



REMINDERS OF STATE LAND RULES FOR STATE WILDLIFE / GAME AREAS

for rules appropriate for [State wildlife and game areas](#), or State Lands other than [State Parks & Recreation Areas](#), from [Regulations of Lands Administered by the Michigan DNR](#). Authority conferred to DNR by [1994 Public Act 451 \(Sec. 504\)](#), Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) [324.504](#). If have questions, please [contact DNR Offices](#), phone 517-284-6000, or 517-284-9453 for the DNR Wildlife Division. [DNR Report-All-Poaching](#) hotline is 800-292-7800.

NOTE: It is your responsibility as a user of public lands, to ensure you're informed of all current rules and regulations relevant to your activities. This document represents some relevant details, but is not complete legal notice, is not a complete collection of all rules, regulations and laws, and may not be as immediately updated as current legislation or situation. It's a condensed tool issued for convenience to help users. Complete listings of official legal regulations and language are available from the [DNR website](#) at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](#). Contact [DNR offices](#) with any questions, and to verify regulations on possible activities before you do those activities, to avoid unlawful or illegal situations.



If you **CANNOT** read details on this page, then try the digital version. Scan the QR-block (above, at far right) with a smart phone /device & load this page for functions like: enlarge text, use hyper-links to sources, reach a [multi-page version](#) for more details or [plain text version](#) (works for ADA or Braille needs), etc.

RULES below are grouped by similar subject and simplified from exact legal wordings; access [all rules, regulations, and laws](#) at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](#). Do **NOT** do these unlawful or illegal activities (listed below) on State lands owned or controlled and posted by DNR, etc.: [penalties can vary & be severe](#):

Posted, Signs and Designated Areas: "Posted" or "properly signed on the ground"

means signs posted by DNR, providing reasonable notice of location, boundary, trail, route, area, rule or warning, particular use or activity. "Signs" include signs, markers, notices, posters or other formats of information for the public. "Designated" means listed in official documents, and then signed or posted designating the use. "Permit" or "proper written permission" means DNR-issued written permit or permission for a specific activity. *Persons exempt from rules* are DNR employees doing work.

- Do NOT enter, use, or occupy State lands for any purpose, when the area is posted against entry "Do NOT Enter", against use or occupancy, etc.
- Obey all posted signs or notices.
- Do NOT move, remove, destroy, or deface signs of DNR or other State agencies.
- Do NOT post any signs, handbills, paint or otherwise mark any State resources, like trees, rocks, features, lands, waters, structures, property, etc. This is vandalism and destruction of property.
- Do NOT store or leave any property (items) for more than 24 hours, on any State land - except lawful blinds/stands (see [Hunting rules](#)) and lawfully used camp sites (see [Camping rules](#)).

Rules for Fire, Trash, Alcohol, and Glass:

- Do NOT use or ignite fireworks!
- Do NOT set fire to contents of trash container.
- Do NOT place, bury or burn trash of any kind.
- Do NOT start or build a fire of any kind, except in stove or grill provided by DNR.
- Do NOT litter or leave trash in areas; use provided trash containers -or- take your trash with you.
- Do NOT dispose of animal carcass or other remains (like gut piles, etc.) on State land.
- Do NOT dispose of trash (or garbage, refuse, rubbish, etc.) which is not from State land use, into containers provided on State lands. Could include pet/dog feces (see [LUOD Chap2, Sec2.108](#)).
- Do NOT possess alcoholic beverages, except if posted as allowed; "Alcoholic beverage" means any substance containing one-half percent or more of alcohol by volume. Exceptions are over-the-counter and prescription medications (person with prescription should be named on it).
- Do NOT possess glass or any type of glass container, either whole or partially glass, within any areas posted for recreational use for beach, bathing, swimming, wading, or posted "no glass".

Do NOT Interrupt Public Land Use -or- Unfairly Use Public Resources:

- Do NOT hold an event without appropriate DNR permit(s). "Event" means a single, structured, organized, consolidated, scheduled meeting or occurrence, on State land, which may have a fee/ donation required for participation or attending and/or involves more than 20 persons. Examples: races, contests, tournaments, rides, GPS events, scavenger hunts, etc. Note: this excludes licensed and/or DNR offered managed or special hunts, and lawful group/ party hunts.
- Do NOT be excessively loud, like using a loudspeaker, sound-amplifying equipment, or any device (motor, radio, TV, generator, etc.); for all noisy devices, quiet hours are 10pm-8am. Exceptions: lawful hunting and trapping, and DNR approved game-calling devices when hunting.
- Do NOT engage in disorderly conduct or disruptive behavior, like any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, bullying, or otherwise unlawful and illegal personal-behavior in public.
- Do NOT use State land or resources for any commercial operation, without an appropriate DNR permit; "Commercial operation" is any activity involving, directly or indirectly, an attempt-to-offer or an exchange like buying and selling or barter of anything of value, goods or services, etc.
- Do NOT beg, peddle or solicit business of any kind. Do NOT distribute or post any handbills or advertising materials, post signs, vandalize, paint or otherwise mark any State land or resources.
- Do NOT place, construct or occupy any structure, fence or barrier, or modify or enclose State lands or resources, unlawful trespass, etc. - exception is lawful blinds/stands (see [Hunting rules](#)).
- Do NOT destroy, damage, or remove any State resources like animals, trees (like personal Christmas trees), shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, other vegetation, etc. - except in DNR approved plots. Exceptions: lawful personal take of mushrooms, berries, edible fruits or nuts for personal use (to 25 lbs) allowed by DNR or with DNR permit. All animal take or harvest is DNR licensed.
- Do NOT remove more than 25 pounds total weight per individual per year (and must be for an individual personal or non-commercial hobby), of any rock, mineral specimen (exclusive of rules for gold bearing material), sand or topsoil, invertebrate fossil, or other resources from State land.

Hunting Related: "Public Hunting" means public use for hunting with all appropriate required licenses, in correct season, safety conditions, etc. There are many detailed [specific rules for hunting](#).

- Do NOT forget to check for hunting safety zones, when hunting or when moving any weapon.
- "Hunting Safety Zone" are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) from any structure which could be occupied by a person, wherein there is no discharge of any weapon (gun, bow, etc.), and has no hunting - except under specific special permissions or special conditions (indoor range), etc.
- Note: You may retrieve legal game from Safety Zones or also consider it a "Retrieving Only" Zone.
- Do NOT store or leave any property (items) for more than 24 hours, on any State land - except lawful ground blinds and tree stands meeting DNR requirements (labelled with owner's name, no screw-in steps, etc.), and lawfully occupied designated camp sites (see [Camping rules](#)).

Target Shooting:

- Target shoot in appropriate areas. State [shooting ranges](#) have [specific rules](#).
- Do NOT target shoot at anything except paper, cardboard, clay, or one created for target shooting.
- Do NOT target shoot at an explosive or incendiary object, or fireworks. Use all weapons safely!

Rules for Dogs, Pets, Horses and Riding Animals, etc.:

- Obey all signs for pets.
- Identified service animals (leader dogs for blind, etc.) are not "pets" but [legal accommodations](#).
- There are special use areas and rules for hunting with dogs, [dog training](#), or [dog field trial areas](#).
- Do NOT possess a dog or other pet animal (one animal or many), except if they are under your immediate control on a leash of 6 feet or less, in a DNR designated recreational day-use areas.
- Do NOT ride or lead a horse, saddled or pack animal, other riding animal, or any animal-driven vehicle on any State land, except on: roads open to motor vehicles; on DNR designated horse/ animal trails or bridle paths; in designated campgrounds for animal use; and/or on any State forest land not posted closed to such use or such entry. See [other equestrian rules](#) for details.

Access, Parking, and Motor Vehicle Related:

"Motorized vehicle" means any device which can transport person(s) or property using an energy source (fuel, gasoline) other than wind or muscle-power; a bicycle is muscle-powered.

"Off-Road Vehicle (ORV)" means a recreational motor-vehicle capable of cross-country use without a road or trail, over natural terrain (land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, water, etc.), which includes: typical "all-terrain vehicle" (ATV); motor-bike, motor-cycle; any number of wheels or tracked; multi-drive wheels; amphibious or air-cushion vehicle; or any other motor vehicle transport - but excluding: law enforcement, emergency, fire or military vehicles; registered [snowmobile](#) or aircraft; [farming](#), construction or logging vehicles when used in those named functions.

"Personal Assistive Mobility Device" (PAMD) means a wheelchair or any device designed solely for personal movement of a person with a mobility impairment, and considered an extension of that person which they can use anywhere foot travel is allowed - and not considered a vehicle.

