MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS
1505 EASTOVER DRIVE
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39211

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT P13-002

The Mississippi Commission of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at a meeting in Greenwood, Mississippi, on December 13, 2007, under authority of Section §25-43-7, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), made known its intent to adopt the following regulations under the authority of Section 49-4-4 and 55-3-3, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), relative to governing the operation and control of all state parks and recreational facilities as well as all state lakes and other properties under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Be it ordered that Public Notice P12-002 on State Park rules and regulations is hereby amended.

Changes to rates and policies will take effect on the date specified. However, any reservations made prior to this start date for times and dates beyond this start date will be honored at the originally agreed upon prices and conditions unless specifically noted within this public notice

A. GENERAL

1. These regulations are effective within and on all state park lands and other recreational facilities as well as state lakes under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

2. No person shall disobey a lawful order of the park, Lake Manager, or other authorized personnel.

3. No person shall violate any posted limitations established by the park or lake manager concerning hours and areas during which recreation and other facilities will be open or accessible. From 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. will be considered "quiet hours." During this time, the park or lake may be closed to the general public with the exception of registered guests. (Check with individual parks or lakes for closing hours.)

4. No person shall sell or offer for sale any merchandise, articles, or things, whatsoever, without the written consent of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee.

5. No person shall distribute any handbills, circulate, post, place, or erect any bills, notices, papers, advertising devices, or matter of any kind without the written consent of the park or lake manager.

6. No person shall solicit contributions for any purpose without the written consent of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee.

7. No person shall make, use, or gain admittance to or attempt to use or remain in a facility within a park or lake for which a charge is made without paying the fees. All fees are payable in advance except for group camp lodging and meals and banquet meals. The only exceptions are for those on Agency appointed business.

8. The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee is authorized to close parks, and/or lakes, or portions thereof, on a seasonal basis, for special events, or on certain days of the week.

9. The park or lake manager is authorized to close the park or lake under his supervision, or any portion thereof, at any time he reasonably believes it necessary for the maintenance of peace, good order, or the protection and safety of the persons or property in or upon the park or its environs. The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee will be notified prior to, but if not then, immediately of any such action, and it shall be confirmed in writing.

10. Upon closing of a park, lake, or portion thereof, the manager shall be required to remove all unauthorized persons and their belongings from the park, lake, or closed portion thereof.

11. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to be in a state park, state lake, or a portion thereof, when it is closed to the public by order of the park or lake manager.

12. Personal Injuries or Accidents: The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is not responsible for any accidents or injuries to any persons while on state park or lake property when using state park or lake facilities, except as provided for in Mississippi Code Annotated 1-46-1 through 11-46-23. Persons suffering an injury or accident while on a state park or state lake or using the facilities of either should file a notice of claim in writing addressed to the Executive Director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The notice of claim must contain a brief statement of the facts and circumstances surrounding the injury, extent of the injury, time and place the injury occurred, names of all persons involved, amount of damages sought, and address of the person filing the notice of claim.

13. Lost or Stolen Articles: The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall not be responsible for any property or article lost, stolen, or damaged from any cabin, camp pad, bathhouse, parking area, park, or lake building, or facility.

14. Pets are forbidden in and around the cabin areas. Persons with pets in designated areas shall be required to restrain them on an adequate leash, not more than six feet long. Pets that DISTURB guests will be removed from the park or lake. Persons with pets shall pick up and properly dispose of excrement deposited by pets.

15. No livestock or other animals, other than horses on designated bridle paths or trails, will be allowed on state parks or state lakes except with written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee. A copy of a current Negative Coggins test is mandatory for each horse, and must be on file, prior to unloading horses on state park lands.

16. No one shall use portable generators without the permission of the park or lake manager.

17. No one shall use metal detectors without the written approval of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. (§39-7-4, Mississippi Code of 1972)

18. Except in an extreme emergency, the operation of aircraft on land or water or the air delivery of any person or thing by parachute, helicopter, hot air balloon or other means, without the written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, is prohibited.

19. No person or group shall be given special consideration or free services without the express written approval of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee. Such authority will only be exercised under rare circumstances.

