

Peck Ranch

CONSERVATION AREA



Fishing and Boating

There are no fishing areas available on the area.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations.

The following exceptions also apply:

- Deer hunting within the Refuge (interior) is permitted by applying for a managed deer hunting permit through the managed hunt drawing system. Application information is available at most Conservation Department offices and on the Department website <http://mdc.mo.gov/> Managed hunts may occur in combination with other deer hunting regulations. The three following managed deer hunts are held annually at Peck Ranch C.A.: Youth, Archery, and Muzzleloader.
- Hunting outside the Refuge (interior) is permitted under statewide regulations and seasons.
- Portable tree stands may be used between September 1 and January 31. Stands must be identified with the name and address, or conservation number of the user. Screw-in steps or other materials that would damage the tree are prohibited. Tree stands must be removed from the area by February 1.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit only.



For local information contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Peck Ranch Conservation Area
Route 1, Box 1395
Winona, MO 65588
(573) 323-4249

or

Missouri Department of Conservation
Ozark Regional Office
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
(417)256-7161

Additional information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices. Information is also available on-line at www.missouriconservation.org

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(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

Area Highlights

Peck Ranch Conservation Area is in northwest Carter County and eastern Shannon County, north of Fremont. The area consists of 23,762 acres of rugged, forested hills and hollows. Limestone and hyalite glades provide natural openings among the oak-pine forest that dominates the region. Narrow ridges range from 900 to 1,000 feet in elevation. The area's highest point is Stegall Mountain, 1,348 feet above sea level. Rogers Creek and Mill Creek, which flow into the Current River, meander through the area. Peck Ranch began as the dream of a wealthy Chicago businessman. After acquiring 19,000 acres along Mill and Rogers creeks, George Peck, and other investors established the Mid-Continent Iron Company. Peck's dream included clearcutting Peck Ranch to supply the 100 cords of fuel per day needed to fire the smelter's blast furnaces. He employed 200 families and installed his own teams to haul cordwood. The company town which sprang up around the smelter became known as Midco. During World War I, the area continued to boom. The U.S. Government spent \$3.5 million to install a wood alcohol distillery at Midco to be used in making ammunition. This period of prosperity was brief. The low-grade iron ore mill at Midco folded after the end of the war and a flu epidemic that ravaged the Ozarks. Peck returned to Chicago. The workers who remained in the area tried to make a living on the abused land. When prohibition ended, the demand for white oak barrels surged. Griffith Stave Company bought the remaining timber rights on Peck Ranch and revived the area's timber industry. The boom was short-lived, and Peck Ranch was once again for sale. In 1945, the Missouri Department of Conservation purchased Peck Ranch for wild turkey management. Today, diverse management techniques, including prescribed fire and forest products harvesting methods, are being

used to maintain and restore the many natural communities on Peck Ranch. This conservation area was acquired in part through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The area supports abundant populations of deer, turkeys, bobcats, pileated woodpeckers, and broad-winged hawks. A ¼ mile self-guided trail near the area headquarters provides opportunities to view beaver ponds and associated aquatic wildlife. There are nine miles of the Ozark Trail connecting portions to the north maintained by the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways and to the south by the Mark Twain National Forest. This area is predominantly forest with nearly 1,500 acres in glades along with old fields, savanna, cropland, and some wetlands. Peck Ranch Conservation Area facilities and features include primitive camping, picnic areas, firearms range, viewing deck, 2 deer/turkey blinds, 1 intermittent stream, and 4 Natural Areas (Grassy Pond, Goldenseal, Stegall Mountain and Mule Hollow).

Driving Directions

Peck Ranch Conservation Area is 5 miles east of Winona on Route H, then 7 miles east on gravel in Shannon County.

Recreational Opportunities

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

*Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting. Please note that the entrance to the Refuge is located at the area headquarters building area and is open during daylight hours only. Also, due to recent Elk reintroduction, the refuge portion will be open to **WALK IN USE ONLY** from April 1 to July 1.*

- No littering. Waste containers may be used only for disposal of trash generated on the area.
- No fireworks.
- Due to recent Elk reintroduction all vehicles, bicycles and horses will be allowed to use the auto tour. The auto tour will be closed April 1 to July 1. All other roads within the refuge boundary are restricted to authorized vehicles only.
- Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
- Bicycling is allowed on service roads open to vehicles.
- Hiking is permitted on interior roads and trails. Note: The refuge will be closed to the general public during the Managed Deer Hunts as well as a period from April 1 to July 1.
- Primitive camping is permitted in areas designated on the area map. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 or more campers are required to obtain a special-use permit.
- Disabled accessible outdoor restrooms and limited drinking water are available.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms, and wild greens may be taken for personal use, except that greens may not be taken on natural areas. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited. Digging of roots is prohibited on all Department areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not used for training or hunting purposes.
- Special-use permits are required for field and retriever trials.
- For safety reasons, target shooting is permitted only at the shooting ranges. Two target ranges (one firearm and one archery), and one walk through archery course are provided.
- No open fires except in designated areas.