

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES SUMMARY

Chapter 61 “State Parks and Recreation Areas”, Chapter 62 “State Forest Camping Areas”
Chapter 63 “Keg Beer Rules”

The State Parks Bureau of the Iowa DNR is working on a number of policies that will likely result in rule making and would like input from the public. Input will be accepted via e-mail, mail or orally. The deadline for providing input is January 23, 2012. The proposed rule making items include the following items:

1. Rescind Chapter 62 “State Forest Camping” and incorporate those rules into Chapter 61 “State Parks and Recreation Areas”. Many of the rules in Chapter 62 are similar or identical to rules in Chapter 61. Any rules that are unique to the state forest camping areas will be merged into Chapter 61. Hopefully, this will make it easier to find information pertaining to camping whether in a state park, recreation area, or state forest campground. Note: This is not changing rules but merging them with Chapter 61.
2. Clean up the listings of state parks, state recreation areas, state preserves and state parks managed by another governmental entity:
 - Pioneer Recreation Area – remove from State Recreation Area definition as it is not managed by the DNR. It is currently correctly identified in the state park managed by another governmental entity listing which is correct.
 - Remove “Wanata” from the definition list of state park. Clay County was given fee title to this park and is no longer managed or owned by DNR.
 - Remove “Oakland Mills” from the definition listing for state park managed by another governmental entity. Henry County was given fee title to this property and is no longer owned by the DNR.
 - Add Glenwood, Perkins Prairie, and Vincent Bluff to the definition listing of state preserves.
3. Establish a definition for the “warming house” park visitors use at Pilot Knob State Park during the winter and then update the definition of “rental facility” to include the warming house.
4. Establish rental fees for the following “new/renovated facilities”:
 - Pilot Knob Warming House - \$30/day
 - Lewis & Clark Visitor Center Banquet Room - \$150/day (weekends & major holidays); \$75/day (weekday)
 - Mini-Wakan Lodge -- \$125/day (weekend & major holidays); \$62.50/day (weekdays)
 - Waubonsie Lodge -- \$150/day (weekend & major holidays); \$75/day (weekday)

5. Remove the adoption by reference rule regarding the centralized reservation system business rules manual. Many of the policies stated in the manual are also identified as administrative rules. Whenever an update to the manual is needed for operating/maintaining the reservation system by DNR and/or vendor, it requires a rule change. After a review of the business rules manual, eight policies were identified as necessary that should be administrative rules. The remaining policies were those that pertained to operation and maintenance of the system between the vendor and the DNR. The eight existing policies which we will pull out of the business rules manual and place in administrative rules are:

- a. Reservations will not be accepted for camping stays that occur November 1 through March 31.
- b. The last day a person can make or change a reservation if paying by paper check or money order is 21 days prior to the arrival date for campsites and rental facilities.
- c. All reservations shall be for a specific campsite or rental facility.
- d. The reservation window to change a camping reservation is 4 days prior to arrival if paying by credit card or debit card for campsites and 15 days prior to arrival if paying by credit card or debit card for rental facilities.
- e. Equestrian campers shall be allowed to change a camping reservation less than 4 days prior to the arrival date if the equestrian trails are closed on the same day as their scheduled arrival date or the day before their scheduled arrival date.
- f. Cancellation policy including forfeiture of fees depending upon how close to the arrival date the cancellation occurs.
- g. Minimum stay requirements for camping reservations.
- h. Campers reserving buddy or group campsites must reserve both or all four of the individual sites that make up the buddy or group campsite.

Again, this is not creating new rules but simply incorporating existing policies that are adopted by rule into actual rules.

6. Remove the Friday/Saturday night stay requirement for the Scherburne House cabin rental at Springbrook State Park. The two-night minimum still applies.

7. Clarify that a damage deposit is required for lodges, yurts, cabins, and open shelters with kitchenettes. Change the damage deposit amount for lodges, cabins, yurts, open shelters

with kitchenettes. Currently the damage deposit is \$50 per facility. The proposed change would allow the DNR to charge one day/night's daily rental fee for the damage deposit or \$50, whichever is greater. Therefore, if a facility rents for \$200/day, the damage deposit would be \$200. The damage deposit is returned upon satisfactory inspection of the facility after a rental.

Why the change? Staff has seen an increase in renters not cleaning facilities, particularly, lodges. The current \$50 damage deposit rarely covers the cost of additional labor expense and supplies to clean up the facility.

