

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 prohibited.

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 on the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area is by one of two designations: Open or Restricted. Mason Island and the 215 Mile Group are designated as open sites.
- Blinds may be constructed without site restrictions.
- Blinds may not be locked, transferred, rented or sold.
- Boats may not be left at blind sites overnight.
- Blinds that are unoccupied at 30 minutes before legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit.

For local information, contact:

Department of Conservation
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
801 Strodtman Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63138
(314) 877-6014

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

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(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.

Upper Mississippi Mason Island & 215 Mile Group – Pool 26

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION