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LEESVILLE LAKE WILDLIFE AREA MWCD PUBLIC HUNTING AREA

Carroll County

DISTANCE FROM MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

75 miles from Cleveland

40 miles from Akron

25 miles from Canton

40 miles from Youngstown

21 miles from Steubenville

14 miles from Cadiz

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Leesville Wildlife Area is located in Carroll County. Three separate parcels, totalling 394 acres, make up this wildlife area. Access to the public land is from State Route 164, Delta Road, and Edgewood Road.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Purchase of the land for this wildlife area began in 1944 and additional land was obtained as funds became available. Management work has included the planting of thousands of conifers, protection and improvement of the woodlands, selection of areas which will be allowed to return to woodland through natural succession, clear-cuts on small blocks of older timber, and management of existing open fields, all to maintain habitat diversity.

Hunting is the major recreational use of the area; sightseeing, hiking, fishing, nature study, and bird watching are the other popular recreational uses.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

This area is primarily used by forest species which include deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and grey squirrel. The cottontail rabbit and all furbearers common to the region are found on the area. Migrant birds can be seen in abundance during the spring migration and black bears have been sighted infrequently on the wildlife area.

HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING

Leesville Lake Wildlife Area has many good squirrel woods, brushy areas and small openland sites. Cutover timber stands and wooded areas produce excellent wild turkey and grouse hunting. Rabbit hunting is best in the brushy uplands and along field edges and borders. White-tailed deer occupy this area as well and can be hunted during the bow and gun seasons.

UNUSUAL FEATURES

The rugged, scenic beauty of the area attracts many sightseers. Visitors find a wide variety of plant communities and in association with them, a diversity of songbirds and other wildlife.

PUBLIC USE FACILITIES

Parking lots are strategically situated along the roadways where public access is available.

TURN IN A POACHER

Ohio's TIP, "Turn In a Poacher," program is helping to curtail poaching throughout the state. TIP is designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should call the TIP toll-free hotline. 1-800-POACHER.