

TITLE 58  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SERIES 43  
WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREAS

**§58-43-1. General.**

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This legislative rule establishes regulations to govern public use of West Virginia wildlife management areas.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§20-1-7(30) and 20-3-2.

1.3. Filing Date. -- May 8, 1995.

1.4. Effective Date. -- May 9, 1995.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. -- These rules repeal and replace 58 C.S.R. 6 "West Virginia Wildlife Management Areas" that were filed on June 24, 1993 and became effective June 24, 1993.

**§58-43-2. Definitions.**

2.1. "All-Terrain Vehicle" or "ATV" means any motordriven vehicle specifically designed for off-road recreational activities that is not subject to vehicle registration requirements established under the provisions of Chapter 17A of the West Virginia Code.

2.2. "Division" means the West Virginia "Division" of Natural Resources.

2.3. "Wildlife Management Area" means any public access areas, public hunting areas, public fishing areas, public hunting and fishing areas, public shooting grounds, or public shooting ranges administered by the "Division". For the purpose of this rule the term "wildlife management area" also includes the West Virginia State Wildlife Center at French Creek.

2.4. "Public Shooting Range" means any range on a property owned or administered by the Division which is open to the general public for the practice of archery, pistolry, riflery, trapshooting (skeet), or a combination of such sports.

2.5. "Bicycle or Mountain Bike" means any light vehicle having two wheels one behind the other, a steering handle, a saddle seat or seats, and pedals by which it is propelled.

2.6. "Horse" means all members of the Genus Equus.

2.7. All other terms have the meaning prescribed to them in The Rule Defining the Terms To Be Used Concerning All Hunting and Trapping Regulations (58 C.S.R. 46).

**§58-43-3. General Regulations.**

3.1. Abandoned Property. The Division assumes no responsibility for watercraft or other personal property used on a wildlife management area. If such property is abandoned or left unattended for a period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours, the Division may remove and dispose of the property in accordance with applicable provisions of the West Virginia Code.

3.2. Camping. Tent and trailer camping on wildlife management areas is permitted in designated areas only. Any person who occupies a campsite for which there is a rental fee must pay that fee upon entering the wildlife management area.

3.3. Fires. Fires are permitted on wildlife management areas only in fireplaces, fire rings, or grates which have been provided by the State or in

areas designated by the Division. Fires must be completely extinguished before a person leaves the site of the fire.

3.4. Livestock Grazing. It is illegal to graze livestock on a wildlife management area without first obtaining a special use permit from the Division.

3.5. Noises and Disturbances. Loud or excessive noise, disorderly conduct, or other disturbances are prohibited on wildlife management areas.

3.6. Property Damage. It is illegal to cut, damage, deface, or destroy any building, rock, shrub, sign, tree, or other property on a wildlife management area.

3.7. Removal of Objects. It is illegal to remove any man-made or natural object from a wildlife management area, except game legally taken during the open seasons prescribed under Rule Title 58 C.S.R. 45, 55, and 60. Objects which may not be removed include, but are not limited to, animals, plants, rocks and minerals, sand, and historical or archaeological artifacts.

#### 3.8. Vehicles in Wildlife Management Areas.

3.8.1. The maximum speed limit for vehicles is thirty (30) miles per hour, unless a lower speed limit is posted. Drivers must observe all traffic signs and directions.

3.8.2. The driving of any vehicle in a manner which creates a nuisance to other persons by repetitive or continuous cruising is prohibited.

3.8.3. The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorbikes and snowmobiles is prohibited except where specifically permitted by posted signs on designated roads and trails.

3.8.4. The driving of any vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile in a manner so as to harass, chase, or annoy any animal or bird is prohibited.

3.9. Tree Stands. Only portable tree stands

may be used on public lands.

#### §58-43-4. Special Regulations.

4.1. Stonecoal Wildlife Management Area. No person may create a shoreline development of any kind on the lands and waters under the administrative control of the Division within the boundaries of the Stonecoal Wildlife Management Area.

4.2. West Virginia State Wildlife Center at French Creek. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the boundaries of the West Virginia State Wildlife Center.

#### §58-43-5. Bureau of Commerce Facilities.

5.1. The rules found in Title 144 C.S.R. 1 are in effect for those recreational facilities and areas administered by the West Virginia Bureau of Commerce in the following wildlife management areas:

5.1.1. Berwind Lake (McDowell County).

5.1.2. Big Ditch Lake (Webster County).

5.1.3. Bluestone Lake (Mercer and Summers Counties).

5.1.4. Laurel Lake (Mingo County).

5.1.5. Moncove Lake (Monroe County).

5.1.6. Pleasant Creek (Barbour and Taylor Counties).

5.1.7. Plum Orchard Lake (Fayette County).

5.1.8. Teter Creek Lake (Barbour County).

#### §58-43-6. Public Shooting Ranges.

6.1. Hours of Operation. Hours of operation

will be posted at the entrance to each public shooting range and no person may utilize the range except during the posted hours. The range may be temporarily closed at the discretion of the responsible district game biologist or area manager.

6.2. Range Safety. Each shooter utilizing a public shooting range must observe all posted range safety rules.

### 6.3. Shooting Range Targets.

6.3.1. Glass or metal containers may not be used as targets on any public shooting range. Only paper, clay and metal silhouette targets may be used on the public shooting range without prior approval of the district game biologist or area manager.

6.3.2. After use, targets or silhouettes must be removed from the range by the shooter or disposed of in containers provided at the range.

### 6.4. Other Prohibitions.

6.4.1. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the boundaries of all public shooting ranges.

6.4.2. No person may handle a weapon at a public shooting range while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or other drug, or while under the combined influence of alcohol and a controlled substance or other drug.

6.4.3. Except for persons who are under 16 years of age and who have a valid West Virginia hunting license, no person under 16 years of age may use the public shooting range unless directly supervised by a person 18 years of age or older.

### 6.5. Firearms.

6.5.1. All firearms must be unloaded and firearm handling must cease while any person is forward of the firing line. Firearms may be loaded and discharged only at established shooting stations. The firing line shall be defined as the line directly in front of and parallel to the shooting benches.

6.5.2. No person may move forward of the firing line until all firing has ceased, all users acknowledge an "All Clear" command and all firearms have been unloaded and placed on the shooting benches.

6.5.3. Firearms must be pointed downrange at all times.

6.5.4. Use of fully automatic firearms is prohibited unless otherwise designated by the district game biologist.

## §58-6-7. Mountain Bikes or Bicycles in Wildlife Management Areas.

7.1. The use of mountain bikes or bicycles are permitted only on roads normally open to public travel and designated routes as posted on the area.

7.2. Groups of 10 or more people must obtain a permit from the district game biologist or area manager prior to riding a designated route.

7.2.1. Group size will be limited to a maximum of 25 people.

7.2.2. Use of the wildlife management area for competitive events is prohibited.

7.2.3. Group use is prohibited during Spring Gobbler Season and between October 10 and December 31 except Sundays.

7.2.4. No more than two groups may use a designated route in the wildlife management area for each daylight period.

## §58-43-8. Horseback Riding in Wildlife Management Areas.

8.1. Horseback riding is permitted only on roads normally open to public travel and designated routes as posted on the area.

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8.3. Public use facilities.

8.3.1. No person shall bring or allow horses in designated camping areas.

8.3.2. Where horses are maintained in concentrations to create a solid waste problem, the owner shall be responsible for the removal and disposal of any waste produced by the animals. Feed shall be restricted to locally obtained or pelletized horse feed.

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