

About This Area

Paint Brush Prairie Conservation Area is in southern Pettis County, about eight miles south of Sedalia. The Conservation Department acquired the original 74-acres for the area in 1978. Subsequent acquisitions have brought the area to its present 314-acre size.

The northwest portion of Paint Brush Prairie has been designated a Missouri Natural Area, which protects a diverse plant community of over 200 natural tallgrass prairie plants. Slightly raised circular mounds measuring up to 12 feet in diameter, known as mima mounds or prairie mounds, are found on the area. Their origin is unknown.

Management of Paint Brush Prairie focuses on maintaining the unique prairie habitat. Periodic spring burns eliminate invading non-prairie plants, such as fescue and cedar. Haying is also an important management tool.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hunting – Hiking – Outdoor Photography – Picnicking – Frogging

Rules and Regulations

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

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being used for hunting and training.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to parking areas.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption. On areas designated as Missouri Natural Areas, taking edible wild greens is prohibited.
- No digging or soil disturbance is allowed.
- Horseback riding is not permitted.
- No camping permitted.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply:

- In ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.

- In ponds, daily and possession 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.
- In ponds, all black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Some ponds may be posted closed to fishing.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all lakes and ponds, excepted as otherwise provided in this chapter.
- Boats are not permitted.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting and frogging under statewide regulations, except as further restricted by the following regulations:

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 31 on areas where deer hunting is allowed, by special use permit, or except as otherwise authorized in the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklet. 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.
- Waterfowl hunting is permitted under statewide regulations.
- Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily and may not be left unattended between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Blinds may not be constructed on-site from woody vegetation except for willows.

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
2000 South Limit, Sedalia MO 65301

660-530-5500

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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/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.

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION