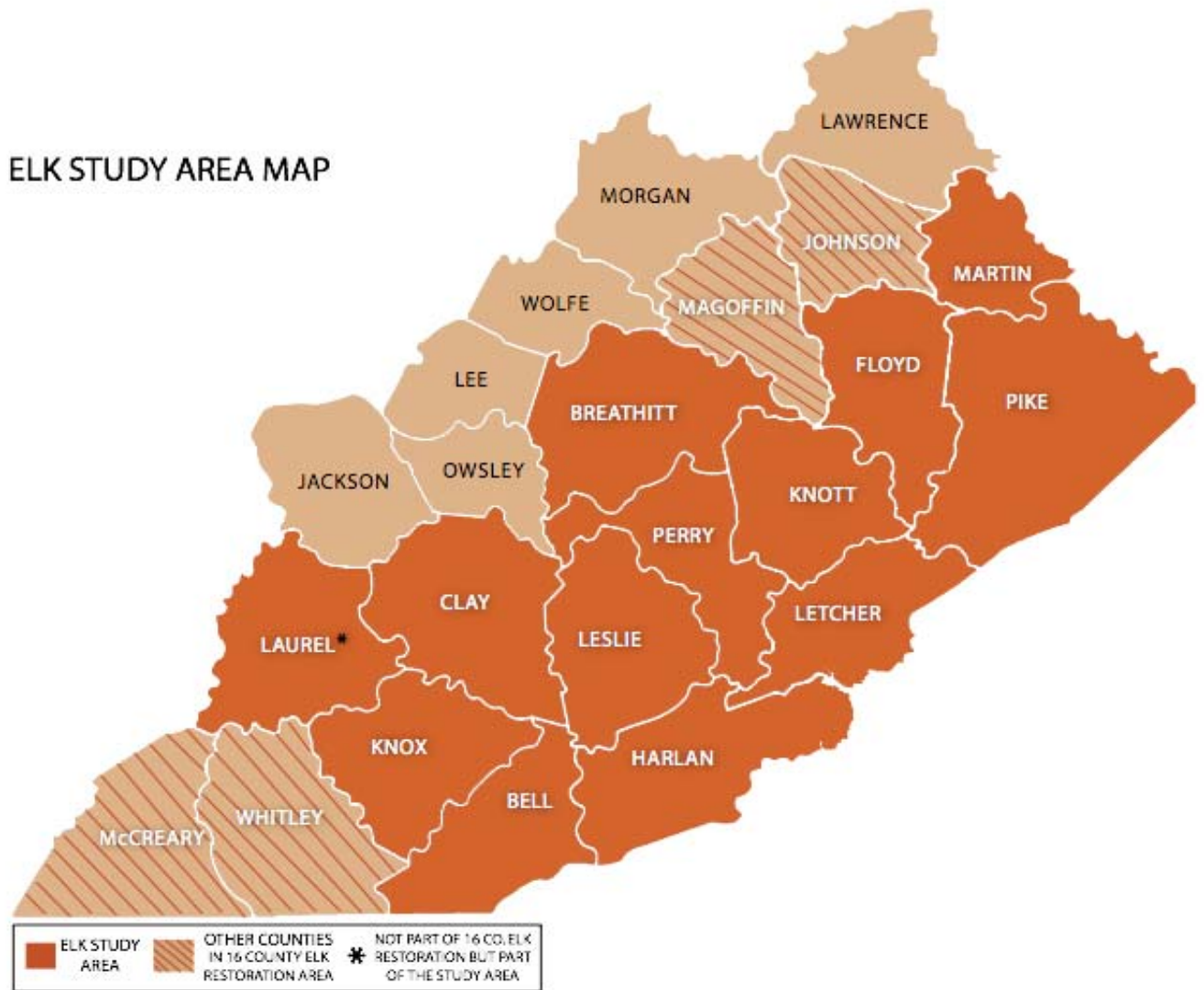


Chapter 10
ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTIES
WITHIN THE 16-COUNTY ELK RESTORATION ZONE

Initially the study area for this report included ten counties (Breathitt, Perry, Knott, Knox, Letcher, Leslie, Clay, Bell, Martin and Floyd). In the process of the tourism offering analysis of the region, the study team added the counties of Magoffin, Johnson, Pike and Harlan as well as Laurel County* to better understand the readiness of the region for tourists and to inventory the wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the region.



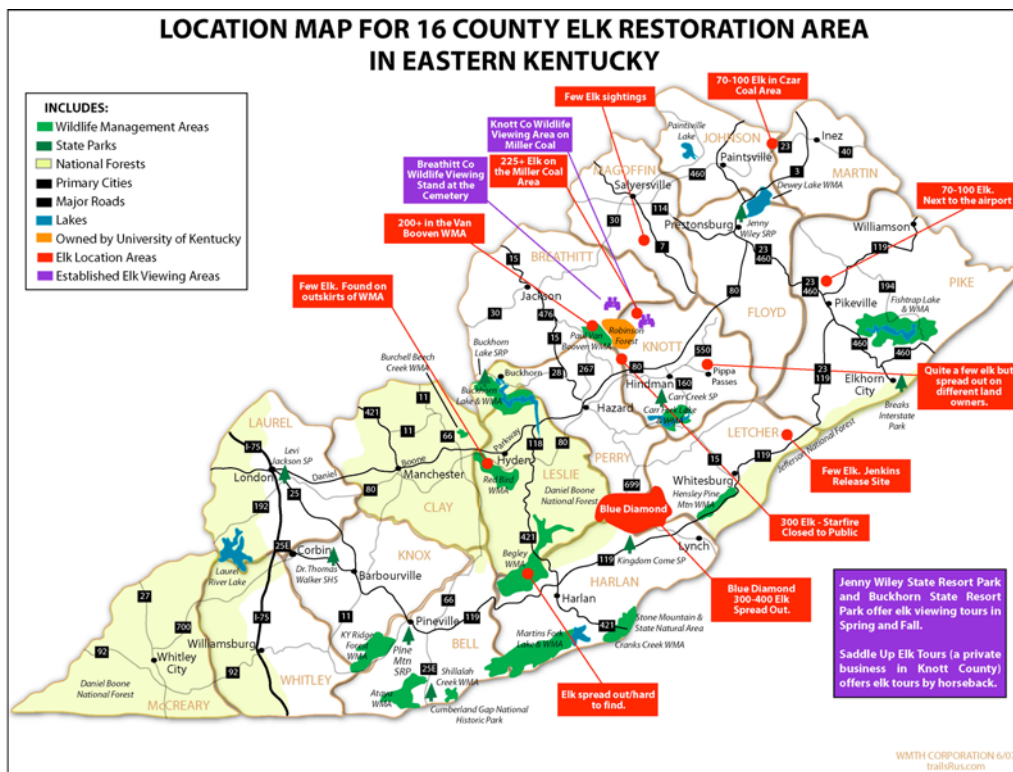
WMTH CORPORATION 6/07 www.trailsrus.com

**Laurel County (not one of the sixteen counties) was included in the analysis due to its proximity along a major thoroughfare that enters into the elk region.*

Through a partnership with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, a list of wildlife viewing opportunities was compiled for each of the counties noting those areas where one might find elk, the accessibility of these areas, and the tourism amenities provided at each of the locations. Each site was ranked according to the following criteria:

1. High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.
2. Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.
3. At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.

There are 15 wildlife management areas, 6 state parks (three are state resort parks), 2 national forests, 14 lakes, 8 state forests, natural areas or nature preserves and 8 primary locations where 70 to 300 elk may be found, yet there are only 2 established sites with general public access for elk viewing.



The map below provides an overview of the primary wildlife viewing areas as well as those areas where elk might be found. Also noted on the map are the current locations where elk tours are being offered. In the Fall, Pine Mountain State Resort Park will also be offering elk tours. A complete listing and larger map are provided on the following pages.

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING WILDLIFE VIEWING AREAS

A breakdown of potential wildlife viewing areas for each county is provided below.

Bell County:	Kentucky Ridge State Forest – 15,251 acres Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA – 3,600 acres Pine Mountain State Resort Park* & Nature Preserve – 1,519 acres Shillahlah Creek WMA – 2,640 acres Cumberland Gap National Historic Park Cannon Creek Lake – 243 acre lake Chenoa Lake – 37 acre lake <i>A portion of Martins Fork WMA</i>
Breathitt County:	Howard WMA – 9,280 acres Paul Van Booven WMA** – 2,293 acres South Fork Elk Viewing Site*** - primarily horses Pan Bowl Lake – 98 acre lake <i>Portions of Robinson Forest UK</i> <i>Portions of Starfire WMA (limited access)</i>
Clay County:	Daniel Boone National Forest – Redbird District <i>(encompassing majority of county)</i> Bert T. Combs Lake – 36 acre lake Burchell-Beech Creek WMA – 1,260 acres <i>A portion of Redbird WMA</i>
Floyd County:	Jenny Wiley State Resort Park* – 1,498 acre park Jenny Wiley Lake – 1,100 acre lake Dewey Lake WMA – 9,879 acres Dewey Lake – 1,100 acre lake
Harlan County:	Kingdom Come State Park – 1,200 acre park Blanton Forest State National Park Martins Fork WMA and State Natural Area – 340 acres Martins Fork Lake Cranks Creek WMA – 2,167 acres Stone Mountain State Natural Area Kentonia State Forest – 4,277 acres <i>A portion of Blue Diamond Land Company</i> <i>A portion of Begley WMA</i> <i>A portion of Little Shepherd Trail</i>
Knott County	UK Robinson Forest** Starfire WMA (Limited access)*** – 16,000 acres Carr Fork Lake

*Offers elk tours

**Has an abundance of elk

***Elk viewing area open to the general public

POTENTIAL WILDLIFE VIEWING AREAS cont.

- Knott County cont. Carr Creek WMA – 710 acres
 Carr Creek State Park – 29 acres
 Elk View Drive*** – 2,000+ acres of Miller Land Co. & private property
 Saddle Up Elk Tours* - *private business offering elk tours in Knott County on private land.*
- Knox County: Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site – 12 acres
A very small portion of DBNF is in the western corner of the county
- Laurel County: Cane Creek WMA
 Laurel River Lake – 6,000 acre lake
 Wood Creek Lake – 672 acre lake
 Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park – 896 acres
A portion of Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation 270 mile trail
A portion of Daniel Boone National Forest
- Leslie County: Buckhorn Lake – 1,230 acre lake
 Redbird WMA – 25,529 acres
 DBNF – Redbird District (*encompassing nearly entire county*)
 Begley WMA – 20,000 acres
A portion of Blue Diamond Land Company
- Letcher County: Jefferson National Forest
 Lilly Cornett Woods – 554 acre old growth forest
 Pine Mountain Trail and Little Shepherd Trail
 Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA – 6,000 acres
 Fishpond Lake – 534 acres lake
 Bad Branch State Nature Preserve – 2,452 acres
- Martin County: Martin County Lake and Curtis Crum Reservoir
 Milo Pond
- Perry County: Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park* – 1,200 acres
 Blue Diamond Land Company**
A portion of Buckhorn Lake WMA
A portion of Robinson Forest
*A portion of Starfire WMA (limited access)***
*A portion of Paul Van Booven WMA***
- Pike County: Fishtrap Lake State Park – 196 acres
 Fishtrap Lake WMA – 1,131 acres
 Fishtrap Lake – 196 acre lake
A portion of Jefferson National Forest
A portion of Breaks Interstate Park – 4,600 acre park in KY & VA

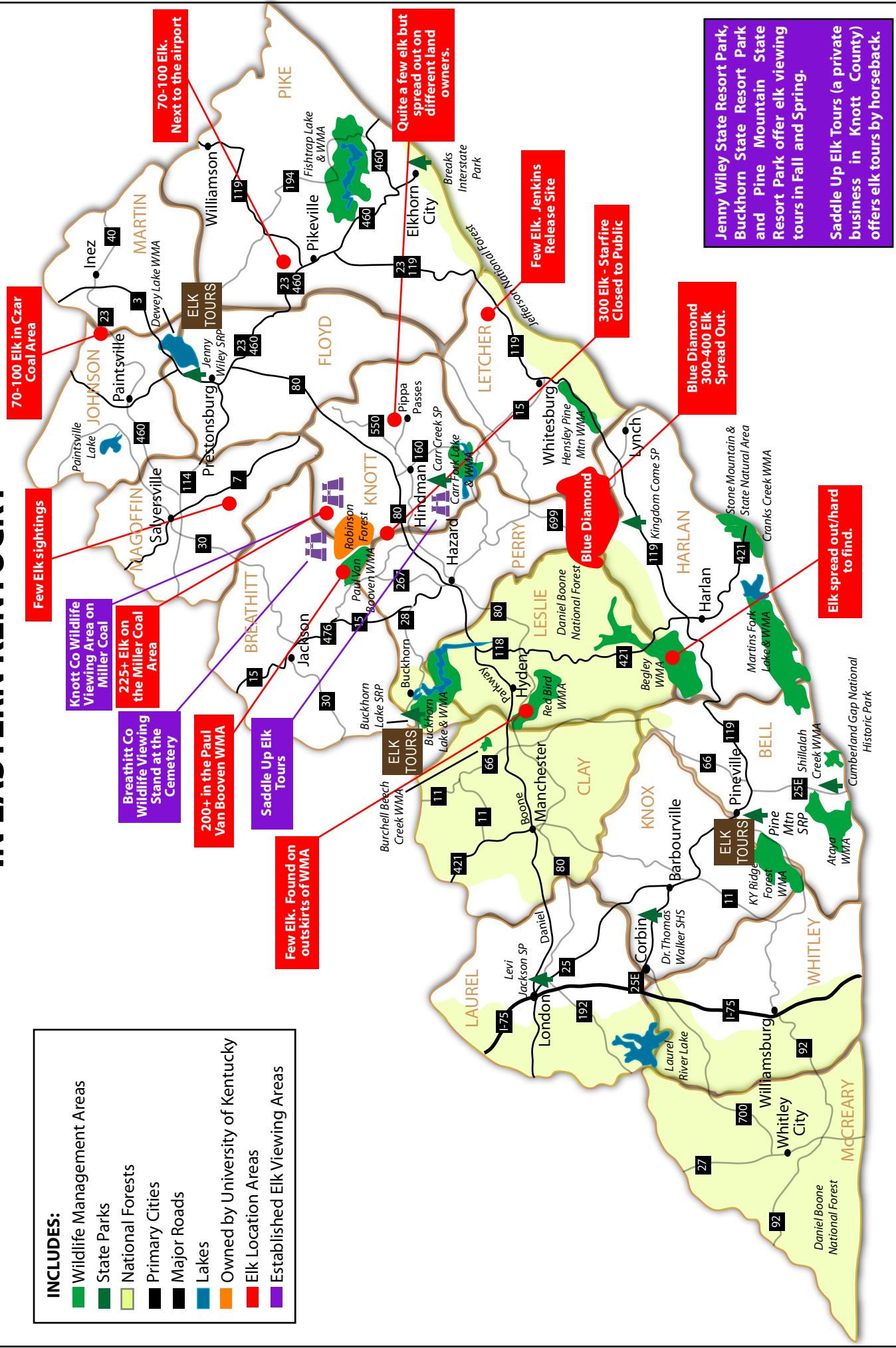
*Offers elk tours

**Has an abundance of elk

***Elk viewing area open to the general public

LOCATION MAP FOR 16 COUNTY ELK RESTORATION AREA IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

- INCLUDES:**
- Wildlife Management Areas
 - State Parks
 - National Forests
 - Primary Cities
 - Major Roads
 - Lakes
 - Owned by University of Kentucky
 - Elk Location Areas
 - Established Elk Viewing Areas



Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Buckhorn State Resort Park and Pine Mountain State Resort Park offer elk viewing tours in Fall and Spring.

Saddle Up Elk Tours (a private business in Knott County) offers elk tours by horseback.

An inventory of the tourism amenities was then compiled for each of the counties* from information provided by the counties, the Official Visitor Guide for Southern & Eastern Kentucky, and the Kentucky Travel Guide. Within the study area, there are:

- 6 state parks
 - of which are state resort parks offering lodging, restaurants, conference facilities and other amenities.
 - Pine Mountain SRP, Jenny Wiley SRP and Buckhorn SRP will be offering elk tours in the fall.
- 4,000 lodging units which includes 152 state park lodge rooms, 68 state park cottages and 9 B&B's
- 862 campsites
- 283 restaurants of which 216 are fast food.
- 33 museums
- 11 golf courses (five 9- hole courses and six 18-hole courses)
- 5 airports

There are also numerous other attractions including ATV and horseback riding trails, riding stables, marinas, pay lakes, theaters, walking tours, a water park and more.

A more complete breakdown by county of the wildlife viewing areas and tourism offerings is provided on the following pages of this chapter.

A few of the unique beauty, buildings and offerings in Southern & Eastern Kentucky...



Natural Bridge SP



Jenny Wiley Theatre



Canoeing on the upper or lower Rockcastle



Bell County Coal House



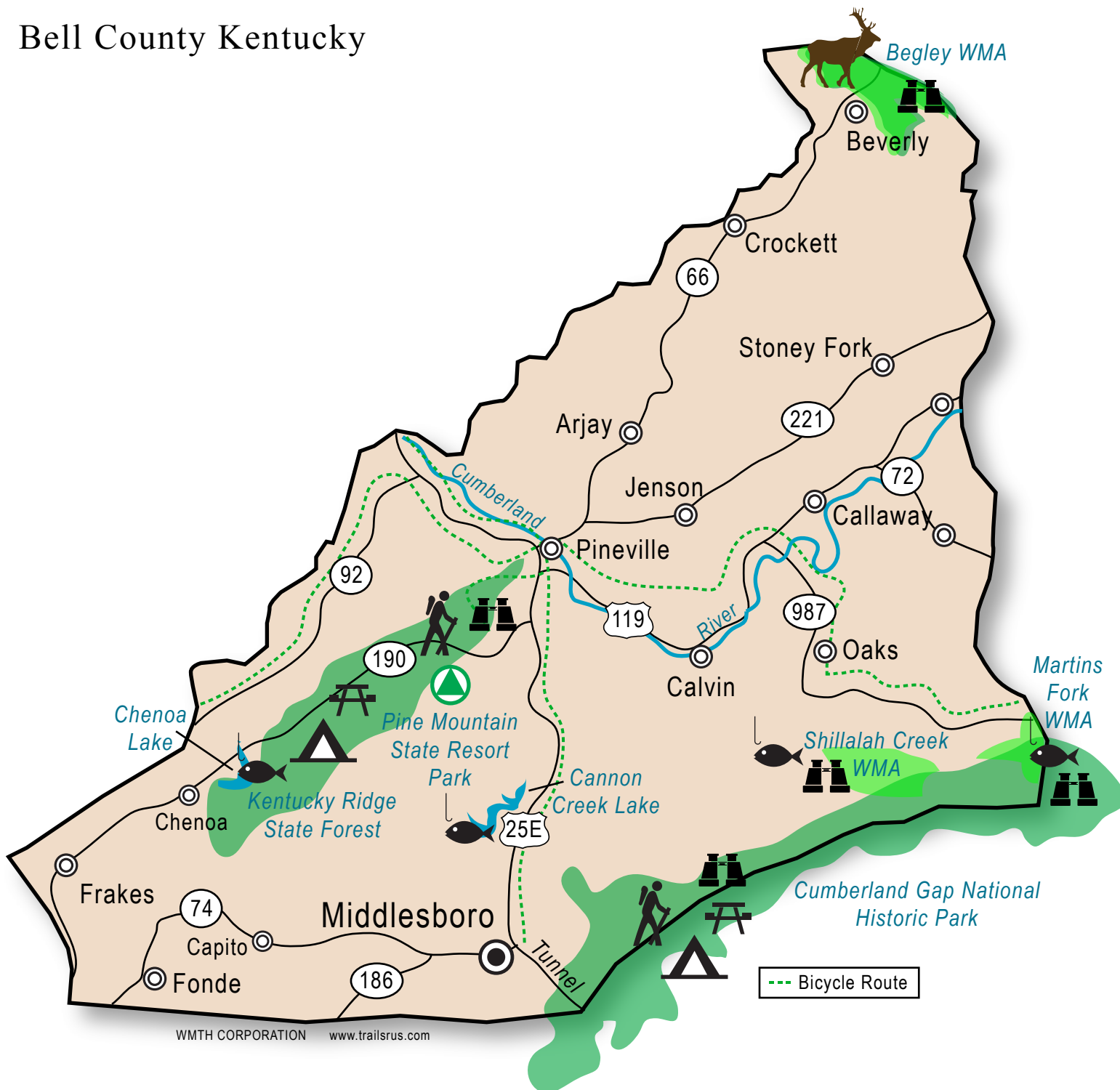
C.B. Caudill Store & History Center



Waves Water Park

**Please note: The numbers were compiled from information that may or may not be totally accurate as some businesses may have opened or closed since the list was compiled. Only those offerings noted by the community or listed in either of the guides which seemed to be more tourism oriented were included. More research needs to be conducted to develop a more complete and accurate listing.*

Bell County Kentucky



Bell County's primary location for elk viewing is the Begley Wildlife Management Area. Squirrel, rabbit, grouse, deer, turkey and songbirds can be found in this area and it is open for hunting small game, turkey and deer in season and elk hunting is allowed on a limited access permit system. Pine Mountain State Resort Park and Pine Mountain Nature Preserve offer beautiful old-growth forest with trees over 300 years old. Many species of wildflowers abound among the ferns and mountain laurel. In the fall, the state park will be offering interpreted elk tours.

Fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities abound in Shillalah Creek WMA, Kentucky Ridge State Forest and WMA, Cannon Creek Lake and the Chenoa Lake. Cumberland Gap National Historic Park is another area to view wildlife. The park also features a visitor center, museum and orientation films. Scenic vistas can be found at Pinnacle Overlook. At 2,440 feet, it overlooks three states and is handicapped accessible.

BELL COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked on the following page.

1. *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
2. *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
3. *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

**Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources helped to compile this list and provide the ranking.*

INVENTORY FOR BELL COUNTY

Primary location for viewing elk in Bell County would be in the BEGLEY WMA which has numerous elk but the elk are very spread out and hard to locate. The best time to view elk in this area is in the Fall. Begley WMA/Daniel Boone National Forest consists of 20,000 acres of reclaimed surface mined and forest land. It has good to moderate populations of squirrel, rabbits, grouse, deer, turkey and songbirds and is open for hunting small game, turkey and deer when in season. It is also open to elk hunting under a limited access permit system.

Locations in Bell County for viewing other wildlife include:

- Cumberland Gap National Historic Park (1) Park features a visitor center with museum & orientation films. Open daily 8-5, closed Christmas. Pinnacle Overlook, 2,440 ft., overlooks 3 states and is handicapped accessible (no trailers or vehicles over 20 ft.). Iron furnace, sand cave. Picnicking, ranger guided activities year-round. 70 mi. of hiking trails. Cumberland Gap Tunnel, US 25E, 4,600 ft. long through Cumberland Mountain. Gap Cave tours. 160 campsites available. *(National Park Service)*
- Pine Mountain State Resort Park (1) - 1,519 acres. Ky.'s 1st state park, est. 1926. Pine Mountain range is a western section of the giant Appalachian Mountain system. Natural & cultural history. Open year-round. Features include: pool, planned recreation, handicapped facilities, naturalist programs, picnic shelters, hiking, mini-golf, playgrounds, Laurel Cove Amphitheatre, Chained Rock. *(State Park)*
- Pine Mountain State Park Nature Preserve (2) (in Pine Mountain State Resort Park) Protected acreage includes Hemlock Gardens, a beautiful old-growth forest with trees over 300 years old. Many species of wildflowers can be found among the ferns & mountain laurel. Open to the public for hiking, birding & nature study.
- Martins Fork Lake and WMA and State Natural Area (2) – The majority of the lake and WMA is in Harlan County.

- Shillalah Creek WMA (3) 2,640 acres. Old growth forest, extremely rugged steep terrain, high cliffs. Turkey, elk, deer, raccoon, squirrel, grouse. Brook trout fishing. (*Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources*)
- Kentucky Ridge State Forest (3) Kentucky's largest state forest. 15,251 acres in Bell County. Hiking, picnicking & hunting in season. Adjacent to Pine Mountain State Park. Also has Chenoa Lake (37 acres)- Fishing (*large mouth bass, bluegill, white crappie, green sunfish, redear sunfish channel catfish, brown bullhead*) - picnicking. (*Ky. Division of Forestry*)
- Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA (3,600 acres): Bell County, borders Kentucky Ridge State Forest. Access roads closed except during open hunting seasons. Mountainous terrain, primarily forested with some early succession stages on reclaimed mining land. Owned by *Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ky. Div. of Forestry*, portions purchased with funds from the Heritage Lands.
- Cannon Creek Lake (south of Pineville) (243 acres) – Fishing (*rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, crappie, bluegill, warmouth, channel catfish*) – Ramp
- Chenoa Lake (in Kentucky Ridge State Forest. 37 acres. Fishing (*largemouth bass, bluegill, white crappie, green sunfish, redear sunfish, channel catfish, brown bullhead*), picnicking. Off-road vehicles prohibited. Electric motors only. *Ky. Division of Forestry*.

NATURE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS

BELL COUNTY

State Parks: Pine Mountain and Cumberland Gap State Resort Parks

Airport: Middlesboro - General aviation. 3,650 ft. runway.

Lodging: 2 state resort parks –5 lodging facilities – 308 units (208 in Middlesboro plus 60 State Park Lodge Rooms and 40 cabins

Campgrounds: 160 campsites

Restaurants: 19 restaurants – (13 are fast food) –Middlesboro
7 restaurants – (6 are fast food) - Pineville

Shopping: Shopping – Three shopping areas in Middlesboro

Crafts:

- Southern Highland Craft Guild Shop featuring crafts & demonstrations, pottery, baskets, furniture, weaving, jewelry, wood and glass – Open year-round. – Cumberland Gap
- Henderson Settlement & Log House Craft Shop – Handcrafts co-op, free tours of working mission, Open year-round M-F

Attractions:

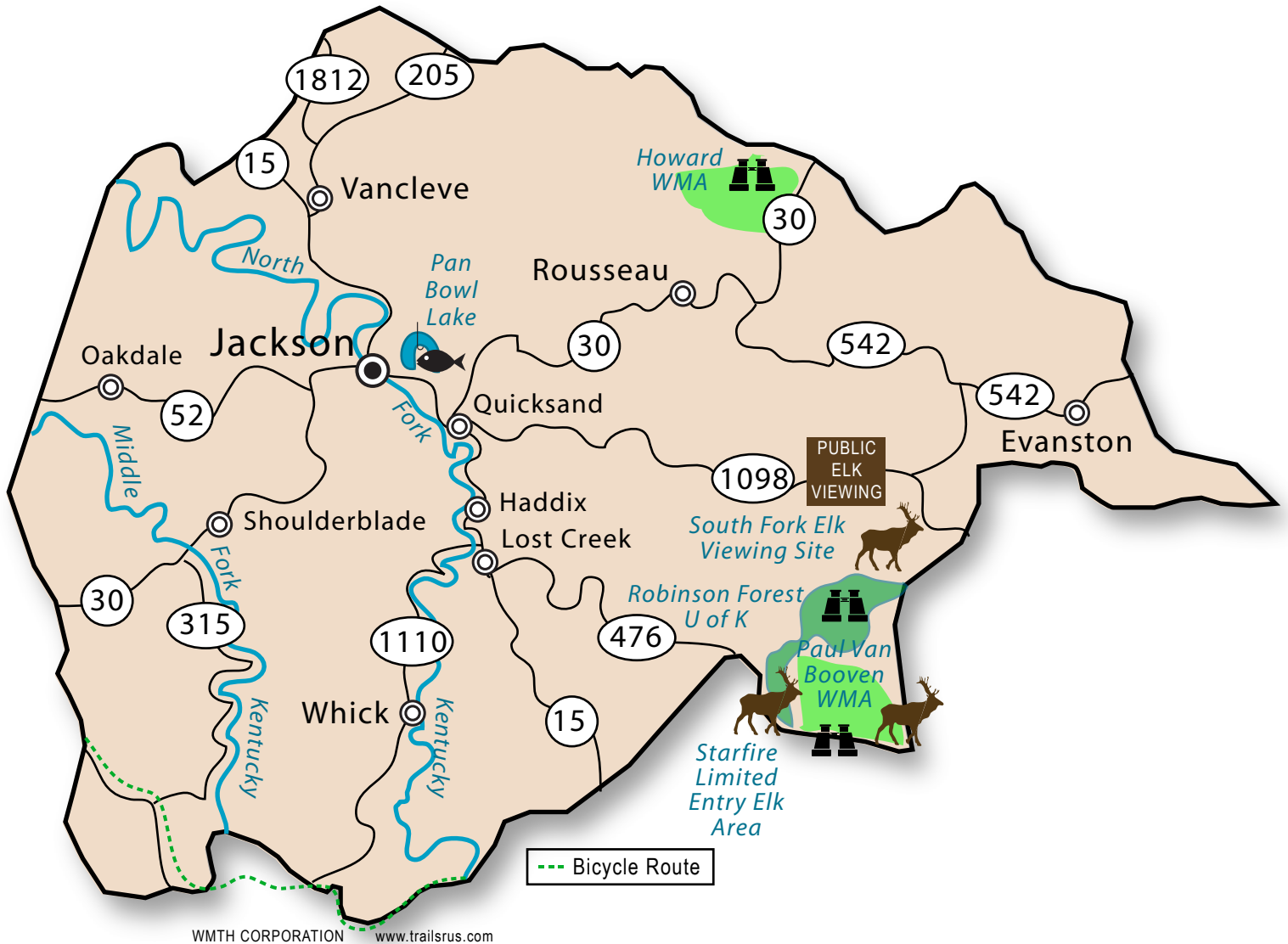
- Bell County historic Museum (M-W-F-S) – Middlesboro
- Coal House - Built 1926 of 40 tons of bituminous coal. Houses the Bell Co. Chamber of Commerce. Mon.-Fri. 8-4. (M-F) - – Middlesboro
- Lost Squadron Museum (Daily) – "Glacier Girl," restored World War II P-38 fighter plane recovered from Greenland glacier in 1992. Daily 8-5 at Middlesboro Airport
- Henderson 1904 Settlement Tours – Cumberland Gap - Frakes, 18 mi. SW. of Pineville.
- Hensley Settlement Tours, atop Brush Mtn., restored 1904 mountain farmstead community. Picnicking, ranger guided activities year-round. 70 mi. of hiking trails.
- Cumberland Gap Tunnel - 4,600 ft. long through Cumberland Mountain. Gap Cave tours.

Other: Cinema in Middlesboro and in Pineville

Golf – 18-hole at Pine Mountain State Resort Park

9-hole at Middlesboro

Breathitt County Kentucky



Breathitt County has three primary locations for viewing elk: Paul Van Booven WMA (the area is gated and access is by permission only), South Fork Elk Viewing Site (more likely to see free-roaming horses) and the Starfire Public Wildlife Management Area (limited entry elk area) all located in the southwest portion of the county.

There are other wildlife viewing opportunities to see many types of wildlife in the Howard Wildlife Management Area and in Robinson Forest which is known for the many migratory songbirds that travel through the region. Fishing is permissible at Pan Bowl Lake near Jackson. The Paul Van Booven WMA is also home to moderate populations of quail, rabbits, deer, turkey and songbirds.

BREATHITT COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
- 2) *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF BREATHITT COUNTY

Elk are primarily found in the STARFIRE, PAUL VAN BOOVEN and ROBINSON FOREST areas. All three are limited access areas. Breathitt County also has the South Fork Elk Viewing area which is noted below and in more detail on the following pages. Other wildlife viewing areas are listed below.

- Howard WMA (3) - (9,280 acres); Breathitt County. 14 miles southwest of Salyersville on KY-30. Owned by Howard Land Management, LLC and Howard Family Limited Partnership
 - Paul Van Booven WMA (3) - (2,293 acres) Located in the southeast corner of Breathitt County, the area is gated and access is by permission only. The WMA consists of the 2,000 acres of reclaimed surface mined and forest land. The University of Kentucky owned property is the site of many ongoing research projects related to forest management and mine reclamation. Good to moderate populations of elk, quail, rabbits, deer, turkey and songbirds exist on the area. The area is open for quota elk hunting under restricted entry regulations.
 - Starfire – 87,152 acres (Breathitt, Knott, Perry counties) **Limited Entry Elk Area only** Starfire Public Wildlife Management Area - 16,000 acres. Surface mined & forested land. Deer, elk, turkey, grouse, songbirds. \$12.50 user permit required. *Owned by Addington Enterprises, managed by Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*
 - South Fork Elk Viewing Site (Breathitt Co and ICG Coal) (1) – Excellent site. More likely to free-roaming horses than elk. Should promote this. Sets one self off from other areas and what they have to offer,
 - Robinson Forest - Large research & educational forest managed by Univ. of Ky. 1 1/4 mi. nature trail, last operating fire tower in Ky. Many migratory songbirds. No hunting or fishing. *(University of Kentucky)*
 - Pan Bowl Lake - 98 acres. Fishing, ramp. Handicap accessible.
- *Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
BREATHITT COUNTY

Airport: 4,400 ft runway. General aviation

Lodging: 98 units

Restaurants: 10 Restaurants (8 fast food)

Shopping (Tourism-oriented): Quilts Plus

Attractions:

- Breathitt Co. Museum – Located in the Senior Citizens building, includes Weaving looms, spinning wheels, historical photos, and exhibits of early Appalachian life. - Mon and Wed 9am-3pm
- Robinson Forest - Large research & educational forest managed by Univ. of Ky. 1 1/4 mi. nature trail, last operating fire tower in Ky. Many migratory songbirds. No hunting or fishing. Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm
- Little Red School House – Located on Sebastian Middle School Lawn - Used approximately 50-60 years ago, Reproduction one-room school house, authentic desks, books.
- Jackson City Park – Softball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, playground, picnic shelter. Daily 6am-11pm

Other: Golf: Sugar Camp Golf Club (9 holes)

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BREATHITT COUNTY³⁹

WMTH Corporation talked with the County Judge Executive in Louisville briefly about elk in his county. He said the South Fork elk viewing area they built actually had more free range horses located on the property than elk. There have been a few elk seen on private property about a mile southwest of the site.

