

Upper Mississippi Conservation Area Pool 26 – Mason Island & 215 Mile Group

Area Highlights

Mason Island and 215 Mile Group are 638 acres combined. They are located in Pool 26 of the Mississippi River between river miles 214 and 221. These tracts are mostly forest and wetlands. The Upper Mississippi Conservation Area, rich in wildlife and habitat diversity, stretches from the Melvin Price Lock and Dam at Alton, Ill., to LaGrange, Mo. It is composed of 87 tracts of federal lands totaling more than 11,000 acres and managed under a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many people visit the riverine area to enjoy the outdoors, hunt, fish and hike.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized fishing and hunting activities.

- No fireworks.
- No camping.
- No horseback riding.
- No open fires.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, including ATVs, are prohibited.
- Target shooting is not allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations in the Mississippi River. The following special regulations also apply:

- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited. Gizzard shad may be taken from lakes and ponds by dip net or throw net.
- There are no Conservation Department restrictions on boats and motors used on the

waters of the Mississippi River.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Waterfowl hunting is under statewide regulations
- Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed daily.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit.

Nearby Department Areas

Cuivre Island Conservation Area
Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
Pelican Island Access

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-4554

Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas.

5/2026

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION