

Developed Recreational Property

The following information pertains only to the Developed Recreational Area of the property. The Developed Recreational Area is under the direct management authority of the County and is defined as the approximate 20 acre parcel where the horse area (stables, corral, kennels) and the clubhouse are located, including all immediately adjacent land (see map).

Property Address
13028 South Bird Road, Gordon, Wisconsin 54838.

Getting There
Located 1¼ miles west of Highway 53 at the County Highway M turn off in the Town of Gordon. Take County Highway M west for 6/10ths of a mile, turn right (north) on Bird Road and take it for 6/10ths of a mile until you see the clubhouse driveway entrance on the right (north) side of the road.

Nearest Municipality: Town of Gordon and Village of Solon Springs

Location
SE¼ of the NW¼ Section 14, Township 44 North – Range 12 West, Town of Gordon, Douglas County, Wisconsin

Longitude: 91° 50' 2.2483" W
Latitude: 46° 17' 44.9737" N

Facilities & Activities

Horse Area & Clubhouse Facilities

The following facilities are available to the general public annually, from two Fridays before Memorial Day to Labor Day. **Neither the horse area OR the clubhouse can be reserved or rented on its own, all rentals include BOTH areas.**

Both areas are rented together as a single package. No separate rental available.

Rental Rates

- \$50.00 per day regardless of number of people.
- \$2.00 per day for each dog on the property (utilizing the horse area).
- \$3.00 per day for each horse on the property (utilizing the horse area).

NOTE: Rental rates are subject to change. You can find up-to-date information by visiting www.douglascountywi.org or contacting the Forestry Department.

Rental Term

The daily rental time period is from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Any use of the area within this time period, regardless of how little or how much, would require rental for that specific day.

To Reserve a Rental

Advanced reservations for the general public for any given calendar year are accepted beginning **January 2nd** of that year. Rental fees are due at the time of placing the reservation. Reservations can be made by contacting the Forestry Department at (715) 378-2219, sending an email to forestry@douglascountywi.org, or visiting the Department's office.

Once paid, no reservation refunds will be issued.

Special Rolling Reservations

Annual preference for rentals after Labor Day through the end of October is reserved for Field Dog Trials. Preference for rentals at all other times of the year is reserved for horse user groups and educational events hosted by the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary. Preference is granted by allowing these groups to place advanced reservations for the following calendar year beginning **November 30th** of the prior year. Contact the Forestry Department for further information.

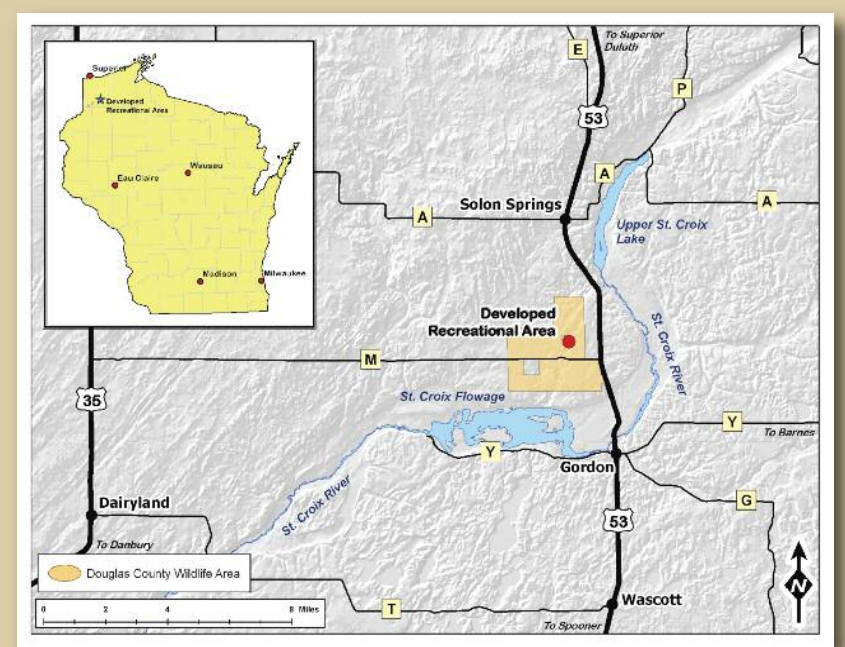
Property Location
The property is located in both the Town of Gordon and the Town of Solon Springs westerly adjacent to Highway 53 with County Highway M running through the center for approximately 3 miles.

Sections 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, & 24, Township 44 North – Range 12 West, Town of Gordon & Town of Solon Springs, Douglas County, Wisconsin.

Property Size
4,005 acres (994 acres of State of Wisconsin ownership and 3,011 acres of Douglas County Forest Land)



Pine Barrens...northwest Wisconsin as it once was.



Rules & Regulations

The following rules and regulations pertain only to the 20 acre Developed Recreational Area (corral, stables, kennels, and clubhouse). For all other general areas of the property (3,985 acres), including leased County owned lands, WDNR State Wildlife Area rules and regulations apply (see the "General Property Rules & Regulations" section).

Douglas County appreciates your cooperation and compliance with all property regulations. These regulations promote a friendly family atmosphere that is enjoyable for you and other visitors. Visitors who do not comply may be subject to appropriate civil citations and/or a loss of property use privileges.

Remember... use of the area is a privilege!

Visitors
Visitors (non-renters) are welcome in the areas daily from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Use of the horse area or the clubhouse facilities without a rental is prohibited.

Sanitation
Littering or disposing of garbage anywhere other than in the designated receptacles located in and around the facility areas is prohibited. Both the horse area and the clubhouse are provided its own garbage cans and on-site trash collection is provided daily during the rental season. Please keep garbage picked up. Discarding garbage or waste that was generated outside of the facility areas is prohibited.

Quiet hours and noise
Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily. Creating excessive noise, causing a disturbance, or use of any device including but not limited to radios, televisions, generators, etc. that can be heard from a distance of more than 20 feet is prohibited during this time frame.

Fires
Fires are only allowed in the metal fire rings or grills provided or in a self provided container specifically designed to contain a fire. Keep campfires small and burn only wood and clean paper. Gas and propane camp stoves and grills are permitted. Never leave fires or coals unattended. Fires must be extinguished completely before leaving the area or retiring for the evening. Firewood is available in the park during the summer months for a fee (see "Firewood" section).

Firewood
Cutting live or dead standing trees is prohibited. You are allowed to gather wood in the immediate area that is "DEAD AND DOWN" for your fire; however, available dead and down wood is typically scarce. You should consider purchasing locally harvested firewood (see the Firewood Advisory). Several local businesses sell bundled campfire wood in the region.

Water
One well handpump is available for water at the horse area and another at the clubhouse. The water at the horse area is non-potable (non-approved for drinking) while the water at the clubhouse is potable (approved for drinking).

Food storage and wildlife
DO NOT attract wildlife! Keep a clean area. **This is Bear Country!** Deer, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and skunks are also year-round Wildlife Area residents. Store your food, pet food, horse feed, cooking utensils, and scented items (toiletries, insect repellent, etc.) in your hard-sided vehicle or in a secure food storage container. These items should remain stored when not in use. Keep garbage picked up and disposed of in the designated receptacles (be sure to securely

Recycling
1 recycling station is provided to properly dispose of metal, glass, and paper products. Please be sure to keep all non-recyclables out of the containers. An active recycling program is one of the ways Douglas County is working towards encouraging residents and visitors to recycle where they live, work and play. All visitors to the property are encouraged to recycle.

Recycle today for a better tomorrow.

Motor vehicles and bicycles
Be sure to keep all motorized vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers on designated travel/parking areas. Operating a motor vehicle off designated travel areas is prohibited!

Remember to SLOW DOWN for safety.

ATVs, UTVs, Dirt Bikes, and Other Similar Vehicles
Operation of any off-highway vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles (ATV), utility-terrain vehicles (UTV), motor bikes (dirt bike), mopeds, mini-bikes, motorized scooters, specialized four-wheel drive units, tractors, dune buggies, go-carts, golf carts, and

Pets
Pets are permitted in the Developed Recreational Area. When outside of a vehicle or camping unit, all pets must be on leashes (field trial dogs are excluded). Please promptly clean up all pet waste and deposit into designated garbage receptacles. Store pet food in vehicle or camping unit when not in use.

Pick up after your pet.

Hunting and trapping
Hunting and trapping activities are prohibited in the Developed Recreational Area.

Access for people with disabilities
If you need an accommodation to participate in Developed Recreational Area activities due to a disability, please contact the Forestry Department before you plan to visit.

Additional Developed Recreational Area Rules & Regulations

Within the horse area and clubhouse area it is prohibited to...

- litter.
- transport any garbage or trash that was not produced on the property to the property and dispose of it.
- damage or deface any feature, facility, or property.
- post any sign, advertisement, or other informational media.
- engage in any activity which is prohibited by sign or notice.
- locate or operate a non-registered or non-licensed vehicle or trailer.
- be in the area during closed hours (excluding persons renting the facilities).
- not clean up after a pet.
- harass or kill any wildlife or allow a pet to do the same.
- cut or mar any plants or trees.
- excavate or trench soil resources.
- construct or establish a trail or pathway.

Please observe all property rules and regulations.

Report all violations to 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367).

For further information or a complete listing of all Douglas County Wildlife Area rules and regulations, please contact the WDNR Douglas County Wildlife Area Property Manager at WDNR Brule Ranger Station, 6250 South Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820 or (715) 372-8539.

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The following rules and regulations pertain only to the 20 acre Developed Recreational Area (corral, stables, kennels, and clubhouse). For all other general areas of the property (3,985 acres), including leased County owned lands, WDNR State Wildlife Area rules and regulations apply (see the "General Property Rules & Regulations" section).

Douglas County appreciates your cooperation and compliance with all property regulations. These regulations promote a friendly family atmosphere that is enjoyable for you and other visitors. Visitors who do not comply may be subject to appropriate civil citations and/or a loss of property use privileges.

Remember... use of the area is a privilege!

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Quiet hours and noise
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Fires
Fires are only allowed in the metal fire rings or grills provided or in a self provided container specifically designed to contain a fire. Keep campfires small and burn only wood and clean paper. Gas and propane camp stoves and grills are permitted. Never leave fires or coals unattended. Fires must be extinguished completely before leaving the area or retiring for the evening. Firewood is available in the park during the summer months for a fee (see "Firewood" section).

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Water
One well handpump is available for water at the horse area and another at the clubhouse. The water at the horse area is non-potable (non-approved for drinking) while the water at the clubhouse is potable (approved for drinking).

Food storage and wildlife
DO NOT attract wildlife! Keep a clean area. **This is Bear Country!** Deer, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and skunks are also year-round Wildlife Area residents. Store your food, pet food, horse feed, cooking utensils, and scented items (toiletries, insect repellent, etc.) in your hard-sided vehicle or in a secure food storage container. These items should remain stored when not in use. Keep garbage picked up and disposed of in the designated receptacles (be sure to securely

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Access for people with disabilities
If you need an accommodation to participate in Developed Recreational Area activities due to a disability, please contact the Forestry Department before you plan to visit.

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- be in the area during closed hours (excluding persons renting the facilities).
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- harass or kill any wildlife or allow a pet to do the same.
- cut or mar any plants or trees.
- excavate or trench soil resources.
- construct or establish a trail or pathway.

Please observe all property rules and regulations.

Report all violations to 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367).

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Report all violations to 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367).

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Safety First

Remember you are responsible for your own safety. Outdoor recreation activities have inherent risks and you may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take necessary precautions. Please report any safety hazards to the County Forestry Department (715) 378-2219.

Minimize Your Impact

To help make everyone's Wildlife Area visit safe and enjoyable, as well as protect the property and its natural beauty, please observe all rules and regulations. Protect future enjoyment of the area by leaving it better than you found it. Your behavior and the actions you take affect others. Help maintain a family friendly atmosphere for all property visitors.

Reporting Violations

At times, careless and inconsiderate individuals perform acts that can result in damage to property resources, threaten public safety, and disrupt experiences of others. These behaviors deprive law-abiding users of experiences and opportunities and can jeopardize future property use privileges for all users.

Diligent users reporting illegal activities has increased the effectiveness of law enforcement's ability to protect property resources and user experiences. With your help, we can best protect resources and user experiences by targeting those individuals who have no regard for the law.

Violations observed in the Wildlife Area (including violations of fish and game laws) can be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by:

- Calling the WDNR Violation Hotline at (800) TIP-WDNR (847-9367)
- Texting TIPWDNR [space] followed by the tip to TIP411 (847411)

All violations can be reported anonymously.

Violations observed in the Developed Recreational Area (horse area & clubhouse) can be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by:

- Calling the Douglas County Sheriff's Department at (715) 394-4432
- Calling the Douglas County Forestry Department at (715) 378-2219
- Emailing a report to forestry@douglascountywi.org
- Visiting the Forestry Department office headquarters at 9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873.

All violations can be reported anonymously.

Penalties

If you are found to be in violation of County Ordinance in the Developed Recreational Area (horse area & clubhouse), you can face civil penalty. Civil citations start at \$150 and range up to \$500. Fines for second or subsequent violations may be increased. In addition, restitution for any damages you cause may be pursued by civil action in circuit court.

The County holds the authority to immediately revoke use privileges of any individual from the Developed Recreational Area on a temporary or permanent basis if deemed appropriate and/or necessary.

If you are found to be in violation of State Law anywhere on the property, you could be cited accordingly.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Dial 911 for emergencies

Douglas County Sheriff's Department (715) 394-4432
Douglas County Forestry Department (715) 378-2219

You are at the Developed Recreational Area of the Bird Sanctuary, Fire #13028 South Bird Road, Gordon, Wisconsin 54838.

Medical facilities are located in Superior - WI, Hayward - WI, and Spooner - WI.

Cellular phone service may not be guaranteed.

The nearest public pay phones are located 6 miles away in the Village of Solon Springs on the north side of Main Street at O'Leary's Country Foods Grocery Market and 4½ miles away in the town of Gordon on the south side of County Highway Y just east of Highway 53 across from the gas station.

Have feedback? Contact us. The Forestry Department is committed to making the Developed Recreational Area of the property a safe, fun, and pleasurable experience for all who use it. It's through the valuable information provided by patrons, residents and visitors alike, that property offerings continue to grow, change and improve. If you would like to offer any comments and/or suggestions on ways we can make the horse area or the clubhouse better or how much you enjoyed your visit, please contact us (see below for contact information).

Feedback regarding the general Wildlife Area property can be directed to the WDNR Douglas County Wildlife Area Property Manager at WDNR Brule Ranger Station, 6250 South Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820 or (715) 372-8539.

Join us in our mission. The Forestry Department offers competitive seasonal employment opportunities in the care and maintenance of the property. Job applications are typically due by the end of March annually. Please contact the Forestry Department for further information. If working outdoors and being part of a high-spirited and enthusiastic team sounds attractive to you... then you just might be who we are looking for!

Donations. In addition to annual budget funding for the cost of daily operations and special projects, monetary donations are graciously accepted and also provide important financial support for the property. Visitors can give cash or check gifts by mailing to the Forestry Department. Funds will be used for visitor services and safety, education programs, and horse area and clubhouse projects. Thank you for any interest in supporting your County Recreational Area!

For more information about the **Developed Recreational Area** (horse area and clubhouse) of the Douglas County Wildlife Area or the Douglas County Forest please visit www.douglascountywi.org/forestry or contact the Forestry Department at:

Douglas County Forestry Department
9182 East Hughes Avenue, P.O. Box 211 • Solon Springs, WI 54873
Phone (715) 378-2219 • Fax (715) 378-2807
forestry@douglascountywi.org

For more information on the **Douglas County Wildlife Area** (excluding the developed Recreational Area), please contact the WDNR Douglas County Wildlife Area Property Manager at WDNR Brule Ranger Station, 6250 South Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820 or (715) 372-8539.

For more information on the **Friends of the Bird Sanctuary, Inc.**, please visit www.fotbs.org or call (715) 376-4743 or (715) 378-2265.

The information in this brochure applies only to the Douglas County Wildlife Area. Individuals are asked to contact appropriate land owners for land-use and outdoor recreation policies on all lands under other public ownerships.

State of Wisconsin DNR General Information(888) 936-7463
City of Superior Parks and Recreation Department(715) 395-7270
National Park Service(715) 483-2274

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS BROCHURE, please contact the Douglas County Forestry Department. Photos courtesy of Katherine Khalas. © 2011, Douglas County Forestry Department. All rights reserved. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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DCF-WMA-2011

Douglas County Wildlife Area

Established 1935

Property Location
The property is located in both the Town of Gordon and the Town of Solon Springs westerly adjacent to Highway 53 with County Highway M running through the center for approximately 3 miles.

Sections 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, & 24, Township 44 North – Range 12 West, Town of Gordon & Town of Solon Springs, Douglas County, Wisconsin.

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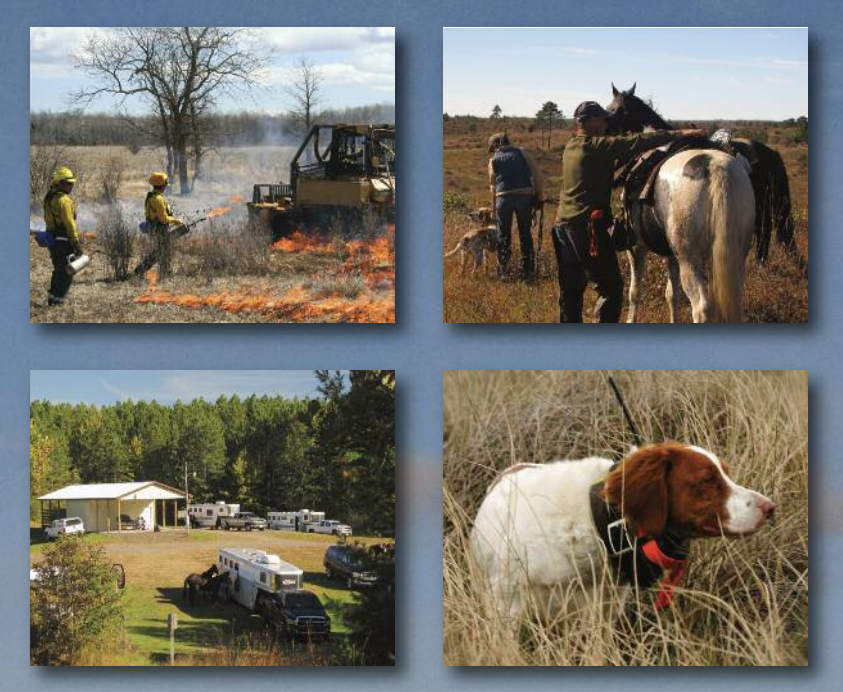
General Property Rules & Regulations

Management of the property is under the direct authority of the WDNR (excluding the Developed Recreational Area), including all leased County owned lands. All WDNR State Wildlife Area rules and regulations apply. County ordinances may or may not apply. The following is a brief summary of some of the more common rules and regulations affecting the property (as provided by the WDNR):

- The property is open to public hunting, trapping, and fishing in accordance with State regulations.
- The property is open to Dog Trials by permit issued by the WDNR.
- Dog training is allowed between August 1st and December 31st annually in the designated dog training area located in the southwest portion of the property (see map).
- It is prohibited to operate any ATV, UTV, or snowmobile on the property.
- Riders on horse back and those on horse drawn vehicles may travel on the "Dog Trial and Horse Trail" trail network as posted with signs designating permitted horse travel.
- Legally licensed Highway Vehicles may operate on developed roads or trails that have no restrictive sign, gate, or berm installed.

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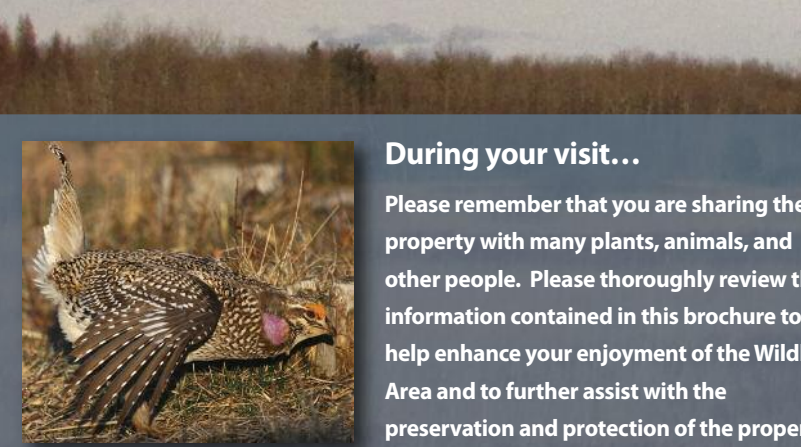


Discover the Douglas County Forest... wild & wonderful!

Douglas County Forestry Department
9182 East Hughes Ave., PO Box 211
Solon Springs, WI 54873

WELCOME

Mother Nature in all her splendor.



During your visit...

Please remember that you are sharing the property with many plants, animals, and other people. Please thoroughly review the information contained in this brochure to help enhance your enjoyment of the Wildlife Area and to further assist with the preservation and protection of the property.

A Natural Legacy — Douglas County Forest provides a natural legacy of outdoor activities and recreation. It is an important part of the Forestry Department's efforts to promote and pass on a strong conservation ethic to the generations of today and tomorrow. These efforts help ensure that the best of Douglas County's natural resources will be sustainably managed and available for future generations to enjoy.

Protect and preserve our wild lands...do your part

Looking for a unique place to experience the outdoors and get back in touch with nature?

The Douglas County Forestry Department welcomes you to visit the Douglas County Wildlife Area located in the heart of the Douglas County Forest on the rolling glacial outwash sand plain extending from Burnett to Bayfield counties.

More commonly referred to as the *Bird Sanctuary*, this area is the ideal retreat to escape to and enjoy mother nature in all her splendor.

Experience the scenic vistas of the open barrens landscape while hiking the North Country National Scenic Hiking Trail. Feel the gentle breeze of a spring day upon your skin and the warm rays of the sun upon your face while exploring the countryside on horseback.

Disappear into the peaceful solitude of the land and let the calming silence and natural beauty of the Pine Barrens relax you. Host a family gathering, wedding, picnic outing, reunion or other special event in the Developed Recreational Area. Observe nationally recognized championship field bird dog trials during the fall months. Come to a place where you'll experience a rare and vibrant ecosystem and have a glimpse into an historical landscape of the past.

The Douglas County Wildlife Area is awaiting your visit!

Description & History

During pre-settlement times much of Northwestern Wisconsin was covered in widely scattered clumps of jack pine, oak brush, and the occasional red pine mixed with open grasses and brush. This habitat type is known as Pine Barrens and it was historically maintained through a naturally occurring fire regime. Frequent repeated burnings impeded natural succession towards forested community types and maintained areas in more open, early successional conditions.

The Pine Barrens of northwestern Wisconsin are about 12 to 15 miles wide and 125 miles long, extending from the Sterling Barrens in Polk County in the southwest to the Bayfield peninsula in Bayfield County to the northeast. The region is characterized by sandy soil and many fire-dependent plants, relying on fire to eliminate or control competing vegetation.

Human intervention has all but eliminated the wildfires that once maintained these Pine Barrens. In the absence of fire, natural plant succession, combined with an intensive tree-planting program turned nearly all of Wisconsin's northwestern Pine Barrens into forest. Today less than one percent of the original Pine Barrens remain in Wisconsin.

Described as something between a forest and prairie ecosystem, the Pine Barrens provide some of the most biologically diverse and unique habitats found in the region. Populations of many barrens species reached all-time highs during the early 1900s when timber harvesting, land clearing for agriculture, and many fires roared across the landscape and expanded the habitat. From the 1920's to the 1950's, these grassy brushlands with scattered young trees continued to provide ideal habitat for the multitude of species that

were found there. By the 1940's, the steady loss of barrens habitat was becoming more and more apparent with the absence of fire as the once open landscapes gave way to natural forest succession, tree planting, declining agriculture, and human intervention in the form of wildfire suppression. This reduction in habitat continued over the course of the next several decades as productive forestry became more of a land management priority and the public gained a better understanding of wildfire prevention and suppression.

Pine Barrens once covered an estimated 2.3 million acres of Wisconsin lands and were found in four regions of the state. Today less than 1 percent remains. During the economic struggles of the 1930's, the Works Project Administration (WPA) provided jobs on public projects and it was the labor of the WPA that helped establish what is today known as the Developed Recreational Area of the Wildlife Area. The log clubhouse constructed during this time still stands on the property today and is enjoyed by many who use it. In 1935, Douglas County officially established the "Bird Sanctuary" and the "Bird Sanctuary and Clubhouse" was formally dedicated.

The beginnings of the Wildlife Area can be traced back to 1925 when the Northern States Amateur Field Trail Association (NSAFTA) conducted its first sport dog trial on the property. NSAFTA's first U.S. Chicken Championship Dog Trial was held in 1937. When this trial began, prairie chickens, which were frequently called "chickens" were plentiful on the property, hence the term chicken in the name refers to prairie chickens which are no longer present in the area. Since this first championship trial in 1937, many nationally

recognized dog competitions have been and still are held annually on the property. In 1947, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission officially established the "Douglas County Grouse Management Area" on the property for the purpose of research and experimental work on sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chickens, and bobwhite quail. In 1948, the State of Wisconsin became involved in protecting and managing the property by signing a 50-year lease and agreement with Douglas County for 2,480 acres. Fieldwork began at this time when 120 acres were experimentally burned and 20 acres of buckwheat food patches were planted. Clearing of the vegetation began in 1949 when 70 acres of jack pine, aspen, and willow were cut by hand. The property slowly grew in size as the State was able to acquire additional lands and expand the area. Development progressed slowly but steadily over the course of the next decade as land clearing and burning techniques were improved.

In 1961, the Douglas County Civil Defense Committee fulfilled State plans calling for a civil defense control center located outside of high damage risk areas and one of the finest County Forests in the State of Wisconsin. In the event of an emergency when they used the developed recreation area and property as their control center, training site, and auxiliary law enforcement headquarters until 1963.

In 1968, the 240 acre Solon Springs Sharp-tailed Barrens was designated as a State Natural Area (SNA). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) State Natural Area program is devoted to the protection of biological communities, rare species, and other significant natural features native to the state for the purpose of scientific research, environmental education and, most importantly, for the preservation of Wisconsin's biological diversity for current and future generations. The Solon Springs Sharp-tailed Barrens SNA is

While forests are beautiful, Pine Barrens have a unique beauty all their own.



located on County owned lands on the northern end of the property (see map).

A new lease agreement between the State and the County was negotiated in 2003. In 2005, the County further protected and preserved the leased County owned lands compromising the property by enrolling the land into "Special Use" County Forest designation for the primary purpose of providing critical wildlife habitat. Today, the property has expanded to approximately 4,005 acres, 994 acres of State ownership and 3,011 acres of leased County lands. The area now comprises more than 10 percent of all the remaining Pine Barrens habitat found Statewide. The entire property is designated as a State Wildlife Area and is managed by the WDNR in partnership with Douglas County.

Prescribed burning continues to be the primary management method utilized to develop and maintain the Pine Barrens habitat on the property. Burning activities are highly coordinated operations performed by wild-land fire professionals typically completed in either the spring or fall of the year when conditions are favorable. The property is broken up into subsections or blocks and each block has its own burn schedule that annually rotates from one block to another. Overall, the property has a 10 year burn plan where each block is scheduled for burning in about 8 year frequency intervals. Without the burning the area would slowly convert to a forested

ecosystem and the open stages of Pine Barrens habitat would be lost to natural succession.

Burning and other vegetation management efforts strive to obtain a mixture of grass/brush savannah interspersed with thickets of young aspen and jack pine, and scattered larger trees. When people hear the word "barrens", they often picture a piece of undesirable, unproductive land, but this is far from true. A transitional ecosystem or ecotone between forest and prairie, Pine Barrens are an ideal habitat for many unique plants and birds, including sharp-tailed grouse. While sharp-tailed grouse are a primary focus species, many other plants and animals require or use the property to meet their life cycle requirements.

The assemblage of grasses, brushy patches, openings, and stands of young aspen and jack pine provides excellent habitat for a multitude of wildlife species commonly referred to as "barrens species". The property is one of the best habitats in the State for many of these species and is extremely rich in terms of ecosystem diversity.

Shrubs present are sweet fern, blueberry, dewberry, New Jersey tea, hazelnut, willow, wild rose, chokecherry, and bearberry. Groundlayer plant species include big and little blue-stem, prairie alumroot, puccoon, Canada mayflower, wormwood, asters, and goldenrods. Bird life is dominated by species, which require extensive open landscapes including the sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savanarum*), Connecticut warbler (*Opornis agilis*), and Tennessee warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). Other birds include mourning dove, eastern towhee, Brewer's blackbird, wild turkey, vesper sparrow, and field sparrow.

Today, people visit and use the property for a number of reasons. Hiking along the North Country Trail through the sandy, shrub-filled region is a popular summer activity, and in the spring visitors can reserve time in a WDNR viewing blind to watch male sharp-tailed grouse dance to attract females. Yet many who visit the sanctuary simply want to experience the unique beauty and solitude of the Pine Barrens landscape.



Pine Barrens... born and maintained by fire.

Recreation Opportunities



Wildlife Observation

Over 200 wildlife species have been documented using the Douglas County Wildlife Area (DCWA), providing tremendous wildlife observation opportunities for people that visit the area. Mornings and evenings during the spring and fall are typically the best time to catch a glimpse of active wildlife.

One of the most well known and popular wildlife species people come to see is sharp-tailed grouse. One of the original reasons for the protection of the DCWA was to establish a region where sharp-tailed grouse could flourish, and the area is one of the last remaining and best sharp-tailed grouse habitats found in Wisconsin.



Each spring, numerous dance recitals occur throughout the property when male sharp-tailed grouse dance and employ vocalizations and other techniques to attract a mate. Normally, you would have to be a savvy woods person to spot these secretive birds. But in the spring both sexes congregate at communal breeding areas known as leks or dancing grounds where males seek to attract females.

Visitors can view the mating dances from an observation blind. The observation blind is available on a daily basis from April 10th through May 8th from one hour before sunrise up to two hours after sunrise. Advance registration is required for use of the blind. Blind reservations are handled by the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary group. Please visit their website at www.fotbs.org for further reservation information.



Directions to the blind are provided once a reservation is made. The blind holds up to three people. Users are asked to record their observations (number of birds, other wildlife, etc.) on a clipboard provided in the blind. Rain or high winds will discourage the birds from visiting the leks. Dress warmly as early mornings in late April can be quite cool.



Keep Wildlife Healthy & Wild. Please Don't Feed Them!

Leks can attract from as few as two to six male birds to as many as four dozen. The primary courtship display by the male sharp-tail consists of a period of active - foot stomping, clicking, tail rattling, with numerous intricate vocalizations, followed by a period of relaxation. The birds will come close to the blind, sometimes even landing on it as they watch the competition.

For additional information or to reserve a viewing session, please visit www.fotbs.org or contact the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary group at (715) 376-4743 or (715) 378-2265.

Please remember to enjoy wildlife from a distance.

While some critters are more elusive, others have become accustomed to human activity. Most commonly, you can expect to see squirrels, chipmunks, and birds that frequent the developed recreational area looking for easy handouts. Users are reminded to not feed wildlife and keep garbage picked up and disposed of properly.

Trails for Hiking

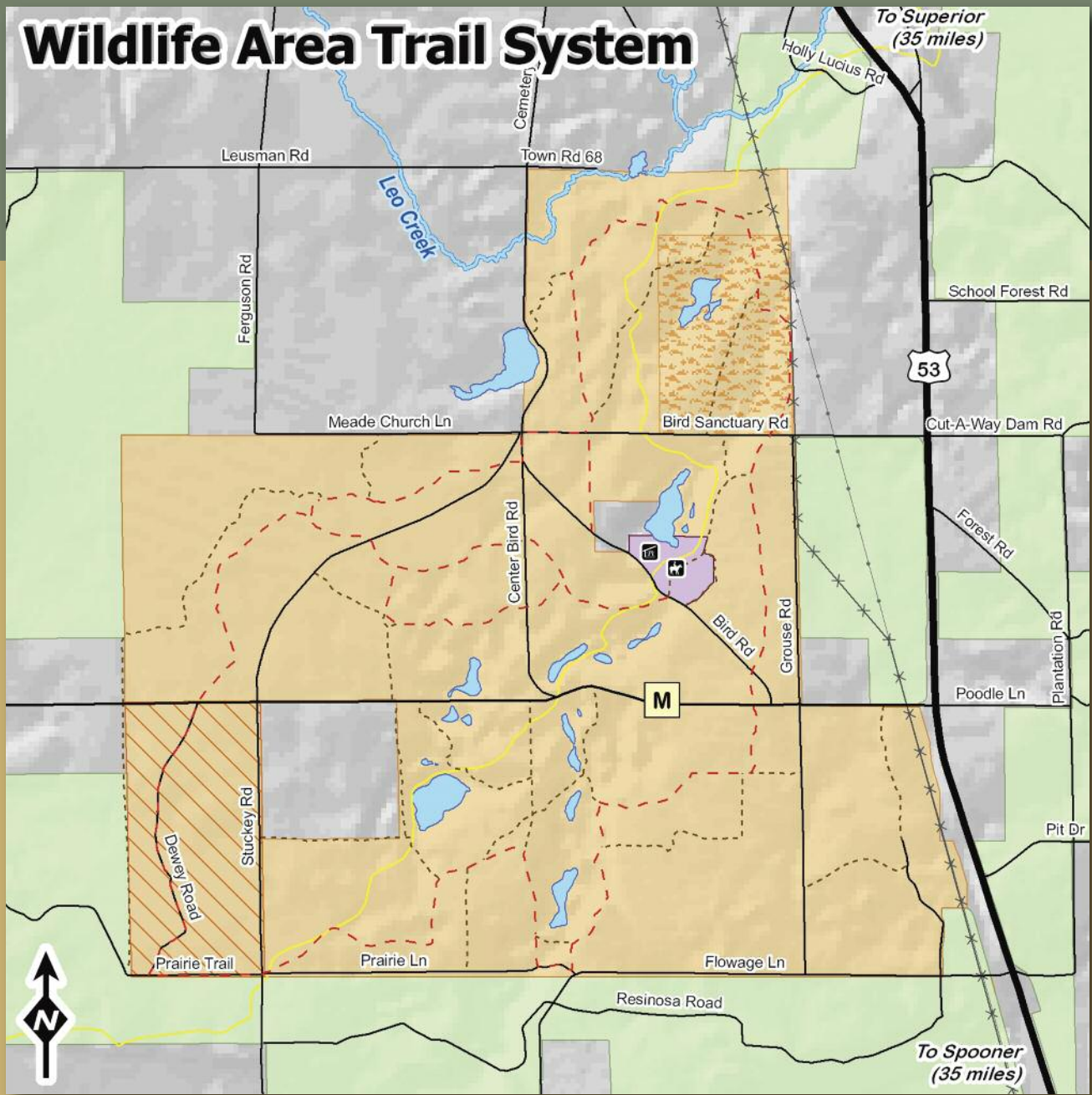
Using your legs and feet is one of the best ways to get out and explore the Wildlife Area and experience all it has to offer.

The North Country National Scenic Hiking Trail meanders its way through the property for approximately 5 miles and offers hikers a wonderful opportunity to experience first hand the open Pine Barrens landscape. Trail access points are located off Bird Sanctuary Road, County Highway M, Stuckey Road, and Prairie Trail County Forest Road. A main trailhead is located off Bird Road and a primitive campsite is available along the trail approximately 3/4 miles south of County Highway M at Rovers Lake.



The trail continues beyond the property boundaries to the north and south for many miles offering additional opportunities for experiencing varied terrain, scenic vistas and peaceful solitude. Located 3 miles to the north of the property, the trail enters Lucius Woods County Park where hikers can enjoy an old growth forest ecosystem along with many park amenities. Located over 2 miles to the south of the Wildlife Area, the trail traverses through a lowland wetland type ecosystem not far from the shoreline of St. Croix Flowage.

When completed, the 4,600 mile trail



will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States linking communities from New York to North Dakota, traversing seven states in-between. Wisconsin has the highest percentage of completed trail and Douglas County contains several premier segments. Regardless of your experience level or physical conditioning, something for everyone can be found along the North Country Trail.

For trail maps and additional information, please visit www.nps.gov or www.northcountrytrail.org or contact: National Park Service, North Country Trail, 700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100 Madison, WI 53711 or (608) 441-5610.

North Country Trail Association, 229 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 or (866) 445-3628.

In addition to the North Country Trail, the property also contains several other primitive roads and trails that provide additional hiking opportunities.



Horseback Riding

Looking for a great place to ride your horse? The steady hoof beat of a sure footed riding companion and the solitude of the barrens landscape is very popular among horse enthusiasts. Horseback riding allows you really appreciate the property and all it has to offer in a unique fashion.



The varied terrain and approximately 15 miles of designated horse trails that can be accessed directly from the corral and stable area make it optimal for many types of riding, from open grassy flats to brushy topography. Once mounted in the saddle, there's more time to be attentive to the environment around you and to soak in the beautiful scenery. You'll be better placed to catch a glimpse of active wildlife and can listen more closely to the songs of native birds. With the additional opportunity of renting and utilizing modern corral and stable facilities on the property to make your visit more enjoyable, the Wildlife Area offers horse enthusiasts many opportunities for exploration and adventure on horseback.

For further information on the horse trails in the Douglas County Wildlife Area, including maps and rules and regulations, please contact the WDNR Douglas County Wildlife Area Property Manager at WDNR Brule Ranger Station, 6250 South Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820 or (715) 372-8539.

For further information on the Developed Recreational Area in the Douglas County Wildlife Area, including rental policies and rules and regulations, please see the "Horse Area & Clubhouse Facilities" section, visit www.douglascountywi.org, or contact the Forestry Department.

Field Dog Trials

If you're a hunter who enjoys bird hunt with the use of dogs, bird dog field trials are a great way to enjoy some off-season action. A field trial is a competitive event at which hunting dogs compete against one another for placements and points towards a championship or are evaluated against a written standard. Each fall the Wildlife Area hosts numerous field trials that typically showcase the skills of upland pointing dogs or flushing dogs. These trials are usually organized by kennel clubs or other sport dog organizations and each showcase different dog breeds and abilities. Field trials are generally considered more competitive than hunt tests in that success at a field trial requires a higher level of training than success at a hunt test.



Field trials come in various grades including Open, Amateur, Sanctioned and Non-Sanctioned. An Open field trial permits entry from any handler or trainer while an Amateur trial only permits non-professional handlers/trainers. Sanctioned trials are ones that are held under the control of a national kennel club or organization, while non-sanctioned trials can be organized by a local club. The annual pointing or flushing trials hosted by the Wildlife Area are typically Sanctioned Amateur trials and involve pairs of dogs (braces) that run a course on which game

birds have been released so they can demonstrate their ability to find birds, point staunchly, and retrieve downed birds. The birds are captive farm raised birds that are transported to the property and released for the events by the event organizers. No native wild birds are targeted.

Whether you're a seasoned sport dog breeder or somebody who has never observed a well trained hunting dog perform, field trials at the Wildlife Area are a fascinating and exciting way to watch practical demonstrations of a dog's ability to perform in the field, for which it was bred.

Dog training is allowed in the Wildlife Area between August 1st and December 31st annually in the designated dog training area located in the southwest portion of the property (see map). Field trials are authorized by permit only issued by the WDNR.

For further information on field dog trials in the Douglas County Wildlife Area or to request a permit application, please contact the WDNR Douglas County Wildlife Area Property Manager at WDNR Brule Ranger Station, 6250 South Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820 or (715) 372-8539.

More to See and Do

Unique Douglas County attractions include: Lucius Woods Park, Gordon Dam County Park, and Neerby Dam County Park. **Unique Douglas County attractions include:** Lucius Woods Park, Gordon Dam County Park, and Neerby Dam County Park. **Unique Douglas County attractions include:** Lucius Woods Park, Gordon Dam County Park, and Neerby Dam County Park.

Unique Duluth, Minnesota attractions include: Canal Park, Aerial Lift Bridge, Art in the Alley, Duluth Art Institute, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Duluth Playhouse Theater, Gleneshem Mansion, Great Lake Aquarium, Lakewalk, Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center, Lake Superior Zoo, Left Erickson Park, Proctor Speedway, North Shore Scenic Drive, Northshore Scenic Railroad, Park Point, Tweed Museum of Art, SS William A. Irwin Museum, and the Vista Fleet.

Neerby Douglas County Park campgrounds include: Lucius Woods County Park, Gordon Dam County Park, and Neerby Dam County Park.

Neerby day-use Douglas County Parks include: Bass Lake County Park, Long Lake County Park, Anna Gene County Park, Lake Minnesota County Park, and Park Creek Pond County Park.

Other nearby parks and recreational areas include: Pattison State Park, Amnicon Falls State Park, Bois Brule River, Brule River State Forest & State Fish Hatchery, City of Superior Parks, and the Douglas County Forest.

Contact the Superior-Douglas County Chamber of Commerce for further information at (715) 394-7716 or tollfree at (800) 942-5313 or visit www.superiorchamber.org.

Douglas County communities include: Towns of Amnicon, Bennett, Brule, Cloverland, Dairyland, Gordon, Hawthorne, Hopkins, Maple, Maple, Oakdale, Parkland, Solon, Spring Springs, Summit, Superior, and Wascott. Villages of Lake Nebagamon, Oliver, Poplar, Solon Springs, and Superior; and the City of Superior.

Driving distances to other communities in the area: Barnev, WI - 25 miles; Danbury, WI - 44 miles; Gordon, WI - 5 miles; Hayward, WI - 36 miles; Hinckley, MN - 72 miles; Minong, WI - 15 miles; Solon Springs, WI - 6 miles; Spooner, WI - 35 miles; Superior, WI - 38 miles; Wascott, WI - 9 miles.

Douglas County FOREST

The Wildlife Area is located in the heart of the County Forest and is bordered by 1,000's of additional acres of County Forest lands open to the public. At over 278,000 acres, the Douglas County Forest is the largest and one of the finest County Forests in the State of Wisconsin. With hundreds of miles of well-groomed recreational trails, over 100 pristine lakes to fish, swim, and boat, and vast acreages of wild forest land open to all sorts of outdoor recreational experiences, it's no surprise that the County Forest is one of the true gems of Douglas County.

Big woods, clean water, and spectacular wildlife... adventure starts here!



The County Forest is the NORTHWOODS at its best!

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Q What are the rental fees for the clubhouse and how can I reserve it in advance?

A As of 2011, \$50.00 per day. The rental includes both the clubhouse AND the horse area, these facilities CANNOT be rented or reserved individually. Advanced reservations for any given calendar year are accepted beginning January 2nd of that year and can be made by contacting the Forestry Department at (715) 378-2219, sending an email to forestry@douglascountywi.org, or visiting the Department's office. Preferred reservations through a special rolling reservation process are available to all field dog trial groups for field trials, horse user groups, and the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary user group for educational events. See the "Special Rolling Reservations" section or contact the Forestry Department for further information.

Q Our dog group has the clubhouse and horse area rented for a Saturday in July. What time do we have to be done using and out of the area?

A The daily rental time period is from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Therefore, your group would have to be done using and be out of the facility by 11:59 p.m. on the Saturday you have reserved it.

Q What appliances and other amenities are included with the clubhouse rental?

A A refrigerator/freezer, microwave, gas stove, tables, chairs, sink (no running water), separate restroom with vault toilets, picnic tables (outside), grill (outside), drinking water pump (outside), fire ring (outside), and garbage receptacles.

Q Our organization has rented the clubhouse and horse area and we plan on having a lot of people attend our event. Do we have to remove our garbage when we leave?

A No. The Department offers a garbage pick-up service and seasonal property attendants will empty the garbage receptacles during/after your rental.

Q My friends and I are not interested in renting the horse area but we would still like to ride our horses on the horse trails in the Wildlife Area, can we do this?

A Yes. The horse trails are open to horse use throughout the year, but you would not be able to park vehicles and trailers in the horse area or use any of the facilities without a rental. You would have to park alongside one of the roads accessing the property or in one of the parking areas.

Q Our dog group is thinking of renting the clubhouse and horse area for a weekend in September. Many of our members travel with large pull behind camper trailers that they would like to bring and stay in for the weekend. Can they do this and what services do you offer for these types of camping devices?

A No. It is prohibited to operate a snowmobile anywhere on the property for any purpose. Contact the WDNR Property manager (715) 372-8539 for further information.

Q I am an avid hunter and would like to hunt small game and big game in the Wildlife Area this fall. Can I do this?

A Yes. The entire property (excluding the clubhouse and horse area) is open to public hunting, trapping, and fishing. Please be sure

Q My family and I have the clubhouse reserved for a day in August. What's the process for us to pick-up the entry keys and return them?

A If possible, you can pick keys up the day before your rental during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Forestry Department office headquarters located at 9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873 and drop them back off the day after at the same location. Alternative arrangements can be made but such requests should be directed to Department staff well in advance of your reservation date.

Q Our dog group is holding a field trial in the Wildlife Area and have reserved the clubhouse for a weekend in October. The forecast calls for some chilly temperatures, does the clubhouse have any heat?

A The clubhouse does offer a fireplace but it is not very effective in efficiently heating the building. Although it will provide some heat, it should not be relied upon to comfortably heat the entire building.

Q We have reserved the clubhouse and horse area for a weekend and are planning on bringing our ATVs in with us during our stay. Can we operate our ATVs around the clubhouse and horse area and in the Wildlife Area?

A No. Operation of any off-highway vehicle (including ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, mopeds, mini-bikes, motorized scooters, tractors, dune buggies, go-carts, golf carts, and other similar types of vehicles) is prohibited in the developed recreational area (clubhouse and horse area) and also throughout the entire Wildlife Area property at any time for any purpose. You could store your ATVs in the clubhouse and horse area on trailers or in truck beds but they cannot be operated. You would have to transport them out of the area to the Summer ATV Trail system via trailer or other method.

Q My friends and I are not interested in renting the horse area but we would still like to ride our horses on the horse trails in the Wildlife Area, can we do this?

A Yes. The horse trails are open to horse use throughout the year, but you would not be able to park vehicles and trailers in the horse area or use any of the facilities without a rental. You would have to park alongside one of the roads accessing the property or in one of the parking areas.

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Leaving a Good Impression

The following are seven simple things, but they can go a long way toward making the Wildlife Area enjoyable and safe for all of those who use it. They will protect property resources and improve experiences for all visitors. Following these simple guidelines called the 7C's will reduce the need for more stringent regulations and help retain a fun, family friendly atmosphere for everybody.

CARE

Care about how you use the area and be considerate of others on the property.

CAUTION

Use caution in the use of all recreational equipment. Handle fire, inflammable fuels and other chemicals so as not to endanger yourself or others.

COURTESY

Practice politeness to enhance the experiences of users. Respect the privacy of others, control your children, control your horse, leash and pick up after your pets. Never be so sensitive to others as you are while visiting the property.

CLEANLINESS

Be clean in your property use habits and teach your children the importance of the same. Pick up litter no matter who left it and be proud of the area you leave behind.

COOPERATION

Observe the letter and spirit of Wildlife Area regulations and the rules established to protect everyone's enjoyment of the property. Work cooperatively with others to make the property better for everyone.

CONSERVATION

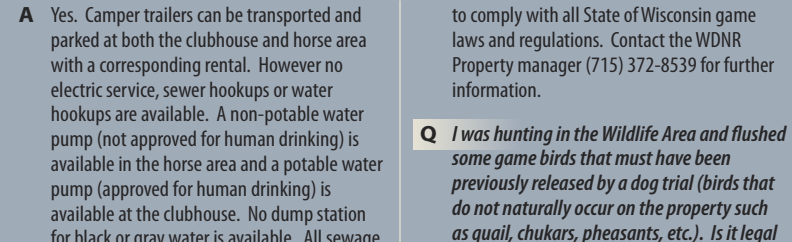
Protect property resources from damage and help those whose job it is to guard and wisely manage the area. Leave a better property for those who follow.

COMMON SENSE

Apply common sense and good judgment to every situation, by doing so you will make your Wildlife Area experience better for yourself and all others.

Please be considerate of other users.

Responsible behavior is ethical behavior...help spread the word!



A Yes. Camper trailers can be transported and parked at both the clubhouse and horse area with a corresponding rental. However no electric service, sewer hookups or water hookups are available. A non-potable water pump (not approved for human drinking) is available in the horse area and a potable water pump (approved for human drinking) is available at the clubhouse. No dump station for black or gray water is available. All sewage and wastewater (black and gray) must be removed from the area and properly disposed of at a designated facility.

Q What types of permitted motorized trail uses are permitted in the Wildlife Area?

A Designated Dog Trail and Horse Trails are only open to horse travel, horse drawn vehicle travel or foot travel, all other types of use is prohibited. Legally licensed highway vehicles may operate on developed roads or trails