

TPE Policy

Hunting & Fishing on TPE Properties

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) is neutral on the subjects of hunting and fishing. We neither promote nor discriminate against hunting or fishing as recreational activities. Hunting or fishing may or may not be allowed on TPE held lands, depending upon the site. TPE recognizes the value of hunting as a useful management tool, and therefore we permit its use on our lands where we deem it is necessary to control problem species, or where we deem it is not in conflict with the goals and uses of a given property. Fishing is allowed where we deem it is not a detriment to the natural resources that we are protecting.

This policy does not cover specific, targeted measures aimed at removing targeted problem species as might be authorized by the State under special permit, for example control measures such as sharp shooting over bait or live trapping.

The following conditions must be adhered to before hunting or fishing may occur on TPE property:

Property Size and Context Hunting or fishing may only be authorized where the size of the property, its topographic composition, and the surrounding land use can safely accommodate the type of hunting or fishing being considered.

Use Conflicts Hunting or fishing must be done in such a way as to minimize conflict and interference with management activities and other uses of the land, such as hiking or bird watching. For example, a permit or reservation system may be employed to regulate hunter numbers, and certain days may be designated off limits for hunting during the hunting season. The approach taken will vary depending upon the types and level of uses a property receives.

Who May Hunt or Fish On TPE properties in Wisconsin, any member of the public with a valid hunting/fishing license must be given equal opportunity to hunt the land, or access the water, under the rules set forth for the given property. The TPE website will be the primary means of letting the general public know that hunting or fishing on a given property is allowed and under what conditions.

On TPE properties in Illinois and Minnesota, access for hunting or fishing may be open to the public or it may be by invitation only to selected individuals or groups that have valid licenses. In the latter case, a written agreement, that holds TPE harmless and stipulates who may hunt or fish and under what conditions, must be established between TPE and the individuals or groups that are granted the rights to hunt or fish.

Violations of Regulations Individuals in violation of State or Federal hunting or fishing regulations, or the rules set forth for a given TPE property, may be expelled from the property and denied future opportunity to hunt or fish on TPE lands. TPE volunteers and staff are not responsible for enforcement of hunting regulations. Rather, they should collect information and inform local law enforcement officials of any observed violations of regulations.

Fees Hunters and fishers may not be charged a fee to hunt, or for access to water, on TPE lands. However, in the case of a permit or reservation system, a reasonable application fee may be charge to cover administration costs. Hunters and fishers may, however, be asked to make donations to TPE or be asked to volunteer time to land management, but such contributions may not be a requirement for obtaining a permit.

User Notice If hunting is allowed on a property, a notice to that effect must be placed at the primary points of entry to warn all users as to what type of hunting may be occurring and when. There should also be notice informing perspective hunters what the procedures are for hunting on the property and where to obtain more information.

Posting Boundaries The boundary of the property must be posted so as to inform hunters of the location of the property lines.

Authorizing Hunting and Fishing The TPE board authorizes the local TPE chapter responsible for managing a given property to determine if hunting may occur on the property, what species may be hunted and by who, when hunting may occur during the season, and if a permitting or reservation system is to be used. However, the board reserves the right to supersede the local chapter if the local hunting program, or absence of hunting, is in violation of the policies as stated above.

Adopted at the meeting of the Board of Directors on September 5th, 2007