The opening situation

The Confederates have two divisions deployed along Wilson’s Creek. One is a division of well-trained regulars (The Western Army) led by General McCulloch. The other is the Missouri State Guard, led by General Price. Since General Lyon’s Union troops had recently been routed in a prior battle, General McCulloch had planned an attack. But this is called off due to an expected rain which would likely compromise the Confederates’ ammunition. The Confederate army is encamped for the night.

Meanwhile, General Lyon has just been given permission to use his own judgement regarding the situation. Therefore, he decides that his best option is to launch a preemptive strike on the unsuspecting enemy. The action begins on August 10, 1861, 5:20 am.

Turn One 5:20 am

General Lyon marches in from the north along the trail and assembles at E.B. Short’s house. This is out of the line of sight of the enemy so there is no chance of alarming the Rebels. Meanwhile, Colonel Sigel has a brigade which is detached and performing a flanking maneuver to the south. Sigel sends the cavalry ahead to scout things out. The US 1st Cavalry Co. reaches the creek at a ford in the south. Sigel’s Brigade is undetected.
Note: The map’s orientation has the north edge on the bottom and the south edge on top. Also, there is no forest terrain here. The greenery is brush which doesn’t block line of sight for artillery and has two hex range for small arms fire.

General Lyon’s clandestine march

Colonel Sigel has marched his brigade to the southern end of the map in a flanking maneuver
Colonel Sigel continues his move on the southern flank. Both the 3rd and 5th Missouri Regiments march to Wilson’s Creek. Colonel Salomon leads the 5th Missouri across the creek. Meanwhile, the artillery has found a good position with an excellent view on the ridge. Captain Carr continues to scout ahead of Sigel’s Brigade along the track. He approached Sharp’s Cornfield.

On the northern end of the battlefield, General Lyon positions his troops. He has Major Sturgis on his left, Colonel Dietzler in the center and Lt. Col. Andrews on the right flank. The extreme flanks are taken up by mounted troops. There is still no contact and the Rebels remain encamped and unawares.


**Turn Three 6:00 am**

This is the turn that the Confederates have the possibility of becoming alert without being triggered by the Union. General Lyon drags his feet as he attempts to get his troops ready for the surprise attack. Colonel Sigel is likewise jockeying for position. The Confederate forces are not alerted yet.

The Confederate player rolls for his Army’s status. He needs a 2 to alert everyone. He misses the dice roll, so General Price and McCulloch are still worrying more about breakfast than fighting the Federals.
**Turn Four 6:20 am**

General Lyon’s formation advances and is seen by Hunters Cavalry. This unit has to make a morale check. It fails and thus is routed. Peyton’s Cavalry also routs along with McCowen’s Cavalry. Sturgis orders his men to fire but this has no real effect.

Now that word is getting around, the rest of the Confederate units check their morale status as they become alert. The Confederate player rolls terrible dice and the majority of the Army is routed. Not much can be done during the movement phase. There are hardly any shots fired as the Confederate troops have routed out of range. During the rally phase, many of the regiments do manage to rally. Perhaps General McCulloch will be able to get his troops in order. After all, they do outnumber the Union army by about 2-1.
**Turn Five 6:40 am**

General Lyon’s forces march forward into the Rebel position. Colonel Dietzler has the center and is hit by Hunter’s Cavalry small arms fire. One of the regiments is routed. Major Sturgis presses forward on the left flank and then drives Peyton’s Cavalry backward. In the meantime, Colonel Sigel’s Brigade moves into the edge of Sharp’s Cornfield. Backoff’s Artillery Battery fires on the Rebels in the cornfield to no effect.

The Confederate player is letting the independent units in Sharp’s Cornfield attempt to handle Sigel’s Brigade alone. Both sides exchange fire. Major’s Cavalry is hit. They have already lost their horses during the surprise. Otherwise, the cornfield is uneventful.

At the West Army headquarters, General Price and General McCulloch are still trying to order their men. Several units continue routed and others are out of command. An effort is made to rally. This time the Texas Cavalry rallies along with one of the supply wagons.
Turn Six 7:00 am

The main section of the Union Army, led by General Lyon, advances from the north. There is some defensive fire but the Rebels' lead units are using muzzleloaders and they are not inflicting much damage at range. Lyon’s forces are using rifled muskets and their advantage is gained by remaining two hexes away. Hunter’s Cavalry continues to rout. Then McCowen’s Cavalry becomes pinned by Major Sturgis’s fire.

In the cornfield, Colonel Sigel continues to fire on the enemy. The Rebels have rifled muskets in this part of the battle so the odds are more balanced. Nonetheless, Major’s Cavalry breaks and heads for the Confederate rear. General Lyon rallies the Iowa Regiment at headquarters.

After much fighting in the cornfield, the Confederates are starting to turn Sigel’s flank. Colonel Browne has managed to get his cavalry around Sigel’s left flank. This allows enfilade fire but the effect is negligible this time. The Federals have a bit of luck.

Turn Seven 7:20 am

General Lyon continues to press the attack form the north. Sturgis has some success against the Rebel position along the creek but two of his regiments run low on ammunition. Back in the cornfield in the southern part of the battlefield, Sigel’s Brigade engages in fire with the Arkansas units. The small arms fire proceeds during the Confederate player’s turn. There is little effect however, as many of the units are already pinned.

Turn Eight 7:40 am

As the attacks resume, both sides engage in small arms fire. This has little effect. Since Sturgis has run out of ammunition, his men take to the bayonet. Captain Plummer’s 1st Infantry regiment remains engaged with Peyton’s Cavalry. Major Osterhaus and the 2nd Missouri collide with Colonel Rives’ Cavalry. Both sides lose men and 100 rebels are captured besides. Rives’ Cavalry is hit by retreat fire and disintegrates altogether. Major Sturgis is wounded. In the cornfield, Sigel’s...
5th Missouri Regiment rallies.

The Confederate position in the north is collapsing, but General Price has a strong position in the center. Meanwhile Colonel Sigel is beginning to realize that he might be in some trouble in the cornfield. The 2nd Dragoon is destroyed by the Confederate musket fire. Colonel Browne’s Cavalry runs low on small arms though. Sigel’s artillery fires on the Confederates in the south, but nothing is finding the target at all. In Sharp’s Cornfield, Colonel Carroll’s Cavalry rallies as does Greer’s Cavalry.

**Turn Nine 8:00 am**

Colonel Sigel redeploy on the south end of the Sharp’s Cornfield. Then small arms enfilade fire manages to drive off Browne’s Cavalry, giving Sigel’s Brigade a slight breather. On the northern flank, Lyon’s men drive forward. Dietzler tries to manage his Brigade. The 2nd Kansas Regiment is pinned down by defensive fire. At this point the entire northern flank is being held by Hunter’s Cavalry and the 2nd Arkansas.

Sensing the Federals’ threat against the eastern side of Wilson’s Creek, General McCulloch begins crossing the water near Sharp’s house. The independent troops seem to have Sharp’s Cornfield under control. General Price is readying for a fierce counterattack on Bloody Hill.
The US 1st Cavalry strikes Hunter’s Cavalry with defensive fire and these suffer heavy casualties. Although the Confederate troops also suffer casualties in Sharp’s Cornfield, the Union 3rd Missouri Regiment runs low on ammunition. Meanwhile, the 2nd Arkansas recovers its morale.

**Turn Ten 8:20 am**

The 2nd Kansas Mounted Infantry ride out to Ray’s house and capture the position. Then Captain Wood deploys the men in line to defend the position. Lt. Colonel Andrews marches forward on the Union right, exchanging fire with Hunter’s Cavalry. Colonel Dietzler advances too, in the center. Osterhaus (commanding Sturgis’ Brigade) holds the left, but his men are out of small arms ammunition. There little effect from these fire fights. The Rebels advance toward the south in Sharp's Cornfield. The Backoff’s artillery fire scares Major’s Cavalry off from the line and they retreat toward headquarters. The US 2nd Dragoon is destroyed in heavy fighting on the edge of the field. Meanwhile, General McCulloch’s forces continue their flank march on the eastern side of Wilson’s Creek. It looks like the Kansas infantry at Ray’s house are in for some trouble.
Turn Eleven 8:40 am

The Union commander limbers both Totten and Du Bois’ artillery batteries to get them in a better position on the high
ground. The 2nd Kansas Regiment becomes pinned on Bloody Hill by defensive fire. In Sharp’s Cornfield, Colonel Sigel continues his desperate flanking attack. He experiences heavy defensive fire and the 5th Missouri Regiment suffers losses. Colonel Sigel is killed and Colonel Salomon takes command of the Brigade. Backoff’s artillery fires on the Confederates in the cornfield and Carroll’s cavalry routs.