20. Certain activities require a deposit to hold a reservation or fees are charged for participation.

    A. A full or partial refund may be received if:

        1. We were not able to provide the service for which fees were paid in advance;
        2. Or, there is an "Act of God", at the park, which prevents use of the facility that was reserved or the service for which fees were paid in advance or prevents the user from accessing the reserved facility or service.

B. With at least 14 days advance notice, there will be a $10.00 cancellation fee for each campsite or lodging unit reserved and a credit issued through a gift card for the remaining balance, good for 12 months from the date of the cancellation.

C. Within 13 days of the arrival, there will be a $10.00 cancellation fee and the first night's fee for each campsite or cabin that was reserved will be forfeited. A credit will be issued through a gift card for the remaining balance, good for 12 months from the date of the cancellation.

D. All fees paid will be forfeited if a park guest is a NO SHOW.

E. A one time transfer will be allowed within one year from the actual reservation date with a $10.00 transfer fee charged for each unit or campsite being transferred.

21. Entrance fees may be waived if a person or group has rented any facility (convention center, lodge, meeting rooms) for meetings, weddings, family reunions, etc... Entrance fees shall be charged for pavilions and all other day use. Persons renting the facilities will be responsible for the cleanup.

B. PERSONAL CONDUCT

1. Disorderly conduct is strictly prohibited. No person shall indulge in riotous, boisterous, threatening or indecent conduct or abusive, threatening, profane or indecent language.

2. No person shall commit a nuisance, unreasonably disturb or annoy others, nor do any act amounting to a breach of the peace. Any person committing obscene or disorderly acts or otherwise creating a nuisance may be removed from the park by the Park Manager.

3. No person shall operate or use radios, phonographs, or other sound producing equipment in any area of the park or lake, which is audible beyond the immediate vicinity so as to disturb any other persons.

4. Gambling is illegal in state parks and on state lakes or property surrounding same. All state laws will be enforced. No person shall bring into the park or have in his possession any implements or devices commonly used or intended for gambling purposes.

5. No person shall use comfort stations except in a clean and sanitary manner.

6. No person, except children six years of age or younger, shall use the rest rooms designated for the opposite sex

7. No person shall commit any obscene, indecent, unsanitary or offensive acts, such as urination or defecation, in places not officially provided.

8. No person shall dress, undress, or indecently expose his or her person in any area of the park or lake where the same may be seen by any other person.

9. Scuba diving is permitted at such time(s) and in such areas as designated by the park or lake manager with verification of diver's certification. Appropriate dive equipment must be used and dive flags must be visible during dive.

10. The park or Lake Manager, or his representative may, at his discretion, cause the removal or limit the stay of persons or vehicles causing any disturbance or in any way creating a nuisance.

C. VEHICLE USE

1. A rate of speed in excess of 25 miles per hour is prohibited on any park or state lake road. In congested areas, other posted limit will be enforced.

2. No owner or driver shall cause or permit a vehicle to stand anywhere outside of designated parking areas except for a reasonable time to receive and discharge passengers.

3. To operate a motor vehicle of any kind while impaired by intoxicating liquors, narcotic drugs, or medication is prohibited.

4. To drive any vehicle on state park or lake property in disregard of the rights and safety of others, or to drive a vehicle within or upon a safety zone, lawn, walk, bridle path, service road, or any part of park or lake property not designated for or customarily used for such purposes is prohibited.

5. Vehicles shall not be permitted in cabin or camping areas unless the operator thereof is a registered guest or visitor of a registered guest within the area, and then only to travel to and from the cabin or campsite assigned to such operator. The number and type of vehicles allowed in overnight stay areas will be restricted based on available parking as determined by park or lake management.

6. Bicycles are permitted on state parks and state lakes. All bicycles shall be restricted from use after dark unless equipped with functioning headlights and reflectors.

7. Vehicles are to be used for transportation only. Bicycles are not to be used to race on the roads in a park or on state lake property or on off-road areas thereof.

8. Cyclists shall not travel park or state lake roads more than two abreast and, if in large groups, must travel single file.

9. All motored vehicles, (ATVs, dirt bikes, golf carts, scooters, bicycles, toy vehicles) whether it be electrical, gas, diesel, or other, used within the state parks or at state lakes must be operated in compliance with state regulations for their operation. Such vehicles must be licensed and must conform to all state laws and regulations. Operation of unlicensed vehicles or vehicles that cannot be licensed by Mississippi law is prohibited. Exceptions may be made in the case of handicapped individuals where use of such vehicles allows access that would not have been normally possible. Approval will be given by the Park Manager on a case by case basis.

10. The operation of off-road vehicles including but not limited to motorcycles, ATV's, trail bikes, dune buggies, go-carts, and four-wheel drive vehicles shall be in designated areas only.

11. Any operator of any vehicle, motorized or otherwise, must comply with all applicable Mississippi laws.

D. PARK AND STATE LAKE PROPERTY

1. To destroy, cut, break, remove, mutilate, injure, take, or gather in any manner any tree, shrub, plant, rock, mineral, or historical artifact within a park or on state lake property is prohibited unless authorized by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee.

2. No person shall throw, dump, or leave papers, cans, bottles, or other rubbish anywhere in the waters, along the roads, on picnic and camping sites, beaches, or any other lands or water of the park or lake except in the receptacles provided for such; nor shall any person use trash receptacles for the placing of any refuse from private property in the vicinity.

3. No person shall in any manner injure, deface, disturb, destroy, disfigure, place indecent language upon, or remove any part of a building, sign, wall, fence, tree, bench, or other structure or natural rock within the park or state lake property.

4. No person shall bathe or wash dogs or other animals; wash vehicles or clothing, throw, cast, lay or discard into or leave any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, in the lakes, streams or waters within or adjacent to park or lake property which would pollute such waters.

5. Except on fields and areas provided for the purpose, no person shall play organized sports or any games involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins, and model airplanes.

6. No person shall kindle, build, maintain or use a fire other than in the places provided or designated for such purposes. In seasons of unusual dryness or excessive fire danger, fires may be prohibited anywhere within the park or on state lake property by the park or lake manager. Burn bans will be enforced.

7. No person shall smoke in any structure or place in the park or on state lake property where smoking is prohibited. In seasons of unusual dryness or excessive fire danger, smoking may be prohibited anywhere within the park or on state lake property by the park or lake manager. Burn bans will be enforced.

8. No one shall construct or erect any building or structure on state land or water; no one shall run, string or install any public service utilities without the written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee.

9. Access or rights-of-way across state property is prohibited without the written authorization of the Mississippi Commission on Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

E. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND NARCOTICS

1. Mississippi laws governing intoxicating beverages will be enforced. The park manager, park ranger, or other authorized personnel and any law officer with appropriate jurisdiction shall have full authority to prevent the public sale, distribution, or unreasonable use of alcoholic beverages by any person or group so as to constitute a nuisance, disturbance, annoyance, or which may be repugnant to the reasonable use of the park by any other member of the general public or in violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi. The clubhouses at the state park golf courses have been designated by law as qualified resort areas and as such, are not subject to these regulations, but are subject to the state laws and regulations of the State of Mississippi governing same.

2. All federal, state, and local laws governing the illegal use, sale, distribution, or possession of any drug, narcotic, or paraphernalia shall be strictly enforced.

3. No person shall enter or remain within the confines of a park, on a state lake, or the property surrounding same while in a visible or obvious intoxicated or drugged condition.

4. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on state park lakes and state fishing lakes.

F. FIREARMS, FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES

1. No person other than those designated by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall carry or possess firearms, airguns, mace, or other such weapon within a park or on a state lake, except those on which hunting or target practice is permitted. (Check with individual park or lake.)

2. No person shall bring into or have in the park or on a state lake or the property surrounding same any explosive substance, such as dynamite, firecrackers, rockets, or torpedoes without the written permission of the Executive Director or his designee.

G. HUNTING AND FISHING

1. State parks and lakes are state wildlife refuges. Hunting or trapping is prohibited within the confines of state parks except Leroy Percy Wildlife Management Area and Natchez State Park. Regulations governing hunting at these two parks are strictly enforced. Duck hunting is allowed at Lake Bogue

Homa pursuant to specific regulations. See Lake Manager for regulations. Lake Tippah has a muzzle loader shooting range. See Lake Manager for regulations.

