



For local information, contact:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Central Regional Office
3350 E Gans Rd
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 815-7900

Visit us at:
www.mdc.mo.gov

Rocky Fork Lakes

CONSERVATION AREA



Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions.

- Trapping allowed only with special use permit. Contact area manager.
- Only portable stands are allowed from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on durable material with the full name and address or Conservation number of the owner and be removed from the area by February 1st. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Deer hunting by archery and muzzleloader methods only.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- For more information on deer and turkey hunting regulations, refer to the Fall Deer And Turkey Hunting and Spring Turkey Hunting summaries.

11/2015

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

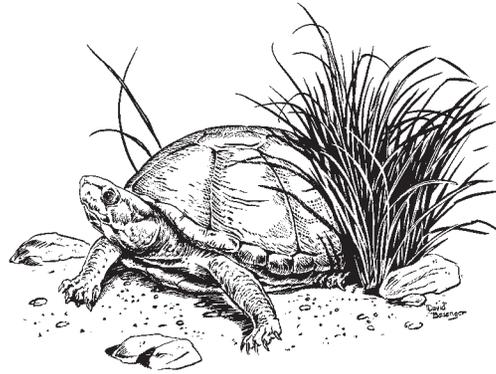
About this Area

The Rocky Fork Lakes Conservation Area is located in Boone County approximately six miles north of Columbia on Highway 63 and one-half mile east on Peabody road. Because the area is located near a population center of 100,000+ people, its 2200 acres are heavily used by many persons for every type of outdoor activity which is suitable to the area. The terrain is extremely rugged due to strip mining, which occurred prior to acquisition by the Department. The mined area has broad ridge tops and generally steep slopes. Approximately 1,150 acres were strip mined with the balance of the acreage being oak-hickory forest cover and remnant prairie. One field of 25 acres is mainly bluestem prairie. Approximately 70% of the strip mined area has been planted with a mixture of trees and shrubs. The remaining areas were seeded with fescue which developed into excellent ground cover on the seeded area, but is not very favorable for wildlife. In 2008, a joint effort between Missouri DNR and MDC completed a 40 acre reclamation project to protect water quality and restore habitat. Approximately 32 acres of coal mining wastes were amended and reseeded in native grasses. There are over 60 lakes or ponds of significant size, which have a total surface area of 116 acres. The largest lake is over 50 acres. In addition, there are over 30 smaller (less than 1 acre) pools, some of which hold water the entire year. Rocky Fork Lakes Conservation Area was purchased by the Department in March, 1979 for a purchase price of \$379,000. Prior to acquisition, the land was owned and mined by Peabody Coal Company, beginning in 1963 and continuing until 1972. The area has been row cropped where possible, and where not possible, livestock were grazed. No evidence exists to show that the landowners excluded their timber from grazing. There is evidence that fires of moderate intensity occurred periodically throughout the timbered

stands. What is more evident are stumps which remain as examples of the landowner's desire to salvage his timber in front of the steady onslaught of the great earth moving coal machine. A few pockets of larger trees escaped this fate. A ramp has been installed for boating access to the large lake, and a fishing dock designed for wheelchair access is located on the big lakes north shore. The areas firearms shooting range receives year-round use.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting- Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

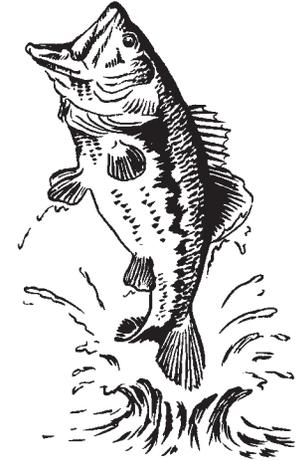


Rules and Regulations

Open for public use from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; hunting, fishing, trapping, dog training, launching and landing boats allowed 24 hours a day on areas where these activities are permitted.

- The shooting range is closed from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each Monday and Friday for maintenance
- Use of fireworks are prohibited.
- Waste containers may be used only for disposal of garbage, trash, refuse, or rubbish generated on department areas.
- Camping is prohibited on the area.
- No bicycling opportunity except on public roadways.

- Pets and hunting dogs are permitted but must be on a leash or confined at all time. Hunting dogs may be used off the leash and unconfined for hunting and training purposes. Hunting permit required to train dogs in pursuit of wildlife.
- Vehicles are only permitted on public roadways and in parking lots.



Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions.

- On impounded waters, daily limits are six black bass, four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish), and 30 crappie. All other fish are not to exceed 20 in the aggregate.
- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- On lakes and ponds fish may be taken only with pole and line and not more than (3) poles may be used by one (1) person at any time.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited in lakes and ponds.
- Seining or trapping live bait is permitted in streams.
- Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than 70 acres.