CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Promoting Outdoor Recreation

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www.cora-tn.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT Terry Lewis

Have you ever thought about how our outdoors would be without litter? In Tennessee we have some of the world's most beautiful lakes and mountains. Have you ever been on the water and seen the backs of coves were massive amounts of trash, plastic bottles, soda cans and Styrofoam parts and pieces are all gathered up. Have you ever been up in the mountains on an old country road and found dumping grounds where the locals have discarded their garbage and trash over the side of the road and down the ridge. Old tires and refrigerators, furniture and roofing shingles were all strung out over the landscape.

I can remember back in my early childhood where local residents were the majority of the offenders. My grandparents had a ditch back in the woods where all the trash that would not burn were deposited. There were not many plastic bottles back then, as more aluminum cans were the norm.

I think back to the days I worked in a grocery store and I sorted glass pop bottles into the wooden cases for the respective bottling companies to be reused. These glass bottles of soda pop had a 2 cent value. The store charged you 2 cents each bottle when you purchased the soda pop and if

you returned them they would refund that same 2 cents.

Why can't that same concept be acceptable today. Charge a small fee for the plastic bottles and aluminum cans and then refund that cost if those items are returned for recycling. I can see that given the amount of effort it will take to recycle at the grocery will be a challenge given the small amount of cash returns.

But we must find the answer as the impact to the environment is huge. Litter is simply unacceptable and is an environmental hazard. It costs a tremendous amount to clean up these old dumping grounds.

We must work together to recycle as much of the plastic and aluminum cans and glass as possible. Developing incentive programs that allows the everyone to participate in the recycle efforts will also reduce the landfill costs.

Removing the litter and trash from the lakes, streams and mountains will protect the natural beauty and the health of the fish and wildlife that live in our great outdoors. Protecting the environment, protecting the wildlife, protecting the natural beauty is everyone's responsibility and its time to take that effort seriously.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH CUMBERLAND

Keith Thomas Area Manager TWRA

have been a few personnel Since North Cumberland changes to the North Cum- is not part of early season berland Wildlife Manage- velvet hunt our season ment area Staff. Joe Elkins, the for- chery hunt opening on mer area manager has been September 25th . If you promoted into the Regional are planning to deer hunt, Wildlife Management Area we recommend being fa-Coordinator position for miliar with the specific Region 4. The new area deer bag limits and remanager for NCWMA is striction table in the back Keith Thomas, who previ- of this year's ously held one of the assis- guide on page 80. tant manager positions on the area. Keith has just returned to TWRA after 8 months of military leave training to become a Warrant Officer in the Marine Corps Reserves. Keith is excited to get back to work and continue the forward progress of the previous area manager.

With deer season right around the corner. WMA staff has been busy planting numerous acres of warm season annual food

plots such as soybeans and corn and will soon begin efforts putting in To Start things off, there their fall and winter plots. (NCWMA) will begin with the arhunting

> Along with deer season, our annual Elk hunt nearing as well. Statewide Elk coordinator Brad Miller nounced the winners of this year's sportsman who were lucky enough draw a tag. Wish them luck!

As the OHV traffic continues to increase on the area the crews have been working diligently on road maintenance to

ensure the WMA is accessible to all. We hope all riders enjoy their time on the North Cumberland. We ask that you only ride on marked trails that are part of the designated trail system and refrain from consuming alcohol if operating an offhighway vehicle.

In closing, we recognize this WMA as a multi -use area that supports many outdoor activities. Every year thousands of people come to experience all that the WMA has to offer. Best practices are making safety the top priority and being respectful of others.

C.O.R.A. welcomes Keith Thomas to the manager position at North Cumberland. Former manager Joe Elkins was recently promoted to m Wildlife Management Area Coordinator of TWRA Region IV. Congratulations to these two men and we appreciate all the work they do!

CORA MEETINGS SUMMARY

Meeting Summaries:

Detailed minutes were recorded for each meeting with publicity, activities, newsletter, roads and trails, membership, old and business on each agenda. Following are the brief highlights of the last few meetings.