2. Except in water areas designated for other usage, fishing is permitted in a park or state lake waters with the appropriate license and permits.

3. No trotlines, set lines, jug fishing, or commercial gears are permitted on state park lakes.

4. Night fishing (from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise) will be permitted from the shore or from boats which are in compliance with State and Coast Guard regulations. Only idle speed and trolling motors may be used.

5. All persons must abide by all state and federal laws and all rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing, promulgated by the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

6. There shall be FREE FISHING DAYS on all State Fishing and State Park Lakes. These days will be set on all Saturdays and Sundays in National Fishing and Boating Week in June. No permits will be required for fishing on these days; however, participants must comply with state fishing license requirements.

7. Only rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed on State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes except that carp, gar, buffalo, and bowfin may be taken by use of a bow and arrow at night only after purchasing a valid permit for fishing and/or boating. No other gear is allowed at these lakes.

H. BOATING

1. Boaters must abide by the Mississippi Boating Act of 1960 (including all revisions since its adoption) and the Alcohol Boating Safety Act of 1995.

2. While operating a ski boat on state park lakes and state lakes, boats shall operate in a counter clockwise manner in a designated area. There will be no jumping of wakes created by other boats and no 360's.

3. While operating a ski boat or personal water craft on state park lakes and state lakes, only one person, skier, or tuber per boat will be permitted to be pulled. Tube kites are prohibited.

4. Motor boating, water skiing, and jet skiing may be permitted in designated parks and state lakes during designated times and days, subject to the current posted boat size and motor horsepower limitations for the respective parks and lakes. (Check with individual parks or lakes for rules and regulations.)

5. On all parks and state lakes, kite skiing is prohibited without the written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee. (Check with individual parks and lakes for rules and regulations.)

6. Racing of boats, or operation of boats to give the appearance of racing is prohibited without the written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks or his designee. Continued behavior may result in boater and/or boat being permanently banned from entering park lake.

7. No boat shall operate in a loud, annoying manner as to disturb other park guest(s). Boater and/or boat may be evicted from park without refund. Continued behavior may result in boater and/or boat being permanently banned from entering park lake.

8. Boats and jet skis must be operated at idle speed, which is any speed that does not produce a wake, except during skiing days in designated skiing areas.

9. Swimming and wading are prohibited on State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes, except in designated ski areas while skiing or jet skiing.

10. All persons, born after June 30, 1980, must have passed a boating education course approved by the MDWFP.

I. CAMPGROUNDS

1. Camping shall be confined to the designated campground or designated overflow areas. No camping or camping units are allowed in the cabin areas, day-use areas, or group camp areas.

2. No more than one camping unit will be allowed on a camp pad without park or state lake manager's approval. The first unit will be charged at the site rate. One additional unit (tent only) will be allowed and charged the primitive camping rate per night. No more than 8 people can occupy a campsite at any one time, visitors and overnight guests included.

3. No permanent use of a campground for residence purposes is allowed.

4. Check-out time is 2:00 P.M.; check-in time is 4:00 P.M. All fees are payable in advance.

5. Campgrounds and camp areas are restricted to registered campers and guests only. Guests shall leave the area prior to 10:00 P.M.

6. Camping pads will not be rented to any person under 21 years of age. Campers, tents, vehicles, children and pets shall not be left unattended.

7. Campsites may be rented on a first come, first serve basis or by reservation via the Internet 365 days out of the year, ReserveAmerica call center, 24 hours a day, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Years, or by contacting the park office between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M, daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. The maximum stay on a campsite is 14 days or monthly, 30 days, if allowed. On the 15th day or the 31st day, the camper must leave the park or move to another area to extend the stay. There are no reservations at state lakes camping sites.

   Any person renting or reserving a campsite may be asked if he or she has a criminal background including, but not limited to, any felony convictions. The state parks are family-oriented facilities. As such, there are usually children staying at the parks. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §45-33-49, the Mississippi State Parks have a duty to inform their patrons of the presence of registered sex offenders on a state park. Any person who is a registered sex offender, who rents or reserves camping facilities at a Mississippi State Park without informing the Park of his or her status, may be removed from the Park. Any registered sex offender, who does provide the Park with notice of his or her status, may be refused access to camping facilities.

8. A monthly camping rate is available at selected parks. Monthly, extended stay, camping is restricted to designated sites. Ninety (90) days is the maximum allowable stay on a campsite during peak season. Peak season is from March 1 until September 30. After 90 days, a camper must leave the extended stay area and go to a 14 day site or leave the campground for 14 days before returning. From October 1 to February 28, an extension may be granted with approval by the Executive Director or his designee. Also after ninety (90) days, in the case of temporary employment in the area, an extension may be granted by the Executive Director with proof of employment and an estimated time staying in the campground. Extensions will only be approved in ninety (90) day increments.

9. CORP OF ENGINEER PARKS (John Kyle, Hugh White, Cossar)
Premium Sites – Year round 14 day maximum stay. No monthly. All sites are reservable.

Non-Premium Sites – During Peak Season, No monthly camping is allowed and there is a 14 Day maximum stay. Peak Season is from May 15 to September 15. From September 16 to May 14, you may stay up to ninety (90) days ONE TIME during this period. All sites are reservable.

Monthly – Monthly camping is restricted to designated areas. Thirty (30) days is the maximum allowable stay on a campsite. After thirty (30) days, a camper must switch to another monthly area of the campground. Only reservable at the park.

10. "Homesteading" or otherwise using a campground for a sole place of residence is prohibited. The act of Homesteading includes but is not limited to: erecting permanent or semi permanent structures such as inflatable or portable swimming pools, lawn ornaments, outdoor clothes lines, flower gardens, or vegetable gardens; laying carpet, outdoor carpet, matting or plastic on the grounds around the site or draped over camping units; altering the campsite such as removing or moving permanent structures provided to the site, altering the utility connections, or damaging trees by driving nails, wrapping with wire or string or rope, or removing the bark; cluttering the site with garbage, storage containers, boxes, buckets, or other objects; the use of appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, or freezers outside of the camper; or parking trailers or extra vehicles in a manner that causes deterioration of grounds or gives an unsightly appearance. It shall be the park manager's prerogative to determine if activities, actions, or conditions not specifically covered qualify as "homesteading" or not.

11. No campsite can be retained without a camping unit (camper or erected tent) placed on the site. Vehicles, boats and other items will be removed or towed away, as necessary, at the owner's expense. A tent not fully erected is subject to removal. The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is not liable for property or camping units left unattended. Campers leaving for a day trip in an RV that is their only source of transportation should check with individual parks for methods of holding their site.

12. The washing of vehicles or campers, routine maintenance tasks, or major repairs to campers, boats, or vehicles is prohibited within State Parks or State Lakes. In the case of an emergency, the park or lake manager should be contacted for instructions.

13. Gray water or sewage must be placed in the dump station (when provided). In no case is the discharge of gray water or sewage on the ground or campsite permitted nor is the storage of gray water or sewage in containers not manufactured specifically for this purpose. Violations are subject to criminal charges, fines, and/or the cost of the clean up.

14. Special group camping rates are available for Scouts and other non-profit groups. These groups are permitted in designated areas only. Should these groups choose to reside in the primary camping area, they are subject to the same rates and restrictions of any other camper including occupancy restrictions.

15. Except for reserved campsites, a campsite must be occupied the moment a site is rented.

16. Reservations will be accepted for 1-14 nights, up to 12 months in advance. The minimum length of stay on special weekends and holidays is 3 nights. Payment in full is required at the time of the reservation.

17. All guests and visitors are subject to Entrance Pass requirements. No exemptions are permitted.

18. Reservations will not be held after 11:00 a.m. on the morning after the scheduled arrival date, and the site may be released to other campers, unless the park is notified and acceptable arrangements for

the late arrival have been made. If the park manager has been notified of a late arrival, he must hold the site. Both reservation and deposit are forfeited unless the park manager has approved a late arrival. Late arrivals will pay for a minimum of two (2) nights or three (3) nights depending on the type season (peak or non-peak).

K. CABINS AND OVERNIGHT LODGING UNITS

1. Reservations may be made no more than 12 months in advance of the current date. A 50% deposit will be required at the time the reservation is made.

