



Fortner-Davis WMA

HUNTERS HAVE AN additional 1,400 acres to roam in Bell County. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources officials recently signed a lease agreement to open more property to public access for fishing, hunting and wildlife-related recreation.

Fortner-Davis Wildlife Management Area (WMA) will be open under statewide hunting regulations. Hunters can expect to find deer, turkey and squirrels on the area.

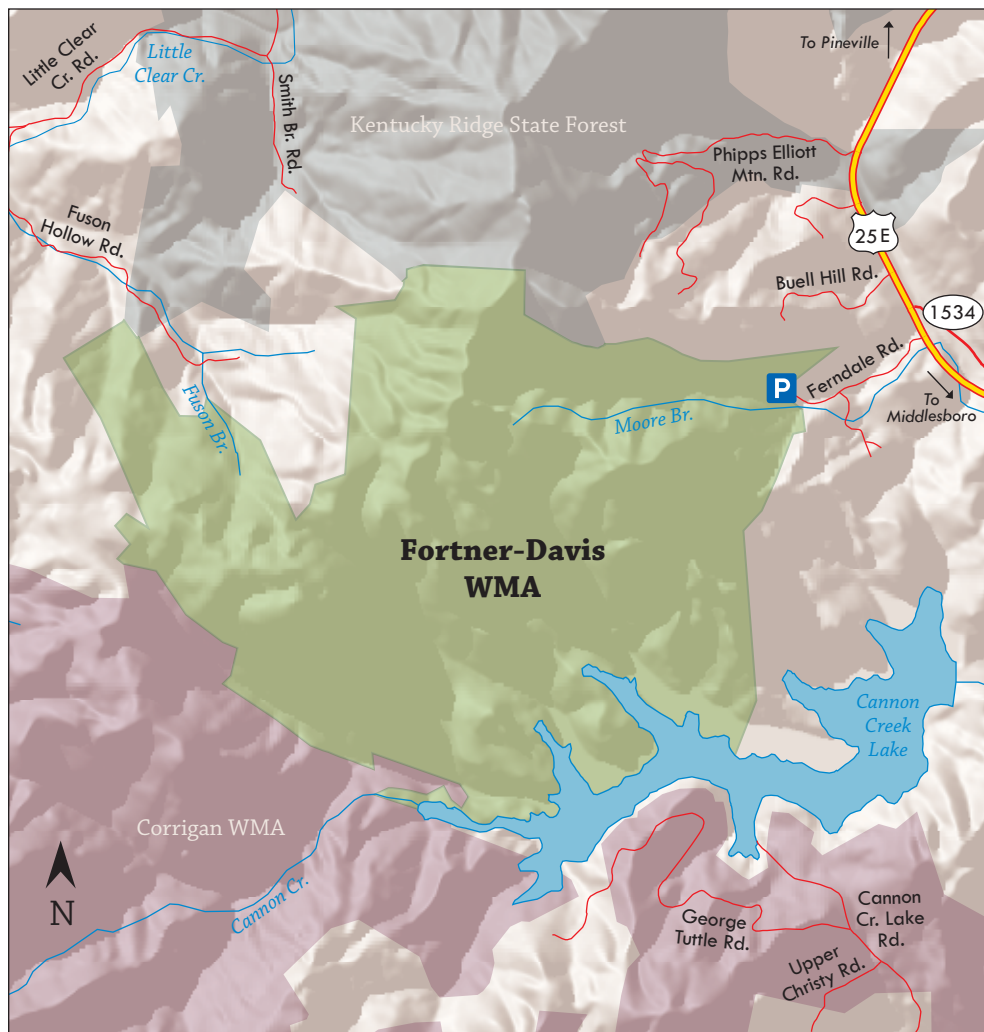
What hunters will not find currently are elk, said Wes Hodges, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife public lands biologist for the region. "There are elk on Corrigan WMA, west of Middlesboro, so eventually we may get some elk traveling through the area," he said.

Fortner-Davis WMA includes rugged terrain: Elevations range from 1,280 above sea level in the valleys to 2,400 feet on the mountaintops. The area is 94 percent forested, with 5 percent open land and 1 percent open water.

"Access is limited to foot travel only," said Chris Garland, assistant director of wildlife for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "There are no interior roads for vehicle use, but there are some cleared gas line right-of-ways."

Some unmaintained logging roads also weave through the area to provide hunters with walk-in access. Gates remain locked even during hunting seasons.

Fortner-Davis WMA includes a



ADRIENNE YANCY ILLUSTRATION

mature oak-hickory forest that is being actively managed to improve stands of mast-producing trees. Undesirable trees are being thinned from the forest to give the oaks and hickories more room to grow, but the area is not being clear cut.

The area is centrally located near some other large tracts of land open for public access. Kentucky Ridge State Forest WMA, which includes 3,500 acres, is located to the north. The 54,800-acre Corrigan WMA lies to the south. The area also adjoins the upper end of Cannon Creek Lake, which allows boating access to the new area.

Hodges said work has started on putting up signage and construction of a parking area. For more information, about Fortner-Davis WMA, call (606) 337-9317. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

From Pineville, travel south about five miles on U.S. 25E to Ferndale. Fortner-Davis WMA is on the west side of the road. Turn right (west) on Ferndale Road and drive about one mile to a parking area at the entrance to the WMA.

GPS Coordinates
36.69696, -83.700395

