

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Bicycling – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting – 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.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires except in designated camping areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for dove hunting.

Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only.

- Motor vehicles are allowed only on graveled public roadways and parking areas unless otherwise posted.
- 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.
- Bicycles allowed on multi-use trails and designated service roads year-round. Multi-use trails and service roads (if any) can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Horses and horseback riding are allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, skateboarding, caving and rappelling are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating:

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

On ponds and Bilby Ranch Lake, daily limits are six black bass, four catfish, in aggregate (channel, blue, and flathead catfish), four walleye, and 30 crappie. All other fish, statewide limits, but the total number taken may not exceed 20. Pole and line methods only, not to exceed 3 poles per person.

- All black bass and walleye less than 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water 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.
- Boats may not be stored or left unattended overnight.
- On Bilby Ranch Lake, outboard motors in excess of 10 horsepower must be operated at a slow, no-wake speed. On all other area impoundments, electric motors only are allowed.

Hunting and Trapping:

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations. Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for dove hunting.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed 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.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

For local information, contact:

Nodaway Valley CA - 660/446-3371

or

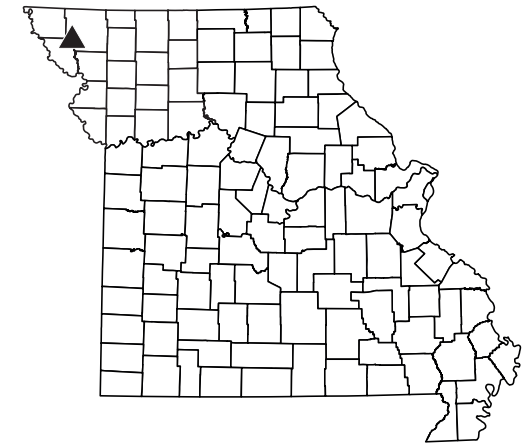
St. Joseph Regional Office 816/271-3100

12/2025

(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.

Bilby Ranch Lake

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION