RULES AND REGULATIONS – ARCHERY-ONLY AREA

1. The following MCI Ranch lands (located in Powell County) are open to hunting during the only big game only (with lawful Archery Equipment) outlined in the hunting regulations, issued by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks:

    Beginning at the junction of the Old Stage Road (county road) and Elk Ridge Road (Forest Service Road 95149) in Section 27, T8N, R10W and proceeding west along the intersection of the Elk Ridge Road and south along the power line road to the prison fence line (at 66° 18’ 14.5” N, 113° 13’ 54.0” W) then:  
    - north along the power line road (Line of Sight) to the southeastern corner of the prison fence in Section 28, T7N, R10W; then east along the southeast boundary of Section 28, T7N, R10W (prison fence line) to the southeastern corner of Section 27, T7N, R10W; then south along the power line road (Line of Sight) to the southwestern corner of Section 34, T7N, R10W; then east to the southeastern corner of Section 34, T7N, R10W; then east along the prison fence line to the Dempsey Lake Road (county road); then northeasterly along Dempsey Lake Road (prison fence line) to the southeastern corner of Section 36 T7N R10W; then north along the prison fence line on east edge of Section 36 and 25, T7N, R10W to corner of the prison fence line in Section 25, T7N, R9W; then along the prison fence in north Section 26 T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence west and northerly in Sections 19 and 18 T7N R9W to the northeast corner of Section 18, T7N, R9W; then follow the prison fence east and southerly along the southern boundary of Sections 18, T7N, R9W; then follow the prison fence north and east to the prison fence of the archery course in Section 19, T7N, R9W; then proceed northerly, follow the fence bordering the airport, golf course, and Montana Army Guard Armory through sections 17, T7N, R9W, to the Old Stage Road (county road); then follow the Old Stage Road northwest through Sections 36, 26, and 22, T7N, R9W to the junction of the Elk Ridge Road (county road); then east along the Elk Ridge Road (county road) until the junction of the Archery-Only area and the Old Stage Road.

    All hunters must enter and exit the Archery-Only Area and west of the power line fence, motorized vehicle use is only allowed on roads shown on the accompanying map for MCE land.

2. A licensed archery-only land use permit is required for all hunting in the Archery-Only Area is and is available by contacting staff at the MCE Ranch Office. The MCE Ranch Office can be found open Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., but the office is not open on state observed holidays. The preferred method of submitting a permit application is by using the online archery permit application system.

3. All hunters must enter and exit the Archery-Only Area through the Montana State Prison (MSP) Check Point. The MSP Check Point officer will control traffic by means of a hunting/fishing/motorized recreational land use logbook. The officer will complete the appropriate portions in the logbook and present the driver's license or other form of picture ID of all persons in the hunting party.

4. Daily check in, for hunting, will begin 2 hours before sunrise and all hunters will be checked out no later than 2 hours after sunset. The sunrise and sunset hours are listed in FWPs current Deer/Elk Antelope Hunting Regulations.

5. NO FIREARMS, TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL, are allowed on the Archery-Only Area. All vehicles entering MCE and MSP Ranch lands may be subject to search for archery equipment. The MSP Ranch Office is not required to access this area. Anyone found abusing this rule is subject to having his/her land use permit revoked.

6. All game animals will be checked for proper tagging at the pick-up site during a retrieval, otherwise this will be done when the animal exits through the MSP Check Point location. FWP authorities will be notified of any violation.

7. All hunters will be checked on foot or by motor less than 2 miles. Bicycles left unattended must be secured with a bike lock.

8. No pets will be allowed to accompany hunters on the premises or in the hunter's vehicle. No Walk Along: only persons who have an archery-only land use permit will be able to hunt or accompany hunters in the areas below the power line fence.

9. All hunting will be conducted on foot or be motor less than 2 miles. Bicycles left unattended must be secured with a bike lock.

10. Motorized game retrieval, under escort and through established procedure, is allowed in the Archery-Only Area. Hunters must get their harvested animal to the nearest established road prior to requesting motorized retrieval. To initiate the motorized retrieval process the hunter must dial 911 at the Checkpoint to notify the MSP Check Point officer. Hunters are advised that help with retrieval is a voluntary process and will only occur if staff is available. If staff is not available motorized retrieval may have to wait until the following day. The retrieval escort will be responsible for filling out the “game harvest” logbook completely and legibly. Hunters are not allowed a state vehicle during a retrieval. No guns, including staff, is allowed to have firearms or ammunition of any type in the archery-only area during the retrieval process. No hunting is allowed during a motorized retrieval. Other retrieval options include game cart, dragging to the shack or horses. Off road vehicles are not allowed for motorized game retrieval.

