

Hunting and Trapping

The following special regulations apply:

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Non-toxic shot is required for all hunting with a shotgun on this area. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 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.
- Waterfowl hunters must self-register at designated hunter record boxes prior to hunting by completing a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag and accurately report harvest and check out immediately after the hunt.
- Disabled waterfowl hunting blind reserved for disabled users only.
- Portion identified as "Waterfowl Refuge" is closed to all public use October 15 to March 1.
- 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.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by Special Use Permit.

Nearby Department Areas:

Montrose Conservation Area
Amarugia Highlands Conservation Area
Bittern Bottoms Conservation Area
Four Rivers Conservation Area
James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

For local information, contact:

Settle's Ford Conservation Area
37111 E 361 Street
Garden City, MO 64747
(816) 862-6488 or (417)876-5226

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

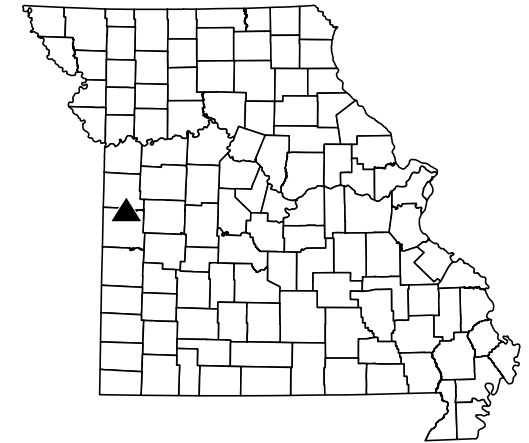


9/2023

(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.

Settle's Ford

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

About This Area

Settle's Ford Conservation Area is located on both sides of the South Grand River in southeast Cass and northeast Bates Counties. From Creighton, take Route B west 4 miles, then Index Road south 1 mile to the area's main entrance.

This 7,364-acre area was purchased from willing sellers, primarily using federal funds provided as compensation for the Trimble Wildlife Area, which was inundated by the Smithville Reservoir.

Southern Cass and Bates Counties were hotbeds of border violence before and during the Civil War. Eventually all residents were evacuated by federal troops under General Ewing's infamous "Order No. 11." Shortly after resettlement was permitted, a family with the name of Settles operated a mill and ford in the center of what is currently the conservation area.

Settle's Ford is rich in diversity and contains about 3,000 acres of bottomlands and 3,700 acres of uplands. Native warm season grasses, grain crops and trees have been planted to provide winter cover and nesting habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Water control structures are used in the bottomlands to provide shallow water for wetland-dependent wildlife species.

The area contains portions of the old channel of the now channelized South Grand River, small glades, upland and lowland hardwoods, several small intermittent streams, two large open bottomland tracts, several ponds and 14 wetland management pools. These features and others provide a wealth of habitat for many wild plants and animals and many recreation opportunities.



Recreational Opportunities

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

Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. except for authorized fishing, hunting, dog training and launching and landing boats.

Rules and Regulations

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires.
- 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, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption.
- No collecting artifacts or any other activity that damages or disturbs historical or archeological features.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to gravel roadways and parking areas.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles.
- No camping permitted.
- Bicycles are allowed on roads open to vehicles.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, collecting plants and animals, skateboarding, caving and rappelling are not allowed.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging is permitted under statewide regulation. The following special regulations also apply:

- On streams, fishing is permitted under statewide regulations.
- On impounded waters, daily limits are six black bass, four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue, and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. All other fish are not to exceed 20 in the aggregate.

- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- Other posted restrictions may apply to specific ponds, lakes and stream segments.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all lakes and ponds, excepted as otherwise provided in this chapter.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written permission of the Conservation Department.
- Boats, including sailboats, may be used on lakes and ponds designated as open to boats. Boats may not be left unattended overnight.
- Houseboats, airboats, and personal watercraft, as defined in section 306.010, RSMo, are prohibited.

