LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION

Rules and Regulations of the Louisa County Conservation Board

1. Authority.

1.1. Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Louisa County, Iowa Conservation Board hereby places into effect the following regulations:

2. Definitions

2.1. The following terms, as used in these regulations, shall for the purpose of these regulations have the meanings assigned hereto, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated:

2.2. *"Board"* means the Louisa County Conservation Board, of Louisa County, Iowa.

2.3. *"Director"* means the Executive Director of the Board.

2.4. *"Area"* means all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed or by other means under the control of the Board.

2.5. *"Authorized Representative"* includes people officially designated from time to time by the Director or Board, including the Director and Board.

2.6. *"Special Use Permit"* means any use permit signed by an Authorized Representative.

2.7. *"Minor"* means any individual who has not reached age 18 years.

2.8. *"Adult"* means any individual who has reached the age of 18 years.

2.9. *"Camp" or "Camping"* means sleeping indoors or outdoors and using any temporary sleeping accommodations for temporary residence.

2.10. *"Campground"* means any Area designated open for Camping.

2.11. *"Campsite"* means a defined segment of any Campground designated open for Camping.

2.12. *"Camping Party"* means the registered occupant(s) which occupy a Campsite.

2.13. *"Camping Unit"* means either a single tent not larger than 140 square feet in size at the base, camper, motor home, converted bus, or motor vehicle used to Camp by a Camping Party, plus an additional tent no larger than 140 square feet in size at the base, if the same is used and occupied by members of that Camping Party.

2.14. *"Cabin Grounds"* means a defined segment of an Area designated open for Camping or other allowed use.

2.15. *"Official Signs"* means signs provided for in the Iowa Department of Transportation Traffic and Safety Manual, and other signs as installed by park personnel.

3. Scope

3.1. These regulations shall apply to all Areas.

4. Preservation of Property

4.1. No person shall injure, deface, remove, nor in any manner destroy or cause to be destroyed any part of an Area, nor any buildings, signs, structures, equipment, cultural artifact or other property found therein. No person shall remove, injure, or destroy any tree, flower, shrub, plant, other vegetation, or any rock or other mineral except by permission of an Authorized Representative. This section shall not apply to berry picking, mushroom collection, wild edible collection, nut gathering, or fruit picking, provided such activity is for personal use and such products are not sold. This section shall not apply to willow trees when they are used to construct a natural blind for hunting purposes.

4.2. No person shall possess, harvest, dig, cut, gather, plant, propagate, intentionally disturb or destroy ginseng or ginseng seed on any Area

4.3. No person shall operate an electric or gas-powered device to cut, buck, fell, or otherwise disassemble any living or non-living tree, shrub or limb for any reason, including firewood, shelter, or blind creation.

4.4. Manual hand tools to cut or otherwise disassemble non-living trees or limbs which have completely fallen in a Campground or in the immediate vicinity of a Campground for the exclusive use in that Campground as firewood is allowed.

5. Recreation Uses Only Allowed

5.1. No person shall wash or repair vehicles, advertise, campaign, hawk, peddle, or use facilities in a way which is not primarily recreational, except with permission from an Authorized Representative or as concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease contract with the Board.

6. Fees, Charges, and Reservations

6.1. All applicable fees and charges, including those charged by authorized concessionaires, shall be paid in accordance with the official fee schedule.

6.2. No person shall enter or use any Area or facilities for which entrance fees, user fees, or reservations are required without paying said fee, or obtaining a reservation, except by permission of an Authorized Representative.

7. Reserving Park Facilities

7.1. Reservations for Shelters, Campsites, and Cabin Grounds shall be made exclusively online, except for Campsites and shelters at Flaming Prairie.

7.2. A Minor shall not reserve any facility.

8. Adult Supervision

8.1. Any Minor aged 12 or under shall be accompanied by an Adult.

8.2. Adults shall be in charge of the safety and well-being of the associated Minor(s) and are responsible for any damage caused by the associated Minor(s).

9. Motorized Vehicles and Boats Restricted

9.1. No person shall operate any snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or any other land conveyance propelled by a gasoline or electrical engine and run-on wheels, tracks, or runners in or on any Area, except roads and parking areas, unless the user possesses a valid Other Power-Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) Permit.

9.2. The use of E-bikes shall be permitted provided the E-bike conforms to the state regulations set forth by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

9.3. No person shall operate any boat on any pond with any motor, except for electric trolling motors.

10. Traffic and Parking

10.1. A speed limit of 15 miles per hour shall be observed, except where otherwise posted.

11. Drone Use Prohibited

11.1. The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, for recreational purposes is prohibited. Commercial use is allowed with a valid Special Use Permit.

12. Abandoned Vehicles

12.1. No person shall abandon any boat or motor vehicle. Any boat or motor vehicle that appears to be abandoned or that remains unattended for more than 24 hours without authorization may be removed and stored at the owner's expense. If not reclaimed within six months of its removal, all such vehicles shall be disposed of as provided by law.

12.2. This section does not apply to vehicles or boats lawfully present under a valid Campsite reservation or other authorization.

13. Camping

13.1. When a Campsite is open, all charges and fees shall be in effect as set forth in the official fee schedule.

13.2. Camping is only allowed at a Campsite or Cabin Grounds.

13.3. A maximum of two Camping Units shall occupy a Campsite.

13.4. No Camping Party or Camping Unit shall occupy a single Campsite for more than 14 consecutive nights.

13.5. Any guest of a Camping Party must leave the Campground by 10:30 p.m.

13.6. Quiet hours shall be observed from 10:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m.

13.7. Camping Parties shall leave their Campsite free of litter and in substantially the same condition as before occupied.

14. Possession and Consumption of Alcohol Restricted

14.1. No person shall have in their possession any alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 123.3(3) of the Code of Iowa, in a container larger than one liter without first obtaining a Special Use Permit.

14.2. Any alcoholic beverage possessed in violation of this rule may be confiscated by an Authorized Representative and destroyed.

15. Smoking

15.1. Smoking is prohibited inside all buildings and shelters and on the grounds of such buildings and shelters, as defined by Section 142D.3(2)(e) of the Code of Iowa.

16. Littering and Domestic Refuse Prohibited

16.1. All waste, refuse, and litter, shall be disposed of in designated receptacles when provided. When not provided, all refuse must be taken with the user.

16.2. Commercial or household garbage shall not be disposed of in park and Campground receptacles.

17. Animal Leash and Waste

17.1. No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large. An animal shall be deemed as running at large unless the owner carries the animal, leads it by a leash or chain less than six feet in length, confines it in or attaches it to a vehicle, or confines it in a cage or pen not exceeding 100 square feet.

17.2. Animals used for hunting shall be allowed to run without a leash only on Areas open to hunting, provided owners maintain control through visual, voice, or other sound production method, and such activity is part of a legal hunt or training action.

17.3. No privately owned animal shall be allowed without a leash between March 15 and July 15, except on those Areas designated for such uses during that time.

17.4. Owners must immediately pick up and dispose of feces of privately owned animals.

18. Hunting

18.1. All Iowa hunting, trapping, and migratory game bird regulations established by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall be followed. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any hunting activity prohibited by state or federal law.

18.2. No person shall drive or otherwise place any nail, spike, pin, or other metal object into any tree to construct a blind or provide hunting access above the ground.

18.3. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, or molest, trap, or attempt to trap any birds or wild animals on any Area designated as "No Hunting".

18.4. The use of all blinds is on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of type or construction.

18.5. Tree stands used for deer or turkey hunting may be left from seven days prior to the start of deer or turkey hunting season until seven days after the final day of that open season.

18.6. No person shall construct a hunting blind using materials other than natural vegetation found within the Area, except that no trees or tree parts other than willows may be cut for that purpose.

18.7. Portable or pop-up blinds are prohibited on hunting Areas from one hour after sunset until midnight each day.

18.8. Decoys are prohibited on hunting Areas from one-hour after sunset until midnight of each day.

18.9. No permanent duck blinds, tree stands, or other hunter shelters shall be allowed on any Area.

18.10. It shall be unlawful to hunt within 100 yards of any Campsite or playground.

18.11. Priority for the use of wheelchair-accessible hunting blinds shall be given to individuals whose mobility impairment requires the use of such facilities for hunting or wildlife viewing.

18.12. Snares are prohibited.

19. Target Shooting Prohibited

19.1. Target shooting is prohibited.

20. Fishing

20.1. All Iowa fishing regulations established by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall be followed. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any fishing activity prohibited by state or federal law.

21. Fireworks Restricted

21.1. Use of fireworks, as defined by Section 727.2 of the Code of Iowa, shall adhere to that section of the Code of Iowa.

22. Horse Use Restricted

22.1. No person shall ride, lead, or otherwise allow the entry of horses or horse drawn wagons on any trail except on those Areas designated for such uses during specific time.

23. Swimming Prohibited

23.1. Swimming is prohibited, except in emergency situations.

24. Sledding Equipment Restricted

24.1. No person shall use any part of a car body, plywood or metal sheet, or any similar device for use in any downhill winter sports activities.

25. Metal Detecting Restricted

25.1. No person shall use a metal detector, except for those users who have a valid metal detecting permit.

26. Official Signs

26.1. No person shall enter, use, or occupy any Area or any facility in disregard of any official signs.

27. Open Hours

27.1. All Areas shall be open and accessible from 5:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., except for registered campers and persons otherwise authorized to remain.

28. State Park Rules

28.1. In the absence of comparable county regulation, applicable Iowa State Park rules and regulations shall apply unless otherwise prohibited by law.

29. Enforcement

29.1. A person who violates these Rules and Regulations or applicable federal, state, or local law may be ordered to leave the Area by an Authorized Representative.

29.2. A person who violates a provision of these Rules and Regulations may be subject to the penalties provided by law.

30. Exceptions

30.1. Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Board, its Director, Authorized Representative, or any peace officer from performing official duties and responsibilities.

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