February 2, 2021, the CORA meeting was held in upper court house chamber due to a meeting in progress in the customary lower courtroom. The meeting progressed through the agenda. Mayor Morton in his publicity report mentioned a possible tourism website and flyers for welcome center. Much discussion was held concerning the elk viewing tower grant, flow of funds, etc. Discussion was also held on the possible ARC Grant for a walking trail and parking lot in conjunction with the tower project. Mention of access to a particular boat ramp and ATV/OHV problems and complaints were discussed. The reward concerning an elk poaching incident was also discussed.

March.....Cancelled

April 6, 2021, the CORA meeting was held in the lower courtroom of Campbell County's Courthouse. Discussions surrounded the elk viewing tower grant and the partnership with the of Commerce. Chamber Invoices, contracts, reimbursements and the procedures for implementing the grant were discussed. The possibility of an ARC Grant for the handicap accessible walking trail to the tower was also revisited. AT-V/OHV issues were also discussed. Danny Akins, retired TWRA Region IV WMA Coordinator honored with a proclamation and plaque for his longstanding support of CORA.

May 4, 2021, the lower courtroom saw a good crowd gather for the monthly CORA meeting. A clean-up was discussed for May 15 at Ride Royal Blue. The elk tower replacement project was discussed. The projected cost of the project rose from \$120,000 to \$150,000 due mostly to the increase in steel prices. Application to The Nature Conservancy's Community Fund Grant was

discussed as an avenue to alleviate the cost increases. An additional purchase to the Highcliff Unit WMA was discussed to solidify access to the property. A TDOT grant for a bicycle trail was discussed with folks from Nashville providing a visual presentation of the project. The feasibility concerning linkage of the trail along 25W to Jellico was discussed.

June 1, 2021, the regular monthly CORA at the customary 7:00pm hour was held in the lower courtroom. Mark J. Tidwell was asked to consider taking over the editorship of the CORA Newsletter. President Terry Lewis reports he has handled he newsletter for the last 23 vears. The elk viewing tower project was discussed. Grant contract should have a two-year fulfillment period. The price of steel had continued to escalate as well as orders running behind sched-Ground breaking perhaps to come by November. A gun raffle was held for a Winchester SXP shotgun. It was announced that Keith Thomas will be the new manager at North Cumberland (Royal Blue).

E.L. Morton

Campbell County Mayor

Still faced with serious health concerns worldwide, travel destinations offering distancing opportunities have become the vacation spots in highest demand. The annual State of Tennessee travel study has shown that trend in recent years and never more than right now. The latest study was published in July 2021 and showed that from 2019 to 2020, Campbell County led all 95 counties with a \$4.1M increase in tourism lodging, food, retail and fuel sales, a 5.2% increase. The next closest county was Monroe, that did very well, with a \$1.8M increase. Like Campbell County, Monroe County has significant outdoor attractions in the Cherokee National Forest, Tellico River and Citico Creek watersheds, Ft. Loudon State Park, The Sequoyah Visitor Center, The Tennessee River and one of the regions U.S. Scenic Byways, The Cherohalla Skyway, which crosses into North Carolina.

The 5.2% increase was consistent with Campbell County's growth over the past decade, though in an economy slowed by a pandemic, it is a banner year. Typically, Davidson, Shelby and Sevier Counties lead the state in all growth categories for the Tennessee tourism economy however, they are heavily dependent on hotel stays to keep visitors in their attractions and cash register clusters. Davidson, Shelby and Sevier Counties saw their sales

shrink by 30-40% last year due to the pandemic. Statewide, hoteliers suffered significant losses due to virus related traveler concerns.

