PUBLIC LANDS HUNTING

OVERVIEW

The Wildlife Management Area & Public Lands Search feature on fw.ky.gov is a go-to source for information about where to hunt, fish, hike and more in Kentucky.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife owns, leases or manages more than 85 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for public use. On some areas, a user permit is required. It also has agreements to provide public access on certain privately owned lands, known as Hunting Access Areas. Many public-use areas have special regulations and hunting season dates that are different from statewide seasons. On some public-use areas, a user permit is required. Please refer to specific area listings for that information. The rest are open to hunting free of additional charge.

The information here applies to users of all WMAs owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. If you intend to hunt (or otherwise visit) public lands listed under “Wildlife Management Areas,” you must comply with the following guidelines.

1. For game listed in this guide, hunting seasons on the WMAs listed on the following pages are open only as stated.
2. County zone deer bag limits apply to all WMAs unless otherwise noted under the area listing.
3. Quota deer hunters may take up to two (2) deer on a quota hunt in Zones 2, 3 and 4, only one of which may be antlered, unless otherwise noted under the area listing. See the deer quota hunt listings on page 41 for more details.
4. Squirrel, rabbit, quail, grouse and furbearer hunting is closed the first two days of modern gun deer season on WMAs, if gun deer hunting is permitted.
5. Unless otherwise noted, persons shall not allow unleashed dogs from March 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials, or when training a retriever or other water dog if the activity is authorized by a sign at the body of water. The dog must remain leashed except while training, or within 100 feet of the water, or as stated under the area listing or posted on the WMA.
6. Quota hunts for pheasant, deer, waterfowl and elk hunts require advance application. (Refer to “Quota Hunts” and “Elk Hunting” sections.) Advance application is not required for other listed hunts.
7. Camping is permitted only in designated areas. Check WMA maps online at fw.ky.gov or call the WMA office for camping availability through Kentucky Fish and Wildlife or other campgrounds. Parking must be confined to designated parking areas if such areas exist. If no parking area is designated, parking is generally allowed alongside maintained roads in such a manner that does not block a road or gate or prevent access to a portion of the area. Unless otherwise authorized by the department, mechanized vehicles (excluding wheelchairs) are permitted only on maintained roads open to public use. It is unlawful to cut trees or fences, dump trash or litter, or damage any property or habitat in any fashion.
8. Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. The form is available at department offices and online at fw.ky.gov. Click the “Hunt” tab on the homepage and choose “Trapping” from the dropdown menu.
9. Hunters shall not enter or hunt in areas that have been designated closed by signs.
10. A person shall not discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a residence or occupied building located on or off the area.
11. A person shall not distribute or place bait, hunt over bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife on a WMA.
12. A group of ten (10) or more people who gather for any event or organized activity on a WMA shall apply to the department at least 30 days before the date of the event. Groups shall apply on a form provided by the department. The department shall retain the authority to deny events, or otherwise restrict, institute additional requirements for, or direct the rescheduling of, any event to avoid user conflicts or for other legitimate reasons. Permit requests for events that do not meet WMA user guidelines shall be denied, and events may be canceled in progress if participants fail to comply with user guidelines or create hazards or disruption for others.
13. Horseback riding is permitted on some WMAs during certain times of the year and under certain restric-
All WMAs, Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest, a person who will be hunting from inside a ground blind must first attach a hat or vest made of solid, unbroken hunter orange material to the blind so it is visible from all sides. Hunter orange clothing requirements still apply for anyone inside the blind.

16. Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing or display hunter orange on ground blinds during a firearms season on a state owned or managed WMA where firearms hunting for deer, elk or bear is prohibited.

17. For information about migratory bird and waterfowl hunting on public lands, please visit fw.ky.gov.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HUNTER ACCESS TO WMAs

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife offers special exceptions to hunting and fishing regulations for persons who are mobility-impaired and want to hunt and fish on select WMAs. (Eligibility requirements appear in the Quota Hunts section.) Persons interested in applying for a mobility-impaired access permit should contact the department for an application or print one from the agency’s website at fw.ky.gov.

Applicants for a mobility-impaired access permit shall fill out the required information on the application and obtain the attestation and signature from a licensed physician describing the mobility impairment. A mobility-impaired individual shall have a completed mobility-impaired access permit application on his or her person at all times while participating in such activities, along with the appropriate hunting licenses and permits.

14. On all WMAs, Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest, a person shall not use a nail, spike, screw-in device, wire, or tree climber for attaching a tree stand or climbing a tree. A portable stand or climbing device that does not injure a tree may be used. Stands must be marked with the hunter’s name and address, placed no more than two (2) weeks before the opening of the season and removed within one (1) week following the last day of each hunting period. A person shall not use an existing permanent tree stand.

15. Whenever gun deer hunting is allowed on a wildlife management area, state park or Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area, a person who will be hunting from inside a ground blind must first attach a hat or vest made of solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting for any species during modern gun, muzzleloader and youth gun deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season. However, hunter orange is not required when hunting waterfowl or doves during a gun deer, elk or bear season, or when hunting furbears at night during a legal furbearer season.

13. Persons interested in applying for a mobility-impaired access permit for a mobility-impaired access permit may designate one (1) qualified assistant. The assistant may:

(1) Operate his or her own ATV; or hunt or shoot from an ATV.
(2) Retrieve an animal, or render other assistance in accordance with all other Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and WMA laws and regulations.

A qualified assistant shall not:

(1) Operate his or her own ATV; or hunt or shoot from an ATV.
(2) Retrieve an animal, or render other assistance in accordance with all other Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and WMA laws and regulations.

Public Lands Hunting

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HUNTER ACCESS TO WMAs

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife offers special exceptions to hunting and fishing regulations for persons who are mobility-impaired and want to hunt and fish on select WMAs. (Eligibility requirements appear in the Quota Hunts section.) Persons interested in applying for a mobility-impaired access permit should contact the department for an application or print one from the agency’s website at fw.ky.gov.

Applicants for a mobility-impaired access permit shall fill out the required information on the application and obtain the attestation and signature from a licensed physician describing the mobility impairment. A mobility-impaired individual shall have a completed mobility-impaired access permit application on his or her person at all times while participating in such activities, along with the appropriate hunting licenses and permits. Mobility-impaired access areas have been designated on portions of the following WMAs: Barren River (Goose Island Unit), Fishtrap Lake, Green River Lake, Griffith Woods, Kentucky River, Lake Cumberland, Mill Creek, Miller-Welch-Central Kentucky, Mullins, Peabody (Sinclair Unit), Redbird, Taylor County Recreation Area, West Kentucky, Yatesville Lake and Yellowbank WMAs. The mobility-impaired access permit allows the following activities by a mobility-impaired individual:

(1) Discharge of a firearm or other legal hunting device from a motor vehicle when the vehicle is motionless and has its engine turned off. The motor vehicle shall be used as a place to wait or watch for game and shall not be used to chase, pursue, or drive game.
(2) Operate electric wheelchairs, ATVs, and other passenger vehicles on old or off gated, ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic, but only on designated tracts of designated WMAs.
(3) Roads may be accessible March 1 through the third Friday in August.
(4) Tracts designated as mobility-impaired access areas shall be posted with signs.
(5) Vehicular access shall not be permitted on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted with annual grains or agricultural crops.

It shall be permissible to access areas which are not roads the third Saturday of August until the end of February.

ATV users shall adhere to manufacturer recommendations including wearing a helmet, wearing safety glasses, and restricting riding to one (1) person, while using ATVs on WMAs.

A person with a mobility-impaired access permit may designate one (1) qualified assistant. The assistant may:

(1) Operate his or her own ATV; or hunt or shoot from an ATV.
(2) Retrieve an animal, or render other assistance in accordance with all other Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and WMA laws and regulations.

A qualified assistant shall not:

(1) Operate his or her own ATV; or hunt or shoot from an ATV.
(2) Retrieve an animal, or render other assistance in accordance with all other Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and WMA laws and regulations.

STATE PARK and OTHER OPEN DEER HUNTS

Open deer hunts are offered on the following state parks on the following dates. Contact the host state park for complete details, including the number of available slots, equipment restrictions, bag limits and check-in and check-out procedures.

Yatesville Lake State Park and Lawrence County Recreation Area (606-673-1492): Muzzleloader starting the second Monday of December for three consecutive days.

Other open deer hunts

(1-800-325-0142): Open the first Saturday in October two consecutive days, limit two deer, only one of which may be antlered. Limited to the first 15 mobility-impaired hunters who check in at the park the day before the hunt. Hunters must meet the mobility-impaired eligibility requirements outlined on page 40. (Mobility-impaired access permit required at check-in.) Hunters must also check in and out on hunt days, and must tele-check deer taken. Hunters may be accompanied by another person, but that person will not be permitted to hunt.

An open youth hunt is held at Grayson Lake WMA on the first Saturday in November for two consecutive days and is limited to youths ages 15 and younger. See page 36 for details.
Every public lands property in Kentucky is unique – varying by location, ownership, land and water features, local wildlife, and recreational opportunities. To help you find the right spot for your intended outdoor activities – anywhere, anytime – the information below explains what to expect based on different public lands designations.

To ensure the most enjoyable time afield possible, take some time to research the opportunities, regulations and boundaries of possible destinations. Always consult Kentucky’s hunting and fishing guides because regulations differ.

Always consult Kentucky’s hunting and fishing guides because regulations differ among areas. To help you find the right spot, ownership, land and water features, local wildlife, and recreational opportunities, take some time to re-

The new system does not impact your plans. If you have additional questions, call 1-800-858-1549, email Info.Center@ky.gov, or call your local public lands office.

Wildlife Management Areas

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are properties owned or managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for conservation and public access. They are categorized into high, moderate and low intensity management levels. High intensity typically includes areas with offices and active management, such as dove fields or food plots. Low intensity areas offer a wilder experience to those seeking to it. The new system does not rate how good an area is for hunting or wildlife watching; low intensity areas may offer better hunting due to less pressure.

HIGH MANAGEMENT LEVEL

These areas are continually managed and typically have onsite staff, infrastructure, marked access sites and parking lots. These areas tend to be larger and are either owned or leased long-term by the department.

Fields may be managed by planting native grasses, wildflowers, clover or annual grains. Fields may also be managed through mowing, disking, or prescribed fire, controlling invasive species, or leas-

Note: Area listings are numbered or lettered according to how they appear on region pages.

H = High Management Level  M = Medium Management Level  L = Low Management Level

PURCHASE REGION (pg. 32)
1. Ballard WMA - H
2. Big Rivers WMA & State Forest - H
3. Boatwright WMA - H
4. Coil Estate WMA - L
5. Doug Travis WMA - M
6. Lake Barkley WMA - L
7. Livingston County WMA & SNA - M
8. Ohio River Islands WMA - L
9. Pennyrile State Forest
10. Tradewater WMA - L
11. West Kentucky WMA - M
12. Beechy Creek WMA - L
13. Jones-Keeney WMA - L
14. Kaler Bottoms WMA - L
15. Kentucky Lake WMA - L
16. Obion Creek WMA - L
17. Winford WMA - L
A. Clarks River Nat. Wildlife Refuge
B. Fort Campbell Military Reservation
C. Land Between The Lakes NRA
D. Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge
ing to local farmers for row crops or hay. Wetlands may be managed by planting, disking, mowing or managing water levels. Forests may be managed by prescribed burns, forest stand improvement, harvests, tree plantings or the control of invasive species.

“High” level management WMAs may have onsite staff and resources and a direct point of contact for current conditions and management activities. You are welcome to stop by to talk to the friendly and informative staff to get information; but be aware that employees are often out managing the land and are not always in the office.

MODERATE MANAGEMENT LEVEL

WMAs that are managed at a “moderate” level are obviously not as intensively managed, and staff are typically not on-site. Management is limited to habitat maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, upkeep of access sites and boundaries and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvement or wetland development and manipulation. Several of the Moderate Level WMAs plant and prepare fields for dove hunting opportunities as well. These areas are owned or leased by the department and offer ample acreage for hunting, fishing, hiking and sightseeing throughout the state.

LOW MANAGEMENT LEVEL

WMAs designated as “low” management intensity level are typically remote and receive little or no active management. Practices are limited to general maintenance and marking boundaries, though some long-term habitat work may be ongoing. These areas may be difficult to access, with terrain more demanding for visitors to traverse. However, these areas can provide excellent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, sometimes because they may attract less attention or be less accessible.

GREEN RIVER REGION (pg. 34)

1. Barren River Lake WMA - H
2. Higginson-Henry WMA - H
3. Marrowbone State Forest & WMA - M
4. Nolin River Lake WMA - L
5. Otter Creek State Forest
6. Sloughs WMA - H
7. Yellowbank WMA - H
8. Yellowbank WMA - L
9. Clear Creek WMA - L
10. Green River State Forest
11. Harris-Dickerson WMA - M
12. Higginson-Henry WMA - L
13. John C. Williams WMA - L
14. Knobs State Forest & WMA - L
15. Knobs State Forest & WMA - L
16. L.B. Davison WMA - L
17. Lee K. Nelson WMA - L
18. Lake Cumberland WMA - L
19. Rough River Lake WMA - L
20. Fort Knox Military Reservation

BLUEGRASS REGION (pg. 35)

1. Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA - M
2. Dr. James R. Rich WMA - M
3. Dr. Norman & Martha Adair WMA - L
4. Griffith Woods WMA - M
5. John A. Kleber WMA - M
6. John C. Williams WMA - L
7. Kentucky River WMA - H
8. Knobs State Forest & WMA - L
9. Mill Creek WMA - M
10. Mullins WMA - L
11. Nolin River Lake WMA - L
12. T. N. Sullivan WMA - M
13. Taylorsville Lake WMA - H
14. Twin Eagle WMA - L
15. Veterans Memorial WMA - M
16. Marion Co. WMA & State Forest - L
17. Rolling Fork WMA - M
18. Stephens Creek WMA - L
19. Bluegrass Army Depot

NORTHEAST REGION (pg. 36)

1. Clay WMA - H
2. Czar Hunting Access Area
3. Dewey Lake WMA - M
4. Fishtrap Lake WMA - L
5. Fleming Lake WMA - L
6. Grayson Lake WMA - H
7. Legacy-LLC Hunting Access Area
8. Paintsville Lake WMA - M
10. Pioneering WMA - L
11. South Shore WMA - M
12. Yatesville Lake WMA - M
13. RH Group Hunting Access Area
14. Betterment Wildlife Hunting Access
15. Ed Mabry-Laurel Grove WMA - L
16. Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area
17. Old Trace Creek WMA - L
18. Simon Kenton WMA - L
19. Sunny Brook WMA - L
20. Tygarts State Forest
A. Daniel Boone National Forest
B. Ohio R. Islands Nat. Wildlife Refuge

SOUTHEAST REGION (pg. 38)

1. Asher Hunting Access Area
2. Beaver Creek WMA - H
3. Big South Fork NRRA
4. Carver Creek WMA - M
5. Cedar Creek Lake WMA - L
6. Dennis-Gray WMA - M
7. Dix River WMA - L
8. Green River Lake WMA - H
9. Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA - L
10. Hidden Valley Training Area
11. Lake Cumberland WMA - M
12. Mill Creek WMA - M
13. Mud Camp Creek WMA - L
14. Paul Van Booven WMA - M
15. Pike Elkhorn Hunting Access Area
16. Ping-Sinking Valley WMA - M
17. R. F. Tarter WMA - L
18. Redbird WMA - L
19. Robinson Forest WMA - L
20. Rockcastle River WMA - M
21. RH Group Hunting Access Area
22. Asland WMA - L
23. Betterment Wildlife Hunting Access
24. Boone Forestlands WMA - M
25. Buck Creek WMA - M
26. Buckhorn Lake WMA - L
27. Burchelli-Beech Creek WMA - L
28. Carr Creek WMA - L
29. C.F. Ataya WMA - M
30. Cranks Creek WMA - M
31. Dale Hollow Lake WMA - L
32. Elk Forest WMA - M
33. Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area
34. Fortner-Davis WMA - L
35. Jefferson National Forest
36. Kentenia State Forest
37. Kentucky Ridge State Forest/WMA
38. Martins Fork Lake WMA - L
39. Martins Fork WMA & SNA - L
40. Meadow Creek WMA - L
41. Ross Creek WMA - L
42. Shillah Creek WMA - L
43. Stone Mountain WMA & SNA - L
44. Wells Hunting Access Area
A. Daniel Boone National Forest

OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

HUNTER ACCESS AREAS (HAAs)

These areas are accessible through agreements with landowners to provide public hunting access. Some HAAs may only be open to certain activities. Special regulations may be in place for hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities on particular HAAs.

SHOOTING SPORTS AND DOG TRIAL AREAS

Three of the WMAs in the moderate management level category are primarily used for shooting sports, dog training and field trials: Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA, Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA and West Kentucky WMA. Although some hunting is allowed on these areas, activities are strictly managed to minimize conflicts between hunters, anglers and other WMA user groups.
The charts in this section should be used as a quick reference only. WMAs and other public lands may be open to hunting and trapping during statewide seasons or have different dates and regulations, as determined by the managing agency. For all the details on these public lands visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Also note that some of these public lands may have areas that are off-limits to hunting or trapping, as noted by signs, and that units within these areas may have different season dates or regulations.

### PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS QUICK REFERENCE

**PURCHASE REGION**

![Map of public hunting areas]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP # and AREA NAME</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>Deer - Archery/Crossbow</th>
<th>Deer - Muzzleloader</th>
<th>Deer - Modern Gun</th>
<th>Deer - Youth Gun</th>
<th>Squirrel</th>
<th>Rabbit</th>
<th>Grouse</th>
<th>Quail</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Furbearer</th>
<th>Bear</th>
<th>Elk Quota</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ballard WMA* Main Unit</td>
<td>(270) 224-2244</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2 Big Rivers WMA &amp; State Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Boatwright WMA* Swan Lake Unit</td>
<td>(270) 224-2244</td>
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<td>4 Coil Estate WMA*</td>
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<td>5 Doug Travis WMA*</td>
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<td>6 Lake Barkley WMA* Duck Island Refuge</td>
<td>(270) 753-6913</td>
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<td>7 Livingston County WMA &amp; SNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Ohio River Islands WMA* Stewart Island Unit</td>
<td>(270) 753-6913</td>
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<td>9 Pennyrile State Forest</td>
<td>(270) 797-3241</td>
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<td>10 Tradewater WMA</td>
<td>(270) 753-6913</td>
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<td>11 West Kentucky WMA*</td>
<td>(270) 488-3233</td>
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</table>

**OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALL SPECIES** in accordance with the county in which they are located:


**CALL FOR DETAILS:**

A. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge (270-527-5770); B. Fort Campbell Military Reservation (270-798-9824); C. Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (270-924-2065); D. Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (731-538-2481).

### EXCEPTIONS:

1. Open under statewide archery/crossbow seasons through Oct. 14 only.
3. Open during the youth-only gun season; closed for free youth weekend.
4. Open for October muzzleloader season only.
5. Any weapon other than a modern gun that is legal to take deer may be used during the modern gun season.
6. Open shotgun/muzzleloader deer hunt from Jan. 14-16, 2023; Limited to 140 hunters; Check in and check out required.
7. Open only for youth-mentor quota hunt on the designated zone in Tract 7A only. Closed for all other youth firearm seasons.
8. Tracts 1, 4, 5 and “A” tracts open Jan. 1-10 except if harvest limits are reached before Jan. 10; Tracts 2, 3, 6 and 7 open with statewide seasons and close Dec. 31.
9. During quota hunts, all deer hunting seasons on this WMA are closed, except to drawn hunters. Archery/crossbow quota hunt from the third Monday in October through Nov. 30, except when closed during the quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November.

### OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

* Ballard WMA: The main unit is closed to unauthorized public access Oct. 15 - March 15; The area west of Hwy 473 within the two-mile driving loop is closed to all hunting as marked by signs; The 400-acre tract located south of Sallie Crice/Terrell Landing Road is open under statewide regulations for hunting and trapping seasons.
* Boatwright WMA: Olmsted, Peal and all other units open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons, except some portions may be closed to public access as marked by signs.
* Coil Estate WMA: Eastern portion open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons; Western portion closed to all hunting and trapping as marked by signs.
* Doug Travis WMA: Some areas closed to public access as marked by signs Nov. 1 - March 15.
* Lake Barkley WMA: North Island Refuge is closed Nov. 1 - Feb. 15; Duck Island Refuge is closed Oct. 15.
- March 15, with the exception of the October muzzleloader deer season; All non-refuge tracts open under statewide regulations.

* Ohio River Islands WMA: Remainder of WMA (Pryor, Rondeau and Sistars islands) open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons.

* West Kentucky WMA: Check-in required before entering any area marked with an “A”; Only shotguns may be used for small game or furbearer hunting; Hunters may not use centerfire rifles or handguns to take deer. See 2022 changes to Quota Hunt and Youth Mentor Quota Hunt in Quota Hunts Section.

NOTE: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.

REPORT WILD PIG SIGHTINGS, DAMAGE, OR ILLEGAL RELEASE

Wild pigs threaten Kentucky’s hunting traditions. When wild pigs move in, deer and turkey move out. Wild pigs also hog all the acorns in the fall.

Hunting is not the solution. Shooting into a group of pigs may remove 1 or 2, but it scatters the rest, spreading them further throughout the landscape.

Trapping is the best method of eradication. Trapping catches the whole group at once.

Wild pigs must be eradicated from Kentucky.

Visit FW.KY.GOV/WILDPIGS to report wild pig sightings, damage, or illegal release.
GREEN RIVER REGION
PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP # and AREA NAME</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>Deer - Archery/Crossbow</th>
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<th>Rabbit</th>
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<th>Quail</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Furbearer</th>
<th>Bear</th>
<th>Elk Quota</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Barren River Lake WMA*</td>
<td>(270) 646-5167</td>
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OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALL SPECIES in accordance with the county in which they are located:

EXCEPTIONS:
1. Rabbit and quail hunting seasons open Nov. 1 - Dec. 31. At Yellowbank WMA, no small game hunting allowed on designated pheasant quota hunt units during pheasant quota hunt period.
2. On the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands, hunters may use a muzzle-loading shotgun or crossbow during the fall firearm season and may use a crossbow during the fall archery season.
3. During quota hunts, all deer hunting seasons on this WMA are closed, except to drawn hunters. Archery/crossbow quota hunt from the third Monday in October through Nov. 30, except when closed during the quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November.
6. Open Dec. 1-31, except during deer quota hunts. 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On either unit, the daily bag limit for quail is four.
9. Sauerheber Unit closes to public access from Nov. 1 through March 15, as designated by signs, except for waterfowl quota hunt permittees.
10. Open for December muzzleloader season only.
11. Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Dec. 2, 3 and 4; Open Dec. 5 to 7 to drawn pheasant quota hunters, either sex, limit three; Open Dec. 6-31, either sex, daily limit three.
12. Open only in bear zone.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS:
* Barren River Lake WMA: On the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands, hunters shall not use a modern firearm to take game.
* Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area: User permit required. A person shall not enter the area during the deer quota hunt without a valid quota hunt confirmation number. All small game and turkey seasons closed during the quota deer hunt. Hunters may not use rifles or ball or slug ammunition to take furbearers and may not use a rimfire gun to take small game unless participating in the deer quota hunt. Trapping season open Jan. 1 through the last day in February.
* Peabody WMA: Any person ages 16 and older entering the area must obtain and carry a Peabody WMA user permit. Individual permits may be obtained through any license vendor. An event permit is available from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to any organization to use the area for any allowable activity. Permits are nontransferable. Rabbit and quail hunters on the Sinclair and Ken units must check in and check out at a self-service kiosk and clearly display a department-provided vehicle hang-tag in a vehicle. Hang-tags available in advance through the department’s website.

Sloughs WMA: Ash Flats, Grassy Pond, Powells Lake, Jenny Hole, Highland Creek, and Cape Hills units are open for all hunting and trapping seasons. Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.

NOTE: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed.
**BLUEGRASS REGION**

**PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS**

- Open under statewide regulations
- Closed
- Quota hunt
- Open with exception(s)

### MAP # and AREA NAME | PHONE
--- | ---
1. Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA* | (859) 428-2262
2. Dr. James R. Rich WMA | (502) 535-6335
3. Dr. Norman & Martha Adair WMA | (859) 428-2262
4. Griffith Woods WMA | (859) 428-2262
5. John A. Kleber WMA | (502) 535-6335
6. John C. Williams WMA | (502) 477-9024
7. Kentucky River WMA | (502) 535-6335
8. Knobs State Forest & WMA | (502) 477-9024
9. Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA* | (859) 986-4130
10. Mullins WMA | (859) 428-2262
11. T. N. Sullivan WMA | (502) 535-6335
12. Taylorsville Lake WMA | (502) 477-9024
13. Twin Eagle WMA | (502) 535-6335
14. Veterans Memorial WMA* | (859) 428-2262

**Open under statewide regulations for all species** in accordance with the county in which they are located:
- 15. Marion County WMA & State Forest (502-477-9024);
- 16. Rolling Fork WMA (502-477-9024);
- 17. Stephens Creek WMA (859-428-2262). **Call for details:** A. Bluegrass Army Depot (859-779-6651).

### Exceptions:

1. Open for December muzzleloader season only.
3. Open archery hunt, either sex, Monday through Thursday only, from the first Saturday in September through Dec. 17 and daily from Dec. 18 through the third Monday in January; Open crossbow hunt, either sex, Monday through Thursday only, Sept. 17, 2022 through December 17 and daily from Dec. 18 through third Monday in January; Closed during scheduled field trials as posted on bulletin board at WMA office.
4. Open for furbearer trapping; Closed for furbearer hunting.
5. Check-in, check-out required at John A. Kleber WMA office.

### Other Restrictions

**Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA**: Unleashed dogs are prohibited April 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials and the spring squirrel season.

**Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA**: Unleashed dogs are prohibited April 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials and the spring squirrel season. At other times of the year, unleashed dogs are permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

**Veterans Memorial WMA**: Access within the WMA may be restricted due to construction.

### Information Sources

- **Public shooting ranges** are available on Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA, Higginson-Henry WMA, John A. Kleber WMA (check [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for temporary closures), Jones-Keeney WMA, Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA, Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area, Peabody WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA and West Kentucky WMA. Users must comply with all rules posted by sign per each area. Shooting ranges are closed on Mondays and during deer quota hunts at applicable WMAs. Some ranges can be reserved for special events by contacting the WMA manager 30 days in advance of the event. For more information, visit [www.arcgis.com](http://www.arcgis.com) and type “Kentucky Shooting Ranges on Public Hunting Areas” in the search box. Public shooting ranges also are available on Daniel Boone National Forest. Details are available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf) by clicking on “Recreation” and then “Other Activities.”

- **NOTE**: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.
NORTHEAST REGION
PUBLIC LANDS HUNTING AREAS

MAP # and AREA NAME       PHONE
1  Clay WMA*                 (859) 289-8564
2  Czar Hunting Access Area* (606) 780-0854
3  Dewey Lake WMA            (606) 783-8634
4  Fishtrap Lake WMA         (606) 783-8634
5  Fleming WMA               (859) 289-8564
6  Grayson Lake WMA*         (606) 474-8535
7  Legacy-LLC Hunting Access Area (606) 783-8634
8  Paintsville Lake WMA      (606) 783-8634
9  Pike Elkhorn Hunting Access Area (606) 783-8634
10  Pioneer Weapons WMA      (606) 784-6428
11  South Shore WMA*         (606) 474-8535
12  Yatesville Lake WMA      (606) 686-3312
13  RH Group Hunting Access Area* (606) 783-8634
A  Daniel Boone National Forest (859) 745-3100

OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS for all species in accordance with the county in which they are located:

CALL FOR DETAILS: B. Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge (304-375-2923).