While not considered wildlife, the feral horse population centered in Breathitt County may have a herd as large as 400 animals. Although local residents have in the past put their horses in the wildlife areas for temporary wintering over, the situation has deteriorated due to federal legislation that has deterred the slaughter of horses, causing many horses to go unclaimed in the spring. These unclaimed horses are now permanent residents, and wildlife managers perceive this “horse commons” area as an infringement upon elk and other wildlife habitat. **The elk viewing station in Breathitt County could become an excellent location for adding interpretive wayside exhibits that explain the legislation, the issues that have resulted and even the concerns for both horses and impact on other “wildlife” in the area.** *See following page for more on the South Fork Elk Viewing Site.*

SOUTH FORK ELK VIEWING SITE

Through a partnership with Breathitt County Fiscal Court and ICG Coal Company and with grants from both Land and Water and SEKTDA, an elk-viewing site was built in 2006 in the southern portion of Breathitt County on a reclaimed mining site. The viewing area is located on top of a hill next to a cemetery. Efforts by the coal company to preserve the cemetery site created this man-made high point on the property which serves as a perfect location for a viewing area.

The site includes ample parking, restroom facilities, a covered picnic area, and an established walkway around the perimeter which gives a person a 180 degree panoramic view of the area. What the site is lacking are elk. Unfortunately, due to the elimination of horse slaughter in the United States, the area has become home to over 400 free roaming horses, some of whom will never be claimed by their owners, and since both tend to eat the same food sources, the elk have moved further south on some private lands.

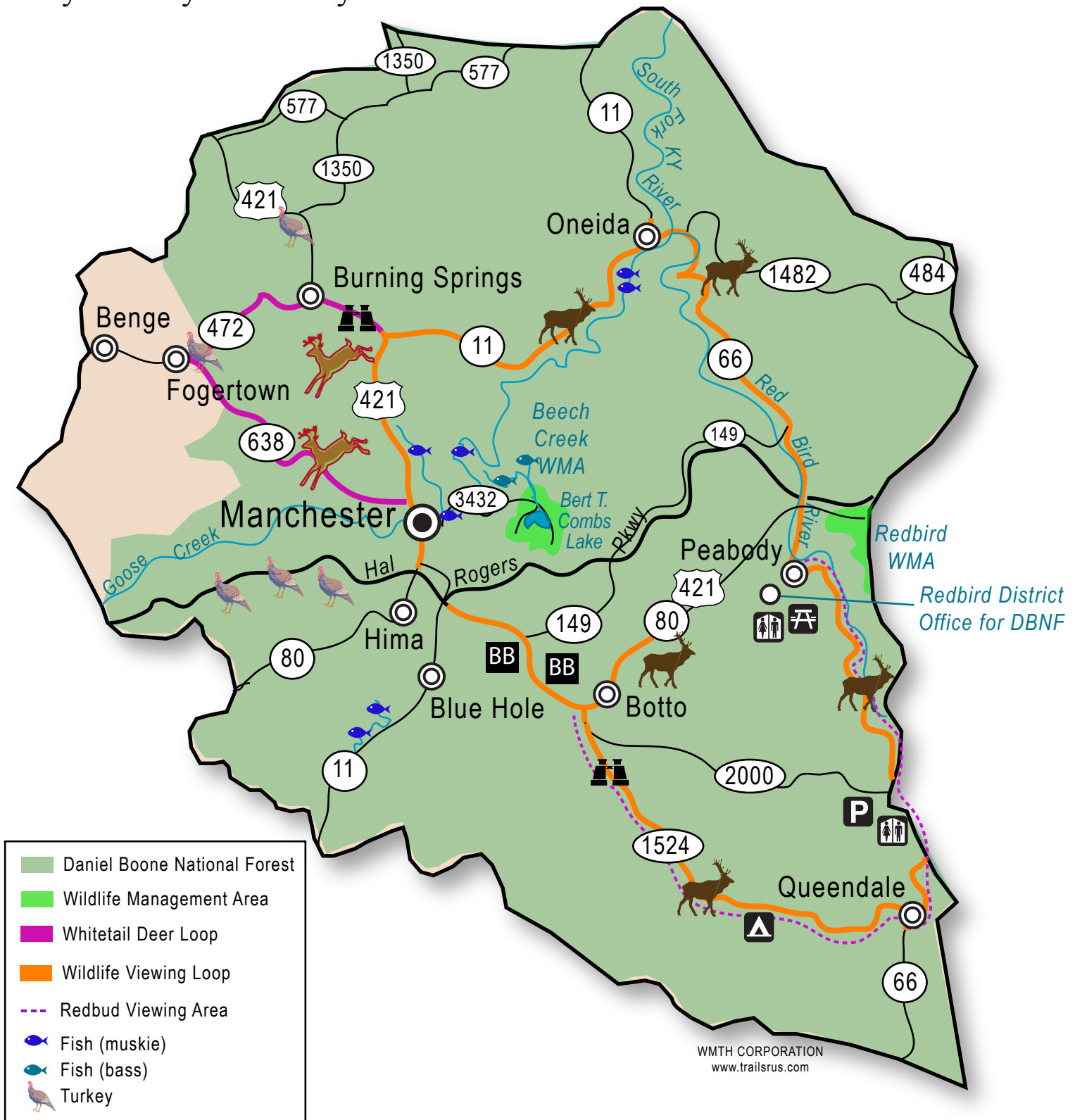


A panoramic view from the Breathitt County Elk Viewing area



Ample parking, restroom facilities and picnic areas are a few of the amenities of the site.

Clay County Kentucky



Clay County Fiscal Court has signed a proclamation as the “Gateway to Elk Country”. The Fiscal Court is looking into the possibility of converting a 3-county, 1700 acre industrial park into a wildlife viewing area. The City of Manchester is currently in the process of developing a wildlife viewing trail and a whitetail deer loop as noted on map.

There are three areas that one has the potential of seeing a few elk in the Redbird District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. A section of Hwys 66 and 1524 also offers a scenic drive in the Spring as thousands of redbud and dogwood come into full bloom.

CLAY COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory on the previous page lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as noted on the following page.

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
- 2) *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

**List was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and conversations with the community.*

INVENTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

CLAY COUNTY'S current industrial site would make an excellent location for wildlife viewing if fescue was replaced with more nourishing and appealing ground cover. Excellent roads to site, water and electricity on sight, existing parking, rolling hills, partially wooded area. Access from major road is good. Great potential! Interest expressed by both county judge executive and economic developer for the area. Two other locations in county where one might see a few elk (See MAP OF CLAY COUNTY). County and city officials have expressed interest in possibly transporting elk and other wildlife to the sites once food plots are established.

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Clay County include:

Daniel Boone National Forest – 660,000 acres on both public and private land in 21 eastern Kentucky counties extending from Rowan county in the north to McCreary county in the south. The Red Bird District of DBNF occupies nearly all of Leslie and most of Clay. *Managed by US Forest Service.*

- Burchell – Beech Creek WMA (3) - 1,260 acres. Squirrel, elk, deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon, groundhog, grouse. Fishing. No camping. *Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*
- Redbird WMA (3) - -25,529 acres Leslie and Clay counties, mostly forested with approximately 100 acres of openings and 25 miles of improved hiking trails. No developed facilities. *Daniel Boone National Forest. U.S. Forest Service. Redbird District*

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

- Bert T Combs lake – 36 acres. Fishing (known for its large small mouth bass. Also largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, rainbow trout), ramp, recreation center. Shad for bait prohibited. Electric motors only. *Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*
- Big Double Creek Nature Trail (1) – Picnicking, hiking. *Within Daniel Boone National Forest, U.S. Forest Service. Redbird District*
- Red Bird Crest Trail – 65 mile loop trail. *Within Daniel Boone National Forest, U.S. Forest Service. Redbird District.*
- Ecology Nature Trail - next to Clay Co. High School. Indian Village, guided tours, botanical garden.
- Other: Fishing -Muskee found just off bridge near Cotton Bend (3)

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS **CLAY COUNTY**

Lodging: 85 units - hotels/inns (2), bed & breakfasts (2)

Camping: Clay County Campground – 150

Restaurants: 12 Restaurants (11 fast food)

Shopping: J.A Burns Gift Shop

Crafts: Red Bird Mission Crafts

Attractions:

- **J. A. Burns Museum & Gift Shop**, Clay Co. artifacts, crafts in "Log Cabin." Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30.
- **John C. Wilson School** - Restored one room school.
- **Ancient Rock Writings Display** - Writings date to 400 BC. Located in Rawlings & Stinson Park - restroom facilities, playground, walking trail and picnic area.
- **Three equestrian riding rings within the county**
- **Three farmers markets**
- **DJ's Raceway** - dirt track and dune buggies
- **Golf** - Big Hickory Golf Course (9 holes)
- **Working on nature driving tours**

Interesting history:

- Saltworks
- City of Hope
- Feuds

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CLAY COUNTY³⁹

Notes taken during meetings with county and city officials:

Fiscal Court made proclamation that they are the Gateway to Elk Country
Both Judge Executive “Crawdad” Sizemore and Mayor Carmen Webb Lewis are actively supporting this initiative.

Bert T. Combs – Law Office still there.

Lake named after him. No power boats

Want to add a campground.

Potential site for wildlife viewing – 1,700 acre industrial site

Excellent roads to site. Water, electricity, one existing structure.

Need to remove fescue and replant to attract wildlife

Ecology Trail – Little Double – Potential Wildlife Trail

Funding for RV/Campground - \$1.5 million

Repared BB courts, tennis courts, campground and RV

Private Landowner (Lester Burns, attorney) owns property on West 80

Horse Branch Creek – Jarvis Ranch

Sold to Roy Campbell

Developing area for Walmart

Private Property

Possibly lake

Ballfield to park in.

JoAnn Abner – Chamber interim – claycochamber.org - (606)598-1754

Offers two bed & breakfasts

Additional information provided by Manchester Mayor Carmen Lewis and John Becknell of points of interests, history, assets and opportunities:

Fascinating history with saltworks – 1700’s – Civil War

Largest salt production in the East – Natural salt

Civil War story – to destroy salt mines

Train depot now gone but potential for train from Barbourville to saltmine spur.

City of Hope story

150 people killed – Vendettas in a 6 month span

Bakers and the Whites

Has 9-hole golf course

Numerous Farmer’s Markets

Underground Railroad in a house on Sexton Street

B school (one of the ABC schools) went from 1 to 8th grade then they went to Lincoln to finish - received a \$30,000 grant

Located next to ECU school on left. 3 stories. 3 to 4 year degrees. Convention Center and meeting rooms.

D&K Racing – for dirt drag racing with lights and everything.

Darrell Jones – Dirt tracks and dune buggies – Drag racing

Horse back riding rings and riding clubs in abundance

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

Wagon trail ride – Event

Come home to Clay County – Event

Thurs – Sunday over Labor Day

Chief Red Bird

Henry Ford purchased all the property and logged it. Then Peabody purchased it.

City owned – Beech Creek – 2 shelters

Old Joe Clark ballad – Log Cabin

Clay County should be Red Bud Country but Leslie County claimed it first.

Great roads to ride motorcycles

Famous people:

Bert T. Combs

Governor Garrett – 2nd Governor

Mike Wheeler – top 25 artist in the U.S.

Charles House - Graphic Artist just moved back. Wrote “Blame it on Salt”

- Drew City logo seal. Banners.

- Coal train, Pack mules, salt

Welcome Center opening soon.

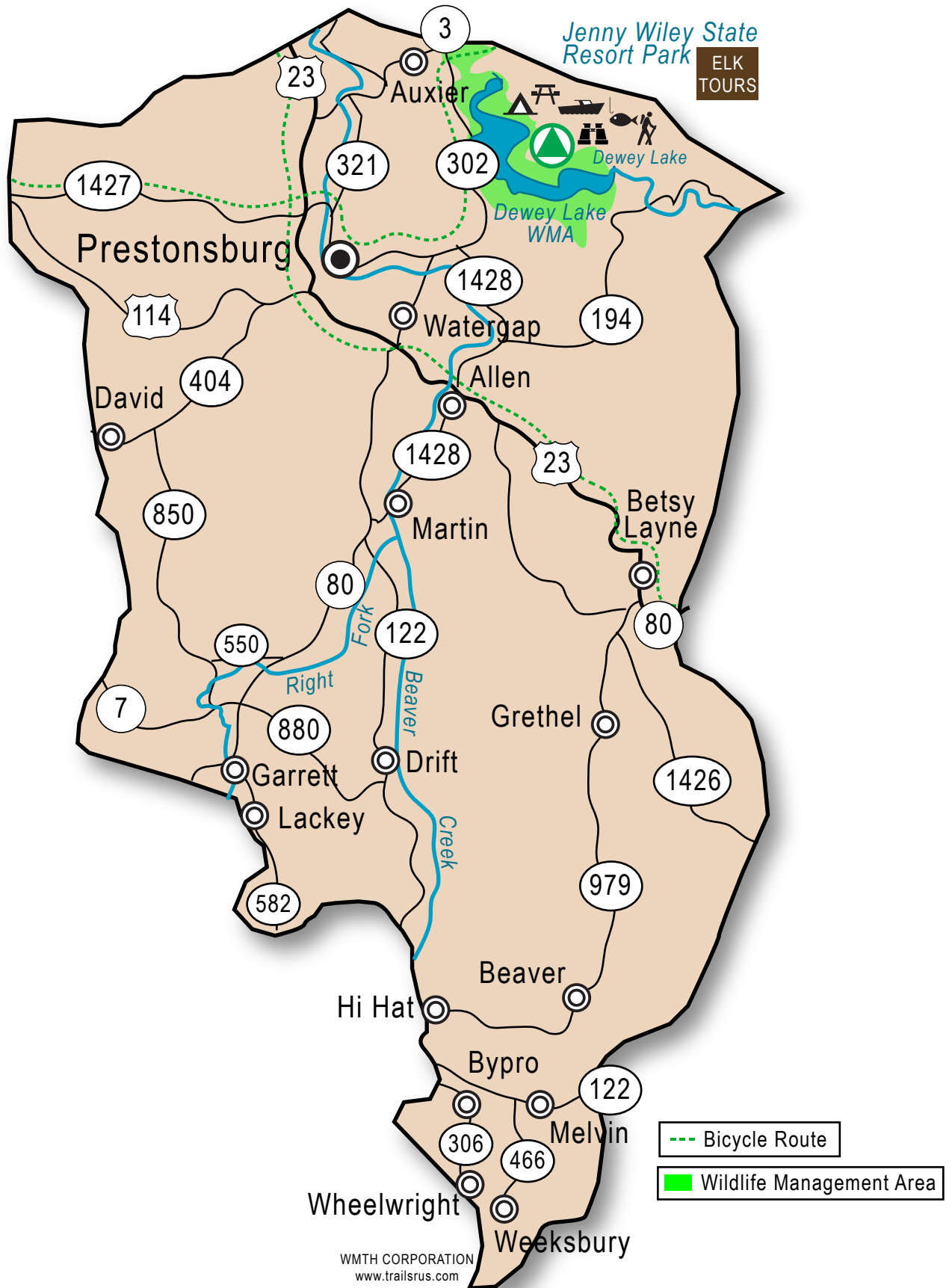
Water rights owned by city. Operated and managed.

Wildlife Viewing opportunities in Clay County:

- White tail deer along the proposed wildlife viewing route
- White tail deer in the north western portion of the county especially west of the junction of Hwy 421 and 11 (7 miles north of Manchester)
- White tail deer are plentiful along the “Foggertown” and “Tanyard” section.
- Plenty of quail, grouse, squirrel, raccoon, fox, redbuds and dogwoods
- From Beech Creek Center to Highway 11 is a 4.5 mile blacktop and great scenic route including fields of corn.
- Country stores – one of which sells ginger, may root and other mountain plants.
- Goose Creek that runs through Manchester to Oneida
- Two bed & breakfasts along the proposed wildlife viewing loop.

For more on Clay County and its wildlife viewing offerings and initiatives, see Chapter 11.

Floyd County Kentucky



Though elk are not found in abundance within Floyd County, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park offers visitors elk tours every Fall and Spring in the surrounding counties. Numerous opportunities in fishing, hiking, camping, boating and picnicking along with excellent opportunities in wildlife viewing are found in the State Park, Dewey Lake Wildlife Management Area and on Dewey Lake.

FLOYD COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

1. *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
2. *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
3. *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

**Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and others.*

INVENTORY OF FLOYD COUNTY

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park offers elk tours every Fall and Spring. Trinity (the recreation director for the state park) has a tremendous amount of information he has gathered on who these visitors are, where they are coming from and how much they are spending while in the area.

Wildlife viewing opportunities in Floyd County include:

- 1) Jenny Wiley State Resort Park (1) - 1,498 acre park & 1,100 acre lake offering handicap accessible lodge, community pool, restaurant, marina, open slips, ramps, rental pontoon boats, picnic shelters, playgrounds, fishing, hiking, gift shop, convention center, disc golf, meeting rooms, gift shop, nature center, planned recreation & nature programs. The 49 room Lodge & 18 cottages are open year-round. Camping is available first of April through the end of October with 117 sites, full hook-ups, tent camping, restrooms and shower houses.
- 2) Dewey Lake WMA (2) - 9,870 acres in land at summer pool. Extremely steep and rugged; forested, primarily in hardwoods, with scattered openings. Quality Deer Management: special regulations. Opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, birding on lake. Camping allowed only in corps-maintained campgrounds. Managed by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Owned by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 3) Dewey Lake (1) - 1,100 acres with 52 miles of shoreline. Fishing (largemouth bass, catfish, crappie). 12 shoreline picnic areas for public use, tables, grills & 2 shoreline camping areas (boat access only). 20 acre recreation area, off KY 3, below dam, large picnic shelters, playgrounds, ball courts.

**Above list was provided in part by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.*

Please Note: We have not yet met with the county individually to determine other wildlife viewing opportunities.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
FLOYD COUNTY

State Parks: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park

Lodging: 426 units (plus Jenny Wiley State Resort Park has 49 lodge rooms and eighteen (18) 1 & 2 bedroom cottages)

Camping: 117 campsites at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park

Restaurants: 22 Restaurants (14 fast food)

Shopping:

- Trends & Traditions
- Ritchies Hallmark
- Planet Purse
- Country at heart

Crafts: David Appalachian Crafts

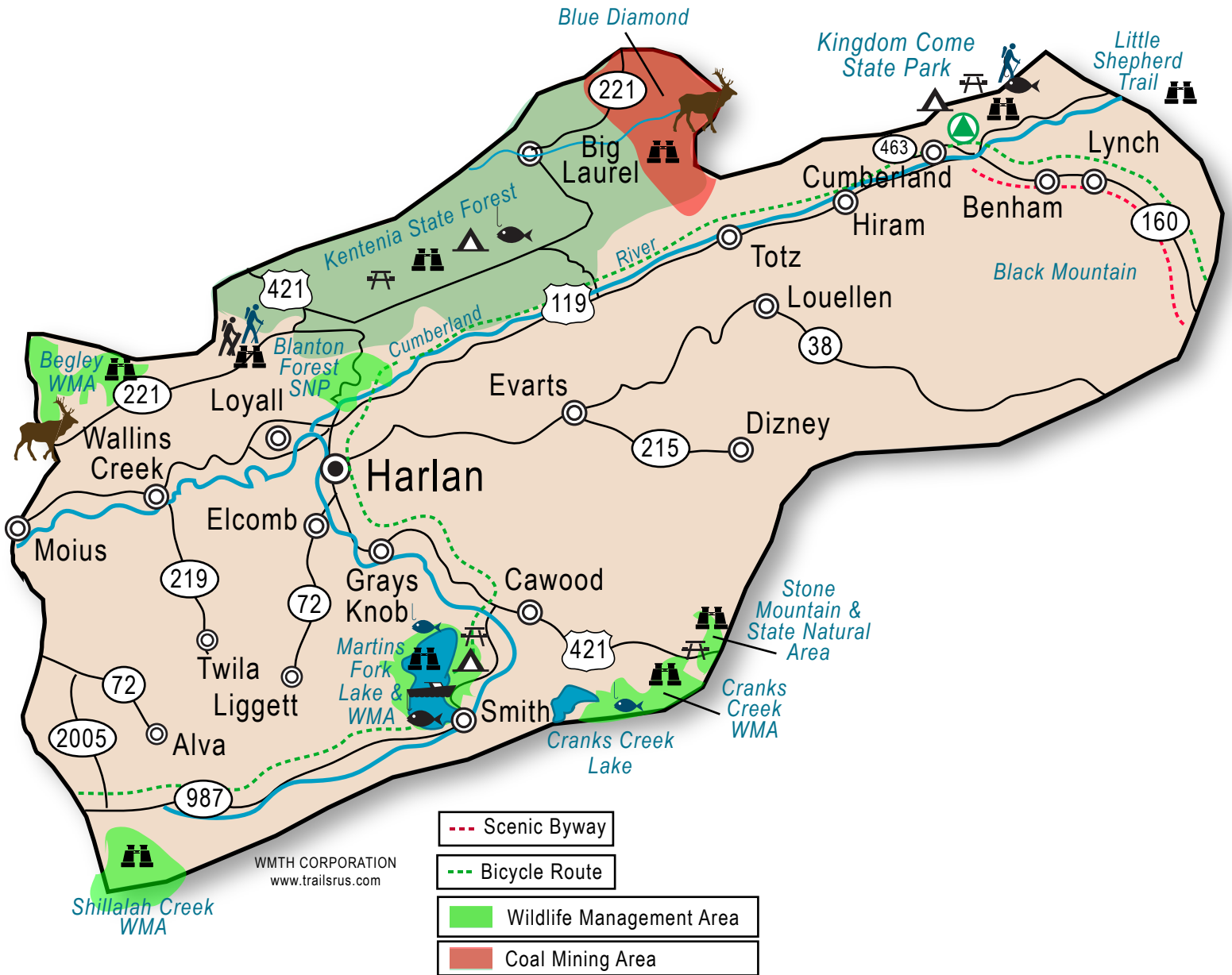
Attractions:

- Mega Raceway – asphalt track racing, small game room, with pool tables and video games.
- Jenny Wiley Theatre - 43rd season of Broadway musicals, comedies, historical dramas, and holiday productions (June – August Summer Season).
- East Kentucky Science Center - 40 ft. domed planetarium. Hands-on traveling exhibits & fantastic laser light shows. Live performances, great electricity show.
- Mountain Arts Center - Regional performing arts & education center. Home to Kentucky Opry of local talents. Theater seats 1,050 & features state-of-the-art sound system. A variety of entertainment throughout the year includes national headliners in country, gospel, pop, bluegrass & off-Broadway shows. The center contains an art gallery, recording studio, video production facilities, gift shop & meeting space for rent.
- Thunder Ridge Racing & Entertainment Complex – Home of the “Thunder Ridge 100” - Live harness racing Oct.-Nov. Thoroughbred & harness intertrack wagering year-round Fri.-Sun. Special events & facilities
- Samuel May House - Built in 1817, the restored house is the oldest brick house in the Big Sandy valley & served as a Civil War recruiting station for Confederate forces.

Other:

- Beaver Valley Golf Course (9 holes)
- Stonecrest Golf Course (18 holes)
- Stumbo Park - Convention center, pool, tennis, golf, basketball, playground, ball fields, walking track, picnicking.
- Archer Park - 32 acres, playgrounds, tennis, shelters, pool, skating rink, ball fields, gym, war memorial, horse shows.
- StoneCrest Recreation Complex - Ballfields, stables, arena.

Harlan County Kentucky



A primary location for viewing elk in Harlan County is in the Begley WMA which has numerous elk but they are often spread out and hard to locate while access to the site is limited. Blue Diamond also has 300 to 400 elk spread out throughout the property and are best seen the Fall. Other locations for wildlife viewing include: Stone Mountain, Martins Fork Lake & WMA, Cranks Creek Lake & WMA, Kentenia State Forest, Little Shepherd Trail (Harlan/Letcher county line), Kingdom Come State Park & Nature Preserve, Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve and the Cumberland Shadow Hiking Trail.

HARLAN COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
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- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

**Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources helped to compile this list and provide the ranking.*

INVENTORY OF HARLAN COUNTY

Primary location for viewing elk in Harlan County would be in the BEGLEY WMA which has numerous elk but the elk are very spread out and hard to locate and in BLUE DIAMOND which has 300 to 400 elk also spread out throughout the property. There is a gentleman (Blanton) within the county that has expressed a strong interest in providing a guide service if a wildlife viewing area was established.

Locations in Harlan County for viewing other wildlife include:

- Stone Mountain and State Natural Area (3)
- Martins Fork Lake and WMA and State Natural Area (2) - 340 acres. Fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking. Martins Fork Dam on Martins Fork of the Cumberland River, 504 ft. long, 97 ft. high. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*
- Cranks Creek WMA (3) - 2,167 acres. Unique wagon tunnel road. Grouse, elk, squirrel, turkey, deer, rabbit, raptors. Fishing, rental boats. Picnicking at adjoining Stone Mountain. No camping. *Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*
 - Cranks Creek Lake (fishing for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish)
- Kentenia State Forest (3) - 4,277 acres located in 7 non-contiguous tracts on S. side of Pine Mountain. Hiking, picnicking, prim. camping, hunting, fishing. Off-road vehicles prohibited. *Ky. Division of Forestry.*
- Little Shepherd Trail – 38 mile nature trail running along the northern boundary of Kentenia State Forest.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

- Kingdom Come State Park (1) 1,200 acre park, visitors center with gift shop, 3 acre lake, fishing, hiking, picnic shelters, playground, pedal boats, mini-golf, limited primitive camping. *Kentucky State Parks*
- Kingdom Come State Park Nature Preserve - Protects Kentucky's 3rd largest colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat. Cave tours by request.
- Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve - Protects the largest old-growth forest in Ky. A 3 mile hiking trail begins at Camp Blanton adjacent to the preserve. 1/2 mi. trail along Watts Creek is a scenic & less strenuous alternative route. Open to the public for hiking, birding & nature study.
- Cumberland Shadow Hiking Trail - 6 mi. trail adj. to Martins Fork Lake. Picnicking, hunting, prim. camping. *U.S. Corps of Engineers*

INVENTORY OF COUNTY OFFERINGS
HARLAN COUNTY

State: Kingdom Come State Park

Lodging: 108 units

32 units - Cumberland

B&B – 30 units in Benham

Campgrounds: 7 sites at Harlan Center RV Park, 3 Cabins, 20 Sites, 50 prim. at Harlan Co. campground/RV Park) and 12 sites at Portal 31 RV Park in Lynch

Restaurants: 19 (15 fast food) – Harlan

6 (3 fast food) – Lynch/Benham area

Shopping:

- Artists Attic - Harlan
- ATV Rentals of Harlan
- Mountain Outdoors - Harlan
- Village Center Mall – Harlan
- Apple Tree – Cumberland
- Poor Fork Arts & Crafts - Cumberland

Crafts:

- Godbey Appalachian Center - Extensive collection of Appalachian artifacts including thousands of oral histories, photographs, art & music. Art gallery, arts & crafts studio, woodworking shop, Theatre & Harlan Performing Arts Series.

Attractions:

- Coal Miner’s Park - 1949 caboose, fish pond, picnicking, coal miners memorial wall and walking path.
- Portal 31 Mine - A real 1920s coal mine in Lynch. See the equipment used & learn how the mine was operated. An underground tour of this mine will open Spring 2006.
- Kentucky Coal Mining Museum - An original coal company commissary, now a museum with displays from early coal mining communities. Loretta Lynn exhibit, mock mine & many interactive displays in Benham.
- Clover Fork Museum near Everts - Restored 1930 home of Jack Taylor, operator of Highsplint coal mines. Features items pertaining to Cloverfork history and memorial wall with 270 engraved bricks.
- Kentucky Mountain Trails of Harlan County - 7,000 acres of off-road trails for ATVs & other off-road vehicles on Black Mountain

Other:

Stone Mountain Boat Dock

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course in Cumberland – 9 holes

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HARLAN COUNTY³⁹

Meetings:

RMEF, WMTH and representative from DBNF met with county judge.

Follow-up meeting in Louisville with people from the community.

- Very enthusiastic – Invitation to tour community

Discussions:

Harlan County has an individual (Blanton) interested in providing a guide service.

Location where one can find elk:

- Cranks Creek at Hwy 421 and 699
- John Asher’s Saw Mill – Hwy 421 thru Hyden turn right at spur – 75 to 100 sighted
- Greasy Creek – Almost designated a wild and scenic river in the 70’s
Beautiful drive – Trout abundant Hwy 221 comes out at Big Log
Beautiful scenic drive along Kentenia State Forest WMA

Other potential nature sites:

- Pine Mountain – Ecological Hot Spot for birding
Warblers, sparrows, owls

Contacts: Nobe Baker

7083 East Hwy 221

Bledsoe KY 40810

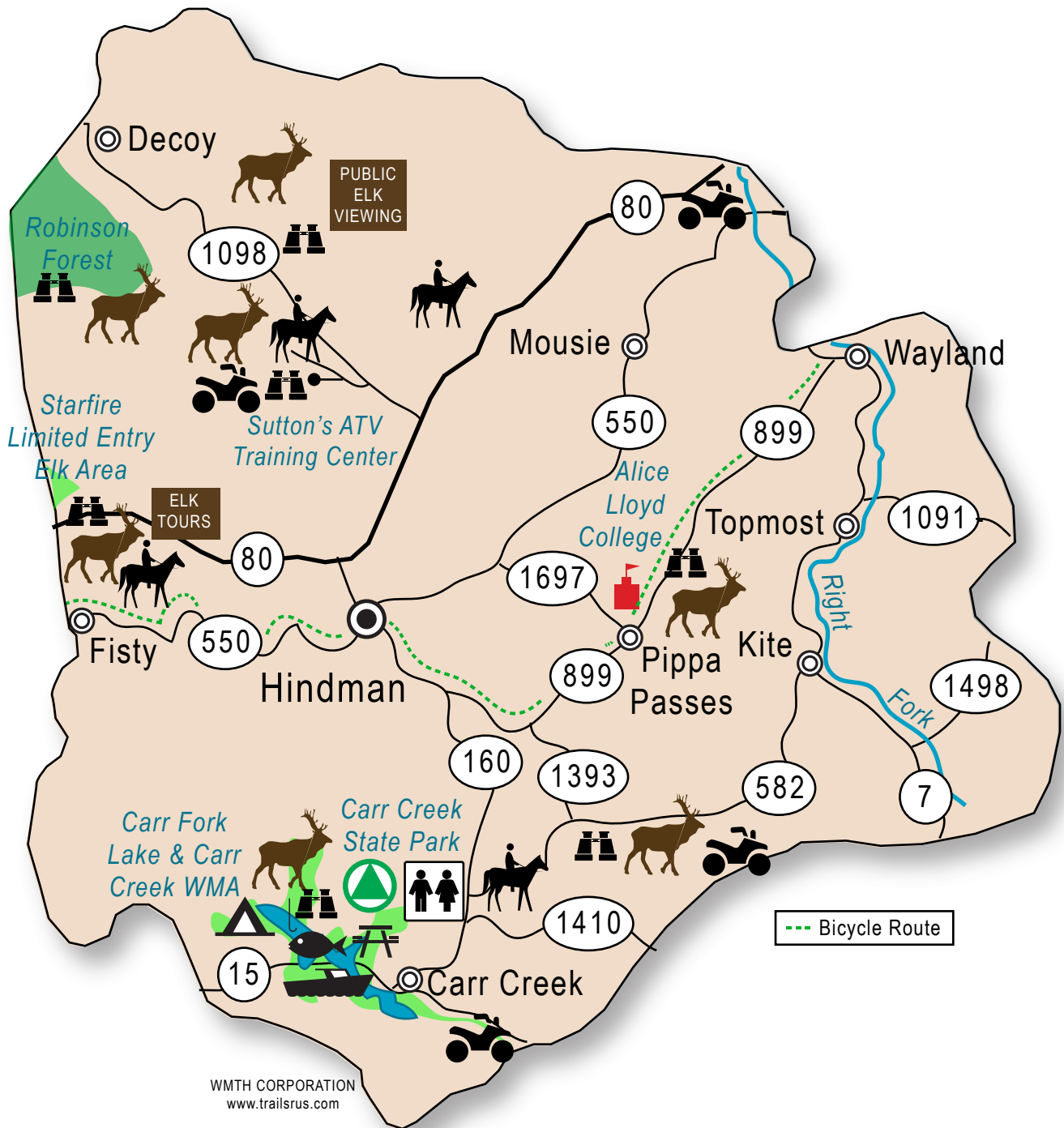
Paul Caldwell, Harlan County Magistrate

Please note:

There are very talented crafters within southern & eastern Kentucky such as these items created by a longtime resident of Harlan County. Many are using native woods and natural fibers in their work.



Knott County Kentucky



Knott County is considered the "Elk Capital of Kentucky" with approximately 300 elk in a designated viewing area just off Hwy 1098 N. on Elk View Drive. There are another 300+ in the Starfire Limited entry Elk Area (not open to the general public) and quite a few in the Pippa Passes area and other parts of the county. Saddle up Elk Tours (private tourism business) offers elk viewing on horseback.

Other areas for wildlife viewing opportunities are at Carr Fork Lake and the Carr Fork WMA. Carr Creek State Park offers a marina, camping, fishing, boating & picnicking. Robinson Forest in the northwest quadrant of the county is a 10,000 acre research and educational site that offers a 1-1/4 mile nature trail where one can see many migratory songbirds. Excellent wetlands in the Littcarr Wildlife Viewing area featuring beaver, belted Kingfisher, wood ducks and other wetland wildlife.

KNOTT COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

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INVENTORY OF KNOTT COUNTY

KNOTT COUNTY has somewhere between 225 to 300 elk in their designated elk viewing area in the north part of the county near Hwy 1098. There are also another 300 or more in the Starfire area (not open to the public) and quite a few in the Pippa Passes area of the county. Very strong interest in the county in establishing elk viewing areas in numerous locations around the county where elk can be found. Partnering with large land owners to make this happen as part of a statewide adventure tourism park system the county is developing.

Saddle Up Elk Tours, a private business started Spring 2007 in Knott County, offers elk viewing by horseback. Have attracted people from five states thus far.

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Knott County include:

- Carr Creek Lake WMA (3) - 710 acres. Camping, fishing, boating, playgrounds, picnicking, marina. *U.S. Corps of Engineers*
- Carr Creek State Park (1) – a 29 acre park offering a beach, bathhouse, fishing, picnic area, restrooms and 39 camp sites. *Kentucky State Parks*
- Robinson Forest WMA (3) - Large research & educational forest 1 1/4 mi. nature trail, last operating fire tower in Ky. Many migratory songbirds. No hunting or fishing. Has lodging. Potential for partnership for group use. *Managed by University of Kentucky.*
- **Starfire Public Wildlife Management Area** - 16,000 acres. Surface mined & forested land. Deer, elk, turkey, grouse, songbirds. \$12.50 user permit required. *Owned by Addington Enterprises, managed by Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*
- Excellent wetlands with beaver dams, wood duck houses very visible from the road near the corner of Hwy 160 and Hwy 15.

**Above list and rating by provided in part by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources*

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
KNOTT COUNTY

State Parks: Carr Creek State Park, This 29 acre park features a full range of recreational opportunities on Carr Fork Lake. Full service marina nearby.

(Beach, Bathhouse, fishing, picnic area, restrooms)

Lodging: Motel 80 – 20 units

Camping: 39 campsites at Carr Creek State Park

Restaurants:

4 Restaurants (3 fast food)

Shopping:

Crafts:

Marie Stewart Museum and Craft Shop

Attractions:

- Kentucky Appalachian Artisan Center - . "Preserving our Heritage by Serving our Artisans." 49 counties in Eastern Kentucky retail gallery & cafe. Visit our gallery & incubator studios in Hindman. Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-4. www.artisancenter.net
- Hindman Settlement School - Founded 1902, tours, workshops on Appalachian life & culture
- Marie Stewart Museum & Craft Shop – a juried craft shop with over 115 crafters. The shop displays artifacts including looms and early pieces of handcrafted furniture. Mon.-Fri. 10-4, Sat. 10-2.
- Elk Viewing area established
- Horseback riding – Hundreds of miles of trails being developed on 43,000 acres of reclaimed coal lands. Trailhead established. Campground being developed.
- ATV training center
- ATV trails being developed and three trailheads
- Sportsplex opening in Fall 2007

Other:

- Public swimming pool recently built
- Public skate park opened last year
- Great roads to ride motorcycles



Knott County has embraced the elk initiative wholeheartedly. Hindman City Hall features an elk (albeit with caribou antlers) on their sign in front of the building. Other signs are going up throughout the county

Knott County changed their county animal to an elk and have declared themselves the Elk Capital of Kentucky and deservedly so.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY KNOTT COUNTY³⁹

Meetings: RMEF and WMTH met with county judge

Follow-up meeting with KDFWR, RMEF, WMTH and county judge to visit potential site for elk visitor center and viewing area.

Knott County

Fiscal Court made proclamation that they are the Elk Capital of Kentucky

Designated 2 mile Elk View Drive along reclaimed coal property

Proposed Elk Viewing area on top of highest point

Negotiations underway with coal company/landowner

Working with F&W and Rocky Mt Elk Foundation

Proposed site for Rocky Mt Elk Foundation Visitor Center on reclaimed coal property.

Elk often seen

- In valley below proposed elk viewing sight (30 to 100)
- Around ATV training center – (15 -30)
- At Pippa Passes area

Saddle Up Elk tours offered in County

City Hall has an elk on its sign out front (albeit it has caribou antlers)

ACTIONS SINCE STUDY BEGAN

In March – Fiscal Court changed the county animal from the opossum to the Elk

Local newspaper added an elk to its logo

Renamed a road to “Elk Viewing Road”

In June - Proclamation making it the Elk Capital of Kentucky

- Created signs, developed T-shirts and created a map featuring the elk viewing sites throughout the county.

Contact: County Judge Executive Randy Thompson



A herd of elk walk across the field next to the construction site of the new Sportsplex in Knott County this summer.

It is not at all uncommon to see 30 to 50 elk at the newly built ATV training center.

Some have seen as many as 250 along Elk View Drive at one time. If one goes in the early morning or nearing dusk, elk are almost always seen.

See Chapter XX for more on Knott County’s efforts to establish themselves as the “Elk Capital of Kentucky”.

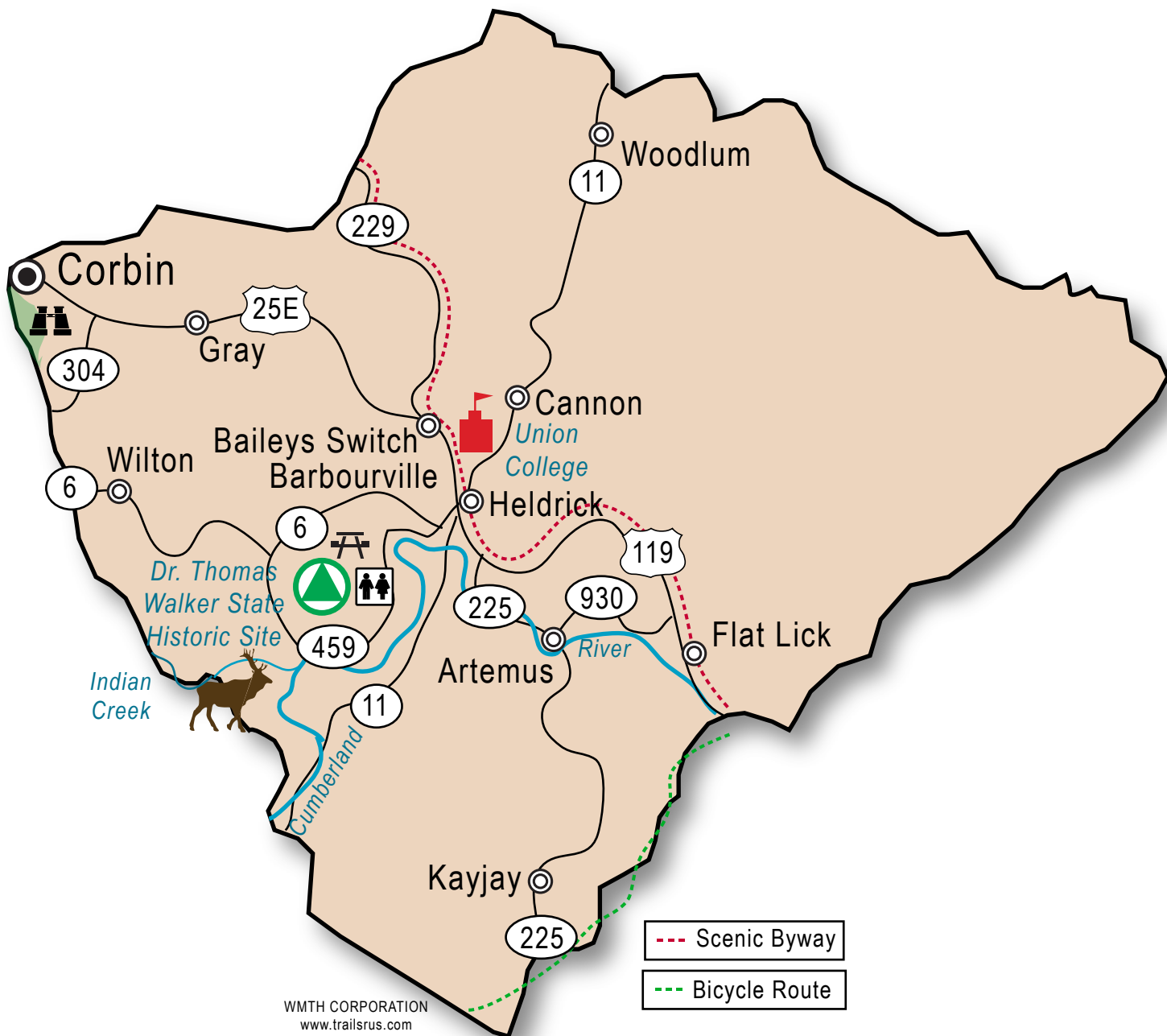
Elk can be seen in many parts of Knott County including the Pippa Passes area near Alice Lloyd College, Suttons Memorial Drive near the ATV Training Center, just a mile off Hwy 80 near the Perry/Knott county line, at the new Sportsplex and near Highway 7.



Photos of elk in Knott County near the ATV Training Center

For more on Knott County's wildlife viewing activities and tourism initiatives, see Chapter 11.

Knox County Kentucky



Knox County does have a few elk seen mainly at or near Indian Creek close to Hwy 459. Other wildlife viewing opportunities can be found at the Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site. This is a 12-acre park offering picnicking, playgrounds, mini-golf, etc. There is the potential for connecting to a portion of the Daniel Boone National Forest that touches Knox County near Corbin in the far western part of the county. A private entity may be developing a campground near that area. Barbourville is home to the Redbud Trail Festival and Quilt Workshop offered each Spring.

KNOX COUNTY**COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING**

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

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INVENTORY OF KNOX COUNTY

A few elk have been seen at Indian Creek. Further research needs to be done to determine other locations of elk in Knox County. Knox County does have a very active Chamber/tourism office – Betty Cole 606-546-9673 bcole@kceoc.com provided some excellent information on the county and its offerings.

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Knox County include:

- Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site is a 12 acre park offering mini-golf, gift shop, picnic shelters, concession stand, playground, lighted basketball court. Park grounds are open year-round, facilities are seasonal.
- Potential for connecting to a portion of Daniel Boone National Forest which touches into Knox County in the furthest western corner near Corbin. Interest in developing a campground by a private individual.

**Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and conversations with the community.*

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
KNOX COUNTY

State Parks: None

Lodging:

53 units includes 2 Bed & Breakfasts

Camping: Barbourville Recreational Park RV Campground

Restaurants:

13 Restaurants (10 fast food)

Shopping:

Amish Heirloom Furniture

Gift Shop at Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site

Gift Shop at McNeil's Crossing

Crafts:

KY Communities Crafts - Fresh fudge, pottery & woven rugs all made on site.

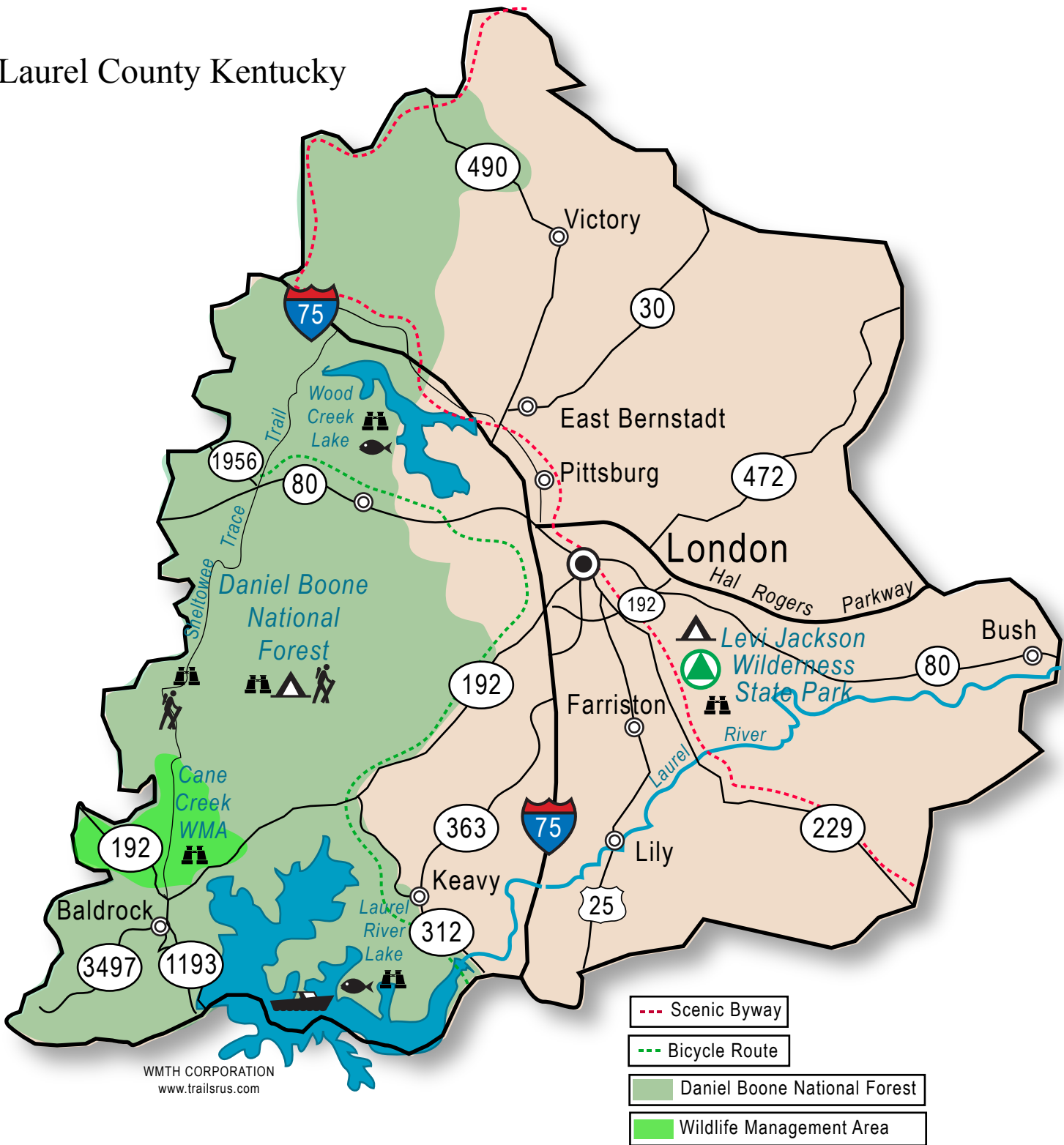
Personalized gift baskets with hundreds of local crafts & gift items to choose from. Many items displayed in rustic cabins on a beautiful hillside covered with seasonal flowers.

www.ky-crafts.com

Attractions:

- Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site - physician & surveyor, led 1st documented expedition through Cumberland Gap & built 1st log cabin built by a white man in Ky. in April, 1750. Replica of cabin stands on original site. 12 acre park, mini-golf, gift shop, picnic shelters, concession stand, playground, lighted basketball court. Park grounds are open year-round, facilities are seasonal.
- Knox Historical Museum – Includes an early medical exhibit, moonshine still, coal mining equipment, turn-of-the-century store display and other frontier period items. Open Sept.-May Wed. 10-4, June-Aug. Mon., Wed. & Fri. 10-2. Free.
- Barbourville and Brickyard Waves Water Park – The water park includes a water slide, lazy river and kiddie pool. The recreation park offers picnic shelters, walking track fish ponds, paddle boats, putt-putt golf, playgrounds, and ball fields.
- McNeil's Crossing – A 70-acre Revolutionary War farm dating back to the early 1800's. Original buildings still stand including an 1800's icehouse, 1873 farmhouse, and a coffin shop with its boards and tools. Local crafts and music, and traditional mountain food at the concession stand. Canoe livery is also available.

