

Souris Joint Water Board

Recreational and Public Use Policy

Purpose. This Policy establishes rules for public access, recreational use, and hunting on Souris River Joint Board (SRJB) property to ensure safety, preserve natural resources, and promote responsible outdoor recreation.

Scope. This Policy applies to all members of the public who enter, access, or use SRJB property for any recreational purpose, including but not limited to, hiking, wildlife viewing, and hunting.

Public Access and Use. All property owned by SRJB is open for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, or other compatible recreational use, except as otherwise provided in this Policy, or as posted at public road entry points. All SRJB land is subject to the terms herein in addition to the rules and regulations of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Notification Prior to Use. Prior to use or entry onto SRJB property, the prospective user must contact the Board to provide notice of the user's intent to use the SRJB's property. The SRJB shall maintain updated contact information on all posted points.

Open Hours. Public access is permitted from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, unless otherwise posted or authorized in writing.

Respect for Private Property. Users and entrants must remain within the boundaries of the Board's property. Trespassing onto adjacent private land is strictly prohibited.

Entry Points and Motorized Vehicles. Access is limited to designated entry points, trails, and parking areas. The use of all motorized vehicles is restricted to constructed roads, established trails, and parking areas normally used by passenger cars. Motor vehicles may not be used off established roads and trails for retrieval of big game or for waterfowl hunting, except where allowed by written permission or as posted at public road entry points.

ATVs and Snowmobiles. The use of ATVs and snowmobiles on SRJB property is prohibited, except for on established trails unless otherwise allowed by written permission or as posted at public road entry points.

Littering, Destruction of Property, and Abandoned Property. Littering is prohibited. All users must remove garbage, waste, and refuse. Archaeological artifacts or cultural resources, trees, shrubs, vines, plants, gravel, fill, sod, water, crops, firewood, posts, poles, or other property may not be mowed, clipped, cut, or removed from SRJB property without written permission. Removal or vandalism of signage, structures, or buildings on SRJB property is prohibited. Abandonment of vehicles or other personal property is prohibited.

Camping and Fires. Camping on SRJB property is prohibited. Open fires are also prohibited, unless authorized in writing. Fireworks and firework displays are not permitted unless authorized in writing.

Hunting. Hunting is permitted on SRJB property, unless otherwise posted at public road entry points and subject to the following conditions:

1. **No Firearms.** Firearms, shotguns, or other incendiary devices, including tracker rounds, are prohibited on SRJB property unless the user obtains written permission. Bow hunting is permitted. No discharge of archery or bow equipment may be done within 30 yards of buildings, maintained trails, or public access points.
2. **Tree Stands, Ground Blinds, and Game Cameras.** No person may construct or use a permanent tree stand or permanent steps to a tree stand or permanent ground blind on Board property. Portable tree stands and portable steps, natural tree stands, portable ground blinds, and game cameras may be used. Portable tree stands and portable steps are defined as those that are held to the tree with ropes, straps, cables, chains, or bars. Ladder-type stands that lean against the tree are portable stands. Natural stands are those crotches, trunks, down trees, etc., where no platform is used. Tree stands and ground blinds do not preempt hunting rights of others in the vicinity of the tree stand, ground blind, or game camera. Tree stands, steps, ground blinds, and game cameras may not be put up before July 31 of the year, and they shall be taken down by January 31 of the following year. Stands, steps, ground blinds, and game cameras not removed by January 31 are considered abandoned property and are subject to removal and confiscation by the SRJB. All personal property described herein must display the user/owner's name, address, and telephone number.
3. **Traps.** The use and placement of traps is prohibited on SRJB property.
4. **Baiting.** The use or placement of bait for attracting, luring, feeding, or habituating wildlife to the bait location for any purpose on SRJB property is prohibited. Bait includes grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other natural or manufactured feeds. Bait does not include the use of lures, scents, or liquid attractants for hunting.

Pets. Pets must be leashed and under control at all times, except during lawful hunting activities where permitted by state law.

Acceptance of Terms and Waiver of Liability. Using or entering SRJB property constitutes acceptance of this Policy and agreement to comply with all rules and regulations herein. All users and entrants enter at their own risk and waive any claim against SRJB.

Violation. Violations of these policies may result in immediate removal from SRJB property, revocation of access privileges, and/or referral to law enforcement for prosecution under applicable laws.