EXCEPTIONS
1. Only the Beech Fork Tract is open to hunting under statewide rules and regulations. Portions open during elk quota hunts to permit holders.
2. Archery and crossbow hunting prohibited on main tract during the quota fox hunting field trials, Sept. 14-17; Sept. 28 - Oct. 1; Feb. 22-25 (2023).
3. Open Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, except closed Nov. 5-6 for the deer quota hunt and in the pheasant quota hunt units during pheasant quota hunts Dec. 2-5.
4. Open until 3 p.m. (local time) on Tuesdays and Saturdays from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, except closed Nov. 5-6 for the deer quota hunt and in the pheasant quota hunt units during pheasant quota hunts Dec. 2-5.
5. Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Dec. 2, 3 and 4; Open Dec. 5 only to drawn pheasant quota hunters, either sex, limit three; Open Dec. 6-31, either sex, daily limit three.
6. The main tract of the management area is closed to public use Sept. 14-17, Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, Feb. 22-25 (2023) except for those registered to participate in quota fox hunting field trials on those days.
9. Crossbows legal during entire archery season, except closed during the November open youth hunt.
10. Youth gun seasons open. An open youth hunt is held on the first Saturday in November for two consecutive days and is limited to youths ages 15 and under. Check in and check out required, but any deer harvested must also be telechecked. Limit of two deer, only one of which may be antlered. Closed to all other hunting during the two-day event.
11. Deer, bear, and elk hunting is archery/crossbow only (firearms prohibited) on three areas near the dam: 1) the area extending eastward from the drainage of Glade Branch along the lake to the state park boundary line at Rocky Knob, 2) the two islands visible from the state park boat ramp at the end of KY 2275, and 3) the entire hollow surrounding the Shoop Branch cove of the lake west of the dam beginning where the Paintsville Utilities Water Treatment Plant building is visible on the lake edge.
12. Hunters cannot use a modern gun or in-line muzzleloading gun. Hunters shall use only open or iron sights on any weapon.
13. Centerfire rifles and handguns may not be used to take deer.
14. Open under statewide regulations for 10 consecutive days starting the second Saturday in November.
15. Deer, bear, and elk hunting is archery/crossbow only (firearms prohibited) on two areas near the dam: 1) on the east side of the dam, the area extending southwest from the dam to old Shoreline Campground No. 1, and 2) on the west side of the dam, the area extending westward from the dam along KY 302 to Terry Boat Ramp.
16. Portions open during quota elk hunts to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.
17. Hunters may use a crossbow during the archery season but shall use only open or iron sights on any weapon.
18. Open for October muzzleloader season only.
19. Hunters shall not use any type of breech-loading firearm.
20. Open for December muzzleloader season only.
21. Open only in bear zone.
22. Portions open during the archery/crossbow quota elk hunts only to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS
* Clay WMA: During the pheasant quota hunt period, pheasant quota hunt units close to small game hunting for four consecutive days starting the first Friday in December. Rabbit, quail and grouse hunters must check in and check out at a self-service kiosk and clearly display a department-provided vehicle hang-tag in a vehicle. Hang-tags available in advance through the department’s website. Portions of this WMA in Fleming and Bath counties are Zone 3 for bear.
* Czar Hunting Access Area: Beech Fork Tract: Open to hunting under statewide and countywide rules and regulations. Bow Tract: Open during elk quota hunts to those who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit. Closed to all other hunting. Czar Tract and Area 3 Tract: Open during elk quota hunts to those who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit. Quota hunt for rabbit and spring turkey. Closed to all other hunting. Applicants must contact Mintha Jenkins via email (mintha.jenkins@boothenergy.com) for further requirements before accessing the area or to apply for the quota hunts.
* Grayson Lake WMA: Camp Webb is closed to all hunting.
* South Shore WMA: Closed to all hunting and public access November 15 - January 15, except open for waterfowl and dove hunting when statewide seasons are open.
* Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area: Camping, ATV use, horseback riding, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes which may injure trees are not permitted on the property. Waiver required to access property. Go online to-fw.ky.gov and search under RH Group for more information.
* Sunny Brook WMA: Area may periodically close to public access due to future stream restoration construction. Closures will be marked through signage.

NOTE: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry (KHFH) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that encourages hunters to harvest and donate deer each season for distribution to homeless shelters and food banks throughout the state.

Hunters in Zone 1 counties have a unique opportunity to help. They may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer so long as they have purchased the appropriate additional deer permits.

You can also donate $2 when renewing your car or truck’s registration and help pay the cost of turning venison into a nutritious meal for the less fortunate in communities across Kentucky.

Approved processors are located in the following counties: Adair, Anderson, Boone, Boyd, Bracken, Campbell, Casey, Christian, Clark, Clay, Crittenden, Garrard, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Jefferson, Kenton, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, McCreary, Meade, Menifee, Mercer, Oldham, Owen, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Webster, Warren, Wayne and Wolfe. Contact the processor in advance to confirm shop hours and which seasons the processor will be accepting deer. Every processing shop is independently owned and operated and not under control of Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry.

