

Wildlife Opening Rental Program – South Region

Wildlife Openings (WO) are very popular with many hunting clubs. They provide many benefits including:

- Improving the overall habitat quality of your hunting lease by increasing the amount of high quality forage,
- Providing permanent openings which increase habitat diversity in forested landscapes,
- Providing the hunter more time to view animals, facilitating better harvest decisions.

After obtaining Weyerhaeuser’s written approval, clubs can plant many areas at no charge on their Weyerhaeuser lease, such as old logging decks, rows where timber has been removed following timber thinning, and powerline rights-of-way. However, these receive no protection from future forest management activities, including timber harvest or aerial spraying of herbicides. In response to requests from many clubs for permanent and protected openings, the company developed the **Wildlife Opening Rental Program**.

Notice: *Wildlife openings or any hunting activity that results in tillage or digging on rights-of-ways that carry gas lines, oil lines, or large water lines servicing municipalities **must** be approved in advance by the Weyerhaeuser Recreational Lease Manager in your area.*

Key Characteristics of the Wildlife Opening (WO) Rental Program:

- Clubs can identify areas of their lease, subject to Weyerhaeuser approval, which they would like to convert into WO.
- Weyerhaeuser retains the right to deny any request.
- WO registered in the program will be protected from timber management activities.
- Be aware that enrollment in the program is a long-term commitment. Clubs cannot dis-enroll an opening unless it can be incorporated into an adjacent timber plantation. In many cases, this could require clubs to pay for the WO for 25 years or more.
- **Costs:**

Area Being Converted Into Wildlife Opening	Yearly Rental Cost
Area has been clear-cut, but not site prepped or planted	\$120/acre/year
Area has been site prepped or has trees up to 2 years of age	\$160/acre/year

- Sign up deadline is April 1st and August 15th. Weyerhaeuser personnel will inspect the requested opening areas shortly after this date. We strongly recommend clubs sign up for openings as soon as the clear-cut harvest is complete. Weyerhaeuser is under no obligation to approve any WO and may withhold its approval in Weyerhaeuser’s sole and absolute discretion.
- Weyerhaeuser may terminate the WO at any time for any or no reason with at least a 5 day notice to the club.

Wildlife Opening Size, Shape, Location, and Maintenance

- Clubs must request a minimum of 2 total acres of rental WO (note: small clubs leasing less than 200 acres may request one or more acres in openings).
- Each individual opening must be a minimum of ½ acre. Openings less than ½ acre will be charged for a full ½ acre.
- WO must be approximately square shaped, round, or rectangular. WO which are extremely long/linear or which have complex shapes cannot be protected from aerial forest treatments and will not be approved.
- WO should be situated on flat or nearly flat terrain to prevent erosion.
- WO should be located at least 50 feet away from any stream, pond, or other sensitive site.
- Clubs are responsible for the cost to clear and maintain Wildlife Openings.
- Wildlife Openings are to be maintained as openings. At a minimum, they must be mowed annually. Failure to maintain the Wildlife Opening could result in penalties or loss of lease.
- Enlargement of any WO without prior approval will result in penalties to include loss of timber and future timber revenue.
- Once approved the club will be mailed signs to post around the WO. These signs must be installed to help prevent damage to the site.
- Weyerhaeuser reserves the right to impose additional conditions and/or obligations associated with the WO in Weyerhaeuser's sole and absolute discretion.
- **Clubs are responsible for any site damage caused by inappropriate clearing practices.**

How to enroll in the Wildlife Opening Rental Program:

1. On your hunting lease, heavily flag the perimeter of each WO you would like to create.
2. Calculate the area of each opening to the nearest 1/10th of an acre. Remember, each opening should be a minimum of ½ acre. Area may be calculated using a GPS or by measuring the length and width of the opening. (For reference: One acre equals 43,560 ft². A square wildlife opening that is 210 feet on each side is 1 acre in size. A wildlife opening that is 435 feet long and 100 feet wide is 1 acre in size).
3. Record the acreage of each opening in the table on the wildlife opening request form found below.
4. On a map of your lease, mark the location of each wildlife opening with the wildlife opening number that corresponds with the table on the wildlife opening request form (ex: wildlife opening #1 in the table of the Wildlife Opening Request Form should be #1 on the map). **A map must be provided.**
5. Camps must utilize a GPS/smart phone app to determine the latitude/longitude of each corner of the opening.
6. Send the request form to the point of contact listed at the bottom of this page. After the WO deadlines listed below, you will be contacted with notification either to proceed with planting or notified of needed adjustments.

Wildlife Opening Rental Program- REQUEST FORM

Sign-Up Deadline: April 1st & August 15th each year

Lease Number: _____ Date: _____
 Club Name: _____ Club Contact: _____
 Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Total Lease Acreage: _____ # Wildlife Openings requested: _____

Record the acreage of each Wildlife Opening in the table below. On your lease map, make sure to denote the location of each opening by writing the Wildlife Opening # that corresponds to its number in the table.

Wildlife Opening Number	Wildlife Opening Acres (to nearest 1/10 th acre)	Latitude/longitude of the four corners for each Opening
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Please submit this completed form and lease map to your Lease Administrator for processing.

Lease Administrator	Area Covered	E-mail	Fax
Carol Smith	AR, OK, TX	arokhunting@weyerhaeuser.com	580-494-6431
Tricia Kaye	AL, FL, GA	atlanticadmin@weyerhaeuser.com	706-583-6726
Cathy Jordan	LA, MS	gulfadmin@weyerhaeuser.com	318-251-8442
Terri Jones	NC, SC, VA, WV	northeastadmin@weyerhaeuser.com	304-645-1695