

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
DISTRICT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

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*** RESTATED FEBRUARY 2005 ***

001 GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION AND USE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY.

Pursuant to the provisions of, *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §§2-3290 to 2-3,201 the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (hereinafter referred to as the “District”) adopts the following rules and regulations which apply to the administration, use, maintenance, and protection of all Wildlife Management Areas under the ownership or control of the District. These rules and regulations became effective on December 19, 1984 and were restated in March of 2003.

These rules and regulations shall apply to all persons who enter, use, reside, visit, or are otherwise present within the boundaries of any Wildlife Management Area owned or controlled by the District. The special regulations contained herein apply to all persons who enter, use, reside, or visit, or are otherwise present in where special regulations are in force.

002 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to all regulations contained herein.

- 002.1 District shall mean the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.
- 002.2 Manager shall mean the General Manager of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.
- 002.3 Law Enforcement Officer shall mean any duly commissioned and credentialed officer, including but not limited to any Game and Parks Commission Conservation Officer or Deputy Conservation Officer, local police officer, member of the State Patrol, Sheriff or Deputy sheriff.
- 002.3 Wildlife Management Area shall mean any real property owned or controlled by the District which is open to general access by the public.
- 002.4 Special Area Regulations are regulations adopted by the District for a particular Wildlife Management Area or a part thereof.
- 002.5 Motor vehicle shall mean any kind of motorized transportation including, but not limited to, an automobile, truck, sports utility vehicle, motorcycle, trail bike, mini bike, snowmobile, and all terrain vehicle.

003 ABANDONED PROPERTY

- 003.1 Abandonment of any vehicle or item of personal property is prohibited and such property may be impounded by the Manager or any Law Enforcement Officer.

- 003.2 Leaving unattended any vehicle or item of personal property for more than 24 hours without prior permission of the Manager is prohibited, subjects such property to impoundment by the Manager or any Law Enforcement Officer. If unattended property at any time interferes with the safe or orderly management of the Wildlife Management Area, it may be impounded immediately and such property shall be impounded at the expense of the owner.
- 003.3 Disposing of household or commercial garbage or trash brought as such from private property is prohibited.

004 CAMPING

- 004.1 Camping is the temporary lodging out of doors for hunting, fishing or other outdoor activity using a sleeping bag, tent, trailer, or other vehicle modified for such use. Camping trailer may not exceed the width and length of a camping trailer as provided in *Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-614*.
- 004.2 Camping is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas, except where restricted by posting of signs, or by special area regulations.
- 004.3 Group-type camping by youth groups, civic groups, clubs, organizations and other similar groups is only authorized by written permit.
- 004.4 Overnight camping on Wildlife Management Areas is limited to three consecutive nights in a six consecutive day time period.

005 HOURS

- 005.1 The District may establish by posting signs visiting hours for any or a portion of a Wildlife Management Area. In addition, the District may close to public use, by posting signs, all or any portion of a Wildlife Management Area when necessary for the protection of an area or the safety and welfare of persons or property.
- 005.2 All persons intending to use any Wildlife Management Area shall observe and abide by posted signs designating visiting hours and closed areas.

006 FIRES AND FIREWORKS

- 006.1 Fires are permitted in fireplaces, grills or fire rings furnished by the District. Fires are also permitted in privately owned devices such as gasoline or propane stoves, charcoal grills, or similar devices. All other fires are prohibited.
- 006.2 The Manager or his designee may temporarily revoke permission for fires of any kind in Wildlife Management Areas by posting signs at the public entrances to the area when he or his designee determines that the use of fires could be hazardous to health, safety, or welfare of persons, property, or wildlife resources.

006.3 The use of fireworks of any kind in Wildlife Management Areas is prohibited, except that the Manager or his designee is authorized to use fireworks, scare devices or similar materials for control or management of wildlife species.

007 FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING, TARGET SHOOTING

007.1 Fishing is permitted in all Wildlife Management Areas subject to State fishing regulations, except that all or any portion of any area may be closed to fishing by posting a sign.

007.2 Hunting with a firearm appropriate for hunting, bow and arrow, or other projectile device is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas subject to State hunting regulations unless prohibited by posting a sign or where special area regulations restrict or prohibit such activities.

007.3 Target shooting or the shooting of blue rocks is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas unless restricted or prohibited by posting signs or by special area regulations. Blue Rock shooters may further be subject to range regulations as posted on designated areas.

007.4 Trapping is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas in accordance with general State trapping regulations, unless restricted or prohibited by posting signs or special area regulations.

007.5 The use of and / or possession of paintball weapons of any type shall be prohibited in Wildlife Management Areas.

008 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

008.1 Disorderly conduct is prohibited.

008.2 Disorderly conduct is committed when a person causes public alarm, nuisance, jeopardy or violence, or recklessly creates a risk thereof by:

008.2.1 Engaging in fighting or threatening, or violent behavior; or

008.2.2 Using language, an utterance, or gesture, or engaging in a display or act which is obscene, physically threatening or menacing, or done in a manner which is likely to inflict injury or incite an immediate breach of the peace; or

008.2.3 Making noise which is unreasonable, considering the nature and purpose of the actor's conduct, location, time of day or night, and other factors which would govern the conduct of a reasonably prudent person under the circumstances; or

008.2.4 Creating or maintaining a hazardous or physically offensive condition.

008.3 Persons committing disorderly conduct may be evicted from the area.

009 INTOXICATION: CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

009.1 Consumption of alcoholic beverages in Wildlife Management Areas is generally prohibited, except that such consumption is permitted in District and privately owned structures used as temporary or permanent residences.

009.2 Anyone present in a Wildlife Management Area when under the influence of alcohol to a degree that it may endanger oneself or another person, property, or may cause unreasonable interference with another person's enjoyment of the area is prohibited.

009.3 Except as provided in 009.1 above, the possession by any person of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal is broken, or the contents of which has been partially removed is prohibited. This section does not apply to the following:

009.3.1 An open container stored in a trunk of a motor vehicle or, in the case of a motor vehicle without a trunk, in an open container stored in some other portion of the vehicle designed for the storage of luggage or not normally occupied by or accessible to the operator or passengers, or

009.3.2 An open container stored in the living quarters of a motor home or camper.

0010 NRD LANDS MANAGED BY NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

0010.1 At the time that the control of a Wildlife Management Area has been assumed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, State Wildlife Management Area Regulations as administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall apply.

0011 PERMITS, SPECIAL OCCASIONS

0011.1 Sporting events, pageants, reenactments, regattas, and similar events use for public entertainment or competition are prohibited unless a written permit is issued by the District. A permit shall only be issued after a finding that the event is consistent with the activities of the Wildlife Management Area and will not cause unreasonable interference of the use of the area by the general public. The permit may contain such reasonable conditions and restrictions as to duration and area occupied are necessary for the protection of the area and public use thereof.

0011.2 Public meetings, assemblies, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, religious services and other similar events are prohibited unless a written permit has been issued by the District.

- 0011.3 The taking of still or motion pictures by any person of lands, wildlife and facilities owned or controlled by the District for commercial purposes is prohibited unless written permission has been granted by the District.
- 0011.4 Applications for a Permit for a Special Occasion shall be received by the District not later than thirty (30) days prior to the requested special activity and shall set forth the following: The name of the applicant, the date, time, duration, nature and place of the proposed activity, an estimate of the number of persons expected to attend, and a statement of equipment and facilities to be used in connection therewith.
- 0011.5 The District may require that an applicant for a Permit post a bond with satisfactory surety payable to the District to cover costs such as restoration, rehabilitation and cleanup of the area used, and other costs resulting from the permittee's activity. In lieu of a bond, a permittee may elect to deposit cash equal to the amount of the required bond.

0012 GEOCACHING ACTIVITIES, PERMITS

- 0012.1 Cache Permits: Placement of a cache on Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) property must be secured with a Special Occasion Permit.
- 0012.1.1 The person applying for a permit must provide a valid address, telephone number, e-mail address, vehicle license number and the web site address on which the cache will be posted.
- 0012.1.2 The location of the cache must be pre-approved by the General Manager whose main concern will be public safety and the prevention of undesirable impacts to natural and cultural resources. The General Manager will advise of any off limits areas, other permitted caches and possible prescribed burn areas for the calendar year.
- 0012.1.3 Once the cache is placed, the applicant must return to the LPSNRD office to record the exact cache location, including GPS coordinates, which will be added to the permit.
- 0012.1.4 All permits will be in effect for the calendar year. A new permit will need to be applied for and authorized each year. NOTE: If during the effective period of a permit, a permit holder wants to change the location of the cache, a new permit must be issued and the effective permit cancelled.
- 0012.1.5 Upon the expiration of a permit, the permit holder is responsible for removing the cache and for removing the cache location from all web sites and any information source. If the permit holder fails to remove the cache, it will be removed by LPSNRD staff and held for ten (10) days after which staff will dispose of the cache. Confiscation and disposal by staff will be recorded and filed.
- 0012.2 Cache containers and contents.

