

Rules For Wildlife Management Areas

Dogs

- It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase, or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

Camping/Fires

- Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms, or other facilities) is permitted for up to 14 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp or fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted.
- It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and midnight.

Disabled Hunter Access

- Trails are open to wheelchairs, including manual and power wheelchairs, personal mobility assistive scooters, and certain other similar devices designed primarily to assist people with disabilities. Individuals are encouraged to use caution when selecting trails, as many were designed for foot traffic only. Terrain might make them unsuitable for personal mobility devices.
- As part of a commitment to making Virginia's public lands places for all to enjoy, the Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, and Game and Inland Fisheries are in the process of evaluating safety concerns and environmental impacts of opening these trails to the use of other power driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities. Check our website periodically for updates.

Firearms

- It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow, crossbow, or firearm, which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasants, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, or waterfowl; and additionally, migratory game birds on Department owned lands east of the Blue Ridge; or by permit issued by the Department. (See

valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 18.)

- It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded firearm or loaded crossbow in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA. (See valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 18.)
- Target shooting is permitted on designated ranges only.

Fishing, Boating, & Swimming

- Refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for any special creel and size restrictions that may apply to wildlife management areas.
- It is unlawful to use boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail, or by mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel, unless otherwise posted
- Swimming is prohibited. Anglers actively engaged in fishing, hunters actively engaged in hunting, and trappers lawfully trapping may wade in public fishing lakes.
- It is unlawful to use trotlines on public fishing lakes.

General

- Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding & Hiking

- Horseback and bicycle riding are welcome on all roads and trails unless otherwise posted. Please avoid riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. Riders and cyclists should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Hiking is welcome. Hikers should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- Blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Hunting & Trapping

- Refer to the current hunting and trapping seasons found in this digest. Special seasons and bag limits that apply to a wildlife management area will be posted at the entrance.

Resource & Property Damage

- It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy, or remove vegetation, or to remove minerals, artifacts, or other property from the area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.
- No posting of unauthorized signs.

Special Antler Rules

- It shall be unlawful to kill an antlered deer on Featherfin Wildlife Management Area or on the special Fairystone Quality Deer Management Area unless the deer has at least four antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.

Vehicles

- Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Cross-country motor vehicle travel (off-road travel) is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

Facility Use Permit

Effective January 1, 2012, a Facility Use Permit will be required when using any Department-owned Wildlife Management Area or Fishing Lake. Such permit shall not be required for any person holding a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license or a current certificate of boat registration issued by the Department or persons 16 years of age or younger. The Facility Use Permit requirement does not apply to Department-owned boat ramps or segments of the Appalachian Trail on Department-owned land. The Facility Use Permit fee is \$4 for a daily permit or \$23 for an annual permit. The Facility Use Permit may be purchased online or at any license agent.