In Campbell County, we are blessed with quality hotels that bucked the trend and still performed on the order of 80-85% of 2019 numbers, which was much stronger than statewide averages. Factors favoring Campbell County the most are naturally separated spaces for overnight stays in our many campgrounds, lake-front and trail-side vacation rental homes, floating homes and houseboats where traveling families can stay comfortably and distanced from others. Ultimately, our public land, recreational water, wildlife, campgrounds, marinas, parks, trails, quality fishing and hunting and scenery offer travelers some of the best outdoor experiences in the eastern U.S. Campbell County hotel/ motel taxes alone exceeded the \$300K budget by \$298K in 2020, essentially doubling the county's budgeting forecast. Retail revenue numbers, including internet retail revenues, are improving at a similar pace.

In recognition of the value our local attractions hold, the U.S. Department of Transportation designated Highways 63E and 441 as U.S. Scenic Byways. Campbell County was the only county in the nation

that had two byways designated. Highway 63E connects with Highway 52 from Harrogate to Celina, TN at Dale Hollow Lake and crosses Campbell County. It is named "The Cumberland Historic Scenic Byway" and includes Claiborne, Campbell, Scott, Morgan, Fentress, Pickett, Overton and Clay Counties. I first began work on this nomination in 2010 while serving as County Chamber and Tourism Director and the long wait has finally paid off. The Highway 441 nomination included a strong work effort in the town of Norris. I gladly supported with county demographics, traffic counts and support letters as the Campbell County contribution. It retains a familiar name: "The Norris Freeway Scenic Byway". It features Norris Dam and its Visitor Center, State Park, Marina, Lenoir Museum, Clinch River fishery and paddle way, walking and equestrian trails and nature viewing and spillway overlooks.

The aforementioned Cherohalla Skyway has been a U.S. Scenic Byway for many years and had a Visitor Center funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation in Tellico Plains several years ago. The marketing notoriety and priority for federal funds enjoyed by Monroe County will soon be added to the tourism asset base in Campbell County because of

MORTON, Cont'd from Page 4

these designations. In addition to marketing dollars, U.S. Scenic Byways are prioritized for bridging, paving, wayfinding signage and even visitor centers. In conjunction with the East Tennessee Development District and the Upper Cumberland Development District, Campbell County has been chosen as the nominee for the 2021-2022 U.S. Scenic Byway Grant cycle. The nomination specifies building a Visitor Center at I-75, Exit 134 in Caryville to promote the regions U.S. Scenic Byways and many other attractions. The U.S. Department of Transportation has set aside \$16M for the 2021-2022 Grant Cycle to improve over 50 U.S. Scenic Byways, including the two in Campbell County. Each byway may submit for up to \$400,000 this grant cycle.

At the same time the scenic byway nominations went into motion, The Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association (CORA) was hard at work, alongside the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce building a grant application to replace the Hatfield Knob Elk Viewing Tower, which was recently approved. The project entails replacing the decade old tower, which has served well, hosting up to 20,000 visitors annually. CORA, The Chamber, TWRA and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are joining forces to create an ADA accessible viewing tower with a ramp to the first floor that will accommodate a variety of

mobility assistance devices like wheel chairs, motorized or push scooters. A second phase will provide an ADA restroom at the parking lot and a paved trail from the parking lot to the tower (800 yards).

In recent weeks, there has also been a local discussion among business leaders, non-profits, the town of Caryville and the County about building an all-inclusive playground for children of all capability levels on the old Caryville Elementary playground site, very close to the potential visitor center site. The Lion's Club has proposed granting funds to build just such a facility and Caryville's Council have agreed on funding as well. I invited Lions Club representative Brandon Johnson to present the opportunity to the County Commission and there is hope for a county contribution as well.

A Visitor Center at Caryville will allow for promotion of our Norris Lake waterway, parks and marinas and Royal Blue trails, campgrounds, Elk Tower, scenery and restaurants for the future travelers. It will also make a highly effective home for the county Tourism Center. A high interstate traffic count and growing attractions like: The Scenic Byway designations, A recently developed bicycle and pedestrian greenway plan, A recently developed bicycle touring route called "Route 21" connecting Atlanta and Cleveland, crossing Campbell County from Norris Dam to Speedwell, A new ADA Elk Tower, and an all-inclusive play-

ground, enhance an already productive list of lake and mountain tourism attractions.