- Do NOT obstruct or hinder public access to any road, trail, parking, path or open State lands.
- Do NOT park any type of vehicle in areas posted as "no parking", or "no vehicles";
- In areas with designated parking areas, do NOT park any vehicle outside of designated areas.
- A "Michigan Recreation Passport" may be required to access or park in some areas.
- An incorrectly parked vehicle's license plate will identify the [owner](#) and responsible person.
- Do NOT park any vehicle in a designated campsite, or otherwise unlawfully occupy a campsite.
- Do NOT park any wheeled motorized vehicle (except PAMD) more than 50 feet from the traveled portion of a road, forest road, trail open to wheeled vehicles, or parking lot.
- A properly-registered vehicle can be on a forest road which is not posted "no entry" or closed.
- "Forest road" means a hard-surfaced, gravel or dirt road, or other route capable of travel by a conventional 2-wheel drive 4-wheeled vehicle designated for regular roads, [interstate, state, or county highways](#); "Trail" means a 1-track way for a vehicle less than 50 inches wide.
- Do NOT operate any vehicle (except PAMD) including a snowmobile and a bicycle, on anything except a designated "open to the public" road, trail, parking lot, lands, etc., or in an area posted by DNR as open to such vehicle use. Do NOT bypass closed gates with vehicle.
- Do NOT use, operate, or possess a vehicle (except PAMD) on a designated State pathway; "pathway" or path means a narrow recreational trail for people and motor vehicle use prohibited
- ORV or ATV users should read the many detailed and specific [ORV rules \(MCL 324.81133\)](#).
- Do NOT store or leave any property (ORV trailer, etc.) for more than 24 hours, on any State land - except lawful blinds/stands (see [Hunting rules](#)) and lawful camp sites (see [Camping rules](#)).
- Do NOT disturb a forest road with any device (like sleds) disturbing surface deeper than 2 inches.

Boating Related: "PAS" means Public Access Sites and Harbors. "Vessel" or "water craft" means every type of device (craft, ship, boat, raft, canoe, etc.) used for transportation on water.

- Do NOT enter, use, or occupy any areas between 11pm-4am daily - where specifically posted as closed during those hours. Reaching some PAS requires a [recreation passport](#) to enter, park.
- Do NOT enter certain [specifically named State areas](#), PAS, harbors, dams, etc. which are posted closed or no entry (even walk-in), no entry with vehicles, or only enter with a [recreation passport](#).
- Do NOT block access to boat launch/ ramp, PAS, except while launching or retrieving a vessel.
- Do NOT operate motor above idle speed, at DNR launch/ ramp, unless propeller disengaged.
- Do NOT moor or raft off a State dock or PAS, without having paid appropriate dock fees.
- Do NOT swim, wade, or bathe, where such activities are specifically posted as prohibited.
- Do NOT camp (on the ground) in PAS, except in designated campsites; see [Camping rules](#).
- Camping related rules DO apply to vessels when anchored, tied, or moored in State waters or waters immediately offshore of State lands, within 10 pm to 8 am or when persons sleeping.
- Do NOT risk your life when afloat or boating; Beware of water ditches and ditch/dike areas which may have unexpected deep water and which poses a drowning risk. Beware of thin ice areas.
- Do NOT store or leave any property (items like trailers, boats, fish shanty, trailer, supplies or containers, etc.) for more than 24 hours - except lawful blinds/stands (see [Hunting rules](#)) and lawfully used camp sites (see [Camping rules](#)).
- See additional [special rules](#) for unique boating-related situations (unattended vessels, etc.).

Camping Related: "Camp" means: set-up/ place and occupy a tent, tent-type camper, travel or house trailer; sleeping in any type of vehicle or water vessels moored off State land, or sleeping in any other manner. "Dispersed camping" is special by-permit camping away from a designated camp site, with special rules (not all listed here). "Quiet hours" are between 10 pm to 8 am.

- Do NOT camp outside of designated campground areas or sites on any type of State land.
- Do NOT camp inappropriately or in prohibited areas (like in veg. buffers on natural rivers, etc.).
- Do NOT camp in a designated parking area, except those posted to allow camping.
- In State wildlife and game areas, Do NOT camp between May 15 to Sept. 10, except in specific designated and signed camping sites noted as approved for use between those dates.

In designated campsites, follow DNR directions and requirements, rules for fires, etc., and:

- Do NOT unlawfully occupy designated camping sites, or use a site for extra parking space.
- Do NOT register a campsite by a person under 18 years of age; must be an adult, one at camp.
- Do NOT have all persons in one site location or in camp at one time, under 18 years of age.
- Do NOT have more than 1 enclosed self-contained camping unit on a single camp site.
- Do NOT camp on a site with more than 6 persons (except maybe a "family"; see detailed rules).
- Do NOT leave a campsite unoccupied for more than 24-hours after establishing camp; A site is occupied if 1 member of those camping at site is in site during nighttime of 10pm-8am.
- Do NOT use a camp site as a permanent or semi-permanent residence.
- Do NOT camp more than 15 consecutive nights in a year in any camp site.
- A new camp means the new location is more than 1 mile from the previous site.
- Do NOT store or leave any property (items, trailer, etc.) for more than 24 hours, on any State land - except lawful blinds/stands (see [Hunting rules](#)) and lawfully used camp sites.

DNR Non-Discrimination Statement ensure you read it [online](#) or in DNR publications.