Laurel County Kentucky



Although Laurel County is located outside the 16-county elk restoration area, they do have a number of other wildlife viewing opportunity including Rockcastle Adventures and Canoe Livery that offers one to three day canoe trips and primitive camping. The Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park offers nature trails and camping and there are over 270 miles of hiking along the Sheltolee Trace National Recreation Trail and within the Daniel Boone National Forest providing plenty of opportunities to view wildlife along the way. Laurel Lake and Wood Creek Lake allow fishermen a chance to catch trout, bass, crappie, bream and walleye and view waterfowl.

LAUREL COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

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INVENTORY OF LAUREL COUNTY

LAUREL COUNTY is not part of the 16-county elk restoration area nor does it have very many, if any, elk within its county but could serve as one of the gateways to “elk country”.

Locations in Laurel County for other outdoor-related offerings include:

- Rockcastle Adventures / Canoe Livery - operates primarily on the Rockcastle River and area lakes. One-day to three-day canoe trips. Primitive camping available.
- Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park (2) - 896 acres on land donated by family of Levi Jackson. Boone's Trace & Wilderness Rd. pioneer trails converge here. Wilderness Rd. was a 30 ft. wide wagon road constructed over earlier pioneer trails. Completed in 1796. Until about 1875, it was thought to be first state built road in U.S. A section of original road is preserved in the park.
- Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail - a 270 mile trail running the entire length of the Daniel Boone Natl. Forest, links many of the forest's developed recreation areas. Sheltowee, meaning "Big Turtle," was the Indian name given to Daniel Boone by the Shawnee who adopted him as the son of Blackfish, the great war chief.
- Laurel Lake (2) - 6,000 acres. 200 mi. of shoreline in Whitley & Laurel Cos. Fishing (trout, bass, crappie, walleye, bream). Forested hills & steep bluffs offer exceptional views. **Laurel River Dam** -1,420 ft. long, 282 ft. high. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*
- Wood Creek Lake (2) - 672 acres. Holds state record for largemouth bass, 13 lb. 10 oz. Fishing (trout, largemouth bass), ramp, dock, boat rentals.
- A portion of DBNF goes through Laurel County and includes Bald Rock Picnic Ground for hiking and picnicking. *U.S. Forest Service*

**Above list was partially provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.*

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
LAUREL COUNTY

Airport: London/Corbin Airport (5,750 ft. runway)

State Parks: Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park

Lodging:

773 (plus 2 Cabins at All Seasons Log Cabin & High Lonesome Cabin,

Camping: 208 campsites, plus Boone Trace Group Camp has 15 cabins, plus 14 sites at Westgate RV camping)

Restaurants:

45 Restaurants (35 fast food)

Shopping:

Flea Land Flea Market

The Scavenger Hunt

Vendors Mall

Dog Patch Trading Post

Crafts:

Attractions:

- Mountain Life Museum - reproduced pioneer settlement: log bldgs., furnishings, farm implements, guns, **McHargue's Mill** has one of world's largest millstone collections. Adm. fee for museum. Apr.-Oct.
- Camp Wildcat Civil War Battle Site - The Battle of Camp Wildcat is recognized as the first Union victory of the Civil War.
- Kinlee Riding Stables
- Daniel Boone Motocross Park
- Rockcastle Adventures Canoe Livery
- Tim's Pay Lake

Other:

Golf: Crooked Creek Golf Club (18 holes)

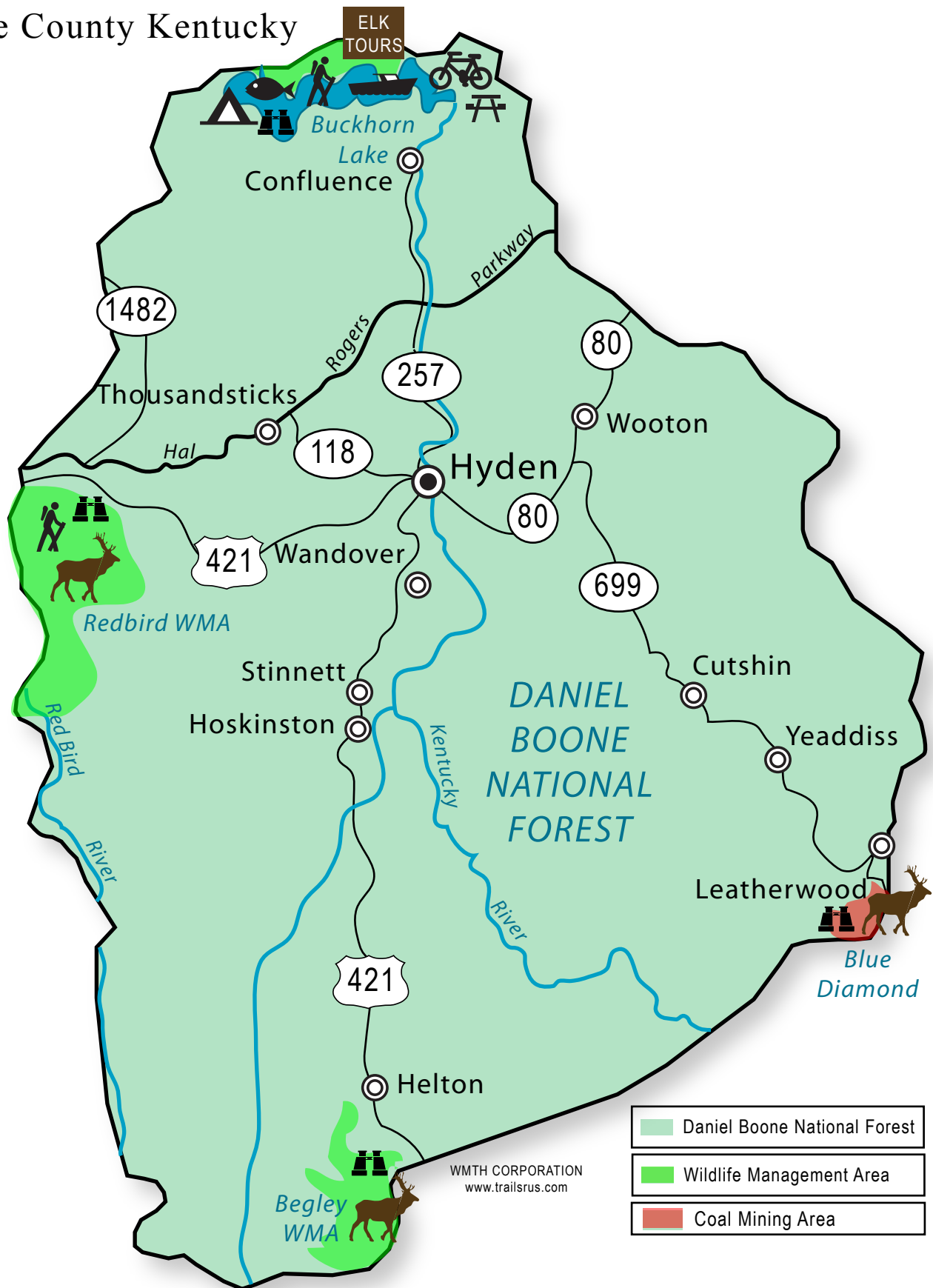
Greenway Golf (18 holes)

Regency Cinema 8

Holly Bay Marina

London Dock Marina

Leslie County Kentucky



Leslie County has between 300-400 elk but they are very spread out. Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park offers elk tours in the Fall and Spring but the tours go to another county to view. Other wildlife viewing opportunities are accessible at Daniel Boone National Forest that covers Leslie County. Redbird Wildlife Management Area is mostly forested and contains 25 miles of hiking trails. Begley WMA has good to moderate amounts of squirrel, rabbits, grouse, deer, turkey and songbirds and large population of elk. Buckhorn Lake area offers fishing, picnic shelters, hiking, marina, fishing, bicycles and much more.

LESLIE COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

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INVENTORY OF LESLIE COUNTY

LESLIE COUNTY - There are between 300 to 400 elk in the Blue Diamond area at the eastern corner of Leslie, southern portion of Perry and a bit of Harlan and Letcher but they are very spread out. There are a number of elk in Begley WMA and possibly a few in Redbird WMA but very hard to locate.

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park offers elk tour packages 4 weekends in the Fall and 4 weekends in the Spring. They have been offering these packages for a number of years. The tours go to Paul Van Booven WMA to view elk.

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Leslie County:

- Daniel Boone National Forest – 660,000 acres on both public and private land in 21 eastern Kentucky counties extending from Rowan county in the north to McCreary county in the south. The Red Bird District of DBNF occupies nearly all of Leslie and most of Clay. *Managed by US Forest Service.*
- Redbird WMA (3) - -25,529 acres Leslie and Clay counties, mostly forested with approximately 100 acres of openings and 25 miles of improved hiking trails. No developed facilities. *Within Daniel Boone National Forest. U.S. Forest Service*
- Begley WMA – 20,000 acres of reclaimed surface mined and forest land. Active mining in portions. Good to moderate populations of squirrel, rabbits, grouse, deer, turkey and songbirds. Open for some small game hunting under statewide regulations. Large population of elk. Open to elk hunting under a limited access permit system. *Partnership between Begley Properties and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.*
- Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park and WMA (1) - 856 scenic wooded acres on 1,230 acre **Buckhorn Lake**. Fishing, pool, beach, bathhouse, picnic shelters, playground, mini-golf, sandpit volleyball, hiking, marina, open slips, ramps, pontoons, fishing boats, bicycles, shuffleboard, horseshoe pits, handicapped facilities, planned recreation. **Buckhorn Dam** -1,020 ft. long, 162 ft. high. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

**Portions of the above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources*

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
LESLIE COUNTY

State Parks:

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park (fishing, pool, beach, bathhouse, mini-golf, etc)

Lodging:

366 units (plus 36 room lodge, and 3 cottages at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park)

Restaurants:

26 Restaurants (21 fast food)

Shopping:

The Home and Garden Store

My Favorite Things

Crafts:

Attractions:

- Fugate’s Entertainment Center
- Bobby Davis Museum & Park - Local history museum & gardens. Mon.-Fri. 8-4. Free.
- Elk Safari – Guide Service – Now closed
- Buckhorn Log Cathedral - Scandinavian-style church built 1928, natural white oak interior, Hook & Hasting pipe organ.
- Eversole Log Cabin - Built c. 1800 by Jacob & Mary Eversole. The oldest building in Perry Co.
- Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky – Space museum at Hazard Community & Technical College.
- Pine Mountain Trail - crosses the ridge of Pine Mountain on the Ky.-Va. border. 28 mi. of the 120 mi. trail are completed.

Other:

Hazard Pavilion (indoor Olympic pool, indoor track, tennis, weight room & steam sauna)

Perry County Park - 150 acres, pool, picnicking, playground, softball, mini-golf.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LESLIE COUNTY³⁹

An initial meeting between the Leslie County Judge Executive and representatives from WMTH, RMEF and DBNF was held in May at the county courthouse. The following are a few points brought out in the meeting.

- Need a hotel
- Do have Windover B&B
- Pond – 200 ft deep
- 30 acres
- ICG Don Gibson
- Begley WMA has elk
- ATV trails connect to Daniel Boone National Forest

Greasy Creek – Not developed

Coon Creek – Not developed – Great for deer hunting

County has strong interest in horseback riding and active saddle club. Have horse shows and rodeos

There are currently 20 RV and 20 tent sites at Camp Creek

FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH BILLY COONTS

Leslie County –

Rockhouse – ATV Trail

2009 (Gravel) & 2008 (Partially paved) – off Hwy 421 & Stinnet

20 mi of scenic beauty – numerous wildlife sightings- opportunity to view

4 wheel recommended. White tail deer and turkey in abundance.

Lodging includes Glenover B&B and Camp Creek

Contact: Billy Coonts – (606)279-4267 (606)275-1211 Cell

57 Lillie Engle

Smilax, KY 41764

Suggest Scott Smith provide tour of potential wildlife viewing areas



A metal fence in downtown Leslie County features both elk and deer.



LESLIE COUNTY

REDBUD CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY

Leslie County has declared itself the Redbud Capital of Kentucky. In front of the courthouse, they have a wayside exhibit recognizing this. The county deserves this recognition as does Clay County. Both have hundreds if not thousands of redbuds lining Highway 80 and through the Red Bird District of the Daniel Boone Forest on highways 66, 421, and 1526. *The wayside exhibit was paid for through a grant from SEKTDA.*



RECOMMENDATION:

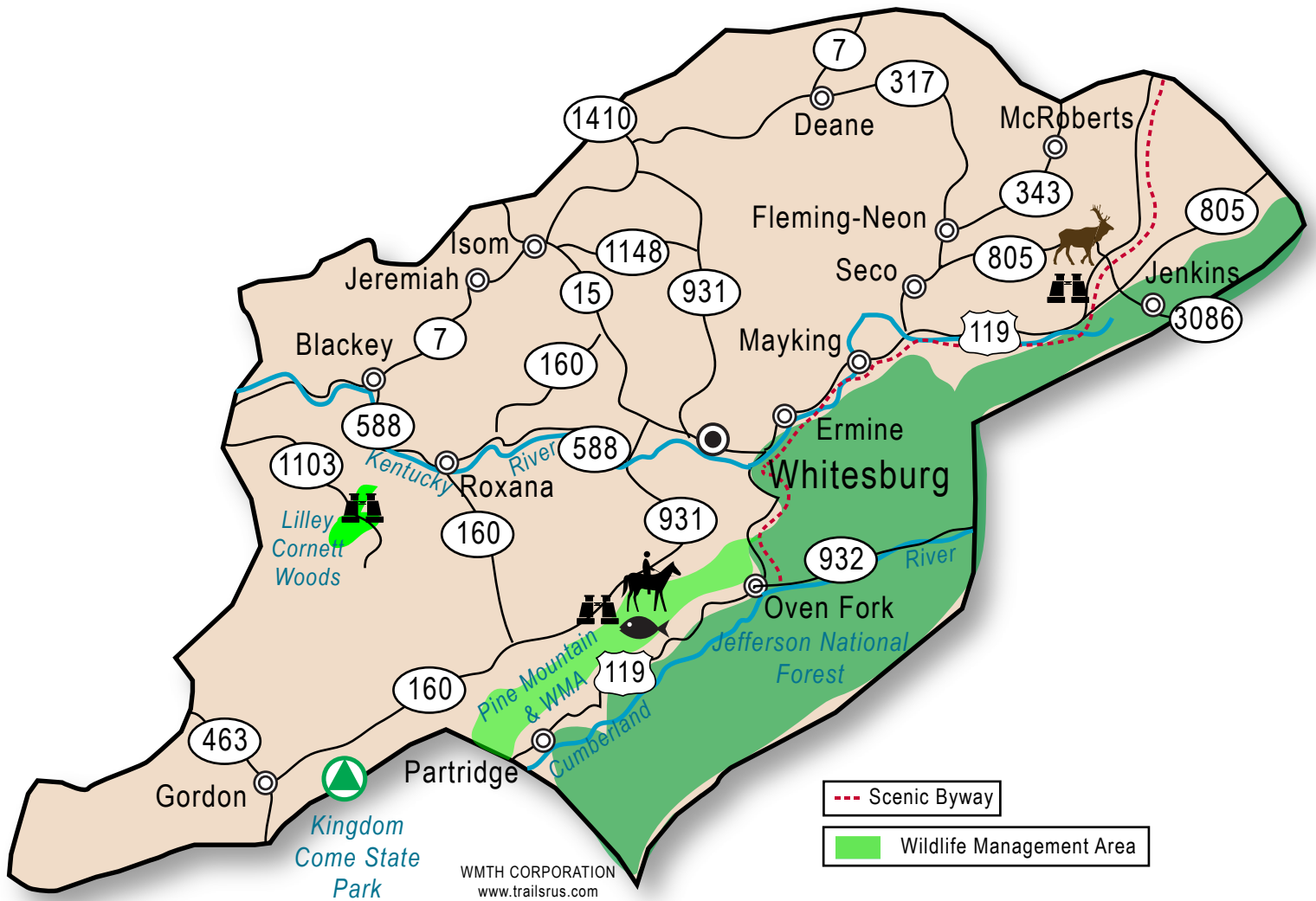
Driving tours within Daniel Boone National Forest should be developed and promoted in both Clay County and Leslie County encouraging visitors to drive the route in the spring when the redbud and dogwood are at full bloom.



View along High 80 in Spring 2007



Letcher County Kentucky



Letcher County has a limited number of elk primarily found near the Jenks release site near Hwy 119. Pine Mountain has had numerous bear sightings and is considered an ecological “hot spot” for birders. Letcher County has a strong interest in developing horseback riding trails in the Pine Mountain area for both horse back riders and wagons. The Hensley-Pine Mountain Wildlife Management Area offers hiking along the Little Shepherd Trail but no camping. Bad Branch State Nature Preserve includes a forested gorge with 60 ft. waterfall, rare plants and animals. Fishpond Lake and recreation area offers fishing (rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, warmouth, black crappie, brow bullhead), day camping and excellent wildlife interpretive signage. Lilley Cornett Woods is an old-growth forest at the center of the “Mixed Mesophytic Forest Region.”

LETCHER COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
- 2) *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF LETCHER COUNTY

LETCHER COUNTY has a limited number of elk in their county, primarily found near the Jenks release site. But there have been a number of sightings of bear. Letcher County has a strong interest in developing horseback riding trails in Pine Mountain area. There is also some excellent interpretive wayside exhibits in and around Fishpond Lake (see information at end of this section)

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Letcher County include:

- Pine Mountain – Ecological “hot spot” for birders.
 - Horseback Riding Trail initiative started following Little Shepherd Trail for both horse back riders and wagons.
- Hensley – Pine Mountain WMA (3) 6,000 acres. Hiking on Little Shepherd Trail. Deer, elk, squirrel, turkey, grouse, fox, raccoon. No camping. Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.
- Bad Branch State Nature Preserve (2) - 2,452 acres on Pine Mountain include forested gorge with a 60 ft. waterfall, rare plants & animals. Open to the public for hiking, birding & nature study.
- Fishpond Lake and recreation area (1) - 534 acre lake offers fishing, day camping, restroom facilities, and excellent wildlife interpretive signage. (Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, warmouth, black crappie, brow bullhead)
- Lilley Cornett Woods - 554 acres, old-growth forest, center of the "Mixed Mesophytic Forest Region." Tours daily May-Aug., wknds. Apr.-May; Aug.-Oct.

**Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and conversations with the community.*

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
LETCHER COUNTY

Lodging:

105 (Includes 3 Bed & Breakfasts)

Restaurants:

11 Restaurants (9 fast food)

Shopping:

- Appalshop (see description under “attractions)
- The Cozy Corner - This unique bookstore has a large section devoted to Appalachia folk art & works by regional writers. The shop specializes in Kentucky crafts & is a Kentucky Collection retailer for the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program.
- Highland Winery
- Pine Mountain/Letcher County Craft Co-op
- Valley of the Winds Art Gallery

Crafts:

Pine Mountain/Letcher County Craft Co-op

Attractions:

- David A. Zegeer Coal-Railroad Museum in Jenkins - An amazing collection of photographs, artifacts and scrip is displayed in a restored 1911 train depot.
- Appalshop - Community Arts & Media Center, live music performances, art gallery, radio station, production of films, videos, theater & recordings focusing on the Appalachian region, mountain music workshops. Mon.-Fri. 9-5.
- Pound Gap Cut Through - natural route Ky. to Va. via US 23, Jenkins. Discovered by Christopher Gist in 1751. Kentucky's 1st distinguished geological site.
- C. B. Caudill Store & History Center - Excellent example of a general store which includes such items as farm and mining equipment, kitchen utensils, glassware and old patent medicines dating back to the early 20th Century.
- Seco Company Store B&B – A 1913 coal company store has been restored and now houses a beautiful Bed & Breakfast, a winery and an excellent restaurant on site with live bluegrass on Friday nights.

Other:

Golf: Raven Rock Golf Course (18 holes)

Fishing: Fishpond Lake – Includes camping area and interpretive wayside exhibits.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LETCHER COUNTY³⁹

Representatives with WMTH and DBNF met with county judge and then held a follow-up meeting in Louisville with people from the community. The following are notes from the meetings:

- Primarily between Whitesburg and Jenks for wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Have a number of bears in the area which definitely should be noted.
- Bad Branch Falls offers beautiful vistas, a 60 ft waterfall and an excellent area to rock climb comparable to Red River Gorge but not as well known. A nature walk to the site that includes interpretive signs should be developed and promoted.
- Little Laurel Park has wildlife interpretive signs, camping, fishing, picnic areas and more.
- There is also a strong interest in developing both horse back riding and wagon trails.



*Entrance sign at Little Laurel Park
Home of Fish Pond Lake*

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS IN LITTLE LAUREL PARK



Just a few of the interpretive signs at Little Laurel Park in Letcher County

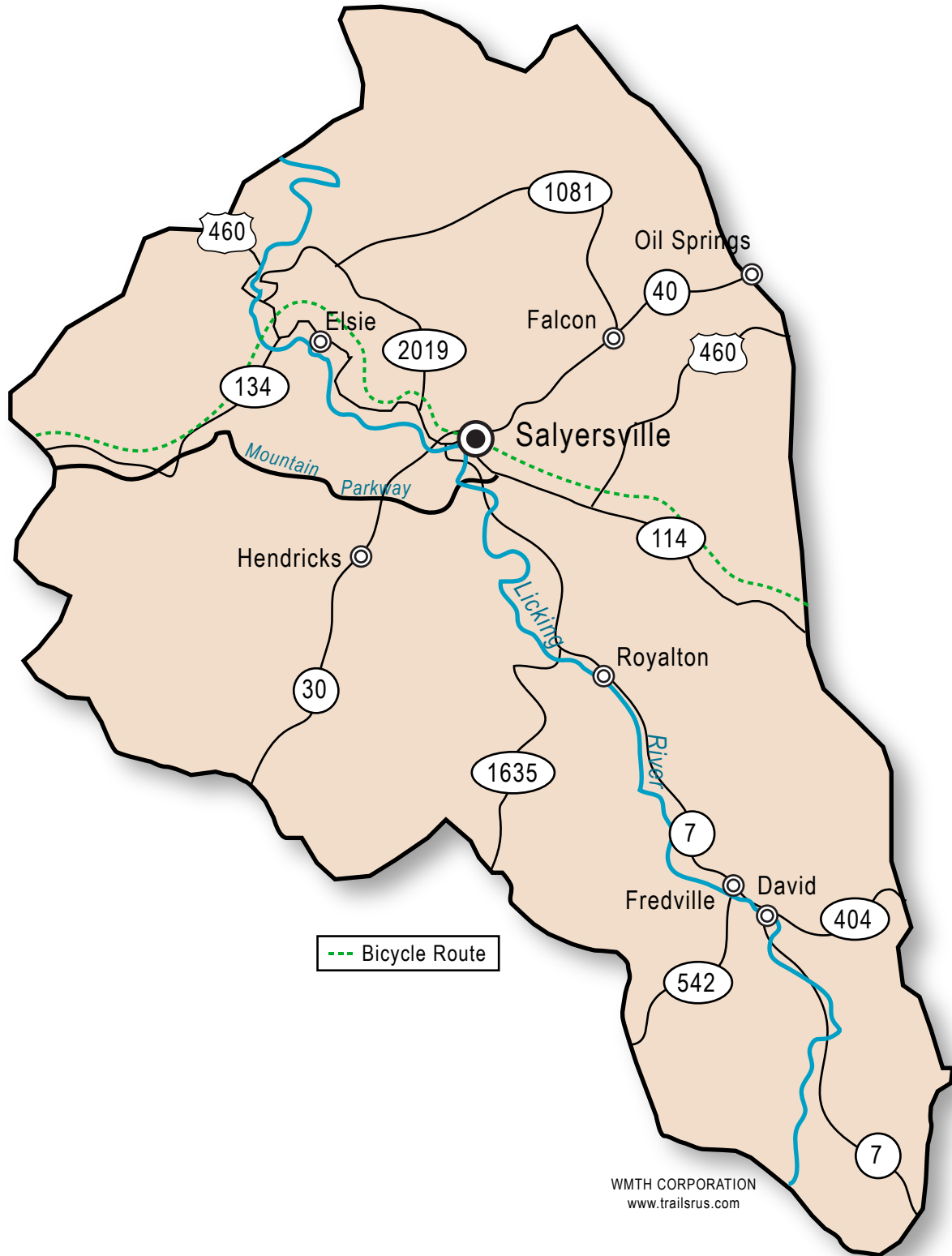


Tree identification, geology, hydrology, marsh wetlands are a few of the subjects addressed.

For more on this wonderful interpreted park, see Chapter 11 – A CLOSER LOOK.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

Magoffin County Kentucky



Magoffin County has very few elk and limited public wildlife areas. Potential sites are undetermined at this time.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
- 2) *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Magoffin County was not part of the original ten counties selected for the study. It has very few elk and limited public wildlife areas. Potential sites undetermined at this time.

**The above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.*

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Lodging:

51 units (includes one Bed & Breakfast)

Restaurants:

11 Restaurants (8 fast food)

Shopping:

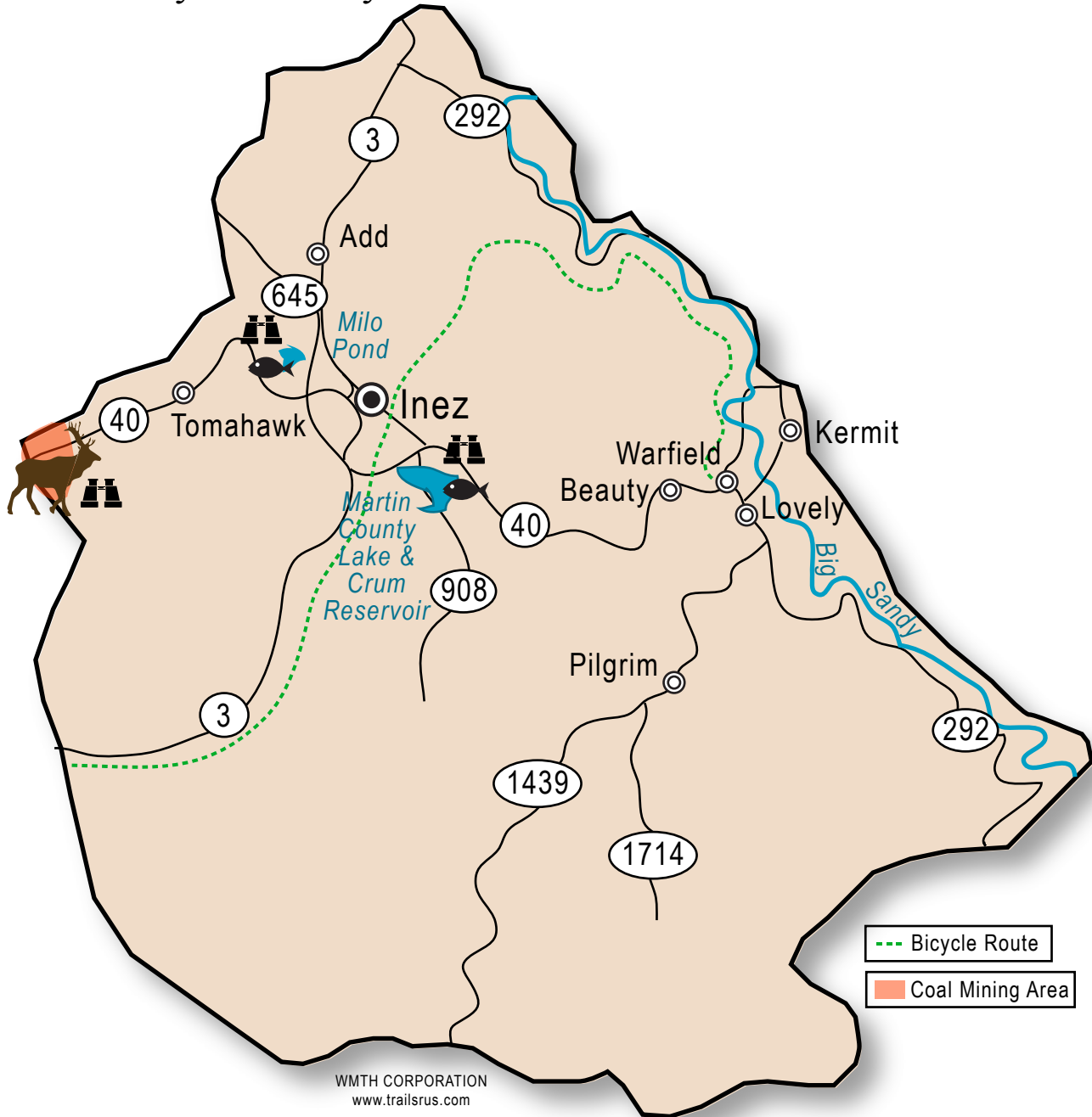
The Keeping Room
Town & County Gifts & Flowers

Attractions:

- Magoffin County Pioneer Village & Museum – Fourteen authentic log homes with period furniture & antiques, Civil War memorabilia and more. Mon.-Fri. 10-4 or by appointment.
- Ramey Memorial Park – Picnic shelters, walking track playground, tennis, basketball courts, swimming pool. Includes a swinging bridge that crosses the Licking River, connecting the park to historic Pioneer Village.

Other:

Martin County Kentucky



Martin County has approximately 100 elk in the Czar Coal area in the western part of the county near Hwy 40. The elk are often seen at the airport, so fencing had to be added to keep elk, deer and other wildlife off the runway. An interpretive wayside exhibit has been placed in front of the restaurant next to the airport which describes elk and their habitat.

Other areas for wildlife viewing include Martin County Lake and the Crum Reservoir as well as Milo Pond where one can fish for largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish.

MARTIN COUNTY COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
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- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF MARTIN COUNTY

MARTIN COUNTY has between 70 to 100 elk in the Czar Coal area. The elk are often seen around the airport. Fencing has been added to keep elk, deer and other wildlife off the runway. Interpretive wayside exhibit has been placed in front of the Cloud Nine Restaurant next to the airport which describes the elk and their habitat.

Martin County was the first county in Kentucky to have a wayside exhibit featuring information about elk.

The interpretive sign was paid for through a grant from SEKTDA**

(See more on interpretive signs in Chapter 11)



Other areas for wildlife viewing in Martin County include:

- Martin County Lake (fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish)
- Martin County (Curtis Crum) Reservoir (fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill)
- Milo Pond (fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish)

**Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and conversations with the community.*

***Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association*

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
MARTIN COUNTY

Airport: Big Sandy Regional Airport (5,000 ft. runway)

Lodging: 54 units

Restaurants: 13 Restaurants (8 fast food)

Shopping:

Crafts: Antique and craft store at Roy F. Collier Community Center

Attractions or Points of Interest

- Railroad Bridge - Bridge spanning the Tug River was used for coal transportation until the early 1970s.

Other:

- Roy F. Collier Community Center - Indoor sports facility, conference facilities, a cinema theatre, arcade, antique & craft store.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARTIN COUNTY³⁹

RMEF, WMTH and representatives from DBNF met with county judge executive and discussed wildlife viewing opportunities in Martin County. Elk are most often seen near the airport. Roger Mollette, UK extension agent, provided the following information.



A wayside exhibit in Martin County that talks about the reintroduction of elk to Kentucky.

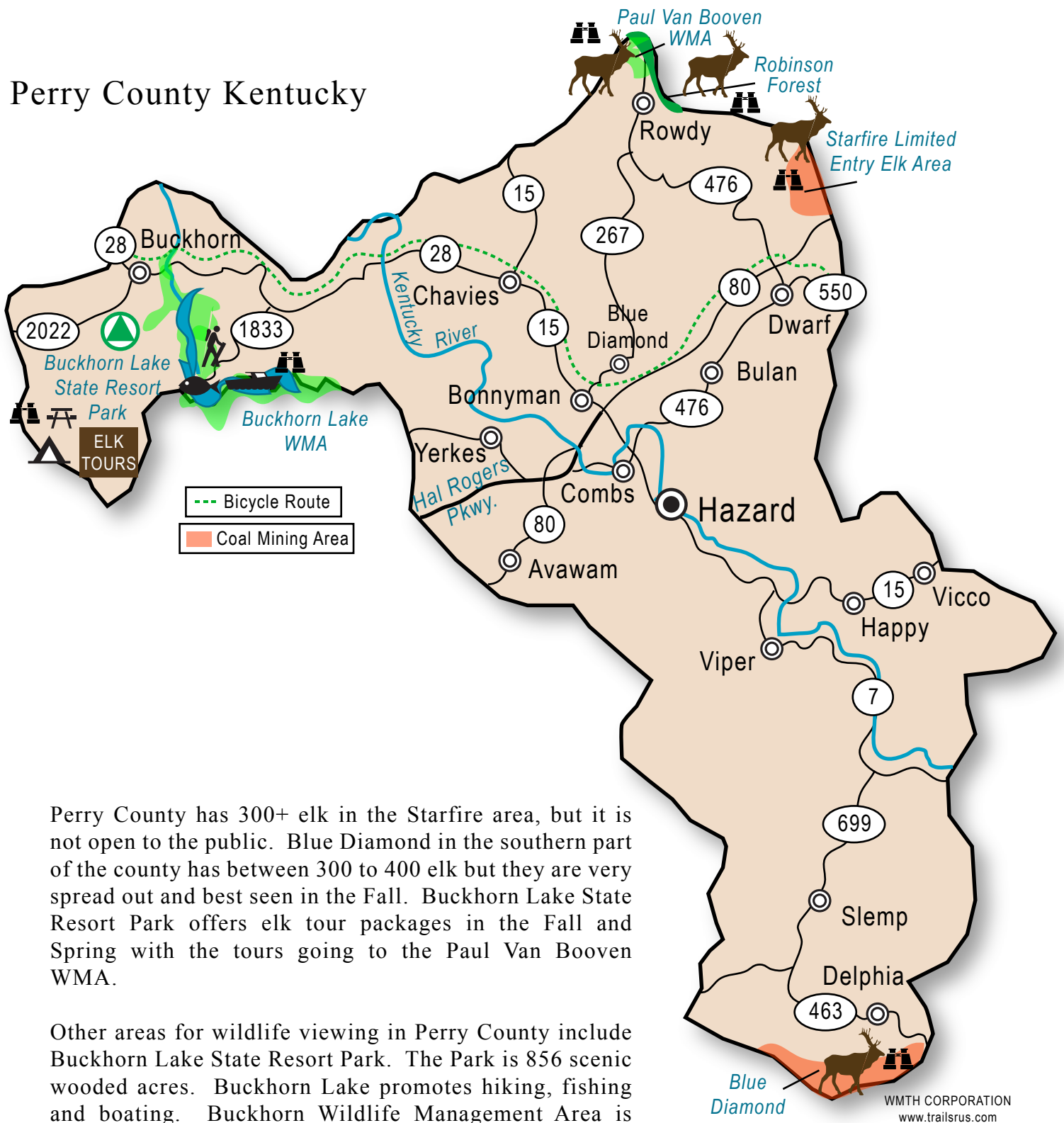
Elk are most often seen around the airport in Martin County on reclaimed coal property. A high fence has been built to keep the elk, deer and other wildlife off the runways.



Possible trail entrance for ATV or horseback riding opportunities in the county. Land is owned by Pocahontas Land Company. Discussions are underway.

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

Perry County Kentucky



Perry County has 300+ elk in the Starfire area, but it is not open to the public. Blue Diamond in the southern part of the county has between 300 to 400 elk but they are very spread out and best seen in the Fall. Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park offers elk tour packages in the Fall and Spring with the tours going to the Paul Van Booven WMA.

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Perry County include Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park. The Park is 856 scenic wooded acres. Buckhorn Lake promotes hiking, fishing and boating. Buckhorn Wildlife Management Area is almost entirely wooded and access is primarily by boat. Deer, turkey, grouse, squirrel, bobcats and songbirds can be found in the WMA.

Robinson Forest has a number of elk as well as deer and other wildlife. Starfire Limited Entry Elk Area is a surface mine and forested land. Deer, elk, turkey, grouse and songbirds flourish in this environment.

PERRY COUNTY COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory below lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
- 2) *Site provides wildlife viewing opportunities, may include significant wildlife. Limited facilities, may or may not have parking, trails, restrooms. If you are in the area you should visit this site. Appeals to the more dedicated recreationists.*
- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF PERRY COUNTY

PERRY COUNTY has over 300 or more elk in the Starfire* 16,000 area but it is not open to the public. It is primarily surface mined and forested land. Deer, elk, turkey, grouse and song birds are abundant. There are also between 300 to 400 elk in the Blue Diamond area at the southern end of Perry County but they are very spread out and are best seen in the fall. The Walmart parking lot in Perry County was the site of the check-in station for the 2006 Elk Hunt. Hundreds of people showed up to watch the weigh-ins.

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park offers elk tour packages 4 weekends in the Fall and 4 weekends in the Spring. The tours go to Paul Van Booven WMA to view elk.

**It is noted on the KDFWR website that Starfire is a Limited Entry Area although at this time, even limited access is questionable due to mining activities and current management.*

Other areas for wildlife viewing in Perry County include:

- . Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park - 856 scenic wooded acres on 1,200 acre Park features a lodge, 36 rooms, restaurant, meeting rooms and more. See Amenities. *State Park*
- . Buckhorn Lake. 1,230 acres. Promotes hiking, fishing, boating. *U.S. Corps of Engineers.*
- . Buckhorn WMA 3,480 acres. Almost entirely wooded and consist of steep hills and narrow ridges. No permanent wildlife openings and access is primarily by boat. Good to moderate populations of deer, turkey, grouse, squirrel, bobcats and songbirds . *U.S. Corps of Engineers*
- . Robinson Forest WMA (3) has a number of elk as well as deer and other wildlife. *University of Kentucky*
- . Starfire Public Wildlife Management Area - 16,000 acres. Surface mined & forested land. Deer, elk, turkey, grouse, songbirds. \$12.50 user permit required. *Owned by Addington Enterprises, managed by Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources.*

**Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources helped to compile this list and provide the ranking.*

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS**PERRY COUNTY**

Airport: 3,200 ft and 5,500 ft runways

State Park: Buckhorn State Resort Park with restaurant, lodge and convention center facilities. gift shop, recreation area, pool, beach bathhouse, picnic shelters playground, mini-golf, sandpit volleyball, hiking. Marina, ramps, pontoons, fishing boats, bicycles, shuffleboard, horseshoe pits, planned recreation, handicapped facilities.

Lodging – 426 units in Hazard plus Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park has a 36 room lodge & 3 cottages)

Campsites: 30 sites at Buckhorn Lake and 28 near Hyden.

Restaurants – 27 (22 fast food) – Hazard

Shopping:

The Home & Garden Store

My Favorite Things

Attractions:

- Bobby Davis Museum & Park – Local history and gardens
- Eversole Log Cabin, c. 1800. Oldest building in Perry County
- Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky – Hands on space museum at Hazard Community & Technical College.

Other:

- Hazard Pavilion – Recreational complex containing an indoor Olympic pool, indoor track, tennis & racquetball courts, weight room & steam sauna.
- Perry County Park - 150 acres, pool, picnicking, playground, softball, mini-golf.
- Fugate’s Entertainment Center
- Tennis: Hazard Pavilion (2 indoor courts)

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park (1 court)

A billboard promoting Perry County features an elk as does their county logo.



INFORMATION FROM PERRY COUNTY³⁹

Representatives from RMEF, WMTH Corporation and Daniel Boone National Forest met with county Judge and KY Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Doug Hensley and Angela Duff (888)857-5263 www.perrycountytourism.com

The county promotes elk tours at Buckhorn State Park, Jenny Wiley State Park and Saddle Up Elk tours. They host a large event in the WalMart parking lot as the primary weigh-in station during the elk hunt. In year's past, the elk lottery was actually drawn at one of their annual events.

Pine Branch has the potential for becoming a future location for viewing elk.

KY River- Public Access possibility

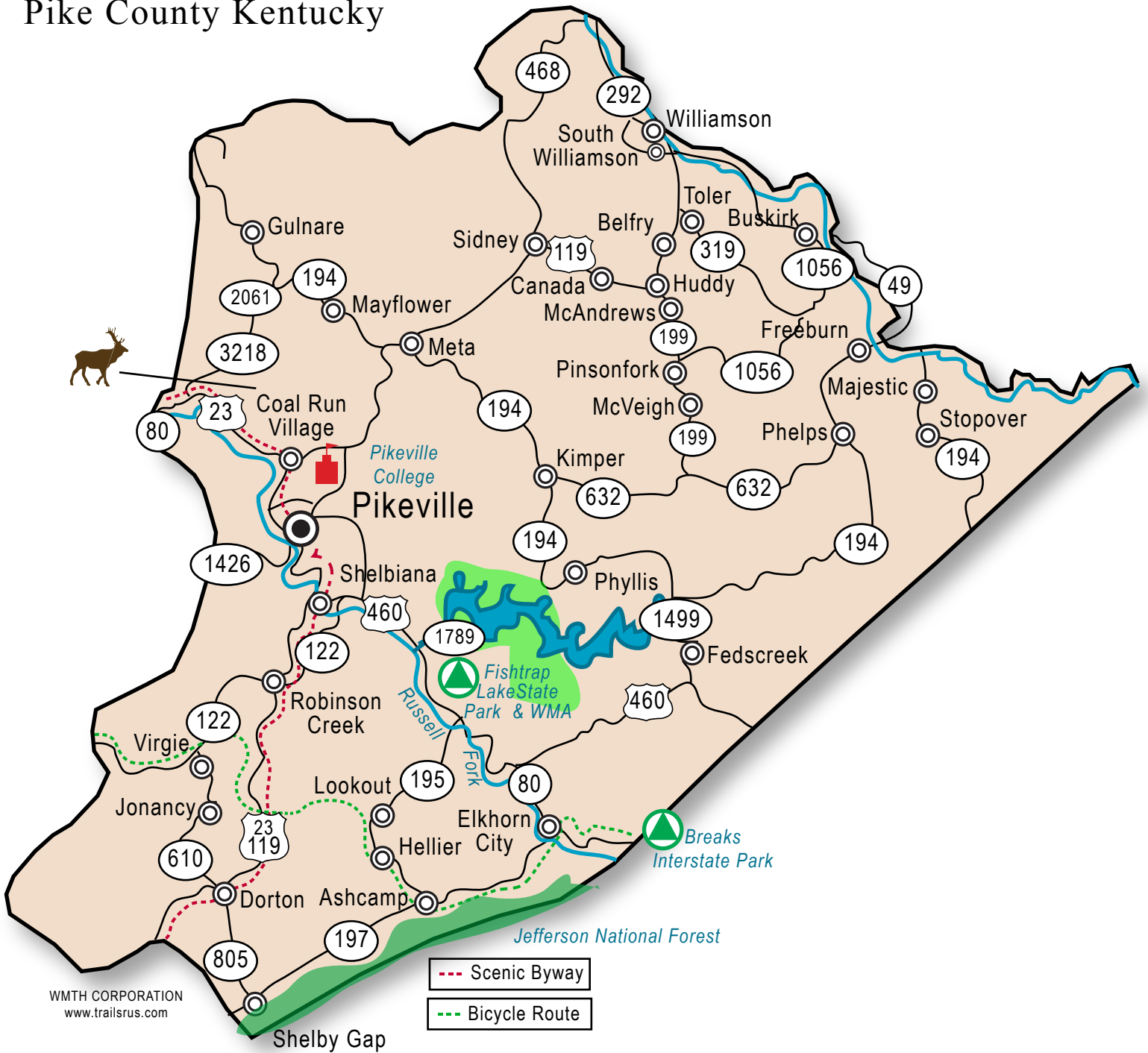
Interest in ATV trails and partnering with other counties.

Judge has 900 acres and 300 acres at the lake at Buckhorn

(Noted Old 80 – 4 miles – right Lee County Road. – Leslie or Perry county)

Possible funding from multi-county coal severance funds and spring mitigation funds

Pike County Kentucky



Pike County has approximately 100 elk in and around the airport area. County leaders have expressed interest in developing elk and wildlife viewing in the county. Other wildlife viewing opportunities can be found at the Fishtrap Lake & Wildlife Management Area as well as the Fishtrap Lake State Park where one can participate in boating, fishing, picnicking and camping. Wildlife viewing can also be done in the Jefferson National Forest and the Breaks Interstate Park. The Breaks Park is unique in that it is sponsored by Kentucky and Virginia on what is called the “Grand Canyon of the South.” This area is very scenic and has lots of hiking trails, wildflowers, plant life and much more.

PIKE COUNTY

COUNTY SITES INVENTORY FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

The inventory BELOW lists the county and significant Elk viewing site opportunity in bold headings followed by bulleted items of potential wildlife viewing opportunities. The potential wildlife viewing opportunities are ranked as:

- 1) *High profile sites providing significant wildlife viewing opportunities, developed facilities including parking lots, trails, and restrooms. Would interest nonresident visitation. Appeals to all recreationists.*
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- 3) *At this point in time the site may provide some limited wildlife viewing opportunities, very limited to no facilities available. May interest the intensive recreationists.*

INVENTORY OF PIKE COUNTY

Pike County has 70 to 100 elk around the airport area. Both the county judge executive and the economic developer for Pike County expressed a strong interest in developing elk and wildlife viewing areas in their county.

- Fishtrap Lake WMA (3)
- Fishtrap Lake – 1,131 acres - Boating, fishing, marina, picnicking and 28 campsites. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*
- Fishtrap Lake State Park (3) - 196 acres. Picnic areas on access road. *State Park*
- Pikeville "Cut-Thru," new US 23. 1/2 mi. long, 1,300 ft. wide, 450 ft. deep corridor through Peach Orchard Mountain, opened 1987 & included moving a mountain, a river, a railroad & a major highway. Scenic overlook.
- Jefferson National Forest (3)
- Breaks Interstate Park (1) - Unique park sponsored by Kentucky & Virginia on rim of largest river canyon E. of the Mississippi, "the Grand Canyon of the South." The canyon is a 5 mi. cut with 1,000 ft. palisades on either side. 4,600 acres of breathtaking scenery. 13 mi. of hiking trails. Open year-round. Park features a visitor center with natural, historical & coal exhibits. New fully equipped 6,000 sq. ft. Conference Center. 12 acre Laurel Lake, caves, hidden springs, hiking. Outstanding wildflowers, plant life. Memorial Day-Labor Day. Adm. \$1 per car. 83 room lodge plus two bedroom cottages. Dining room, gift shop, pool. Camping available Apr.-Oct., 122 sites, hot showers, flush toilets, swimming, fishing, boats, picnicking, playground.

**Above list was provided by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and conversations with the community.*

STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF TOURISM OFFERINGS
PIKE COUNTY

Airport: Pikeville/Pike County Airport (5,200 ft. runway)

State Parks: Fishtrap Lake State Park and Breaks Interstate Park near Elkhorn City

Lodging: 823 units in the Pikeville area and 20 units in the Elkhorn City area (plus Rhododendron Lodge has 83 rooms & 2 bedroom Cottages at Breaks Interstate Park)

Restaurants:

35 restaurants (27 fast food) in Pikeville and 3 restaurants in Elk City

Shopping:

Art & Gift Shop

Country Pastimes

Especially Yours

Moore's Antiques & Collectibles

Riverside Mercantile Co.

Apple Blossom Gifts (Elkhorn City)

Crafts:

Attractions in the Pikeville area

- Bob Amos Park (Cut-thru overlook, picnicking, walking trails, ball fields, tennis, mini-golf)
- Big Sandy Heritage Center - Displays the history of the Big Sandy Valley including coal, floods & moving mountains. Mon.-Fri. 10-5. Adm. \$3.
- Hatfield & McCoy Historic District - Sites relating to the legendary feud, on Natl. Reg. **Old Pike County Jail**, site of hanging of Ellison Mounts on Pikeville College campus, **Dils Cemetery**, US 460 & old US 23 Bypass, gravesites of the legendary Randolph McCoy & his daughter Roseanna McCoy.
- **Historic Downtown Pikeville Walking Tour**, 5 districts on Natl. Reg., some sites Ky. Landmarks. Brochure/map at Pikeville/Pike Co. Tourism Commission, 101 Huffman Ave.
- Pike County Courthouse - Renovated courtyard & historical exhibit features statue of WWI soldier, lighted fountain.
- Pikeville "cut thru" - 1,300 ft. wide, 450 ft. deep corridor through Peach Orchard Mountain, opened 1987 & included moving a mountain, a river, a railroad & a major highway. Scenic overlook.

Attractions in the Elkhorn City area:

- Boardwalk & Viewing Deck - river recreation area.
- Bowen's Rock - Site of Indian/long-knife hunter episode on KY 80
- Country Music Highway - US 23. A tribute to E. Ky. country music stars, including Patty Loveless of Elkhorn City.
- Elkhorn City Railroad Museum - Tues.-Sat. 10-4, Sun. 1-4. Donations.
- Artist Collaborative Theatre

Other:

Golf: Mountain Pub-Links (18 holes)

Pikeville City Park (Gazebo, tot lot, basketball, entertainment)

Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center, 126 Main St. 126,000 sq. ft. facility with arena & ballroom space.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PIKE COUNTY³⁹

Meetings:

RMEF, WMTH and representative from DBNF met with county judge executive and economic developer for the county.

Very enthusiastic – Provided site locations, ideas and definitely expressed interest in developing viewing locations within Pike County

Follow-up meeting in Louisville with Greg May, county magistrate who provided photos and information as to where people might see elk which includes:

- East side of 23 – Pikeville to Prestonsburg
- Lower John’s Creek
- Airport area
- Dewey Lake WMA & Jenny Wiley State Park







Photos provided by Greg May