

Kansas State Parks & Public Lands Regulations Summary



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KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
Pratt Operations Office
512 SE 25th Ave.,
Pratt, KS 67124
(620) 672-5911

Website: kdwp.state.ks.us

115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting, furharvesting, and discharge of firearms.

(a) Subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice, the following activities shall be allowed on department lands and waters:

- (1) Hunting during open seasons for hunting on lands and waters designated for public hunting;
- (2) furharvesting during open seasons for furharvesting on lands and waters designated for public hunting and other lands and waters as designated by the department;
- (3) target practice in areas designated as open for target practice; and
- (4) noncommercial training of hunting dogs.

(b) Other than as part of an activity under subsection (a) the discharge of firearms and other sport hunting equipment capable of launching projectiles shall be allowed on department lands and waters only as specifically authorized in writing by the department.

(c) The discharge of fully automatic rifles or fully automatic handguns on department lands and waters shall be prohibited.

(d) Department lands and waters shall be open neither for commercial rabbit and hare furharvesting nor for commercial harvest of amphibians and reptiles.

(e) The department's "KDWP fisheries and wildlife division public land special use restrictions," dated January 7, 2009, is hereby adopted by reference. (Authorized by K.S.A. 32-807; effective Dec. 4, 1989; amended July 13, 2001; amended May 16, 2008; amended May 15, 2009.)

115-8-2. Blinds and tree stands.

Subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice, blinds and tree stands shall be allowed on department lands and waters as follows:

- (a) portable blinds, floating blinds and portable tree stands used for hunting may be placed not more than 14 days prior to the hunting season for which the blind or stand will be used and shall be removed from department property within 14 days after the hunting season for which the blind or stand was placed has ended;
- (b) portable blinds, floating blinds and portable tree stands used for purposes other than hunting may be placed for a period of time not to exceed 14 days and shall be removed from department property at the conclusion of 14 days or after the intended use of the blind or stand has ended, whichever time period is less;

(c) ladders, screw-in metal steps, and steps attached by ropes, cables or chains may be used for access to portable tree stands and shall be removed at the same time as the portable tree stand is removed as required by subsections (a) or (b);

(d) natural blinds may be used for any authorized activity and shall be constructed of natural herbaceous materials or woody debris or both that are present at the site of the natural blind;

(e) any individual may use a placed portable blind, floating blind, portable tree stand or natural blind when the blind or stand is not occupied; and

(f) any blind, stand or climbing device not in conformance with rules and regulations or posted notice provisions or restrictions may be removed or destroyed by the department.

115-8-4. Non-commercial hunting dog training.

(a) Subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice, department lands and waters that are designated for public hunting or other areas as designated by the department shall be open for the non-commercial training of hunting dogs as follows:

(1) The non-commercial training of bird dogs and retrieving dogs shall be authorized throughout the year.

(2) The non-commercial training of trail hounds and sight hounds shall be authorized during and in compliance with established running and hunting seasons.

(b) Pigeons, pen-raised or wild-trapped, may be released and shot during the noncommercial training of bird dogs and retrieving dogs. Banding of released pigeons shall not be required.

(c) Other than pigeons, no game bird, pen-raised bird, or wild-trapped bird may be released on department lands or water during the noncommercial training of bird dogs and retrieving dogs, unless specifically authorized by a permit issued by the department.

115-8-6. Fishing, fish bait, and seining.

Fishing and the taking of fishing bait shall be allowed on department lands and waters, subject to the following general restrictions:

(a) Fishing shall be prohibited at boat ramps and boat docks closed to fishing by posted notice.

(b) Fishing shall be prohibited at swimming areas, and swimming beaches posted as swimming areas or swimming beaches and delineated by buoys or other markers.

(c) Minnows and other fishing bait may be taken for use as fishing bait only on a noncommercial basis and may be used only in the department-managed water where taken.

(d) Seining in department-managed waters shall be prohibited.

(e) The cleaning of fish in state parks shall occur only at designated fish cleaning stations or other locations as established by the department.

(f) The use of trot lines and set lines shall be prohibited in the waters of Crawford state park, Meade state park, Scott state park, and all department-managed impoundments under 500 surface acres in size.

(g) Additional restrictions may be established by posted notice.

115-8-7. Boating and general restrictions.

All department lands and waters and all federal reservoirs, shall be open to boating subject to provisions, restrictions, and closures as established by posted notice. All of the following general restrictions shall apply:

(a) Each operator of a motorized vessel on a state fishing lake shall operate the vessel only for fishing or hunting purposes unless otherwise authorized by the department;

(b) Each operator of a motorized vessel on a state fishing lake shall operate the vessel at no-wake speeds if required by posted notice;

(c) No operator of a vessel shall operate the vessel within 200 feet of any area posted specifically for swimming or diving and delineated by buoys or other markers;

(d) Each operator of a vessel shall operate at no-wake speeds of five miles per hour or less when within 200 feet of any of the following: a dock, a boat ramp, a person swimming, a bridge structure, a moored or anchored vessel, a sewage pump-out facility, a nonmotorized watercraft, a boat storage facility or a concessionaire's facility;

(e) An operator of a vessel shall not moor or store the vessel in excess of 24 hours, except at sites designated for moorage or storage of vessels; and

(f) vessels left unattended at other than a designated moorage or storage site or vessels not in conformity with posted notice provisions or restrictions for moorage or storage sites shall be subject to removal by the department as authorized by law.

115-8-8. Swimming.

(a) Swimming shall be allowed in all department waters, subject to the following restrictions:

(1) Swimming shall be prohibited in state fishing lakes except as authorized by posted notice.

(2) Skin and scuba diving shall be allowed only in department waters designated for these activities by posted notice.

(3) Swimming in any department water may be prohibited or restricted by posted notice.

(b) In any department water where swimming is otherwise prohibited, body contact with water that occurs incidental to allowed activities shall be authorized.

(c) On lands that are designated by posted notice as swimming beaches or in waters that are designated by buoys or other markers as swimming areas, the following restrictions shall apply:

(1) Possession of liquor or beer shall be prohibited.

(2) No containers other than shatterproof containers shall be possessed.

115-8-9. Camping.

(a) Camping shall be allowed only in designated areas on department lands and waters and shall be subject to provisions or restrictions as established by posted notice.

(b) All campers and camping units shall be limited to a stay of not more than 14 consecutive days in a campground unless otherwise established by posted notice or as otherwise authorized by the department.

(c) Upon completing 14 consecutive days in a campground, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from that campground for at least five days.

(d) One extended camping stay of not more than 14 additional consecutive days at the same campground may be granted through a written permit issued by the department if vacant camping sites are available. Upon completing 28 consecutive days at the same campground, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the department-managed area for at least five days, except as authorized in subsection (e).

(e) Long-term camping in state parks shall be allowed on designated camping sites for six consecutive months through a written permit issued by the department if vacant long-term camping sites are available. Upon completing six consecutive months at the same state park, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the state park for at least five days.

(f) Except as authorized by the department, camping units shall not be left unoccupied in a campground for more than 24 hours.

(g) Except as authorized by the department, vehicles or other property shall not be left unattended upon department lands or waters for more than 24 hours.

(h) Except as authorized by the department, any property unoccupied or unattended for more than 48 hours and any property abandoned upon department lands or waters shall be subject to removal by the department and may be reclaimed by the owner upon contacting the department. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807; effective March 19, 1990; amended Feb. 10, 1992; amended Oct. 12, 1992; amended Sept. 12, 2008.)

115-8-10. Pets; provisions and restrictions.

(a) Pets shall be allowed but shall not be permitted to enter into any of the following:

(1) areas that are posted as swimming beaches or swimming areas that are delineated by buoys or other markers;

(2) public buildings; or

(3) public structures.

(b) Pets shall be controlled at all times by using any of the following methods:

(1) hand-held lead not more than 10 feet in length;

(2) tethered chain or leash not more than 10 feet in length. The pet shall be under the direct observation of and control by the owner; or

(3) confined to a cage, pen, vehicle, trailer or privately owned cabin.

(c) The requirements of subsection (b) shall not apply to dogs while being used during and as a part of any of the following acts or activities:

(1) hunting during open hunting seasons on lands or waters open for hunting;

(2) authorized field trial events;

(3) non-commercial training of hunting dogs subject to any provisions or restrictions as established by posted notice;

(4) special events or activities as authorized by the department; or

(5) working as a "guide dog," "hearing assistance dog," or "service dog," as defined in K.S.A. 39-1113 and amendments thereto.

(d) Guide dogs, hearing assistance dogs, and service dogs shall not be restricted by the requirements of subsection (a). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807; effective Dec. 4, 1989; amended Sept. 12, 2008.)

115-8-11. Domestic animals and livestock; provisions and restrictions.

(a) Livestock used for riding shall be allowed for riding purposes on maintained roads, bridle paths, parking areas and other areas designated by posted notice, except the riding of livestock on state park areas shall be restricted to maintained bridle paths and other areas designated by posted notice.

(b) Draft livestock used for draft purposes shall be allowed on maintained roads, parking areas, and other areas designated by posted notice, except the use of draft livestock in state parks shall occur only as authorized by the department.

(c) Livestock may be ridden or used for draft purposes during a department approved special event provided the activity has been approved as a part of the special event.

(d) The stabling of livestock used for riding or for draft purposes shall be restricted to designated areas or as authorized by the department.

(e) Livestock and domestic animals not used for riding or draft purposes or as allowed by K.A.R. 115-8-10 shall be prohibited except as authorized by the department.

115-8-12. Stocking or releasing of wildlife.

Wildlife may be stocked or released on department lands or waters only as authorized by any of the following:

(a) A written agreement issued by the department;

(b) a permit issued by the department;

(c) a department-approved management plan;

(d) rules and regulations; or

(e) posted notice.

115-8-13. Motorized vehicles and aircraft; authorized operation.

(a) Motorized vehicles shall be operated only on department roads and parking areas, except as otherwise established by posted notice or as approved by the secretary.

(b) Motorized vehicles shall be operated at speeds not in excess of 25 miles per hour or as otherwise established by posted notice.

(c) Motorized vehicles shall be operated in accordance with load limits as established by posted notice for roads or bridges.

(d) Motorized aircraft landings and takeoffs shall be

allowed in designated areas only or as authorized by the secretary.

(e)

(1) Except as provided in this regulation, each motorized vehicle that meets either of the following conditions shall be prohibited from being operated on all department lands and roads:

(A) Is not registered with one of the following:

(i) The director of vehicles pursuant to K.S.A. 8-127 and amendments thereto; or

(ii) the corresponding authority in another state or country; or

(B) is unlawful to be operated on any interstate highway, federal highway, or state highway pursuant to K.S.A. 8-15,100 and L. 2007, Ch. 140, Sec. 3, and amendments thereto.

(2) The term “motorized vehicle” shall include all-terrain vehicles, work-site utility vehicles, golf carts, go-carts, and electric or gasoline-powered two-wheeled vehicles.

(f) Any person with a disability, as defined by K.S.A. 8-1,124 and amendments thereto, may annually request a permit from the secretary to utilize a motorized vehicle for accessing certain department lands and roads to provide access to recreational opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to disabled persons. Each written request shall include the following:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;

(2) the nature of the disability;

(3) the name and location of the property to be accessed;

(4) the date or duration of the entry requested; and

(5) documentation of that person’s disability in the form of a disabled accessible parking placard, disabled motor vehicle license plate, or disabled identification card issued by the director of vehicles of the department of revenue pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1,125 and amendments thereto, or similar documentation issued by another state.

(g) No person who is in possession of a motorized vehicle and has a permit to operate the motorized vehicle on department lands and roads shall perform either of the following:

(1) Allow another person to operate the vehicle on department lands and roads unless that other person has a permit issued by the department; or

(2) operate the vehicle on department lands and roads unless that person is in possession of a permit issued by the department.

(h) Each permit issued by the department that authorizes the operation of a motorized vehicle on department lands and roads shall expire on the last day of the calendar year in which the permit was issued, unless otherwise specified on the permit.

(i) A permit that authorizes the operation of a motorized vehicle on department lands and roads shall not be issued or shall be revoked by the secretary for any of the following reasons:

(1) The disability does not meet the requirements for the permit.

(2) The application is incomplete or contains false information.

(3) The disability under which the permit was issued no longer exists.

(4) The documentation of disability in the form of a disabled accessible parking placard, disabled motor vehicle license plate, or disabled identification card issued by the director of vehicles of the department of revenue pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1,125 and amendments thereto, or similar documentation issued by another state, has expired.

(5) The permit holder fails to comply with the terms and limitations of the permit or with the requirements specified in this regulation.

(6) The issuance or continuation of the permit would be contrary to the preservation of habitat or species located on or in department lands or waters.

(j) This regulation shall not apply to any motorized vehicle that is owned by the department or a designated agent and is used in the operation and maintenance of department lands and roads. (Authorized by K.S.A. 32-807; implementing K.S.A. 32-807; effective Dec. 4, 1989; amended Feb. 8, 2008.)

115-8-14. Fireworks.

discharge and public displays.

(a) Subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice, using or discharging fireworks shall be allowed only in designated areas or as authorized by the department.

(b) Public fireworks displays may be conducted through special event permits issued by the department.

(c) Public fireworks displays shall comply with all state laws and rules and regulations applicable to public fireworks displays.

115-8-15. Fire; authorized uses.

(a) Subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice, fires shall be allowed for the following purposes:

(1) cooking or heat in firerings, fireplaces, grills and stoves;

(2) department approved management purposes; and

(3) other purposes as authorized by posted notice.

(b) Fires shall be attended at all times and shall be totally extinguished prior to leaving the site of the fire.

115-8-19. Personal conduct on department lands and waters; provisions, restrictions and penalties.

(a) The conduct, actions, or activities of persons on department lands and waters shall be subject to provisions and restrictions as established by posted notice. The following general provisions and restrictions shall apply:

(1) No person shall advertise, engage in or solicit any business, or make a charge for any event or service except as authorized by the department.

(2) Quiet hours shall be observed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Except as authorized by the department, actions which will alarm, anger or disturb others shall be prohibited during quiet hours. Individuals with knowledge or probable cause to believe that their actions will alarm, anger or disturb others or who engage in noisy conduct during quiet hours may be subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this regulation.

(3) Subject to the provisions of K.A.R. 115-8-21 and other posted provisions or restrictions, individuals may possess, consume or drink cereal malt beverages with no more than 3.2% alcohol by weight, as defined in K.S.A. 41-2701 and amendments thereto.

(4) The consumption or possession of alcoholic liquor as defined in K.S.A. 41-102 and amendments thereto, shall be prohibited.

(b) In addition to penalties prescribed by law or rule and regulation, failure to comply with laws, rules and regulations, permit conditions or posted restrictions by an individual may result in such individual or equipment of the individual being removed from departmental lands or waters.

115-8-20. Construction, littering, and prohibited activities.

(a) The following activities shall be prohibited on department lands and waters except as specified in rules and regulations or as authorized by the department.

- (1) Constructing any structure, building, facility, appurtenance or roadway;
- (2) dumping, discarding, or depositing trash, litter, or waste material;
- (3) digging holes or pits; and
- (4) destroying, defacing, degrading, or removing any of the following:
 - (A) Signs;
 - (B) real or personal property, other than property owned by that person;
 - (C) geological formations;
 - (D) historical sites;
 - (E) archeological relics or ruins; or
 - (F) vegetation, except for the noncommercial gathering of edible wild plants, wild fruits, nuts, or fungi for human consumption.

(b) Trash, litter, and waste material shall be deposited or discarded only in containers provided for the depositing of trash, litter, and waste material. Each person using lands or waters where these containers are not provided shall remove any trash, litter, and waste material generated as a result of and during the person's use of the area.

115-8-21. Special events; permit requirements and procedures; department lands and waters.

(a) A special event permit shall be required for any event occurring on department lands or waters, or both, if one of the following conditions exists:

- (1) An entrance, admission, or participation fee is charged.
- (2) Food, merchandise, or service is offered for sale.
- (3) The exclusive use of a facility or a specified land or water area is necessary, other than facilities or areas for which other permits may be issued.
- (4) An organized or advertised competition will be conducted.
- (5) Sound will be amplified that may disrupt area users.
- (6) Temporary structures, other than blinds or common camping equipment, will be erected.

(b) An event sponsored in part or in total by the department shall not require a special event permit.

(c) For a field trial or a water event on department lands or waters, a special event permit may be issued by the department in place of a field trial permit or a water event permit if the requirements of K.A.R. 115-13-2 or K.A.R. 115-30-9, respectively, are met in addition to the requirements for a special event permit.

(d) Permit procedures.

- (1) Each application for a special event permit shall be made to the department no fewer than five weekdays before the event is to be held.
- (2) Payment of the special event permit fee specified in K.A.R. 115-2-3 shall accompany each application.
- (3) The permit fee shall be returned to the applicant if the special event permit is not approved by the department.
- (4) The permit fee shall not be refunded for an issued special event permit.
- (5) A performance deposit may be required as a condition of special event permit issuance.
- (6) The deposit shall be returned by the department if the special event permittee has met all permit conditions.

(e) Permit holders may tag or mark wildlife only as allowed under permit conditions.

(f) A special event permit may be refused issuance by the department if the proposed event meets any of the following conditions:

- (1) Would not be compatible with intended uses of the area;
- (2) Would result in misuse or damage to facilities, structures, or the natural environment; or
- (3) Would pose a threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

(g) In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, failure to comply with all rules and regulations and permit conditions shall be grounds for revocation of a special event permit or refusal to issue a special event permit.