



Scenic Morris Creek runs through the area on its way to the Elk River.

Description: Morris Creek Wildlife Management Area lies south of the Elk River, just east of Clendenin in Kanawha County. A small portion of the 9,900 acre area is in Clay County. The parcel features nearly three miles of river frontage. Morris Creek almost bisects the property, and runs into the Elk River about halfway down the river frontage. County Route 67 runs along Morris Creek, and three smaller roads provide access. All roads in Morris Creek WMA are unpaved.

The area's steep hills are covered in forest, with a few open areas, including two gas pipelines. Public stream access sites are available near each end of the area's river border, allowing great paddling and float trip opportunities.

Viewing information: White-tailed deer, turkeys, mourning doves, and squirrels are present year 'round. Virginia opossums, big brown bats, Eastern chipmunks, groundhogs (woodchucks), Southern flying

Watchful evening guests might hear or see a screech owl. A common call of these small nocturnal predators is a descending trill. Screech owls come in two color phases; a red phase (shown here) and a gray phase.



Karen McClure

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squirrels, Eastern cottontails, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, and bobcats can be seen with some luck and perseverance.

River birds include Canada geese, mallards, great blue herons, green herons, killdeer and belted kingfishers. Turkey vultures and red-tailed hawks might be observed soaring overhead. Visitors might hear barred owls, screech owls and whippoorwills. Birds of field and forest include: ruby-throated hummingbirds, downy and hairy woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers, Eastern wood peewees, Eastern kingbirds, tree and barn swallows, common ravens, eastern bluebirds, wood thrushes, cedar waxwings, red-eyed vireos, yellow warblers, prairie warblers, black-and-white warblers, ovenbirds, common yellowthroats, scarlet tanagers and indigo buntings.

Visitors seeking amphibians might find red-spotted newts, spotted salamanders, slimy salamanders, Northern dusky salamanders, Appalachian seal salamanders, spring salamanders, Northern red salamanders, longtail salamanders, Eastern American toads, gray treefrogs, American bullfrogs, Northern green frogs, wood frogs and pickerel frogs.

Looking for reptiles? You might find Eastern snapping turtles, Eastern box turtles, Eastern fence lizards, common five-lined skinks, Northern water snakes, Eastern garter snakes, Northern ring-necked snakes, Eastern worm snakes, black rat snakes, or Northern copperheads.

Directions:

From I-79, take exit 19 and drive two miles south on U.S. Route 119 to Clendenin, then continue east on route 4/1. The area can be accessed from the river by putting in a boat at Queen Shoals, and paddling downriver. county Route 67 provides access through the middle of the area.

Hunting Prospects:

Hunters can harvest bear, deer, squirrels, and turkeys.

Fishing:

In the Elk River, smallmouth bass are the choice species for anglers, but folks catch other warm water species including: catfish, muskellunge, and walleye. A boat slide is located at Queen Shoals and a carry-down boat ramp is located at the site of the old (demolished) Clendenin Water Plant.

Camping:

Camping is not permitted on the WMA.

Note: Morris Creek WMA is a public hunting area. Please check the current West Virginia Hunting and Trapping regulations, available online at: www.wvdnr.gov/wf or call the DNR office listed below for hunting season dates.

Ownership:

Bruce. B. Cameron Foundation, Inc. and B.B. and Louise W. Cameron Charitable Trust. Leased by the Division of Natural Resources and managed by the WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section (304-675-0871).

