

The Bowfishing Association of America is sanctioning the event.

The entry fee is \$150 per boat. Contestants can pay an extra \$25 for entry into the big fish contest. Teams may consist of 2-4 anglers, but no passengers.

The top three weights harvested per boat from each division (lake or river)



will win prize money. First place pays \$10,000 per boat, followed by \$1,000 for second and \$500 for third. The big fish payout will be combined for both divisions and depend on the number of entries.

Contestants who weigh in Asian carp will receive a commemorative "Carp Madness 2" T-shirt. Contestants weighing in at least 250 pounds of fish will receive raffle

tickets for chances at donated prizes. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation is providing support for raffles, t-shirts and donations to the tournament. The foundation will also sell "Carp-Madness 2" T-shirts to support Asian carp removal efforts.

The tournament begins at 7 p.m. (Central time) June 23 and continues until 7 a.m. the following morning. Launch

is set for the Kentucky Dam Marina Boat Ramp, located at the [Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park](#) near Gilbertsville, Ky. Bowfishing anglers may harvest any of the Asian carp, including the silver, bighead, grass and black carp.

Pre-registration opens today on the Bowfishing Association of America website: baastore.bigcartel.com. Participants may also register at the event (cash only).

KDFWR CARP MADNESS II
BOWFISHING EDITION

June 23rd & 24th 2018
 (7pm-7am CST)

\$23,000

\$10K FIRST PRIZE EACH
 Lake Division
 River Division

\$150.00 per boat
\$25 Big Fish Pot
Total Weight of Asian Carp
 (silver carp, bighead carp, grass carp, black carp)

(2-4 MAN TEAMS NO PASSENGERS)



NASP state tournament draws record number of student archers, schools

The largest field in the 17-year history of Kentucky's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) state tournament produced impressive individual performances and an overall team title for Madison Central High School.

The event was held March 29-31 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville and drew a record 6,504 students from 396 schools across the state.

"The excitement this weekend was contagious. It was heartwarming seeing so many happy faces," said Lisa Frye, state NASP coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "Archery continues to grow in the schools across the state. The children absolutely love the sport. By the looks of all the parents and grandparents that I saw, I'd say they love archery, too."

Elementary, middle and high school student archers competed for individual and team honors. After practice rounds, each competitor shot 15 arrows at bullseye targets from 10 meters and 15 more from 15 meters for a total possible score of 300.

Anderson County High School freshman Henry Thompson swept the boys' overall titles in the Kentucky NASP state tournament and the newer Kentucky NASP/International Bowhunting Organization (IBO) 3D Challenge with a score of 298 in each.

The 3D Challenge differs from the traditional bullseye state tournament in

that archers shoot at six lifelike foam targets depicting various game animals. The 3D targets are set in a diagonal line from 10 to 15 meters and the scoring rings are the same size and shape of the rings on standard NASP bullseye targets.

The girls division of the Kentucky NASP state tournament came down to a shootout between Simon Kenton High School sophomore Holly Snow and North Laurel Middle School seventh grader Savannah Philpot. They tied for first place with scores of 295. Snow won the tie-breaker and the girls division overall title.

Madison Central won the overall team title in the 2016 Kentucky NASP state tournament and this year finished ahead of Bullitt Central High School. Muhlenberg County High School, Henderson County High School and Lexington's Lafayette High School filled out the top five.

Pulaski Northern Middle School

and Morgantown Elementary won their respective divisions.

The top 10 seniors in the boys and girls divisions in the state tournament received \$1,000 scholarships to apply to any post-secondary education.

Lincoln County High School freshman McKenzie Settles earned top individual honors in the girls division of the 3D Challenge. Anderson County High School won the 3D Challenge's overall team title.

Complete state tournament results are available online at nasptournaments.org. Click on "Tournaments" then select "Kentucky" and "Completed This Season" from the dropdown menus.

The next step for many of the archers who competed in the state tournament is the 2018 NASP Eastern Nationals scheduled May 10-12 at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Fish and Wildlife public auction of surplus and confiscated items set for May 7

Kentucky of Fish and Wildlife will conduct its spring public auction of surplus and confiscated items May 7 at department headquarters in Frankfort.

