

CEMVS-OD

MEMORANDUM FOR ST. LOUIS DISTRICT OPERATIONS MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy for Use of Portable Hunting Stands/Blinds and Trail/Game Cameras on Property under USACE St. Louis District Control

1. Reference Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Parks, Forest and Public Property, May 2000, Chapter III – US Army Corps of Engineers, Part 327 - Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of Water Resources Development Projects Administered by the Chief of Engineers.

2. Purpose. To establish policy and outline procedures/responsibilities regarding the use of portable hunting stands/blinds and trail/game cameras on USACE St. Louis District Property.

3. Policy. The following guidelines direct the use of portable hunting stands/blinds and trail/game cameras on lands managed by USACE St. Louis District.

a. Portable hunting stands/blinds are defined as any portable type hunting stands, climbing devices, steps, or blinds, that are not nailed, or screwed into trees and can be removed at the end of a day's hunt.

(1). Portable hunting stands/blinds are prohibited on USACE St. Louis District Property and subject to immediate impoundment, except when the following conditions are met:

- (a). Portable hunting stands/blinds are temporarily placed on lands managed by USACE-MVS between September 1 - January 31 in Missouri and September 15 - January 31 in Illinois.
- (b). Portable hunting stands/blinds are placed only in areas open to hunting.
- (c). Portable hunting stands/blinds are <u>permanently</u> labeled with the owner's name, address, and a valid phone number. Information must be legible from ground level and remain legible throughout the season time frames referenced above for the respective state.
- (d). Only one (1) portable hunting stand/blind is allowed per individual. Individuals utilizing portable tree stands or similar devices use a Fall-Arrest System/full body harness as recommended by the Treestand Manufacturer's Association (TMA).

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b. Trail/game cameras - Any outdoor camera left unattended to monitor wildlife movement by taking photographs or video footage at regular time intervals, or whenever motion is detected.

(1). Trail/Game Cameras utilizing non-bark penetrating tree mounts are prohibited on USACE-MVS Property and subject to immediate impoundment except when all the following conditions are met:

- (a). Trail/Game camera is placed within an authorized hunting area.
- (b). Trail/Game cameras are used strictly for the purpose of monitoring wildlife movement.
- (c). Trail/Game cameras are <u>permanently</u> labeled with the owner's name, address, and phone number. Information must be readily visible from ground level and remain legible.
- (d). Trail/Game cameras are not placed within 100 feet of hunter/fishing lots, access roadways, and designated bike/walking trails. The surreptitious capture of images of individuals using a trail/game camera is strictly prohibited.

c. USACE-MVS reserves the right to immediately remove and impound hunting stands/blind and trail/game cameras that are not in compliance with these restrictions.

(1). All removed and impounded hunting stands/blinds and/or trail/game cameras will be stored at the local Project Office where said item was removed for 120 days and then disposed of in accordance with Title 36 CFR, 327.15(c).

(2). Title 36 CFR, 327.15(c) authorizes the sale or disposal of all lost, abandoned or unclaimed personal property that comes into Government custody or control after a diligent effort has been made to find the owner, heirs, next of kin or legal representative(s).

4. Enforcement of this District Regulation will be implemented by the Operation Manager and uniformed Natural Resource Specialists and Park Rangers. The primary tool for enforcing implementation of this regulation will be Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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5. Any Site-Specific questions relating to the Hunting Blind/Tree Stand and Trail/Game Camera Use Policy at specific Project sites should be directed to the local project office. The local project offices may implement a more restrictive policy as long as the local policy is consistent with this district policy.

6. Point of contact for this policy is Garett Fleming, CEMVS-OD, 314-331-8594 or garett.fleming@usace.army.mil.

KEVIN R. GOLINGHORST COL, EN Commanding