

Wildlife Management Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR)



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November 2006

Rationale for Preparation of a Wildlife Management Plan

- Provides a framework for compliance with state and federal laws for the protection and management of wildlife populations on federal lands.
 - Provides the basis for DOE to comply with guidelines and regulations pertaining to the management of wildlife populations.
- Establishes specific guidelines aimed at maintaining public safety (e.g., reduction in deer/vehicle collisions, reduction in Canada goose/human interactions), while also maximizing wildlife health and diversity.
- Establishes long-term wildlife management goals for the ORR that can be updated every five years.

General Goals and Objectives of the Wildlife Management Plan

- To preserve healthy natural wildlife populations and habitat compatible with the DOE mission.
- To maintain and enhance wildlife biodiversity on the ORR.
- To integrate research, recreation, forest stewardship and other land use practices with wildlife management objectives under multiple use objectives.
- To minimize wildlife damage to property and threats to public safety.

Recommended Areas of Concentration to Accomplish Stated Goals

- Promote wildlife habitat diversity and species-richness.
- Featured species management (including selected sensitive species).
- Sensitive species inventories, protection and restoration.
- Game species management, including hunting.
- Solving wildlife problems (e.g., deer/vehicle collisions, Canada goose population control, other nuisance wildlife concerns).
- Providing non-game wildlife opportunities for the public (e.g., bird walks, greenbelt enhancements).

Specific ORR Wildlife Habitat Management Initiatives

- Management of large fields for native grasses and food plots.
- Promotion of forestry management techniques that benefit wildlife.
- Maintain large unbroken tracts of mature forest.
- Enhance featured habitats.

Game Species Management



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White-tailed Deer Management

Current management

- Public deer hunts November thru December.

Potential future management methods

- Culling or trapping of deer within fenced locations and areas with high densities of buildings and/or people.
- Hunting of specific parcels by badged employees only.

Wild Turkey Management

- Public turkey hunts in April.
- Relocation of turkeys to other areas in east Tennessee through trapping and removal.

Canada Goose Management

Current methods

- Egg addling/oiling and nest removal under a USFWS depredation permit.
- Trapping and removal using funnel type cage traps.
- Relocation of geese to other areas of east Tennessee in concert with annual summer goose round-up. Relocations done by USDA-Wildlife Services as permitted by the USFWS.
- Development of goose habitat at Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Refuge Area.
- Hunting in the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Refuge Area.

Canada Goose Management (cont.)

Potential future methods

- Limited culling to discourage use of certain areas.
- Harassment of geese using border collies.
- Rocket netting for removal.
- Other more advanced techniques (e.g., goose sterilization) will be fully evaluated.

Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area



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UT-BATTELLE

Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area

- Management for native grasslands for both non-game and game species through seeding, mowing and prescribed burns.
- Establishment and management of habitat for Canada geese as a part of the ORR overall goose management program.
 - Includes planting of food plots (e.g., wheat, barley, oats).
- Canada goose and duck hunts in areas of established habitat.
- Wildlife management student training in trapping, wildlife damage control, bird identification and other areas.
- Summer outdoor education programs.
- Community nature walks for public awareness of the natural resources of the area and management activities being undertaken.
- Research on plants in an outdoor laboratory setting.
- Training of TWRA tracking dogs.

Nuisance Wildlife Management



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Nuisance Wildlife Management

Institute protocols

- Prohibit transport of wild and domestic animals from off-site.
- Prohibit release of ORR nuisance animals to other sites.
- Prohibit feeding of resident wildlife and feral cats on the ORR.
- Secure dumpsters and other garbage receptacles to avoid providing food supply.
- Keep building maintenance up-to-date.

Justification for protocols

- Release of animals on the ORR from other areas will increase the problem.
- Feeding of resident wildlife and feral cats results in sustained and increased nuisance problems.
- Release of ORR nuisance animals to other areas can result in an increase in problems in that area, may spread disease, and increases competition for resources in that area.
- USDA – Wildlife Services requires euthanization of all raccoons and skunks trapped in east Tennessee due to concerns regarding the spread of rabies.

Nuisance Wildlife Management (cont.)

Raccoons, skunks, opossums, groundhogs

- Concentrate trapping in high nuisance areas, as reported by the facilities.
 - Traps and advice supplied by TWRA wildlife manager.
 - Trapping “blitzes” to be performed by USDA – Wildlife Services to achieve significant decreases in nuisance populations.

Beaver control

- Concentrated trapping in high nuisance areas, as reported by the facilities.
 - Typically in areas where beavers have caused flooding.
 - Trapping conducted by TWRA – requires specific expertise.

Nuisance Wildlife Management (cont.)

Birds – swallows, house sparrows, starlings, pigeons

- Removal of nests and nesting material from buildings and other structures.
 - ORR Wildlife Management Coordinator or TWRA Wildlife Manager provide assistance.
- Proper building maintenance and modification in building designs are recommended.

Snakes

- Recommend measures to reduce entry into buildings.
- ORR Wildlife Management Coordinator assists with snake removal.

Fire Ants

- Treated with chemical pesticides by individual facilities.
- GPS locations mapped by Ernest Ryan, ORNL.

Sensitive Species Inventory, Protection, and Management



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Sensitive Species Inventory, Protection, and Management

- Sensitive species – those specifically designated by federal, state or other government agencies as being in need of protection.
 - Federally endangered and threatened.
 - State endangered, threatened or in need of management.
 - Birds noted by Partners in Flight as being in decline.
- Surveys conducted for sensitive species.
 - TWRA mid-winter bald eagle counts.
 - Partners in Flight surveys.
 - Anabat acoustical surveys for bats.
 - Mist net surveys for bats.
 - Reptile and amphibian surveys.

Wildlife Disease Management



Wildlife Disease Management

Rabies

- Rabies carriers on the reservation may include raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes or bats.
 - No current records of rabies on the reservation.
 - Sick animals on the reservation are monitored closely and tested as needed.
 - USDA – Wildlife Services mobile lab on site for testing.
 - Sick animals properly disposed of by TWRA or USDA - Wildlife Services.

Pandemic flu (avian influenza)

- Canada geese and other migratory birds are potential carriers.
 - No records currently in North America.
 - Pro-active monitoring by USDA – Wildlife Services and TWRA.
 - Both agencies have issued educational information and guidance.
 - Both agencies coordinate on removal, testing and disposal of sick birds.
 - Nuisance bird control program on the ORR reduces contact between birds and people.



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