MONTANA CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES (MCE) RANCH

HUNTING ACCESS RULES

(valid August 3, 2020 until revised or rescinded)

Located at the Department of Corrections, Correctional Facility in Deer Lodge, Montana

A portion of Deer/Elk Hunting District 213

RULES AND REGULATIONS – ARCHERY-ONLY AREA

1. The following MCE Ranch lands (located in Powell County) are open to hunting of big game only with Lawful Archery Equipment as outlined in the hunting regulations provided by Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP): Beginning at the junction of the Old Stage Road (county road) and Elk Ridge Road (Forest Service Road #5149) in Section 22, T8N, R10W and proceeding west along the Elk Ridge Road to the power line road (prison fence line) in the southeast ¼ of Section 22, T8N, R10W; then south along the power line road (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of the prison fence in Section 28, T7N, R10 W; then east along the south boundary Section 28, T7N, R10W (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of Section 27, T7N, R10W; then south to the southwest corner of Section 34, T7N, R10W; then east to the southeast corner of Section 34, T7N R10W; then south to the southwest corner of Section 2, T6N, 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 southeast 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, R10W; then east along prison fence line in N2 Section 30, T7N, R9W to the corner of the prison fence line at Lake Hill Road (county road); then north approx. ½ mile along the east side of Sections 30 and 19, T7N, R9W to the corner of prison fence line on the eastern edge of Section 19, 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 approx. ½ mile along the southern boundary of Section 8, T7N, R9W; then follow the prison fence north approx. ½ mile to the junction of the airport fence; then proceeding northwesterly, follow the fence bordering the airport, golf course, and National Guard Armory through sections 8, 5 and 6, T7N, R9W to the Old Stage Road (county road); then follow the Old Stage Road northwest through Sections 36, 26, and 22, T8N, R10W to the junction of the Elk Ridge Road (Forest Service Road #5149), the point of beginning.

2. A laminated archery-only land use permit is required for all hunting in the Archery-Only Area and is available by contacting staff at the MCE Ranch 1 Office building. Issuance of archery-only land use permits will start August 1st of each year and end December 15th of each year. The MCE Ranch office is 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 email (NChandler2@mt.gov), mail (350 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722) or fax (406-415-6587). Background checks are required and will take a minimum of 48 hours to process. Completed archery-only land use permits can be picked up at MSP Check Point. Hunters without a permit are subject to a trespass violation.

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 retrieval/land use logbook. The officer will complete the appropriate information in the logbook and obtain the driver's license or other form of picture ID of all persons in the hunting party. Due to COVID-19, you must have your temperature taken by the Check Point officer. If your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, you will not be allowed to hunt. You must also wear a mask when you are around prison staff. In addition, you must adhere to all State of Montana COVID-19 directives (https://covid19.mt.gov/) throughout the hunting season. Once cleared through MSP Check Point, no scouting for game or stopping is allowed. Hunters must proceed to their designated parking area. The driver's license (or other ID) will be returned when persons hunting on MCE Ranch lands exit the facility. Anyone found abusing this rule is subject to having his/her land use permit revoked.

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 FWP's current Deer-Elk-Antelope Hunting Regulations.

5. NO FIREARMS, TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL are allowed on the Archery-Only Area. All vehicles entering MSP and MCE Ranch lands may be subject to search at any time. It is a felony and violation of state law, 45-7-307 MCA, to transfer or receive any illegal article or weapon to or from a prisoner in a state prison. The following items are illegal articles: weapons of any kind; ammunition; dangerous drugs; money, currency cash, checks, money orders, credit cards, debit cards, and electronic teller cards; and tobacco products of any kind.

6. All safety zones (No Hunting and No Trespassing) will be marked with red/orange paint or signs. At NO time are you allowed in these areas without permission from MCE Administration or MSP Command Post. Violators may be prosecuted and may lose their hunting privileges on prison property. At the Montana State Correctional Training Center (Parking Lot 1) the safety zone is everything inside of the jackleg fence. At the gun range, the safety zone is everything inside the fenced area. At Parking Lot 2, hunting is restricted until you reach Taylor Bench (ridge) to the north.

7. HUNTERS MUST PARK IN DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS ONLY: DO NOT PARK IN UNAUTHORIZED AREAS. Hunters are allowed to change parking lots but must check in again with the officer at the MSP Check Point. All parked vehicles must be secured with loose equipment locked in the vehicle. Drop-offs are allowed after hunters are cleared through MSP Check Point. The drop-off must be at a designated parking area only and done by a licensed hunter with an MCE archery-only permit.

8. No pets will be allowed to accompany hunters on the premises or in the hunter's vehicle. No walk-alongs; 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 by motor less bicycle. Bicycles left unattended must be secured with a bicycle 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 physically be at Checkpoint to notify the MSP Check Point officer. Hunters are advised that help with retrieval is a voluntary process and will occur only if staff is available. If staff is not available, the 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 in a state vehicle during a retrieval. No one, 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, backpack or horses. Off road vehicles are not allowed for motorized game retrieval.

11. 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.

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 must not be left overnight. MSP 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 hunters will immediately go to their vehicle at 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. EXCEPTION: On the last Saturday of each month, a siren test is conducted between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. This is a short 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 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804; phone 406-542-5500) or any FWP license provider. 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 sows 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 Ranch lands west and north of the above-described Archery-Only Area are open yearlong to recreational activities, including hunting of big game and upland game birds in accordance with current hunting regulations provided by FWP. Permission from the MCE Ranch office is 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 roadways on MCE land. South of the Elk Ridge Parking Area and west of the power line fence, motorized vehicle use is only allowed on roadways shown on the accompanying map for MCE land.

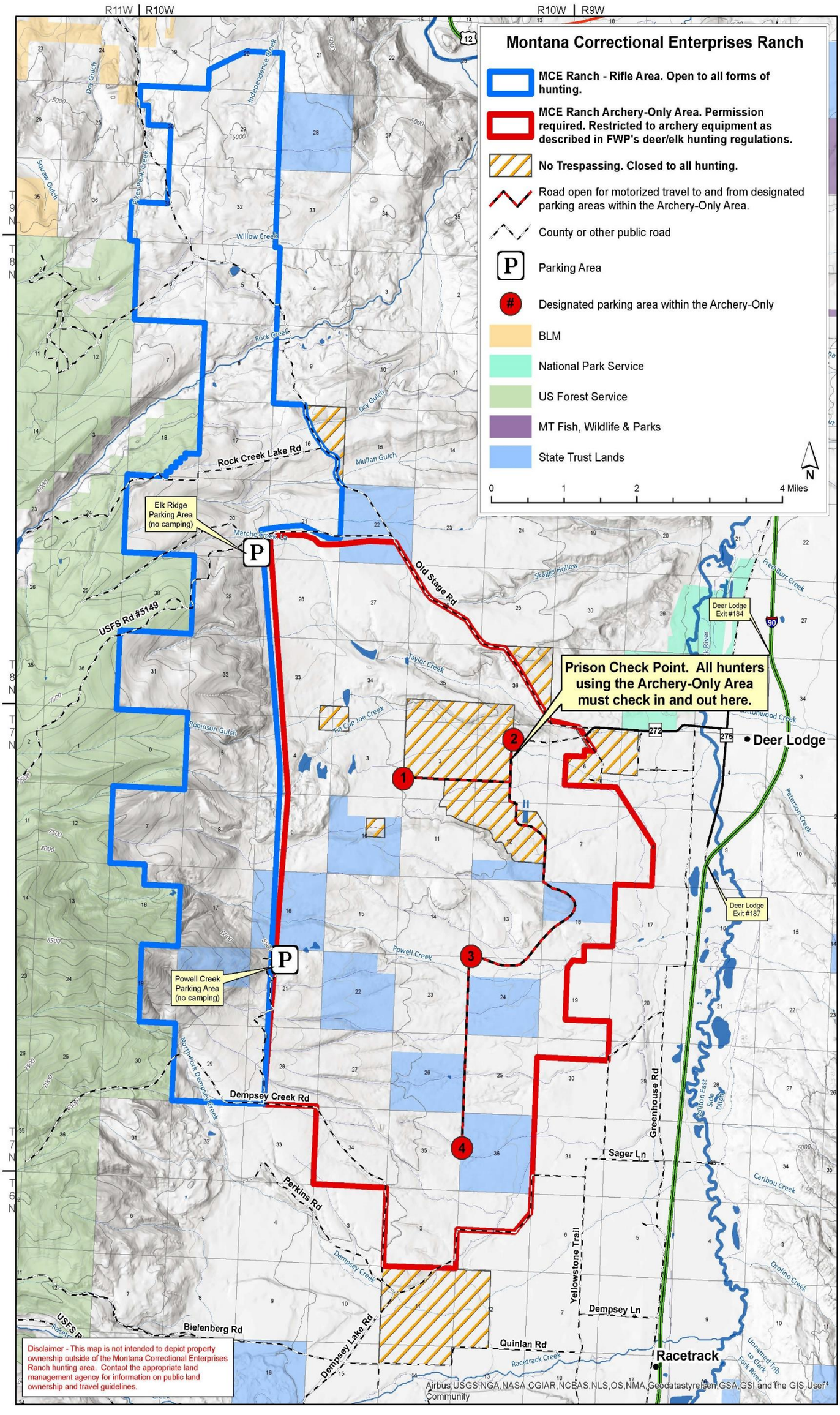
3. Motorized game retrieval, under escort and through established procedure, is allowed in the area west of the power line fence and south of the Elk Ridge Parking Area. The procedures for motorized game retrieval are the same as those outlined above for the Archery-Only Area. Hunters with rifles or 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, may only 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 any 28-day period. Campers must clean the area before departing and leave minimal impacts. Weapons may not be left unattended in camps.

