

Deer Stands, Shooting Lanes and Food Plots St. Louis County Tax Forfeited Lands

St. Louis County tax-forfeited lands are used extensively for hunting. Over the last several years we have noticed an increase in the size of deer stands and the clearing of land for extensive shooting lanes, trails and food plots. We do not want to discourage the use of county managed lands for hunting, but please be advised that some of the larger stands and land clearing activities constitute occupancy and/or timber trespass.

Deer Stands

Structures with walls and a roof are considered an unauthorized building or occupancy trespass. Deer stands with walls and a roof must be removed, or at a minimum be deconstructed to have the walls and roof removed from St. Louis County tax forfeited lands, from January 1 to September 1 of each year to avoid penalty and/or stand disposal.

Equal Access to Public Lands

St. Louis County tax forfeited lands are open to public hunting with equal access to all and cannot be unduly claimed by one individual or group. Deer stands left unattended on St. Louis County tax forfeited lands are available to the public on a first come basis and must not be locked if they are enclosed. This said, hunters are encouraged to recognize the time and effort it takes to scout a hunting location and place a deer stand. Traditional ethics and common courtesy respects the hunting experience and work of others and would yield the stand if the one placing the stand wishes to hunt there.

Shooting Lanes

Cutting of trees for shooting lanes/trails constitute a timber trespass and is subject to penalty. Severing trees of any size is unlawful. Moderate pruning of side branches is the maximum allowed for shooting lanes.

Food Plots

Creating and/or planting food plots is not allowed on St. Louis County tax forfeited lands and may be subject to penalty.

St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department
(218) 726-2606 Land Commissioners Office
(218) 742-9898 Virginia Office
(218) 625-3700 Pike Lake Office