

## COVID-19: Plan Ahead & Play it Safe!

## **By Steve Bridges Goldthwaite Eagle**

When the COVID-19 pandemic first started making itself known, rumors ran rampant. No one knew what was going on. School let out, some people had to start working from home, and some of those people came to their Mills County hunting camps to get out of the crowded cit-

This past spring these folks were seen coming to spend some extra time fixing up their camps here, doing some fishing, spring turkey hunting, hog hunting, and all the things you can do in the counleast not like it is in the city.

Some of the out-of-town hunters were using their camps as "bug out locations,"

in the "prepper" sense where you can gather up supplies and hunker down in a crisis. Whether it's to escape destructive weather, as we've seen the past, or with this virus, people come do this.

Having non-locals coming try without fear of a virus, at more often is certainly great for our economy, and we're happy to see them, as many have become friends.

> Plenty of our hunters have always been people who live and work in the city, and since they are forced to work from home, and the kids are at home, this makes perfect sense and Mills County is the perfect place to do it. The risk of getting sick is lower here, and no one is policing you at your deer lease to wear a mask. What safer place could there be?

> Many of our readers are people just like I've described, and so if you are in the process of planning extra hunts, fishing trips, etc., that you might not have time for in otherwise "normal" conditions, we encourage you to come spend some extra time in Mills County. If you do so, you might consider a few best practices in this scenario:

> If you are coming from the city or a place with a high rate of cases of the virus, you

might stay at the lease an extra week to make sure you don't have symptoms once you're here.

- When you do come into town to get groceries, hunting supplies, shop and eat, please wear your mask in town.
- You might want to upgrade your deer camp to a more permanent dwelling, including taking advantage of the high speed fiber service from CTTC.
- Consider buying a place instead of leasing, so you have a more permanent refuge location if it's needed.

For those of us who live here year round, we're always forced to be more of a "prepper," or stock up a bit more as we maybe don't get into the city as often, so we're always a little more prepared. It shows in how we run our day to day lives.

This pandemic has brought out the "prepper" in all of us to some degree, like it or not, when you think about the shortages of items like toilet paper, sanitizer, masks, fresh foods, and so on.

That being the case, if you do decide to come for an early or extended stay, for goodness sakes, bring your own toilet paper!