The Confederate troops in Sharp’s Cornfield charge Salomon and the 5th Missouri. The Union regiment withdraws before melee but suffers about 100 casualties during the withdrawal fire. The 3rd Missouri Regiment is out of ammunition. The Rebels enter melee and the Missourians stand and fight. The Confederate forces suffer some casualties but they capture 100 Union soldiers, as the 3rd Missouri routs. General McCulloch’s formation remains in column and marches past the Guinn’s house and the van gets to the Telegraph Road. Both Major’s and Carroll’s Cavalry are rallied.

Turn Twelve 9:00 am

The Federals continue to attack from the north. Lyon probably doesn’t know that Sigel’s flanking attack isn’t going so well. The Confederate 2nd Arkansas routs under heavy fire. Embry is shaken up. Backoff’s artillery lets loose and the 1st Arkansas is eliminated in Sharp’s field.

The Confederate player presses on in Sharp’s Field. Greer’s South Kansas-Texas formation moves to the creek against Osterhaus’s position. Backoff’s artillery has no effect. General McCulloch’s flanking maneuver continues as he puts his troops and Pearce’s in line formation. Du Bois artillery fires at the Confederates but this has no effect. Steele’s Regiment manages to pin Hunter’s Cavalry on Bloody Hill. Then Browne’s Cavalry Rallies as does the 2nd Arkansas.
**Turn Thirteen 9:20 am**

Backoff’s artillery (Sigel’s Bde) fires at Carroll’s Cavalry in Sharp’s Cornfield. The Confederate cavalry is pinned as a result. Unfortunately, Backoff is now out of ammunition. This leaves the 3rd and 5th Missouri Regiments to fend for themselves. On the northern side of the battlefield, Du Bois artillery fires to no effect. Lt. Colonel Andrews orders his brigade to fire on McBride’s Brigade which has advanced on the Union’s right. Foster’s Regiment is pinned. Steele’s Regiment melees with Hunter’s Cavalry and captures 100 men. The Union Regiments also suffers some casualties. Hunter retreats. Both the 3rd and 5th Missouri Regiments are rallied on the southern flank. Only one of these units has ammunition to fire though.

General McCulloch pushes forward toward Ray’s house. General Pearce is right with him. The Confederate troops in Sharp’s Cornfield march south chasing after what remains of Sigel’s Brigade.
Turn Fourteen 9:40 am

Colonel Osterhaus continues to fall back toward the south from Sharp’s. He gets his brigade back to the ford. Then Plummer’s Regiment enters melee with Peyton’s Cavalry, which subsequently routs to the rear. Du Bois artillery fire hits the 1st Missouri State Guard and it suffers 100 casualties, and then it routs. Totten’s artillery takes out an enemy gun.

General Pearce charges into the Union position at Ray’s house, which is weakly held. As a result, the Kansas Mounted Infantry disintegrates. On Bloody Hill, Plummer’s Regiment suffers 100 casualties from fire from the Missouri Guard. Defensive fire from Andrews’ Brigade causes Foster’s Regiment to rout.
Turn Fifteen 10:00 am

Both Andrews and Dietzler advance toward Rains’ position south of Bloody Hill. The fire combat produces no results. Then Plummer’s Regiment enters melee with the Missouri State Guard near the creek. This time the Yankees are repulsed and retreat.

General Pearce and McCulloch capture Ray’s house and set up a line position along the Telegraph Road. The fighting near Bloody Hill stalls as the Battle of Wilson’s Creek winds down.

The Confederates won this handily. None of their leaders were lost and the Union lost both Sigel and Sturgis. There were about 2500-3000 total casualties.
Ray's house and the Telegraph Road

South of Bloody Hill
South of Sharp's Cornfield