

Rayonier Wildlife Management Journal

Volume I

Issue 2

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Gary Buck of Andalusia proudly displays a very nice 11 point buck he took this past season on Rayonier property in the Rose Hill area. The buck's gross antler score was over 140".

Over 50 RLUs Open for Bids

There is no time like the present to expand your hunting club's footprint in Alabama. There are currently more than fifty RLUs open for bid totaling just over 37,000 acres! Many of these tracts are in prime locations such as Lowndes, Wilcox, Crenshaw, and Butler Counties. In Covington County alone, we have over 20,000 acres, most of which are contiguous, up for bid. These tracts are broken up into several smaller RLUs that make them affordable for a smaller club, but because they are contiguous, a larger club could put together a few RLUs and have that massive expanse of private land you have always dreamed of. Either way, a selection like this year's is rarely available and presents a great opportunity for any club looking to add acreage to your existing footprint.

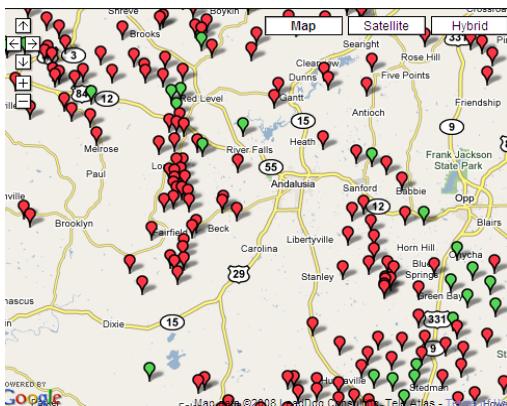


Figure 1. Excerpt from www.RayonierHunting.com showing tracts in green that are available for bid.

The bidding process is fairly simple. First, just sign in using your email account and password, as you normally would, and start viewing the

available areas. You can search by county using the map or there is a drop down list on the right of your screen to help you locate a specific RLU. Remember, only the RLUs in green are available for bidding. Once you find a tract that piques your interest; single click on the green pin and a window will open up that gives you the opportunity to look at maps and bid on this RLU. By clicking on the link to bid on this RLU you will be taken to a page to place your bid. The minimum bid is shown for the RLU for your reference. The minimum bid will reflect the current high bid plus an incremental fifty dollar increase. You will not bid on a per acre rate. The bidding is in total dollars for the RLU only. Once you have placed the high bid; you will want to monitor that RLU to ensure that you remain the high bidder. Email notification will be sent when you have been outbid, but you may want to frequently check the website for yourself. The bidding period is open now and runs through July 31st.

If you would like more information about bidding on an RLU call Jeremy Tankersley at (334) 427-9676 ex.26.

A Few Notes from the Recent Renewal Period

I just would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who were able to renew your license agreement with Rayonier for 2008-2009. If you were able to do that with no problem give yourself a big pat on the back!

Now for the rest of us out there who had problems with the renewal; let's take a second to talk about a few of the common issues that you had. By far the most common problem folks had with the website was retrieving a forgotten password. The retrieval process should be as easy as clicking on the [forgot password](#) link under the sign in area. Clicking on the [forgot password](#) link will prompt the website to email you a new password. This is the step where confusion can occur. To prevent any confusion you will want to ensure that you know the correct email account registered for your club, and that the email account accepts messages from www.rayonierhunting.com. If you do not receive your new password within ten minutes you will want to do both of the following: 1) ensure you are using the correct email address and 2) notify your internet service provider that you need to be able to receive emails from the website.

Another common problem this year was with properly completing the license agreement. It is important that you be diligent in properly completing the agreement to make the process more efficient for everyone involved. The following list explains where the hunting club president should sign the license agreement:

- The hunting club president should sign, print name, and date on page 7 in the club's signature block.
- The club president should sign page 9 acknowledging that all club members have signed Exhibit A.
- The club president should also sign anywhere that his/her name is listed on Exhibit A.
- The club president should also sign and return the Exhibit B from the previous year reporting the number of guests and new members.

In total, a properly completed license agreement should contain at least 13 pages and 4 signatures from the club president. The club secretary (if applicable) should also sign page 9 acknowledging club members' signatures. And finally, include two signed original agreements in the package you send to Rayonier's Andalusia, Alabama Office.

The final tip for making the renewal process smoother, is to include the invoice, which is the last page that prints out with the agreement, with your check. The check should always go to the address listed on the invoice.

Feral Hogs: More than Just a Nuisance

Love em or hate em, the feral hog (*Sus scrofa*) is here to stay. Often called "wild hog," the feral hog is actually a descendent of both domesticated hogs and European varieties of wild hogs brought to the Americas during the time of exploration. With no natural predators, other than humans in the new world, and a reproduction rate allowing a population to potentially triple in one year, the transported hogs flourished and populated most



Figure 2. Picture of a young sow and pigs taken from wildlifemanagementpro.com

of what is today the southeastern United States.

Today the feral hog has become listed in Alabama as a game animal and, where present, is an enjoyable

species to hunt. The hog can be hunted year around during daylight hours on Rayonier property. This gives you an opportunity to have enjoyment all year from your hunting agreement with Rayonier. You really might want to consider doing that to control the feral hog's presence on your RLU.

The feral hog does much more than just become a nuisance as its numbers increase on a piece of property. The hog will generally out compete natural species such as deer and turkey for food sources. Hogs commonly "root up" food plots that have cost you money, time, and effort to establish before the game species you have targeted is able to benefit from the food source. Hogs

will also eat tremendous amounts of any supplemental feed that is available. When the food source is gone they have a nasty appetite for distruction and often do a great deal of damage to feeders.



Figure 3. Picture demonstrating food plot damage caused by feral hogs. Picture taken from www.noble.org

Feral hogs are also very damaging to wildlife habitat. They commonly root around streams and wetlands causing sedimentation and lowering water quality. Highly important natural plants can also be damaged by rooting. Erosion can be caused by large numbers of hogs destroying plants that hold soils in place along slopes.

through February 1st of 2008 and will cost \$100.00 per campsite. This price will cover one camper or tent used on Rayonier property. However, campers will need to be mobile so that they can quickly and easily be moved on short notice. Interested clubs should contact Jeremy Tankersley at (334) 427-9676 ex. **26**.



Figure 4. This picture demonstrates damage caused by feral hogs to water quality and native plants. Image taken from www.noble.org

New Opportunities are Available to Enhance the Experience on Your RLU

In past years Rayonier has not allowed camping on our Alabama property. This year, we have decided to allow camping on some of our RLUs to help ease the burden of high fuel costs for hunting clubs. Hopefully this will give some of you, who make such long drives to enjoy your RLU during hunting season, a little reprieve from fuel costs.

The program is in the early stages at this point, but I can give you some idea of the procedure. The camping permit will be good from October 4th