

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

STATE LAND USE RULES

(By authority conferred on the department of natural resources by section 504 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and Executive Reorganization Orders Nos. 1991-22, 2009-31, and 2011-1, MCL 299.13, 324.99919, and 324.99921)

R 299.921 Definitions.

Rule 21. As used in these rules:

(a) "Camp" means any of the following:

- (i) The opening or setting up of a tent.
- (ii) The parking and occupancy of an enclosed, self-contained camping unit.
- (iii) Sleeping or occupying a sleeping bag, or sleeping in any other manner between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

(b) "Commercial operations" means any activity that involves, directly or indirectly, the buying or selling of goods or services, or the exchange or attempt or offer to exchange goods or services for money, barter, or for anything of value.

(c) "Day-use area" means a specific area of a state park, recreation area, pathway, or state forest which is developed and maintained as an area to be used by the public for picnics, playground use, swimming, organized meetings, social gatherings, and educational displays and exhibits and has a 450-foot buffer zone around the area. "Day-use area" also includes all parks, recreation areas, pathways, or state forest area offices, out-buildings, garages, maintenance shops, museums, the 450-foot buffer zone around all such buildings, and any area that the department designates as a "day-use area," either on a temporary or permanent basis, by posting the boundaries of that area as a "day-use area."

(d) "Designated" means listed in a director's order, posted with a sign or signs at the site, or reasonably identified for a particular use, and includes the following:

(i) "Designated area" means an area that has been properly signed on the ground for cross-country ORV use.

(ii) "Designated campsite" means a site that is identified with a site number.

(iii) "Dispersed camping" means camping by permit on state-owned land under the control of the department on other than a designated area or designated campsite.

(iv) "Designated group campsite" means an area within a designated campground with defined boundaries that allows for the placement of multiple camps for group camping.

(v) "Designated route" means any road that has been properly signed on the ground for ORV use.

(vi) "Designated trail" means a path or way capable of travel by a 2- to 4-wheel vehicle not more than 50 inches in width and properly signed on the ground for ORV use.

(e) "Event" means a single, structured, organized, consolidated, scheduled meeting or occurrence on state-owned land and to which 1 or both of the following apply:

- (i) A fee or donation is required for participation.
- (ii) The number of people involved is 20 or more individuals.
- (f) "Fireworks" means any device as defined in section 2 (i) of 2011 PA 256, MCL 28.452(i).
- (g) "Forest road" means a forest road as defined in MCL 324.81101 (f).
- (h) "ORV" means a vehicle as defined in MCL 324.81101(o).
- (i) "Owner's agent" means an individual authorized by the owner to act on an owner's behalf.
- (j) "Pathway" means a narrow recreational trail of compacted native soil or improved trail surface designated for non-motorized use, except for a PAMD, and properly signed on the ground.
- (k) "Permit or written permission" means a signed permit or signed written permission issued by the department.
- (l) "Personal assistive mobility device" (PAMD) means any device, including one that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by an individual with mobility impairment for locomotion and is considered as an extension of the individual. An individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair or PAMD may use such equipment that meets this definition anywhere foot travel is allowed.
- (m) "Properly signed on the ground" means that a sign has been posted by the department to mark the location or boundary of a designated trail, route, pathway, or other designated area.
- (n) "Quiet hours" means the hours between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. during which time an individual may not knowingly cause noise that disturbs another.
- (o) "State forest officer" means an individual commissioned by the director under authority of section 83107 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.83107.
- (p) "State park and recreation enforcement officer" means an individual commissioned by the director under authority of section 1606 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.1606.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.922 Unlawful acts generally.

Rule 22. On land owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

- (a) Enter, use, or occupy state-owned land for any purpose where posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the department.
- (b) Dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of state-owned land in a receptacle provided on state-owned land.
- (c) Set a fire to the contents of a trash container.
- (d) Bury or burn refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage.
- (e) Engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, or otherwise disorderly conduct, or to lounge, sit, or lie upon a walk, road, or path obstructing the free passage of another individual.
- (f) Place or erect a fence or barrier, to install, construct or occupy a structure or modification to state-owned land, except an otherwise lawful ground blind or tree stand, or to enclose the land.

(g) Move, remove, destroy, mutilate, or deface a poster, notice, sign, marker, or any property of the department or any other agency of government.

(h) Destroy, damage, or remove a tree, including a dead and downed tree and woody debris, shrub, wildflower, grass, or other vegetation. Except in a wildlife food plot, this subdivision does not apply to picking and removing mushrooms, berries, and edible fruits or nuts for personal use.

(i) Solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbill or other advertising material; post a sign; paint or otherwise mark any tree or rock on any state-owned land, water, structure, or property, except with written permission from the department.

(j) Possess a glass container within any state-owned land or water area that is designated as a bathing beach or state-owned land or water area that is regularly used for sunbathing, swimming, or wading.

(k) Obstruct any road or trail in a manner that hinders public access to state-owned land.

(l) Park a vehicle of any type in an area posted as no parking; or, where a designated parking area exists, to park a vehicle of any type in an area other than the designated parking area. If a motor vehicle is found parked on state-owned land and is found to be in violation of this rule, the registered owner is prima facie responsible for the violation as defined in MCL 257.675c(1).

(m) Park any vehicle in or otherwise occupy a designated campsite, except by a registered camper or authorized visitor to a registered camper.

(n) Hold an event including, but not limited to, a race, endurance contest, tournament, or trail ride, unless the event is conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the department. The permit may include a charge to the permittee for the use of state-owned land. The permit may require a performance bond and may require public liability insurance. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for an event if the department determines that the event will not require department oversight, and the event is anticipated to have a minimal impact on the resource or facilities and on the use of state-owned land by others.

(o) Use a loudspeaker, public address system, or sound-amplifying equipment of any kind without written permission, except for an electronic game-calling device that is lawfully used while hunting, or to operate a motor, motorboat, motor vehicle, radio, television, generator, or any other device in a manner that produces excessive noise.

(p) Use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, on state-owned land in the Upper Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, a designated area, or a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles or entry.

(q) Use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, on state-owned land in the Lower Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, or a designated area. A wheeled, motorized vehicle that is properly registered under 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, may be operated on a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles.

(r) Camp in a state park, recreation area, public access site, or designated campground on other than a designated site.

(s) Camp in a designated campground or location in a state forest or state game area for more than 15 consecutive nights, except as provided in R 299.922(t), or to use as a

permanent or semi-permanent residence. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1 mile from the previous camp.

(t) Disperse camp for more than 21 days between October 1 and May 1. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1 mile from the previous camp.

(u) Camp within the native vegetation buffer of any designated natural river, as specified in the department's designated natural river management plan.

(v) Leave a campsite unoccupied for more than a 24-hour period after the camp is established.

(w) Store or leave a watercraft, fish shanty, or other property on state-owned land for more than 24 hours. This subdivision does not apply to a lawfully occupied designated camping site or to a ground blind and tree stand that meets lawful requirements.

(x) Camp on 1 designated campsite by more than 6 individuals.

(y) For all individuals in a camp to be under 18 years of age.

(z) For an individual under 18 years of age to register for a campsite.

(aa) Camp with more than 1 enclosed self-contained camping unit on 1 designated campsite.

(bb) Ride or lead a horse or pack and saddle animal, or any animal-driven vehicle on any area, except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle paths, and campgrounds designated for such use by the department and on state-owned forest land not posted closed to such use or entry, or prohibited by an order issued by the department.

(cc) Operate the motor of a vessel at more than idle speed at any boat launch ramp administered by the department, unless the propeller is disengaged.

(dd) Use state-owned land for a commercial operation unless the commercial operation is conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the department. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for a commercial operation if the department determines that the commercial operation will not require department oversight and the commercial operation is anticipated to have a minimal impact on the resource or facilities and the use of state-owned land by others.

(ee) Use or ignite fireworks.

(ff) Camp in a designated parking area, except if posted to allow camping.

(gg) Drag a state forest road with any device that disturbs the surface of the roadbed at a depth greater than two inches.

(hh) Remove from state-owned land more than the aggregate total weight of 25 pounds, per individual per year of any rock, mineral specimen (exclusive of any gold bearing material), or invertebrate fossil for individual or non-commercial hobby use.

(ii) Target shoot at any object other than paper, cardboard, clay, or a commercially or privately produced target designed and manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting.

(jj) Target shoot at an explosive or incendiary target.

History: 2001 AACS; 2004 AACS; 2014 AACS.

R 299.923 Public access sites and harbors; unlawful acts.

Rule 23. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, at state-owned public access sites and harbors, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

(a) Moor or raft off a state-owned dock without having paid the docking fees authorized by the department.

(b) Enter, use, or occupy during the hours of 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily where such closing hours are posted on the premises; or to swim, wade, or bathe where specifically prohibited by notices posted on the premises.

(c) Block use of a public access site with a vessel, trailer, or vehicle, except while launching or retrieving a vessel.

(d) Camp in a public access site, except on a designated campsite.

(e) Build a fire except in a stove or grill provided by the department.

History: 2001 AAC; 2014 AAC.

R 299.924 Land under the control of the department other than parks, recreation areas, game and wildlife areas, designated campgrounds and access sites; unlawful acts.

Rule 24. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, on land under the control of the department other than state parks, recreation areas, game and wildlife areas, designated campgrounds, and public access sites, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

(a) Park any wheeled, motorized vehicle more than 50 feet from the traveled portion of a road, forest road, parking lot, or trail open to such vehicle use.

(b) Use, operate, or possess a wheeled, motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, on a designated state forest pathway.

(c) Possess a dog or other animal in a designated day use area, except if it is under immediate control on a leash not more than 6 feet in length. This subdivision does not apply to a dog within a designated leash-free area or to a dog being used for hunting, in field trials, while being trained for hunting or field trials, or for other purposes as allowed by the department on land under the control of the department and open to such use.

History: 2001 AAC; 2014 AAC; 2024 MR 6, Eff. March 12, 2024.

R 299.925 Rescinded.

History: 2001 AAC; 2014 AAC.

R 299.926 Game and wildlife areas; unlawful acts.

Rule 26. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, on state-owned land in a state game or wildlife area, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

(a) Camp between May 15 and September 10, except in areas specifically designated for camping.

(b) Park any wheeled, motorized vehicle more than 50 feet from the traveled portion of a road, forest road, parking lot, or trail open to wheeled, motorized vehicle use.

(c) Operate any wheeled self-propelled or motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, including a snowmobile and bicycle, on other than a designated road open to the public, a trail, parking lot, or area properly signed by the department as being open to such use.

History: 2001 AACS; 2014 AACS.

R 299.927 State parks and recreation areas; unlawful acts.

Rule 27. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, in state parks, recreation areas, forest campgrounds, and pathway trailheads, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

(a) Enter or remain in a campground, outdoor center, cabin area, or day campsite between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., unless the individual is a lawfully registered occupant. An individual shall not enter or remain in a day-use area between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., except as posted otherwise.

(b) Discharge an air gun, gas gun, spring-loaded gun, or slingshot; or to discharge a bow and arrow or crossbow, except if licensed to take game during established hunting seasons on state-owned land designated open to hunting under the authority of the department. This subdivision does not apply to a shooting range designated by the department or to a starting gun for a field trial. An individual shall not engage in target shooting, except on a designated shooting range.

(c) Obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which the individual is not a member.

(d) Camp for more than 15 consecutive nights in any separately administered campground in a park or recreation area between May 15 and September 15. If a camping party is required to leave a campground upon reaching the 15-night limit, the party is not eligible to return until 5 nights have elapsed.

(e) Use a campground for a permanent or semipermanent residence.

(f) Ride a bicycle of any kind, except on a pathway, road, parking lot, or a designated, signed bicycle trail.

(g) Park more than 2 motor vehicles on 1 campsite or in a campground, except 2 motorcycles may be substituted for each motor vehicle if each is operated by a registered camper.

(h) Build a fire, except in a designated place.

(i) Enter a campground, if not a registered camper, unless with permission from a park manager or designee. This subdivision does not apply to an individual visiting a registered camper.

(j) Allow a dog or other animal within a state-owned water or land area as designated by park manager or designee as a bathing beach or to bring a dog or other animal, except a service animal for the blind, visually, or physically impaired, into an enclosed park building or to leave a dog or other animal unattended; or to permit a dog or other animal to run loose or create a disturbance unless the dog is being used in hunting, or in a field trial, or while being trained on state-owned land open to such use; or to fail to properly control a dog or other animal. Any dog or other animal found not in the possession of or under the immediate control of its owner or owner's agent, or any dog or other animal creating a nuisance or disturbance, may be removed from the park, recreation area, or state forest campground by the department.

(k) Possess a dog or other animal unless it is under immediate control on a leash not more than 6 feet in length. This subdivision does not apply to a dog being used for hunting, or in field trials, or while being trained, when upon state-owned land open to such use, or within a designated leash-free area.

(l) Ride or allow a horse or other pack and saddle animal in any area, except for a designated equestrian trail or equestrian campground, or when in compliance with a permit issued for a field dog trial.

(m) Camp without a camping permit issued by the department.

(n) Conduct scientific research without written authorization from the department.

(o) Camp or place a camp of any type in a designated forest campground without first completing the camp registration tag, depositing the payment of the posted camping fee in the receptacle provided, and posting the camp registration tag at the campsite. The camp registration tag shall be furnished by the department and be available at the campground.

(p) Operate an ORV in a designated campground, except for entrance to and departure from a designated ORV campground or by order of the department.

(q) Use, operate, or possess a wheeled, motorized vehicle, except for a PAMD, on a designated state forest pathway.

(r) Knowingly cause any noise that may disturb another during quiet hours.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.928 Rose lake wildlife area; unlawful use of skis; area defined.

Rule 28. (a) In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922 and R 299.926, on the rose lake wildlife area, it is unlawful to use skis from November 1 through January 1.

(b) For the purpose of this rule, "rose lake wildlife area" means the state-owned lands and waters in sections 13, 14, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34 of T5N, R1W, Clinton county, and sections 17, 20, 21, 22, 28, and 29 of T5N, R1E, Shiawassee county.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.929 Violation of rules; eviction.

Rule 29. In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, violation of any of these rules may result in eviction from the state park, recreation area, access site, game or wildlife area, designated campground, or state-owned land for not less than 48 hours, or as defined by court order.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.930 Individuals exempt from rules.

Rule 30. Department employees acting in the line of duty are exempt from these rules.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.931 Enforcement authority; state park and recreation officer.

Rule 31. A state park and recreation officer may enforce any of the following acts or parts of acts:

- (a) 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.255, 257.311, 257.624a, 257.624b, 257.649, 257.658, 257.674, 257.710e, 257.904, and 257.904a.
- (b) 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1703.
- (c) 1931 PA 328, 750.335 and 750.335a.
- (d) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.356, 750.356a, 750.356d, 750.359, 750.362, 750.362a, 750.363, 750.367, and 750.367c.
- (e) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.377a.
- (f) 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7403 and 333.7404.
- (g) 2011 PA 256, MCL 28.454, 28.455, 28.462, 28.464, 28.465 and 28.468.
- (h) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.8901 to 324.8907.
- (i) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.167.
- (j) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.66.
- (k) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.50.
- (l) 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1701.
- (m) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.80122.
- (n) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.380.
- (o) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.382.
- (p) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.135a.
- (q) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145.
- (r) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.141a.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.932 Enforcement authority; state forest officer.

Rule 32. A state forest officer may enforce any of the following acts or parts of acts:

- (a) 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.255, 257.311, 257.624a, 257.624b, 257.674, 257.904, and 257.904a.
- (b) 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1703.
- (c) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.335 to 750.335a.
- (d) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.356 to 750.367c.
- (e) 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.377a.
- (f) 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7403 and 333.7404.
- (g) 2011 PA 256, MCL 28.454, 28.455, 28.462, 28.464, 28.465 and 28.468.
- (h) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.8901 to 324.8907.
- (i) 1931 PA 451, MCL 750.167.
- (j) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.51501 to 324.51514.
- (k) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.74201 to 324.74207.
- (l) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81101 to 324.81150.
- (m) 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.82101 to 324.82160.

History: 2001 AACCS; 2014 AACCS.

R 299.933 Rescissions.

Rule 33. R 299.291a, R 299.301 to R 299.303, R 299.321 to R 299.328, R 299.331 to R 299.335, R 299.661 to R 299.667, and R 299.1001 to R 299.1004 of the Michigan Administrative Code, appearing on pages 1417 to 1425, 1438 to 1440, 1456, and 1457 of the 1979 Michigan Administrative Code, pages 55 and 56 of the 1980 Annual Supplement to the Code, and pages 173 and 174 of the 1986 Annual Supplement to the Code, are rescinded.

History: 2001 AACS.