2. Reservations will not be accepted for more than five units on the same day. Special approval may be granted by the park manager.

3. Reservations shall not be made for units on more than one given set of dates.

4. Minimum stay from May 20th through September 10th is three nights.

5. Minimum stay from September 11th to May 19th is two nights.

6. Maximum stay from May 20th to September 10th is fourteen nights.

7. A monthly lodging unit rate may be offered by selected parks. Requests for a monthly rate will be submitted to the Executive Director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or his designee. This is acceptable only when the monthly occupancy does not restrict opportunities for the general public.

8. Monthly rental fees will be determined by the type of unit and location, with all fees being paid in advance. Persons renting units shall be informed that no telephone shall be installed, no personal furniture shall be moved into the units, no unit shall be modified in any manner, no clothes lines shall be installed, and no maintenance of vehicles will be allowed.

9. Units will not be rented to persons under the age of 21, and children will not be left unattended overnight.

10. Units may be rented for one or more nights to persons arriving on the park without reservations throughout the year, if space is available.

11. Check-in time is 3:00 P.M. Check-out time is 11:00 A.M. All fees are payable in advance. Guests arriving after 5:00 P.M. must make prior arrangements with the park office. Upon checking in, the guest will be required to provide a credit card or driver's license number or both for reservation purposes. This information will be recorded on <u>all</u> receipts.

12. Reservations are not required but are highly recommended especially during the heavy-use season (May 20th through September 10th). They may be made via the Internet 365 days out of the year through the ReserveAmerica call center, 24 hours a day, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Years, or by contacting the park office between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M, daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Arrangements must be made for late arrivals.

13. No key will be left unattended for late arriving guests.

14. Overnight lodging unit areas are restricted to unit guests and visitors.

15. No camping trailers will be allowed in the cabin area.

16. Unit guests will be responsible for damages to all units and equipment. No furniture or equipment shall be moved from one unit to another.

17. An off-season rate equivalent to 20% discount off the normal rate ***may*** be offered on cabin and motel units. Weeks containing a holiday such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter are not considered off-season. Also, special events in the area may affect the off-season rate for some parks. Individual parks will post dates when discounts during the off-season are not available and make this information readily available to the public.

18. Certain golf villas, motel rooms, and cabins at state parks will be held for official state business for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Commission, Executive Staff, elected officials, and other state employees in the performance of their duties for the State of Mississippi and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The use of these facilities for official state business will require prior approval from the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

19. Golf villas, along with cabins and motel rooms, located on parks with golf courses are available for one night rental any time of the year with the purchase of a golf package.

L. SWIMMING (POOL & BEACHES)

1. Children twelve (12) years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult and must not be left unattended. The adult-child ratio is a minimum of one adult per five (5) children.

2. No diving except in designated areas.

3. Swimming shall be allowed only in designated, buoyed off areas of the lake. Signs will be posted stating "Swimming-Designated Areas Only". Swimming is prohibited in all other areas of state park lakes or state lakes.

4. No pets are allowed in or around the swimming pool area or lake beach areas.

5. Lifesaving equipment is for emergency use only; this includes ropes, buoys, flotation devices, etc. Swimmers must stay off ropes at all times.

6. Only appropriate swimwear will be allowed. Swimming suits are required. No cut-off shorts and/or shirts will be permitted in swimming pools.

7. No running or horseplay allowed in swimming area.

8. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited. Guests under the influence or alcohol or drugs are not permitted in the pool or pool area.

9. Swimming pools and beaches are open during posted times only. Any unauthorized use could result in criminal charges.

10. No electronic/radio controlled boats or similar apparatus are allowed.

11. All posted rules and regulations must be obeyed. (Posted rules and regulations may vary with individual parks.)

12. All verbal commands by lifeguards must be obeyed.

13. Failure to obey any and all rules and regulations may result in loss of swimming privileges with no refund. Continued abuse of rules and regulations may result in permanent loss of swimming privileges at the park or lake manager's discretion.

14. Swim diapers are required for infant swimming.

15. Height and or age restrictions may be required at some pools or attractions.

16. Pools, beaches, and attractions will close during inclement weather. Only when management deems that the danger has passed and it is safe to return will the pool or lake reopen.

17. No refunds or Rain Checks due to inclement weather.

18. No food, beverages, coolers or glass containers allowed in or around a swimming area.

19. Weak swimmers must stay in shallow water. It is up to trained pool staff to determine if a swimmer is strong enough or not for a particular area.

20. Water Safety Breaks shall be taken throughout the day, as needed, depending upon risk management factors.

M. OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORV)

1. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks or its employees shall owe no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for recreational activities or to give warning of any hazardous condition, use structure or activity on the premises to person entering for those purposes. Given the permission to pursue recreational activities on the premises shall not thereby:

   A. Extend any assurance that the premises are safe for those purposes;

   B. Make the person to whom permission is granted an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed; or

   C. Assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of persons to whom the permission is granted.

2. For the purposes of Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks an Off - Road Vehicle (ORV) is defined as: Any motorized vehicle which travels off-road for recreational purposes. ORVs include: motorbikes such as minibikes, dirt bikes, motor cross bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) such as the popular three and four-wheelers. Bikes and ATV vehicles with two or more wheels, wider than 50 inches and weighing more than 1000 pounds, manufactured for sale to be used primarily off-highway or in off-road competitions, cannot be ridden on state parks.

3. For the purpose of Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks accompaniment and accompanying shall be defined as: A parent or guardian, within visual and voice contact and under the effective control of minor child.

4. An ORV owner, or another person in possession of an ORV, may not knowingly permit or authorize any person under age 21 to operate an ORV in violation of state, local, or State Park rules and regulations.

5. Any owner of an ORV, any person who gives or furnishes and ORV to any person, and any parent or guardian responsible for the care of a minor under 21 years of age shall be liable with the operator for any damages caused in the operation of the vehicle or by this minor in operation of any ORV.

6. Both the owner and the operator of an ORV may be held liable for the injury and/or damages resulting from an ORV held liable for injury and/or damages resulting form and ORV accident and/or mis-use of ORV resulting in damages to others, state park property of wildlife there of.

7. All ORV users are to have on file at the Park Office a waiver consent of liability. (Good for calendar year.)

8. All ORV and horse riders/users are to register themselves and guest upon entry at Park Office.

9. All ORV users are required to have on person at all times proof of age and/or photo identification.

10. All ORV users are required to have on person at all times user valid pass (Yearly or Daily).

11. Persons less than 21 years of age but not less than 6 years of age, are required to have on file at park office a Waiver Consent signed by parent or guardian in the presence of a Park Staff Member or form must be signed by parent or legal guardian and notarized if the minor driver is coming to ride within the park without their parent or legal guardian in accompaniment. Persons (age 21 or above) accompanying youth must also sign acknowledgment or responsibility (Good for up to the Calendar Year, parents or legal guardian wanting one time use should mark appropriately so on form.)

12. Persons under age 6 are prohibited from operating an ORV within Park Boundaries.

13. Safety gear - Helmets (USDOT approved) must be worn at all times when operating an ORV.

14. Anyone involved in an accident/incident while operating an ORV on State Park Property is subject to drug and/or alcohol testing.

15. Reckless operation/riding, including but not limited to, wheelies, donuts, jumps or other stunts, double riding (where not recommended by manufacture) or operating an ORV at greater than reasonable and prudent speed for the existing conditions is prohibited. Reckless Operation of ORVs is considered operating an ORV in such a way as to recklessly create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to one's self, another person or property.

16. All ORVs, horses, must be on designated trails. Use of public roads, park roads (paved) by ORVs and horses is prohibited.

17. ORV, Equestrian, Mountain Bike Trails are to be operated from 8:00 AM to sunset only.

18. All ORVs must have a functioning spark arrester.

19. All ORVs must have a muffler(s) in working order.

    A. ORVs must not omit a noise while in operation of 90 decibels. AND/OR
    B. No ORV shall operate in a loud, annoying manner as to DISTURB other park guests.

20. No washing of ORVs, horses, or mountain bikes is permitted on park grounds.

21. No fluid draining or changing or any vehicles visibly leaking fluids are allowed.

22. ORVs are not to be operated in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetation. ORVs, mountain bikes, and horses may not be operated/ridden in a tree nursery or planting in a manor which damages or destroys growing stock or creates risk of damage or destruction.

23. Riding of passengers is prohibited except where your ORV is so rated for passengers by the manufacture or as set forth by the USDOT. It is your responsibility to produce the proof of this and have it on your person at all times.

24. ORVs must be operated while seated on the permanent, regular seat except where provided by manufacture.

25. ORVs, mountain bikes, and horses may not be operated/ridden in wetlands, streams or lakes.

26. Accidents/Incidents must be reported to the park office in writing with in 24 hours. Forms are obtainable at park entrance gate. If you are incapacitated, the written report may be filed by another party familiar with the accident/incident. However that does not relieve you of your legal responsibility to file this report.

27. Special events may be held only if: The person in charge of any ORV, equestrian, mountain bike special event or off road competition must apply in writing to Trace State Park or the Director of Mississippi State Parks for written authorization at least 30 days in advance. Applicant must provide copy of liability insurance in the amount of One Million Dollars for the event, covering the event organization, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and its employees.

N. RESERVED CAMPING

1. Camping reservations may be made no more than 12 months in advance from the current date.

2. There are no reservations at state lakes' camping sites.

3. Reserving a campsite requires that the all fees be paid in advance. Payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. All campsites are reservable.

4. If a campsite reservation is terminated, the site is released for rental, and all fees are forfeited at 9:00 a.m. the morning following the first night of the reservation unless the park is contacted by the person holding the campsite prior to 9:00 a.m.

5. Maximum stay on a reserved site is 14 days. No monthly rates are available.

6. It is allowable to take "drive-ins" on reserved sites if they are available, however the normal reservation rates will be charged.

7. Reservations may be made for a minimum of three nights at all parks for organized groups consisting of 10 or more units. Individual parks should be contacted for reservation information. The placement of the sites is subject to availability.

O. GROUP CAMPS

1. Group camp usage requires a minimum number of people to participate. Wall Doxey, Tombigbee, and Cossar require a minimum of 25 people in the off season and 40 people during the summer. All other group camps require a minimum of 40 people year around. Deposits are charged to complete reservations. A deposit of $100 is required.

2. From May 20th to September 10th, a minimum of 2 nights stay and 6 meals are required. From September 11th to May 19th a minimum 1 night and 3 meals are required.

3. During special events, park managers may offer the group camp for overnight lodging to participants without requiring meal purchases nor minimum number of people.

P. DISC GOLF

1. Disc golf tournaments and events will be scheduled at the park's convenience through the Park Manager or the manager's designee.

2. During scheduled disc golf tournaments and events, the disc golf course(s) will be closed to casual play.

3. In addition to standard park user fees, an additional fee of $3.00 per player will be imposed for disc golf tournaments. This applies to all divisions with the exception of Juniors.

4. Disc golf tournament directors must provide the park manager or the manager's designee a list of prizes to be given away to the participants of the tournament or event for approval prior to the awards presentation.

5. Disc golf tournament directors are entrusted to use as many available park facilities and services as possible such as overnight lodging and food service.

6. Disc golf tournament directors will provide a written list of tournament sponsorships to the park manager at least one week prior to the scheduled event for approval.

7. Disc golf tournament directors are required to notify the park manager of any media coverage and/or promotional flyers for their tournament. The park manager must submit a request for approval to the Executive Director of MDWFP or his designee prior to the event taking place and must receive permission prior to allowing any media coverage or flyers to be done. Copies will be provided prior to granting approval.

8. Individual parks may allow night time golf within designated hours.

9. Disc golf tournament directors must have approval from the park manager or the manager's designee before any additional courses, either temporary or permanent, or course alterations can be made. Proposed alterations must be provided to management at least one month prior to a scheduled tournament or event.

8. Disc golf tournament directors may not schedule a tournament within two weeks of another state park tournament without written consent from the managers of the parks with events in conflict.

This adopted public notice will become effective February 13, 2008. Witness my hand and seal this the 13th day of December, 2007.

Mississippi Commission on
Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

By: _____
John C Stanley IV, Chairman

Mississippi Department of
Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

BY: _____
Sam Polles, Ph.D. Executive Director