



TWRA NEWS

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TWRC TO MEET IN NASHVILLE FOR SEASON SETTING

HIGH WATER AND HEAVY RAINS EFFECTING WEST TENNESSEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

MAKE THIS BOATING SEASON A SAFE ONE

TWRC TO MEET IN NASHVILLE FOR SEASON SETTING

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission will hold its next meeting on May 21, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and May 22, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Region II Ray Bell Office Building in Nashville.

Among the topics slated for discussion are the Agency's recommendations for the 2008-09 fall and spring hunting seasons. Proposals for manner and means, big game, small game, furbearers, early waterfowl, spring turkey, and wildlife management areas will be presented by the TWRA staff.

One of the major proposals will be in the harvest limits for antlered deer in Units A & L. TWRA is proposing that hunters in Units A & L be allowed to take three bucks with the same equipment in their unit of choice. In past years, hunters have had to switch units in order to take their third buck with the same type equipment during the deer seasons.

Highlights of the proposed changes can be reviewed on TWRA's website www.tnwildlife.org.

HIGH WATER AND HEAVY RAINS EFFECTING WEST TENNESSEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Heavy and continuous rains in the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee River systems have resulted in extreme flooding that is effecting crop production on several West Tennessee Wildlife Management Areas according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)

“These heavy rains have caused TVA to slow or stop releasing water from Kentucky and Barkley Lakes”, stated TWRA Waterfowl Biologist Dan Fuqua. “These rains have also flooded our WMAs along the lakes which mean all of the areas where TWRA normally plants waterfowl food are flooded and will remain flooded until Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley stabilize at normal summer pool. After this, TVA will begin pumping the water out of the WMAs.”

“The pumping process takes approximately four weeks to get the water off the waterfowl food areas of the WMAs,” said Fuqua. “It takes an additional two weeks of drying time before TWRA can begin planting food plots. Additional rain will prolong the drying time. TWRA will strive to provide food for waterfowl, but if the water remains on these areas past June 15th, the probability of having descent food plots for this winter will not be good.”

Photos of the flooding can be found on TWRA's website at www.tnwildlife.org.

MAKE THIS BOATING SEASON A SAFE ONE

Traditionally, the Memorial Day weekend marks the official start of the boating season in Tennessee. For many, this will be the first time to have the boat in the water. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) urges all Tennessee boats to take a few extra minutes to review the basics, which may be the key to having a fun, safe day on the water.

TWRA wants to remind all boaters to:

- Have a wearable life jacket for every person onboard.
- If your boat is 16 feet or longer, there must be a type IV throwable device onboard.
- Have onboard a fire extinguisher if you have enclosed fuel compartments or cabins.
- Anyone under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket at all times while the boat is underway – drifting is considered underway.
- Any boat/pwc operator born after January 1, 1989 must have the TWRA – issued wallet Boating Safety Education Certificate if operating alone.
- Keep alcohol to a minimum – choose a designated boat operator.
- Make sure the boat/pwc registration is current and onboard.

For all information about safe boating in Tennessee, log on to www.tnwildlife.org.