

Regulations enforced

Greetings and welcome back to Prairie Dog State Park and "On the Range". I appreciate all the kind words I received from my first column. In this column, I will discuss some of the regulations that govern camping and ways to be a courteous camper.

First of all, we have been extremely busy so far in this camping season with the water and electric sites being nearly full every weekend.

The numbers listed below are the number of utility permits sold this year versus last year through June 30. Primitive camping isn't included.

In May 2008, 689 permits were sold. In June 2008, 931 permits were sold. May and June 2009 sales of utility permits increased to 852 in May and 929 in June.

Due to the number of utility permits being sold, we ask that you occupy your site with your camping unit or a vehicle immediately upon purchase of your permit.

This will alleviate any confusion as to whether the site is rented and prevent any confusion that may result.

With the campgrounds being nearly full every weekend, there are several regulations that need to be followed to be a courteous camper.

First, all dogs in a state park must be on a leash or a tether less than ten feet in length. This is in the campgrounds and everywhere else within the park's boundaries.

Please be considerate of the next people who occupy your site by cleaning up after your dog. After all, not only is it required; it is the right thing to do. Also, dogs are prohibited from entering all public buildings and the swimming beach. This includes the cabins.

Second, all camping units, vehicles and other property shall not be left unoccupied in excess of 24 hours. In addition, all camping units are limited to a stay of not more than 14 consecu-

tive days.

Upon completion of the 14 consecutive days, each person and all property shall be absent from the park for not less than five days. One extended camping stay of not more than 14 additional days may be granted through a written permit issued by the department. Please remember if you are requesting an extension, you must stop at the office and complete the necessary form. Failure to complete the extension paperwork will cause your extension to be denied.

Third, quiet hours shall be observed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Actions which will

alarm, anger or disturb others shall be prohibited during quiet hours. This includes the operation of a generator during those times.

Failure to comply with laws, rules and regulations, permit conditions or posted restrictions by an individual may result in such individual or equipment of the individual being removed from departmental lands or waters.

Your idea of a good time might be playing washers at 2:00 a.m., but your camping neighbor's idea of a good time might be getting on the lake at 5:00 a.m. to fish.

Please be respectful of those camp-

On the Range by Toby Kuhn

Park Ranger, Prairie Dog State Park



ing around you.

Lastly, fire rings are intended for cooking and campfires. They are not trash receptacles. All of your trash needs to be taken to the nearest dumpster or barrel for disposal. Failure to clean up your site after your stay could result in a citation being issued for littering.

Finally, grey water must be disposed of at the dump stations. It is

a violation of Kansas regulations to drain grey water at your site.

Our goal at Prairie Dog State Park is for all our patrons to enjoy the relaxing atmosphere and the park's abundant natural resources. By following the regulations, the park can be an enjoyable experience for all. As always, thanks for keeping your park clean.



—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Welcome...to Prairie Dog State Park

A prime place to experience the shortgrass prairies of western Kansas, Prairie Dog State Park occupies 1,150 acres on the shores of Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County.

The park is home to a thriving prairie dog colony and is the site of the last remaining adobe house in Kansas. The renovated adobe house was built on the site in the early 1890's

A 1.4-mile nature trail complete with interpretive signage is a great way to explore the park and observe wildlife.

Historical interpretation is a hallmark of this park. Two vintage 19th century

buildings are preserved here, including a one room school and renovated adobe house.

Sebelius Reservoir is well known for its excellent fishing opportunities. In recent years, anglers have found productive fishing for black bass, walleye, wiper, crappie, catfish and saugeye.

The 6,400-acre Norton Wildlife Area offers good prospects for pheasant, waterfowl and rabbits. Both whitetailed and mule deer can be found here, as well as a variety of furbearers.

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Welcome Fishermen

**Charles Worden
Melissa Schoen**

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW
WORDEN LAW OFFICE**

213 S. Kansas, P.O. Box 427, Norton
Phone: 785-877-3086 • Fax: 785-877-3506