

571—51.6 (481A) Use of blinds and decoys on game management areas.

51.6(1) Stationary blinds. The construction and use of stationary blinds on all game management areas, except on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River, are restricted as follows:

a. Construction. Any person may construct a stationary blind using only the natural vegetation found on the area. No trees or parts of trees other than willows may be cut for use in constructing a blind. No other man-made materials of any type may be used for building or providing access to a stationary blind.

b. Use of blinds. The use of any stationary blind which is constructed in violation of 51.6(1) “a” is prohibited.

c. Ownership of blinds. Any person who constructs or uses a stationary blind shall not have any proprietary right-of-ownership to the blind.

51.6(2) Portable blinds. The construction and use of portable blinds on game management areas shall be restricted as follows:

a. Construction. A portable blind may be constructed of any natural or man-made material, as long as it is a self-contained unit capable of being readily moved from one site to another.

b. Prohibited use. Portable blinds shall be prohibited from one hour after sunset until midnight each day. Portable blinds which are built on, or are part of, a boat shall be considered as removed from an area when the boat and blind are tied up or moored at an approved access site. No boat shall be anchored away from shore and left unattended unless it is attached to a legal buoy.

c. Exception—tree blinds. Portable blinds placed in trees and used for purposes other than hunting waterfowl may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer or turkey and ending seven days after the final day of that open season. Portable blinds left on game management areas do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the blind when unattended, or exclusive use of the site.

d. Protection of trees. The use of any spike, nail, pin, or other object which is driven or screwed into a tree is prohibited.

51.6(3) Use of waterfowl decoys. The use of waterfowl decoys on any game management area, except on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River, is restricted as follows:

Decoys are prohibited from one hour after sunset until midnight each day, and decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one hour after sunset. Decoys shall be considered as removed from an area when they are picked up and placed in a boat, vehicle or other container at an approved access site.

51.6(4) Use of stationary blinds and waterfowl decoys on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River. The use of permanent blinds for waterfowl hunting on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River is restricted as follows:

a. Registration. Hunters must register their blind site with the department of natural resources by completing a registration card and designating the blind’s location on a map. Registration will be held in August at a site to be publicly announced by the department. Registration is for a five-year period and requires payment of a fee of \$100. The blind registration number must be visibly posted at the blind’s entrance.

b. Construction. Blinds must have minimum dimensions of 4 feet by 8 feet and not greater than 500 square feet of floor space, not including a boat hide. The blind must be constructed of biodegradable materials, including nontreated dimensional lumber and nontreated plywood, unless the blind will be removed at the end of the waterfowl season. The use of metal or nylon fasteners, including but not limited to nails, screws, lag bolts, staples and ties, is allowed. Treated lumber, treated plywood, woven

wire, chicken wire, cattle panels, tin and sheet metal, vinyl and plastic, and other nonbiodegradable materials are not allowed unless those materials or the entire blind is removed within three days after the close of the waterfowl season.

c. Tree and brush removal. No person shall remove brush or trees around any blind, except willows. Willows and annual vegetation from the blind site may be used to cover the blind.

d. Occupation of blinds. Registrants must occupy their blind site by the opening of shooting time each day to claim the blind site for that day. After that time, unoccupied blind sites will be available to any other hunters. No person shall claim or attempt to claim a blind that is legally occupied. No person shall harass, in any manner, the occupants of a blind that is legally occupied.

e. Locking blinds. No person shall lock a blind.

f. Decoys. Decoys may be left out for the entire waterfowl season but must be picked up and removed from the area within three days after the close of the waterfowl season. All jugs and other floating devices used to attract waterfowl shall be considered decoys.

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