

Recreational Opportunities

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

Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities.

- No littering.
- Unattended camp or warming fires are prohibited. All fires may be restricted during times of extreme fire danger. All fires must be contained and thoroughly extinguished before being left. No live trees may be cut for firewood, except with a fuelwood cutting permit issued by the Area Manager.
- Groups of 10 people or more must obtain a special use permit.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only.
- Vehicle use is restricted to graveled and paved roads and established parking areas unless otherwise posted.
- Bicycles are allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads (if any) can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Primitive camping is permitted only in areas identified on area map. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Total camping days on all department lands are limited to thirty (30) days within one (1) calendar year. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit.
- No target shooting allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- On lakes and ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- On lakes and ponds, daily limits are six black bass, four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. All other fish, statewide limits, but the total number taken may not exceed 20.
- On lakes and ponds, all black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, snagging, snaring, grabbing, pole and line, a

twenty-two (.22) caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, or crossbow, only on waters and within dates and hours those waters are open to fishing.

- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all lakes and ponds.
- Salvage seining of other fish as designated in 3 CSR 10-6.550 may be permitted seasonally for personal use with a special use permit.
- Boats may not be stored or left unattended overnight.
- Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and limits except: only archery and muzzleloading methods may be used and no archery antlerless or firearms antlerless permits may be used.

- Deer may be hunted only with archery and muzzleloading methods.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from Sept. 1 through Jan. 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 Feb. 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

For local information, contact:
St. Joseph Office 816/271-3100

11/2025

(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, 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.

Crooked River

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION