About This Area

Harry S. Truman Reservoir management lands consist of 58,133 acres distributed around the reservoir in parts of Henry, Benton, Hickory and St. Clair counties in west central Missouri. The reservoir lies within the upper Osage River basin where the Ozarks meet the Plains.

Historically, Native Americans occupying this area were principally Osage, Shawnee and Kickapoo. Early explorers and pioneers making their way west traveled the basin, while the French trapped along the Osage River and traded with the Indians. Place names like Marais des Cygnes, Marmaton, Pomme de Terre and Thibaut are vivid reminders of the early French influence in the Upper Osage Valley.

Nearby Department Areas:
- Connor O. Fewel Conservation Area
- Chapel View Prairie Conservation Area
- Montrose Conservation Area
- LaDue Bottoms Conservation Area
- Haysler Poague Conservation Area

For local information, contact:
Department of Conservation
2010 South Second Street
Clinton, MO 64735
660-885-6981

Land surrounding Harry S. Truman Reservoir Management Lands belongs to private landowners. The boundaries adjoining private property are clearly marked. Please respect landowners’ rights with these simple courtesies: obtain permission before going on private property, pick up all litter, be careful with fire, do not damage property, practice safe hunting.

Your comments and suggestions regarding area facilities and management are welcome.

Harry S. Truman Reservoir Management Lands
Bethlehem, Brownington, Cedar Creek, Deepwater Creek, Gouge Eye and Grand River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area
Harry S. Truman Reservoir Management Lands

Recreational Opportunities

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

Conservation areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting activities.

Rules and Regulations

• No littering.
• No fireworks.
• No open fires.
• No ATV’s except for Corps of Engineers Cooper Creek ATV Area.
• Motor vehicles are restricted to authorized roadways and parking areas.
• No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
• No collecting artifacts or any other activity that damages or disturbs historical or archeological features.
• Destroying, cutting, or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption.
• Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles.
• Camping is permitted only in Corps of Engineers developed campgrounds and Cross Timbers Access.
• Target shooting is permitted only on designated public shooting ranges. The nearest range is the Golden Valley Shooting Range located 6 miles west of Clinton on Highway 18. The Range is closed to the public every Wednesday for maintenance.
• Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

Hunting

Areas are open under statewide regulations, except for the following special regulations that apply to all areas.

• Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and limits except: firearms and archery methods may be used. Firearms antlerless and archery antlerless permits may not be used on Deepwater Creek Wildlife Management Area.
• Only bucks that have at least four antler points on one side of their rack may be taken during the archery and firearms deer hunting seasons (except the youth portions).
• Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in-steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
• Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Waterfowl blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation. (See the Corps of Engineers Truman Project Waterfowl Hunting Blind Policy).
• Trapping furbearers allowed only by Special Use Permit.

Fishing

All water beyond the designated reservoir boundary are open to statewide regulations.

Truman Lake

See the Wildlife Code for fishing regulations on Truman Reservoir.

Area Ponds

• Area ponds are open to fishing year round, except for those designated closed by posting.
• In ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
• In area ponds all black bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released unharmed immediately after being caught.
• Daily limits are six black bass, four catfish, 30 crappie, and 20 of all other fish combined.
• Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, snagging, snaring, grabbing, pole and line, a twenty-two (.22) caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, peller gun, or crossbow and only on and within dates and hours those waters are open to fishing or hunting. An artificial light may be used. Season: Sunset June 30 through Oct. 31. Daily limit 8.
• Setnig or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all lakes and ponds, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
• Boats, including sailboats, may be used on lakes and ponds designated as open to boats. Boats may not be left unattended overnight. Electric motors only are allowed.
• No swimming allowed in area ponds.

The information in this brochure relates to the portion of the land around Truman Reservoir which the Missouri Department of Conservation manages. Please contact the Corps of Engineers for regulations on the remainder of the land around Truman Reservoir.