



• By Lee McClellan

Marion County WMA and State Forest

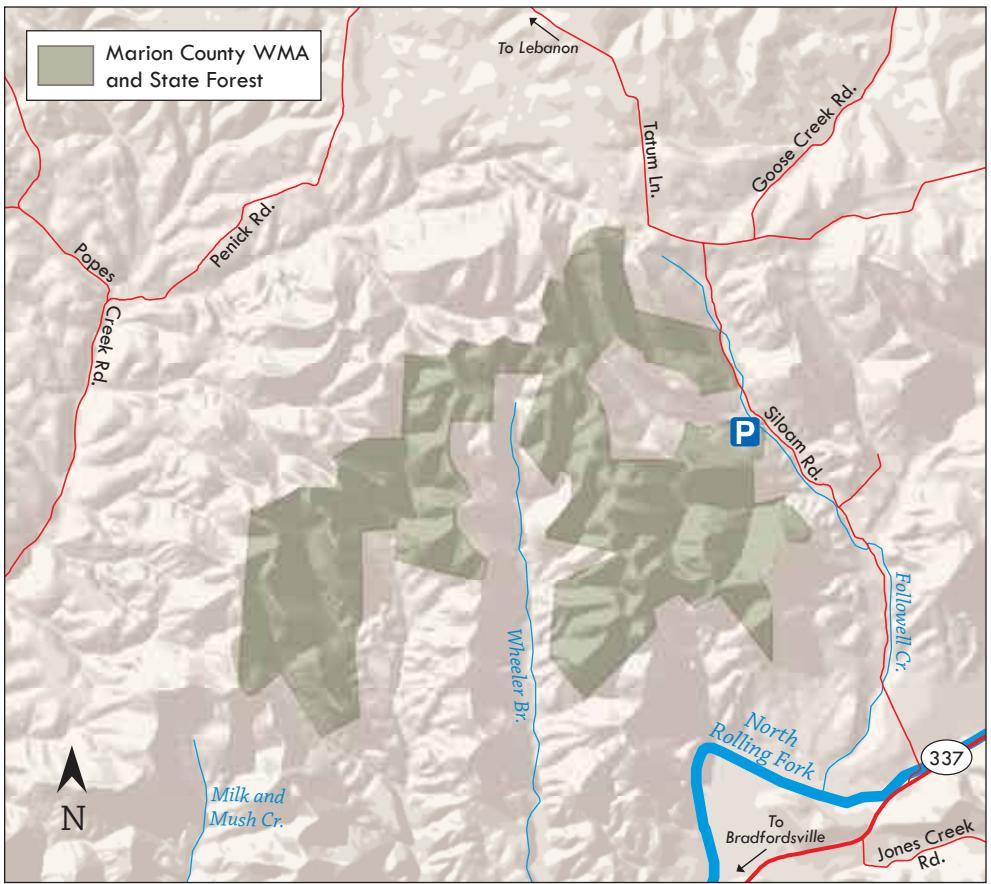
THE KNOBS REGION rings the Inner and Outer Bluegrass Regions of Kentucky in a dented horseshoe configuration of conical shaped hills. The region both starts and ends at the Ohio River. While the Knobs are not quite mountains, they are not your average hills, either. This region does offer some excellent deer and turkey hunting.

Kentucky hunters will now have nearly 1,300 more acres in the Knobs Region of Marion County to hunt turkey, deer and squirrels. The Marion County Wildlife Management Area and State Forest is now open to fall hunting seasons under statewide regulations.

Hunting will be physically demanding as access is by foot only from a parking lot off Siloam Road.

"It's steep; it is all knobs on that property," said Tony Wheatley, land acquisition coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "It's shaped like a horseshoe, but we only have access to the eastern prong of the horseshoe. If you get up on the ridgelines, you can travel pretty well."

The oak-hickory forest on this wildlife



management area (WMA) provides excellent habitat for turkeys, squirrels and white-tailed deer. "The area is all wooded except for the fields surrounding the parking area," said Scott Buser, Bluegrass Region public lands biologist with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "It is beautiful out there."

Marion County WMA is open to modern gun firearms season from Nov. 13 through Nov. 22. The area is within Zone 3.

"It is rugged terrain and packing a big deer out of there may be tough," Buser said. "The area has excellent deer habitat."

Most of the area consists of mature forest, although loggers did remove trees from the area in the past.

"It's cut over timberland in some spots, but the area near the head of Milk and Mush Creek has a great stretch of woods," Wheatley explained. "It is full of mature white oaks. I believe you could find some nice deer and turkeys there."

The fields surrounding the parking area provide limited rabbit hunting opportunity. Water holes on Marion County WMA may allow for some frog hunting, but there are no fishing ponds or streams on the property. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

Take U.S. 68 east from Lebanon. Turn right (south) onto Penick-Tatum Loop, right (south) onto Tatum Lane for 2 miles, and then right onto Siloam Road. The parking lot is approximately a half mile on the right (west) side of Siloam Road.