With expanding attractions, a unique mix of hotels, marinas, vacation rental homes, floating homes, houseboats and campgrounds, a visitor center makes great economic camp; community development sense. I am very hopeful for an approved grant from the U.S. DOT to further grow resources to invest in marketing and also in the quality of the tourism experience for visitors and residents. Waste

management, litter control, noise and speed enforcement and boating safety all require growth as visitor numbers rise. A quality visitor center will allow us to grow sales and revenues, while also promoting these quality factors in our messaging. It would truly be a win/win. Fingers crossed.



NATURE VEST Submitted by Ronald Lambert

Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Grant for Tackett Creek/Ed Carter Unit

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to announce that they recently were awarded \$38,000 grant from Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA, as part of its Outdoor Access Initi-(www.yamahaoai.com). ative The Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative is a proactive, grassroots program supported by Yamaha motorsports dealers and customers nationwide promoting safe, responsible riding and sustainable, open riding areas.

Our Yamaha grant will fund the mitigation of user group conflict and protect streams at the Tackett Creek property, which is owned by CF Ataya, LLC and managed by The Nature Conservancy and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. This grant project will also connect our organization with other Yamaha grant recipients, including off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding

groups, state and national land managers, and local government agencies across the country. Specifically, this grant will allow us to install bridges and stream crossingsto improve the environmental quality of Tackett Creek's streams while continuing to keep this local land accessible and safe for OHV enthusiasts. We are proud of these efforts and wanted to make you aware of this important achievement in Campbell County.



Cumberland Forest Community Fund Partners Announce the First Group of Tennessee Award Recipients

The Clinch Powell RC&D Council, The Nature Conservancy, and its in-house impact investing team at NatureVest, are pleased to announce the first group of grant recipients of the

Cumberland Forest Community Fund. Thanks to support from the Cumberland Forest Limited Partnership, this new local grant program supports nature-based economic and community development five Tennessee counties: Claiborne, Campbell, Union, Hancock, and Grainger. "We believe that this first set of funded projects will connect people to nature while contributing

to economic diversification and community development," says Terry Cook, Tennessee state director for The Nature Conservancy. "We couldn't be happier with the Clinch Powell RC&D as our partner and program manager for the Cumberland Forest Community Fund, and are excited to see the Council support these projects going forward."

Successful grant awardees are implementing exciting projects that contribute toward the Program's "triple bottom line" of desired outcomes: enhancing local

economic development, building community capacity, and improving environmental quality within the program area.

"We are fortunate to live in a region with truly special natural resources. Biodiversity that we might take for

granted should be celebrated while it is protected because it can be a key to healthy economic and community development in this region of need" says Lindy Turner, executive director at Clinch-Powell RC&D. "We are pleased about The Nature Conservancy's

commitment to helping us find ways to protect unique natural resources that also revitalize local communities and recognize them as important leaders in the region economic development strategy."

The partners selected projects through a competitive process that solicited proposals from businesses, non-profits and communities. The first round included the following projects:

Big Ridge State Park for a permanent, centralized outdoor water station that is accessible and weatherproof for use by hikers and others visiting the park. The Riverside Rentals for a beautification project that will plant native vegetation to protect against erosion and make improvements that include improved river access and the creation of a walking trail.

NATURE VEST Cont'd Submitted by Ronald Lambert

Wellbeing Foundation for a pollinator project that involves planting a large field to attract and encourage pollinators and purchasing equipment to maintain pollinator habitats

(new and already planted) for years to come.

Servolution Health Services for a People Achieving Total Health (PATH) program that will include a multipurpose outdoor space to be used for physical wellness, community events,

as an outdoor classroom, and as a meeting space for 4H clubs and others.

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce to rebuild the popular Hatfield Knob elk viewing tower with steel and ADA compliant access.

Woodland Community Development Corporation to create a shared workspace for small businesses in the remote Clearfork Valley area near Clairfield, Tennessee. "The first round of the Cumberland Forest Community Fund proposals included an impressive portfolio of diverse

projects and the selection was very competitive," says Stephanie McCarty,

director of media at Clinch-Powell

RC&;D. "We look forward to supporting the implementation of these impactful projects." For more information on the Cumberland Forest Community Fund, and each of the awarded projects, visit: https://www.clinchpowell.net/c ontent/clinch-powell-natureconservancy-launch-

Cumberland-forest-community-fund.

The Cumberland Forest Limited Partnership,

managed by The Nature Conservancy, owns more than 250,000 acres of forestland in the coalfields of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. The Partnership utilizes an impact investment approach to manage these lands for sustainable forestry, climate resiliency, renewable energy, recreational uses and economic opportunities for people and communities.

The Nature Conservancy

is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, TNC works with a variety of

partners to create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together.

This includes tackling climate change, conserving

lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing foodand water sustainably, and helping make cities more sustainable. TNC has been working in the

Clinch Valley—in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee—for three decades and has conserved more than 200,000 acres. Learn more about TNC's work in Tennessee at nature.org/Tennessee.

TNC's in-house impact investment team, NatureVest, works to engage private capital in rapidly

scaling critical conservation work around the world by creating investment opportunities in a wide variety of sectors that deliver environmental results and financial returns for investors. To achieve this, Nature-Vest sources and structures investments that support TNC's mission, raises capital from investors looking to generate both financial returns and conservation outcomes, and shares experience with the investment and conservation communities to accelerate the growth of the conservation investing marketplace.

Clinch Powell RC&D Council

has been working since 1989 to build strong, sustainable communities by investing in people, housing, ecotourism and conservation of natural resources. They accomplish this through partnerships, direct investments, financial education

and counseling, and by providing housing solutions, primarily in Tennessee.



MEETINGS SUMMARY Cont'd From Pg 3

Thomas has been assistant manager. Thomas will fill the manager's position vacated by the promotion of former manager Joe Elkins. Elkins is the Region IV wild-life management areas coordinator.

July 6, 2021, CORA learned the ARC Grant for the walking/handicap trail to the elk viewing tower had been denied. CORA will investigate and possibly reapply in the future. TWRA asked for a schedule concerning the plans for the construction of the new elk viewing tower. ATV/OHV issues were discussed. The possibility of CORA applying for 501 C3 status was discussed. The annual BBO was set for Shelter 5 at Cove Lake State Park

August 3, 2021, the September 25th clean-up in Tackett Creek was discussed. A representative from a Jeep

club addressed the planned Joe Elkins discussed the formation of an OHV task force within TWRA, to look at the overall situation, the exponential growth and usage. The annual BBQ was discussed. 2020's event was cancelled due health concerns caused by the pandemic. September 7, 2021, Mayor Morton discussed the uptick in tourism in Campbell County on both the lake and public lands. The possibility of a TDOT visitor's center in relation to the 63 scenic By Way was discussed. Keith Thomas, the new area manager for North Cumberland was in attendance. Raffling off a rifle as a fundraiser was discussed. Some trail closures on Royal Blue were noted as per logging and daylighting operations.

RECIPES

Peach Cobbler Peach Filling

8 medium-size fresh peaches sliced about 9-10 cups
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup white sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
2 teaspoons cornstarch

Crust Topping

2 cups all-purpose flour *
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon kosher salt
12 tablespoons butter chilled
and grated
1/2 cup boiling water

Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°F. Place a large baking sheet covered in foil under the cobbler to prevent a mess in the oven from overflow.

In a large bowl, combine the peaches and the lemon juice and then add the rest of the filling ingredients. Stir to coat and then pour into a 9×13 baking dish.

Bake the peach mixture in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. While the peaches are baking, combine the dry topping ingredients and whisk to combine.

Remove the peaches from the oven and drop the topping over them in spoonful's. Sprinkle the cobbler topping with the cinnamon sugar topping. Bake until the crust is golden. Enjoy!



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Ramblings...... By Mark J. Tidwell

couple of years. It has youd opened a whole new page dreams. fications of life during a Royal Blue land tract. pandemic.

The elk viewing tower September the CORA at long last has a ginning to change. on the project. It is going to vista. the project is completed!

Campbell County has experienced a visitation explosion during the pandemic. Norris Lake and the North Cumberland complex of

I have enjoyed serving Wildlife Management Areas your overalls and a flannel on the CORA board the last has been a tourism draw be- shirt like grandpa. Instead of anyone's of understanding for me. working at the forefront of gle-shot shotgun or single There is so much more go- preserving public lands in shot .22 and step back in time ing on than meets the casual Campbell County, over 30 for just one trip. We have a eye. Much work and effort years ago, much of this lot of heritage to appreciate is expended by many indi- would have not been possi- here in our hills. viduals between the month- ble. I don't think Judge Lee ly meetings. Things have Asbury, or any of the original are a major draw: archery, been more complicated than members ever foresaw so muzzleloader, and rifle. The usual while the country as a many folks traveling such woods will soon be full of whole has endured the rami- long distances to enjoy the dreamy-eyed hunters in purhow times have changed!

Now that the long, hot and a few lucky hunters will project has consumed a lot summer is behind us, it's time be out there after Mr. Wapiti. of meeting minutes these to enjoy the mountains and We surely are blessed to live last many months. As of hollows for a whole host of in a county where all this can meeting, activities. The leaves are be- not only be imagined, but we signed contract with TWRA there will be a burst of colors such things! for the construction of the from Nature's palette that brand new, steel elk view- should cause each of us to member, consider joining in ing tower. Hopefully, very just drop our jaw as we look soon, ground will be broken over things from some high ization has been a game-Pull out those cell be a busy and a very excit- phones or digital cameras and ty, organized from the grass ing time for all involved. take a few shots to remember roots of everyday residents. The end users are going to it by. Fall colors are fast CORA has a thirty year track be in for a real treat when fleeting and won't visit us for record of helping keep the long.

> advantage of small game op- exciting times for the organiportunities like old fashioned zation and the future looks squirrel hunting. Mix it up a bright! little this fall. Leave that camouflage at home. Slip on

wildest that automatic shotgun or Without CORA scoped .22, grab an old sin-

> Of course, deer seasons buck-of-a-My suit of that lifetime. Elk will be bugling Soon can actually get out and do

If you are not a CORA the coming days. This organchanger for Campbell Counoutdoors a viable option in One might want to take Campbell County. These are

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A total of

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135,135 in 2019-20.



The Nature Conservancy works in more than 70 countries and territories, and all 50 states. Our global headquarters is in Arlington, Virginia.

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In 2020, there were 729,972 licensed hunters in the State of Tennessee, down from a record high of 780,053 in 2008.

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104 Colonial Heights LaFollette, TN 37766 (423)562-2441 The global ATV and UTV market was valued at \$7.6 billion in 2017, and is projected to reach \$11.95 billion by 2027.

Tennessee ranks #13 nationally in hunting license sales.

The percentage of residents with paid hunting licenses is 10.1 %, generating approximately 21 million dollars.

CORA Book Available

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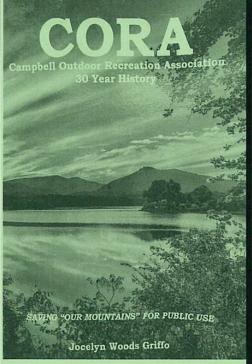
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"Wilderness is the one kind of playground which mankind cannot build to order" - Aldo Leopold



Trail Update from NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas

I just wanted to give an update on the trail closures in the Sundquist Unit Riding Area. I spoke with our Forestry folks. They should be finished with the work on Short Mtn Road (Trail 4) by the opening of Deer archery season later this month. Cumberland Mtn Trail (Trail 10), the section from Trail 12 to Trail 4, can be opened when trail 4 is completed. I don't have a timeline on Meadow Ridge Road (Trail 5). It will remain closed until the Forestry work is completed.

Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month Jacksboro Courthouse 7:00 pm

Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association



IN GOD WE TRUST PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



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