- 0012.2.1 Cache containers must be non-breakable, waterproof and have some form of latch or other closing mechanism to prohibit content exposure to wildlife. Cache containers must be marked “Geocache Container” on the outside of the container.
- 0012.2.2 Caches may not contain inappropriate or dangerous items. Such items include, but are not limited to; food, medications, personal/hygiene products, pornography, weapons of any type, etc. Log books are encouraged in lieu of exchange items.
- 0012.2.3 All caches are subject to random inspection by LPSNRD staff. Staff has the authority to immediately remove any item held in a cache deemed unacceptable. Non-permitted caches will be removed by area staff and held for 30 days. An attempt will be made to locate the cache owner. If the cache is not claimed in 30 days, staff will dispose of the cache.
- 0012.3 Cache Locations. The location of a cache must be pre-approved by the General Manager.
 - 0012.3.1 Physical caches are prohibited inside or attached to any LPSNRD facility or structure. Caches may not be placed in locations that may lead to the creation of spur trails. Caches may not be placed in dangerous, inappropriate, or protected areas and habitats, on cliffs, underground or underwater.
 - 0012.3.2 No digging is permitted. Caches cannot be buried, nor may soil, vegetation or stones be disturbed to place a cache.
- 0012.4 Compliance
 - 0012.4.1 The use of metal detectors in cache searches is expressly prohibited.
 - 0012.4.2 If geocaching activities as a whole are found to have negative impact on LPSNRD resources or if safety becomes an issue in geocache searches, the General Manager may ban geocaching from certain areas of LPSNRD property. Failure to comply with LPSNRD guidelines will result in the revocation of effective geocaching permits. Continued failure to comply with these guidelines will prevent the issuance of any further geocaching permits to the non-compliant group or individual.

VISIT: www.geocaching.com

0013 PETS, LIVESTOCK, AND OTHER ANIMALS

- 0013.1 It is unlawful for any person to allow dogs, cats or other pets to roam at large in any Wildlife Management Area.

- 0013.2 Dogs, cats or other pets are permitted in Wildlife Management Areas, provided they are physically restrained by leash, cage, crate or other such device, unless restricted or prohibited by posting signs, or by special area regulations.
- 0013.3 It is unlawful for anyone to exercise, run, train or hunt dogs for any purpose in Wildlife Management Areas during the period from May 1 through July 31 of each year, except in areas designated and specifically posted with signs stating “Authorized Dog Training Area”. Training of dogs may further be prohibited by posting signs or by special area regulations.
- It is also unlawful for any professional dog trainer, in pursuit of his or her business, to exercise, run or train dogs in Wildlife Management Areas at any time. For purpose of these regulations, a professional dog trainer is defined as a person who trains dogs for a fee or other remuneration.
- 0013.4 Training or exercising dogs in areas designated and posted as Dog Trial Areas is prohibited. Such areas are reserved for Field Trial Use only.
- 0013.5 Grazing or ranging domestic livestock or poultry is prohibited without a written permit issued by the District.
- 0013.6 Horseback riding is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas except where prohibited by posting signs.
- 0013.7 Hunting dogs may be used to hunt in Wildlife Management Areas when such areas are open to hunting.

0014 PROPERTY

- 0014.1 The possession, destruction, injury, defacement, removal, or disturbance of any building, sign, equipment, monument, statute, marker, or other structure, or of any animal or plant matter and direct or indirect products thereof, including but not limited to firewood, petrified wood, flower, cane, fruit, egg, nest, den, or of any soil, rock or mineral formation, artifact, relic, historic or prehistoric feature, or of any other public property of any kind is prohibited in Wildlife Management Areas, except that the Manager or his designee may grant special permission or authorization permitting such activities where it is in the best interest of the public and wildlife resources.
- 0014.2 Ice fishing shelters may be placed in all Wildlife Management Area waters but must be removed no later than February 10 of each year. The size of any ice fishing shelter shall not be larger than 54 inches in width by 96 inches in length with 8 inch wide runners that are 6 inches in distance from the floor and constructed of floatable materials.
- 0014.3 Fishing shelters must display on the outside door the name and address of the owner.

- 0014.4 The door to any fishing shelter shall be constructed so that it can be opened from the outside at all times when in use, and the shelters may be locked when not in use. The District may remove, the shelters and the contents found therein that remain on the ice after February 10 of each year. The shelters and any contents located in the shelters may be held by the District for a period of thirty days. After such period, shelters and contents which have not been claimed by the owner may be retained or disposed of by the District.
- 0014.5 The above regulations do not apply to temporary, portable shelters that are erected and removed from frozen surfaces daily.
- 0014.6 Hole size made for ice fishing on any area shall not exceed 10 inches in diameter.
- 0014.7 Portable water fowl hunting blinds may be used in Wildlife Management Areas, provided that no blind shall be used on areas where signs are posted as closed to such activity or closed by special regulations.
- 0014.8 Portable blinds shall be removed from the Wildlife Management Area at the close of each hunting day. Portable blinds and other personal property remaining in a Wildlife Management Area following the close of hunting each day may be considered abandoned, shall be subject to removal and disposal.
- 0014.9 Portable type tree stands and tree steps attached with chain and ropes may be placed and used in Wildlife Management Areas. Occupancy of portable tree stands shall be on a first come basis. Portable tree stands and portable steps must be removed from trees and areas within fifteen (15) days following the close of hunting season.
- 0014.10 The construction or use of permanent or semi-permanent tree stands, including steps that attach to any tree with nails, screws, bolts, wire, or any metal object is prohibited.

0015 SANITATION

- 0015.1 All garbage, papers, cans, bottles, waste materials and trash of any kind must be deposited in places or containers designated for the disposal thereof or removed from the area.
- 0015.2 Draining or dumping refuse or waste from any trailer or other vehicle except in places or receptacles provided for such use is prohibited.
- 0015.3 Polluting or contaminating in any manner any Wildlife Management Area, including lakes, streams, creeks or water used for drinking purposes is prohibited.

0016 SWIMMING, WADING, BOATING, AND OTHER WATER RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 0016.1 Swimming is prohibited in any Wildlife Management Area, except where facilities are specifically provided for swimming or where signs are posted permitting swimming. Where permitted, swimming shall be at the sole risk of the swimmer.

- 0016.2 Wading for the purpose of fishing or hunting is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas at the sole risk of the participant, except that wading is prohibited in areas that are posted with signs or where prohibited by special area regulations.
- 0016.3 No wake boating is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas unless where specifically posted with signs or as specified in special area regulations.
- 0016.4 Water skiing is prohibited in Wildlife Management Areas.
- 0016.5 Flotation devices are prohibited in Wildlife Management Areas, except that Coast Guard approved life preservers, life vests or belts, and similar devices for the purposes prescribed by the Nebraska Boating Laws and Regulations are permitted.

0017 TRAFFIC

- 0017.1 It shall be unlawful for any person in any Wildlife Management Area to operate a motor vehicle on surface other than roadways, parking areas, or trails specifically designated for vehicle use. Provided however that nothing in this section shall prohibit employees of the District or other authorized persons from using motor vehicles for emergency, construction, repairs and other similar purposes.
- 0017.2 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in any Wildlife Management Area at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the prevailing conditions or in excess of any maximum posted speed limits.
- 0017.3 It shall be the duty of each motor vehicle operator to obey all posted traffic regulatory signs.

0018 VENDING

- 0018.1 The sale of any goods, services, products, or commodities in any Wildlife Management Area is prohibited.

0019 WINTER SPORTS

- 0019.1 Skiing, sledding, tobogganing, snow-shoeing, skating, and similar winter sports are permitted except upon roads and parking areas when such roads and parking areas are open to motor vehicle traffic and in other places where these activities are prohibited by posted signs or special regulations.
- 0019.2 The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or other sliding devices by any motor vehicle is prohibited.
- 0019.3 The operation and use of snowmobiles is prohibited except upon roads and parking areas when such roads and parking areas are open to motor vehicle traffic.

0020 STANDARDS

- 0020.1 The standards established in these rules and regulations are to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, historic and pastoral beauty of the area and to provide for the enhancement of the recreation values including fish and wildlife of the Wildlife Management Areas.
- 0000.2 Use and development of any Wildlife Management Area will also be subject to any applicable federal, state, and local law.

0021 EXCEPTIONS TO REGULATIONS

- 0021.1 Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted or construed as prohibiting the District or its agents or employees from the performing their assigned duties in the administration, maintenance, and development of any Wildlife Management Area.
- 0021.2 In the event of natural disaster, state or national emergency, civil disorder, accident or other situation where in the conduct of activities otherwise permitted under these regulations may constitute a hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare, or inhibit rescue, recovery, post-disaster or development operations, the Manager and any authorized employee of the District is specifically empowered and directed to take such measures at their disposal to preserve the public health, safety and welfare and to expedite rescue, recovery and operations to include the temporary suspension of any or all activities contemplated in these regulations or any area or portion of any area owned, or controlled by the District and the temporary closure and/or evacuation of any such area.