The complete procedure on MCE Ranch Land Public Access (MSP Operational Procedure 2.1.3) is available on the Montana Department of Corrections web page (http://www.cor.mt.gov) or from the MCE Ranch Office. Any questions pertaining to regulations governing hunting should be directed to the MCE Administrator or the Ranch Director at 406-415-6296.

Montana Correctional Enterprises
350 Conley Lake Road
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone 406-415-6296
Fax 406-415-6587


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
0
1
2
4 Miles
N
R11W
R10W
R9W
T 9 N
T 8 N
T 7 N
T 6 N
Elk Ridge Parking Area (no camping)
Powell Creek Parking Area (no camping)
Prison Check Point. All hunters using the Archery-Only Area must check in and out here.
Deer Lodge Exit #184
Deer Lodge Exit #187
Deer Lodge
Racetrack
Rock Creek Lake Rd
Old Stage Rd
USFS Rd #5149
Dempsey Creek Rd
Perkins Rd
Bielenberg Rd
Dempsey Lake Rd
Quinlan Rd
Dempsey Ln
Sager Ln
Greenhouse Rd
Yellowstone Trail
Willow Creek
Rock Creek
Dry Gulch
Mullan Gulch
Marche Creek
Skaggs Hollow
Taylor Creek
Tin Cup Joe Creek
Robinson Gulch
Powell Creek
North Fork Dempsey Creek
Dempsey Creek
Racetrack Creek
Caribou Creek
Orofino Creek
Peterson Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Free Burr Creek
Independence Creek
Pikes Peak Creek
Squaw Gulch
Dog Gulch
Unnamed Trib to Clark Fork River
Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community
Disclaimer - This map is not intended to depict property ownership outside of the Montana Correctional Enterprises Ranch hunting area. Contact the appropriate land management agency for information on public land ownership and travel guidelines.