

Non-toxic shot is required for all hunting with a shotgun on this area. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.

- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit only.

*Waterfowl Hunting is permitted on the area under the following regulations:*

- All or portions of Waterfowl Hunting Zones and Waterfowl Refuge may be closed to all uses due to construction. See information posted at the Area Headquarters or call the office at (417) 432-3414 or the Information Hotline at (417) 432-1074 for updates.
- From Oct. 15 to Feb. 15, only waterfowl hunting is permitted in portions identified as Waterfowl Hunting Zone. Waterfowl hunters must self-register at the hunter record box at the area headquarters prior to hunting by completing a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag and accurately report harvest and checkout immediately after the close of their hunting trip.
- During the Middle Zone Duck Season, waterfowl may only be taken from a blind or designated area except that hunters may retrieve dead birds and pursue and shoot downed cripples.
- During early teal season, early Canada goose season, and the snow goose conservation order, the remainder of the area is open to hunting by self-registration, unless it is designated closed as refuge.
- Waterfowl hunters must check out immediately after the close of their hunting trip.
- Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on portions of the Waterfowl Hunting Only area
- The area is closed to waterfowl hunting on Dec. 25.
- Portions identified as “Waterfowl Refuge” are closed to all public use Oct. 15 to Mar. 1.
- Portions identified as “Wildlife Refuge” are closed to all public use Oct. 15 to Mar. 1 and closed to hunting Mar. 2 to Oct. 14.
- Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be

removed from the area daily and may not be left unattended between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Blinds may not be constructed on-site from woody vegetation except for willows.

*Deer hunting is permitted on the area under the following regulations:*

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31 on areas where deer hunting is allowed, by special use permit, or except as otherwise authorized. 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.

### Nearby Department Areas:

Taberville Prairie Conservation Area  
Taberville Access  
Four Rivers Conservation Area  
Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area  
Linscomb Wildlife Area

### For Local Information, Contact:

Schell-Osage Conservation Area  
4662 South 2950 Road  
Schell City, MO 64783  
417/432-3414 or 417/876-5226

3/2022

(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](http://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, national origin, sex, age 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

# Schell-Osage

## CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## Schell-Osage Conservation Area

The Schell-Osage Conservation Area and the Osage River, which forms much of the area's north boundary, derive their names from the Osage Indians which once inhabited the area. Opened to the public in 1964, this highly diverse area is comprised of large parcels of open marsh, and both bottomland and upland forest. Over 40 acres of remnant native prairie which have been augmented with another 340 acres of restored native grasslands. Over 1,400 acres of seasonally flooded wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife and makes this area a popular destination for both hunters and birders. There are numerous features and facilities throughout the area including two primitive campgrounds, a grass hiking trail, two disabled user waterfowl blinds, two large fishing lakes, and several small ponds.

This conservation area was acquired in part through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Schell-Osage Conservation Area is in Vernon and St. Clair counties. From El Dorado Springs, take Highway 54 west 6 miles, then Route AA north 12 miles, then Route RA east 1.50 miles (last 0.50 mile is gravel), then 2950 Road south 0.25 mile to the area headquarters.

## Recreational Opportunities

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

*Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting activities.*

- No littering, fireworks or open fires.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Dogs must be leashed when not being used for

hunting or training purposes.

- Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited, except temporary blinds may be constructed on-site from willows (Salicaceae) and non-woody vegetation.
- Vehicle use is restricted to graveled roadways and parking areas open to the public.
- Horseback and bicycle riding are permitted on graveled roads and parking areas open to vehicles.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.
- Primitive camping is permitted only in spots designated on the area map. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period and no more than 30 days in a calendar year. Groups of 10 or more campers need a Special Use Permit.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sail boarding, caving and rappelling are prohibited.

## Fishing and Boating

*Fishing is permitted under statewide regulation. The following special regulations also apply to lakes and ponds on Schell-Osage CA:*

- Fish may be taken with up to 3 poles and line, bank lines, jug lines, limb lines, throw lines, and trot lines on lakes and ponds at Schell-Osage CA.
- Carp, buffalo, suckers, and gar may also be taken by atlatl, gig, bow, or crossbow during statewide seasons.
- Daily limits are six (6) black bass, except in Atkinson and Schell lakes where the limit is two (2); four (4) catfish (channel, blue and flathead) in the aggregate; white, yellow and striped bass and their hybrids, fifteen (15), and fifteen (15) crappie. All other fish are under statewide limits, but may not

exceed twenty (20) in the aggregate.

- All black bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught in Atkinson and Schell lakes. On all other impoundments, all black bass between twelve (12) and fifteen (15) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- No more than four (4) of any combination of white, yellow, striped, or hybrid bass may exceed 18".
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on lakes and ponds.
- Gizzard shad may be taken from lakes and ponds with dip net or throw net on Schell-Osage CA.
- Fishing permitted on Atkinson Lake Feb. 1 to Oct. 14.
- Fishing permitted on the East River Road Feb. 1 to Oct. 14.
- Boats, including sailboats, may be used on lakes and ponds designated as open to boats. Boats may not be left unattended overnight.
- Outboard motors in excess of 10 horsepower must be operated at slow, no-wake speed.
- Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than 70 acres.
- Use of houseboats and personal water craft is prohibited.

## Harry S. Truman Lake (Osage River Arm)

### Regulation:

See the Wildlife Code for fishing regulations on Truman Reservoir.

## Hunting and Trapping

*This area offers excellent waterfowl hunting and good deer and turkey hunting. Rabbit, dove and quail hunting are found on limited portions of the area. Hunting and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:*