Kentucky Whitetail Access is a new KHFH program that pairs landowners who need assistance controlling depredating deer with hunters who can help. Visit the KHFH website for more information about this program and application forms.
### SOUTHEAST REGION
#### PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

- **Open under statewide regulations**
- **Closed**
- **Quota hunt**
- **Open with exception(s)**

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<th>PHONE</th>
<th>Deer - Archery/Crossbow</th>
<th>Deer - Muzzleloader</th>
<th>Deer - Modern Gun</th>
<th>Deer - Youth Gun</th>
<th>Squirrel</th>
<th>Rabbit</th>
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<th>Quail</th>
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#### OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

- for all species in accordance with the county in which they are located:

#### EXCEPTIONS

3. Open under statewide regulations for two consecutive days starting the second Saturday in November.
4. Open for December muzzleloader season only.
5. Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Nov. 18-20; Open Nov. 21 only to drawn pheasant quota hunters, either sex, limit three; Open Nov. 22 - Dec. 31, either sex, daily limit three.
6. Furbearer trapping open with permission; Closed for furbearer hunting.
7. Open from Sept. 1 through the last day of February.
8. Portions open during quota elk hunts to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.
9. Open until 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, except when closed during the modern gun deer season. Daily bag limit is four quail and two grouse.
10. Portions open during the archery/crossbow quota elk hunts only to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.

#### OTHER RESTRICTIONS

* Big South Fork NRRA: Open for wild pigs from the first Saturday in September through the end of February, but a Big South Fork hog hunting permit is required at times. Call for specific dates and details. Permits may be purchased at park visitor centers or online at [www.nps.gov/biso/planyour-activities](http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyour-activities).
visit/buyng.htm.

* Green River Lake WMA: During the pheasant quota hunt period, pheasant quota hunt units closed to small game hunting for four consecutive days starting the third Friday in November. A person shall not hunt sandhill cranes within 100 yards of the normal summer pool level of 675 feet, east of the Hwy. 551 Bridge in the following embayments: Green River to the Snake Creek Boat Ramp; and Casey Creek to the Hwy. 76 bridge.

* Hidden Valley Training Area: Area closes periodically for training exercises. Call (606) 878-9595 for more information about training dates.

* Robinson Forest WMA: The main block of this area is closed to all hunting. The remainder of this WMA is open under statewide requirements.

* Rockcastle River WMA: Rabbit, quail and grouse hunters must check in and check out at a self-service kiosk and clearly display a department-provided vehicle hang-tag in their vehicle. Hang-tags available in advance through the department’s website.

* Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area: Camping, ATV use, horseback riding, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes, which may injure trees, are not permitted on the property.

* RH Group Hunting Access Area: Commercial guiding, camping, ATV use, horseback riding, fishing, night hunting, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes which may injure trees are not permitted on the property. Waiver required to access property. Go online to fw.ky.gov and search under RH Group for more information.

* Pike Elkhorn Hunting Access Area: Access to the Letcher County property via Wright’s Fork Road of US 23 is not permitted.

NOTE: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.

**OVERVIEW**

**INTRODUCTION**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conducts quota hunts for deer, pheasant and migratory birds (waterfowl and mourning doves).

Some hunts are mentored hunts for youth and accompanying adults. Some hunts are open to mobility-impaired hunters only.

Any resident or nonresident may apply for quota hunts. Only the person(s) successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. Substitutions are not allowed.

Applicants drawn for quota hunts must purchase applicable licenses and permits to legally hunt during the quota hunts.

**HOW TO APPLY**

To apply for quota hunts: Go online to fw.ky.gov. The non-refundable fee is $3 per hunter to apply.

The application period is September 1-30 only. Hunters may apply for multiple quota hunts for different species at the same time.

Applicants will receive a confirmation number. When the drawing is completed, results will be posted online at fw.ky.gov.

Applicants may also call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) at 1-800-858-1549 and provide either their confirmation number or order number to find out if they were selected.

**QUOTA DEER HUNTS**

Deer quota hunts are held on 16 WMAs, five state parks (Dale Hollow Lake, Greenbo Lake, Green River Lake, Kenlake, Kincaid Lake), and Outer Creek Outdoor Recreation Area. Additionally there are quota deer hunts for mobility-impaired hunters on Green River Lake WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA and Zilpo-Twin Knobs Campgrounds (on Cave Run Lake).

If applying for a deer quota hunt as a group, each applicant’s preference points will be used to calculate an average point total for the group. A group with a higher preference point average will be randomly selected before a group with a lower preference point average.

A maximum of 10 percent nonresidents can be drawn in each deer quota hunt pool.

Drawn quota hunters may bring one non-hunting person along on their hunt. The non-hunting person is not required to have applied for the quota hunt but must check in and check out with the drawn quota hunter. Participants must abide by hunter orange requirements.

Ground blinds used during gun