Surplus auction items include a Schaffer 16-foot aluminum boat, Mercury and Johnson boat motors, four-wheel-

drive Chevy, Ford and Dodge trucks, a generator, office equipment and more. Bidding on surplus items is open to everyone.

Confiscated auction items include shotguns, rifles, pistols, bows, hunting and

See "Auction," page 5

Old Trace Creek Wildlife Management Area now open

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has opened more land for public use.

Old Trace Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 323-acre property near the community of Emerson in Lewis County. Hunting on the WMA is allowed under statewide regulations.

The property was purchased with Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation "Fee In-Lieu of" (FILO) Program funding for stream restoration. The FILO program is required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to permanently protect stream restoration project sites through the acquisition of properties like the Old Trace Creek area. No general fund tax dollars or department license dollars were used.

"With the stream restoration project almost complete, the area is being opened for the public to enjoy," said Mike Hardin, assistant Fisheries Division director with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Not only is this project improving stream habitat, hunters and outdoors enthusiasts are being provided with a new place to enjoy."

Old Trace Creek WMA is about 95 percent forested with the remaining open land primarily being creek drainages where stream

restoration efforts are nearly complete. Visitors will encounter moderate to steep terrain with forested ridges and benches.

"There is abundant opportunity for game species as most of this track is made up of upland forest," said Nathan Gregory, coordinator of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Northeast Wildlife Region. "Turkey, squirrel and deer are going to be the big three. There's the possibility of some rabbit and grouse, as well."

To access Old Trace Creek WMA, take Exit 156 off Interstate 64, turn left on KY 59 and travel about six miles to Old Trace Creek Road/Old Trace Hill Road. Turn left and travel approximately one mile. The property is mostly on the right, with one small tract on the left that offers access to the creek. The property features three small parking areas off Old Trace Creek Road.

The property is free for the public to access. Hunters must have the proper license and permits. These are available online at fw.ky.gov, or at numerous vendors where sporting goods are sold.

Kentucky's spring turkey season opens April 14 and continues through May 6. Kentucky's spring squirrel season opens May 15 and continues through June 15.

"Auction," continued

fishing equipment and more. Firearm brands offered for sale include Smith and Wesson, Ruger, Beretta, Browning, Savage, Remington, Benelli and more. Under state law, only qualified Kentucky residents may bid on confiscated items.

A list of all items to be offered at auction is available online at finance.ky.gov, the Kentucky Finance and Administration website. Search under the keywords, "Upcoming public auctions." Surplus items can be purchased



with cash, checks or credit cards. Other terms and conditions are included with the list of auction items. All items are sold as is.

Old Trace Creek WMA

Public Hunting Area Location



Regional Locator



WMA Overview

Location & Size: Lewis County, 323 acres.
Contact: (606)-780-0854
Elevation: minimum 780 feet, maximum 1140 feet.
Entrance GPS coordinates: Latitude N 38.38007, Longitude W -83.27716
Area Habitat: mostly forest: open land 3%, forest 97%, wetland 0%, open water 0%.

Viewing begins at 8 a.m. (Eastern), with bidding to begin at 10 a.m. The auction will be held near the Salato Wildlife Education Center, which is on the headquarters campus of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1 Sportsman's Lane. Visitors may find the headquarters complex off U.S. 60 in Frankfort, approximately 1½ miles west of the intersection with U.S. 127. A bronze deer statue marks the entrance.



BBOW event attracts 20 women

ABeyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman archery clinic brought 20 participants to M&M Archery Range and Pro Shop in Independence, Kentucky, last month for a full day of building outdoors skills.

The class introduced women to the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), plus instruction in bowhunting and crossbows and a tour of the archery shop.

They began the day with participants learning about traditional archery equipment with help from Lisa Frye, Kentucky NASP coordinator. She introduced them to the NASP concept, and walked the group through 11 steps of archery and string bow.

Jean Ellen Spieles, a hunter education and bow hunter education instructor, went over basics of bowhunting and tree stand safety.

Mel Wright, owner of M&M Archery, showed participants around the archery shop. He explained proper main-



tenance of a bow, what a bow press is, and how to be fitted for a bow.