8. Change the deposit requirement for keg beer permits if customers rent the lodge or open shelters with kitchenettes. Currently, the rules state that if a damage deposit is collected for a lodge, that damage deposit would be accepted in lieu of paying the required deposit for the keg beer permit. The proposed language change would say "If the kegger takes place in a rental facility for which a rental fee and damage deposit are charged, the kegger damage deposit shall be waived in lieu of the rental facility damage deposit if the rental facility damage deposit is equal to or greater than the kegger damage deposit."
9. Clarify that walk-in campers cannot register for a camping stay in the future. The camping stay must begin on the actual date the camper came out to the park to register, pay and post the registration slip. In 2011, we had a few registrations that were for camping stays starting on a date in the future. This is not allowed.

Example: A customer goes to the state park on Wednesday, June 4 to register for the weekend. The camping stay must begin on June 4 and paid for that night. A customer could go ahead and register and pay for 4 nights starting on June 4 which would take the camping stay through Saturday night.

10. Establish that animals are prohibited in all park buildings except for service dogs or assistive animals, dogs in designated cabins and yurts, and animals being used in education and interpretation programs. Currently there is no restriction on the type and number of pets allowed in cabins and yurts and no restriction on which cabins or yurts will allow pets.

Why the change? We have received comments/requests from the public to not allow pets in cabins due to allergies, noise (barking), and unwanted pet hair on furniture and carpet. In addition, damage to cabins such as torn carpet, torn shades/blinds, teeth marks on furniture, animal excrement on carpet and animal waste outside the cabin area are ongoing maintenance problems. The amount of pet hair and dander also increases cleaning time by park staff. A review of a number of states found that many states do not allow any pets in cabins or restrict the type of pets allowed in these facilities. In a survey conducted for Iowa State Park Cabin renters, the overwhelming majority of pets brought to cabins were dogs. We understand the importance pets are to people and want to

provide a pet-friendly cabin opportunity. However, we also want to balance the needs/expectations of those who do not have pets and the resources needed by DNR to maintain pet-friendly facilities.

11. Establish a nonrefundable dog fee for cabin/yurt renters who bring dogs. The fee would be \$25/stay for a 2-night stay or \$50/stay for a 3+night stay.

Why the fee? The fee would help cover costs associated with cleaning and maintaining the cabins.

12. We are also discussing whether to set a limit on the number of dogs allowed in the dog-friendly cabins/yurts. The thought is setting a limit on the number at two dogs of any size per designated cabin/yurt.
13. Require that dogs be put in a crate or kennel when left unattended inside the cabin or yurt. Dogs would not be permitted to be left unattended outside of the cabin/yurt.
14. We are also interested in getting feedback on unattended pets left in campgrounds. There has been discussion as to whether we prohibit pets being left unattended in the campground.
15. Remove the requirement that a person with a physical disability must submit a certificate from a doctor stating that the applicant meets the criteria describing a person with a physical disability. This needs to happen to be in compliance with federal regulations.
16. Remove the listing of state parks that allow deer population control hunts. The rule addresses the process by which the parks are reviewed and approved to have the hunts. Listing the parks requires a rule change each time a park is added or removed and is not necessary. The parks with controlled hunts can be found on our park website which is up to date.
17. Minor editorial changes that do not change the intent of the rules but provides clarification and updates outdated code references.

Please send all comments or questions to:

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The deadline to submit comments is January 23, 2012.

Staff Recommendations for Proposed Dog-Friendly Cabins and Yurts

Backbone State Park (Delaware Co.) – Cabins 4, 10, D

Dolliver State Park (Webster Co.) – Cabins 1, 2

Green Valley State Park (Union Co.) – Cabin 1

Honey Creek State Park (Appanoose Co.) – Cabins 3, 4

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park (Van Buren Co.) – Cabins 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Lake Darling State Park (Washington Co.) – Cabin 4

Lake of Three Fires State Park (Taylor Co.) – Cabins 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Lake Wapello State Park (Davis Co.) – Cabins 12, 13, 14

McIntosh Woods State Park (Cerro Gordo Co.) – Yurts 1, 2

Palisades-Kepler State Park (Linn Co.) – Cabin 2

Pine Lake State Park (Hardin Co.) – Cabins 1, 2, 3, 4

Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area (Linn Co.) – Cabin 4

Prairie Rose State Park (Shelby Co.) – Cabins 1, 2

Stone State Park (Woodbury Co.) – Cabin 1

Waubonsie State Park (Fremont Co.) – Cabins 3, 5

