

**13.09 FIREARMS AND HUNTING**

- (1) **RESTRICTED AREAS**- No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any wild animal or bird, or discharge any firearm or have in possession or under control any firearm or air gun as defined in SS. 939.22, unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow, slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case while in any county park, within 100 yards of any county campground, picnic area or other special use area designated by the department with posted notice prohibiting the discharge of firearms in these areas. Those persons with a concealed carry permit are exempt from the provisions of 13.09(1). Concealed carry permit holders must keep their weapon concealed or in their vehicle while in the areas specified in 13.09(1) as to not cause unnecessary disturbance to other park visitors. All weapons are subject to the provisions of County Ordinance 9.01(1) if the requirements of 9.01(2) are met.
- (2) **AUTHORITY** –The Jackson County Forestry & Parks Committee shall have the authority and option to open county parks to public hunting and trapping at the Committee's discretion. Said designations shall be made by the Forestry & Parks Committee and shall specify the exact areas to be opened and the exact dates that public hunting and trapping will be allowed. The Forestry & Parks Committee may make any other restrictions or requirements within the restricted areas as specified in 13.09(1) as they may deem necessary with respect to any hunting or trapping notice.
- (3) **PORTABLE TREE STANDS AND GROUND BLINDS**- Two (2) portable tree stand or blind (per DNR Customer Identification Number) may be erected and left in place between April 1st and May 31st or between September 1st and January 7th of the following year. All portable tree stands and ground blinds and associated hardware must be removed within 7 days of the final date of the range listed above (May 31st or January 7th). All other blinds or portable tree stands for the same DNR Customer Identification Number must be clearly visible and legible from the ground. For the purpose of this Chapter, all hardware associated with the use of the tree stand or blind erected outside of the date range listed above which is not removed at the closing of hunting hours each day will constitute a violation of this Chapter. No person may cause damage to the trees by the placement or erection of the portable tree stand and/or ground blinds, or by any manner while climbing or hunting from the tree. Any device that penetrates the bark of a tree will render the entire stand site as illegal and the stand, steps and all associated hardware will be removed at the owner's expense and liability. The subsection does not apply to the use of blinds constructed entirely from dead vegetation found on the property. Live vegetation may not be cut and used as part of any blind or stand. Commercial ground blinds which conceal occupants must have a minimum of 144 square inches of solid blaze orange visible from all directions during all firearm deer season. Pink is not an acceptable color.

- (4) **GAME CAMERAS-** No person may place a camera on any lands, structures or property under the management, supervision and control of the department unless the camera is secured using methods which do not penetrate the bark of trees and the owners DNR Customer identification number is legible and visible on the outermost portion of the camera or housing. The department reserves the right to remove all cameras not in conformance with this provision and to view and retain images on the camera or secure digital media that may be used as evidence.
  
- (5) **AUTHORITY TO REMOVE-** An elevated scaffold or game camera placed on county owned property in violation of 13.09(3-4) is considered a public nuisance. The department may seize all such nuisances and may destroy or sell the blind, elevated scaffolds or game camera in the name of the county. The department and its deputies are exempt from all liability to the owner for the seizure and destruction or sale of these items.
  
- (6) **HUNTING, FISHING AND MINERAL RIGHTS-** Jackson County shall retain its interest in hunting, fishing and minerals unless Jackson County has the otherwise transferred these rights by deed and the deed has been filed with the Jackson County Register of Deeds.
  - (a) Jackson County will not exercise its hunting and fishing rights on land that is currently being cultivated as cranberry beds, or land that is being developed as a cranberry bed and the banks immediately next to said beds. The owner of the land may post this land to prohibit public hunting and fishing. Upon abandonment of the land for the purpose of cultivation of cranberries Jackson County shall exercise its right to hunting and fishing and all posting of said lands shall be removed.