11. No animals will be checked for proper tagging at the pick-up site during a retrieval, otherwise this will be done when the animal exits through the MSP Check Point location. FWP authorities will be notified of any violation.

12. If a hunter is disabled and needs an escort, the escort will be issued a special disabled hunter escort permit through the MCE ranch office. The escort must be a licensed archery-only hunter and a background check will also be required.

13. No overnight camping is allowed, and no permanent structures such as tree stands, shelters, etc. are allowed. Portable tree stands are allowed. Tree stands must be removed before the end of the hunting season. Blinds and decoys are also allowed but not left overnight. MCE and MCE are not responsible for theft or destruction of stands or other personal property. Timber is not to be cut at any time on prison property.

14. Bow hunters may wear camouflage clothing in the Archery-Only Area during the general hunting season.

15. MCE and MSP reserve the right to close MCE Ranch lands to archery hunting at any time. During a lockdown situation, no one will be allowed on prison property for any reason.

16. In the event that a prison emergency occurs, the siren will sound continuously for a lengthy time. All vehicles will immediately go to the prison along the parking area, get in the vehicle, lock the vehicle and drive to the MSP Check Point. The officer at MSP Check Point will account for the persons in the vehicle and provide instructions on what to do. EMTs will be on duty. On the last Sunday of each month a siren test is conducted between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. This is not a test of the siren. Hunters using the property can disregard this siren test.

17. The Prison Ranch 213-02 Deer B license (valid for antlerless, white-tailed deer) may be purchased annually beginning August 10th from the Region 2 FWP office (3201 Spurigan Rd., Missoula, MT 59804; phone 406-542-5590) or any FWP licensing agent. Limit is two (2) 213-02 licenses per hunter per year, and these licenses are not valid outside the Prison Ranch Archery-Only Area.

18. For your safety, please be aware that there may be black bear sow cubs with cubs, as well as a cow moose with calves on the prison ranch. All big game animals may be hunted in the Prison ranch’s Archery-Only Area except for black bear and moose. Wolves may be hunted with a valid license.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – RIFLE AREA

1. MCE lands north and south of the above-described Archery-Only Area are open year round to recreational activities, including hunting of big game and upland game birds in accordance with current hunting regulations provided by FWP. Provisions of the MSP Ranch office are not required to access this area. There are no weapons restrictions, except as provided in hunting regulations.

2. North of the Elk Ridge Parking Area, motorized vehicles are allowed on all currently established roads on MCE land. South of the Elk Ridge Parking Area, other than power line fence, motorized vehicle use is only allowed on roads shown on the accompanying map for MCE land.

3. Motorized game retrieval, under escort and through established procedure, is allowed in the area west of the power line fence and south of the Elk Ridge Parking Area. All motorized game retrieval is the same as those outlined above for the Archery-Only Area. Hunters with rifles or ammunition of any type in their vehicles are not allowed to enter the archery only area at any time. Other retrieval options include game cart, dragging, backpack or horses.

4. Game animals that are wounded in the Rifle Area and cross into the Archery-Only Area will be pursued (under escort and through established procedure) if deemed incapacitated (unable to stand). To initiate a wounded animal retrieval, hunters must notify the MSP Check Point officer.

5. Camping is allowed, except in designated parking areas and where posted otherwise. Camping is limited to 14 days during the safety period. Campers must clean the area before departing and leave minimal impacts. Weapons may not be left unattended in camps.
Montana Correctional Enterprises Ranch

- MCE Ranch - Rifle Area. Open to all forms of hunting.
- MCE Ranch Archery-Only Area. Permission required. Restricted to archery equipment as described in FWP's deer/elk hunting regulations.
- No Trespassing. Closed to all hunting.
- Road open for motorized travel to and from designated parking areas within the Archery-Only Area.
- County or other public road

- Parking Area
  - Designated parking area within the Archery-Only

BLM
National Park Service
US Forest Service
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
State Trust Lands

Elk Ridge Parking Area (no camping)

Penwell Creek Parking Area (no camping)

Prison Check Point. All hunters using the Archery-Only Area must check in and out here.

Disclaimer - This map is not intended to depict property ownership outside of the Montana Correctional Enterprises Ranch boundary. Contact the management agency for information on public land ownership and trail guidelines.