Participants took the opportunity to shoot a genesis bow, and a variety of crossbows, at M&M indoor range increasing their confidence in archery tackle and

terminology.

The event was well received and registration filled up quick. Our thanks go out to M & M Archery Range for classroom space and allowing us use of the indoor facility.



CAMP CURRIE DINING HALL

Interior and exterior progress continues on Camp Currie's new dining hall. Workers constructed wainscoting in the new facility from wall materials saved from the old dining hall. Work is on schedule, and a ribbon cutting ceremony May 17 at 2 p.m. CDT will announce its readiness for the 2018 summer camp season.



"Deer," continued

deer in Zone 3 could be taken with a gun.

The department wants to reduce the number of antlerless deer harvested with a gun in Zone 3 to prevent overharvest and encourage population growth. Under its proposal, hunters could still harvest up to four deer in Zone 3 but only one antlerless deer could be taken with a gun.

When a county moves from a Zone 4 to a Zone 3, the increase in antlerless harvest jumps. Reducing the number of antlerless deer that can be taken with a gun in Zone 3 will soften the transition when a county moves from a Zone 4 to a Zone 3.

Q: *What else is changing for Zone 4?*

The department has proposed a reduction in the Zone 4 bag limit, from four deer to two. Of those two, only one could be an antlerless deer. The statewide bag limit of one antlered deer still applies.

Adjusting the bag limit for antlerless deer will reduce the antlerless deer harvest in Zone 4 counties and foster quicker population growth than observed under the current regulations.

While the statewide deer permit would include up to four deer (see below), only two could be taken in Zone 4.

Q: *What is changing with the statewide deer permit?*

Currently, a hunter can harvest up to two deer with a statewide deer permit. The department has proposed raising that to four deer without raising the permit price for residents.

Hunters have indicated that buying an additional deer permit is a barrier to them taking additional deer. In the department's 2015 deer hunter survey, the majority of respondents either supported or did not oppose this change, and said they would harvest more deer under this modification. Changing the statewide deer permit



to four deer offers more opportunity and makes it more user friendly.

Hunters would still be limited to one antlered deer statewide.

Q: *If the statewide deer permit is changing, how will it affect the additional deer permit?*

In previous seasons, a hunter who wanted to harvest more than two deer needed to buy an additional deer permit. Each additional deer permit allowed the hunter to harvest two deer.

Due to the recommended increase with the statewide deer permit, and with less than 1 percent of hunters harvesting more than four deer each year, an overwhelming number will no longer need to buy an additional deer permit.

For those hunters who want to harvest more than four deer, the new additional deer permit proposed by the department would allow them to take up to 15 extra deer.

Zone bag limits apply. Hunters could only take two deer in Zone 4, four deer in Zone 3, four deer in Zone 2 and an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1. Hunters would still be limited to one antlered deer statewide.

Q: *Why propose a Zone 1-only, modern gun season for antlerless deer in late September?*

A Zone 1 designation means the deer population exceeds social or biological goals. This proposed season would be open

in Zone 1 counties during the last weekend in September. Archery hunters could still hunt and harvest an antlered deer during this new season but would be required to wear hunter orange.

In an effort to reduce deer populations to acceptable levels in Zone 1 counties, more antlerless deer need to be harvested. Removing deer before acorns drop from oak trees will leave more food available for those remaining, resulting in healthier deer entering breeding season and over winter.

As for its possible effect on antlered deer during this weekend, bucks typically move at night and their patterns are unpredictable during daylight hours. An average of only 82 antlered deer are harvested during this timeframe in Zone 1 counties, the lowest of any weekend during the deer season.

Deer processors would be notified about this new season.

Q: *Are these proposed changes effective immediately?*

No. Legislative review is still required. The proposed administrative regulations will be filed with the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) by April 13. At that time, written comments on the proposed administrative regulation will be accepted through May 31. Written comments may be sent by email to fwpubliccomments@ky.gov or by regular mail to Mark Cramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Arnold L. Mitchell Building, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Submitted comments will be thoroughly reviewed and responses provided in a Statement of Consideration after the public comment period. That document will be filed with the LRC.

Legislative members of the Administration Regulation Review Subcommittee must review all regulatory documents before the regulation can become effective.