

REED RANCH

WEAPONS & HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS



For over 80 years, responsible guests have helped the Reed family build a reputation of sportsmanship and an enviable safety record at Reed Ranch. We hope that all families that share Reed Ranch now, and in generations to come, will have a pleasurable and a safe experience by following these rules & guidelines during their visit.

WEAPONS

- 1) Guests must comply with all Federal, State and Local regulations relating to firearms and other weapons while on Reed Ranch property.
- 2) Keep weapons unloaded when not in use. All weapons must be unloaded at all times when located in any building or vehicle on Reed Ranch¹.
- 3) Store or lock weapons so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons, especially unsupervised children.
- 4) You are required to handle your weapons in a safe and responsible manner. Horseplay of any kind with weapons, or in the vicinity of weapons in use, will not be tolerated.
- 5) Guests may not be impaired with drugs or alcohol while carrying a firearm or bow, as this is illegal and shall be grounds for immediate revocation of range, hunting & weapon privileges.
- 6) A responsible adult must supervise anyone under the age of 18 when hunting or using the weapons ranges.
- 7) No weapons shall be discharged within 150 yards or within line-of-site of any building¹.
- 8) Weapons use is restricted to the designated ranges. The only exception to this is for hunting seasons by approved hunters, or any other activity specifically approved by Reed Ranch.
- 9) Both eye & hearing protection should be worn at all times at the firearm ranges. It is recommended to wear eye protection at the archery range.
- 10) During any Range Cease-Fire, your firearm must be unloaded with the action open & clear and placed in the weapons rack. There is NO handling of firearms during a Cease-Fire.
- 11) You may only use paper targets at the Rifle & Pistol Range, clay birds at the Trap Range, and foam, straw or other commercially available archery targets at the Archery Range. Furthermore, you are not allowed to place or shoot at glass, metal, non-biodegradable materials² or garbage due to the risk of ricochet or dangerous shrapnel.
- 12) Absolutely NO tracer ammunition or explosives of any kind (such as Tannerite) are allowed on the property.
- 13) You are expected to clean up any trash your use of the ranges may produce, such as unbroken clay pigeons, shell casings, boxes, paper, cleaning supplies, etc. A trashcan is provided for your use.

Transporting Firearms and Bows and Arrows (Michigan State Law)

"A hunting license is not required while transporting a firearm en route to or from a target, trap or skeet range, or target shooting area and there is no attempt to take game. At all times, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms and bows and arrows carried in or on any type of motor vehicle, including ORVs and snowmobiles, must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine, and either enclosed in a case, or unstrung, or carried in the trunk of a vehicle with a trunk. These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, moving or is on private or public property."

HUNTING

- 14) No wildlife may be hunted, killed or taken without paying a Reed Ranch Hunting Access Fee to the Management. You must also have a valid Michigan DNR Hunting License, and be in compliance with all Federal, State and Local laws and Reed Ranch regulations, including all Michigan State Game Laws and the DNR Hunter Orange clothing requirements during the appropriate hunting seasons.
- 15) While hunting on Reed Ranch, hunters must carry their DNR Hunting License and present it upon request to any Reed Ranch staff. Please display your Reed Ranch Hunter's Vehicle Ribbon where it can be seen from a distance, so that staff may distinguish between our guests and unauthorized persons (poachers).
- 16) Firearm range hours during October, November and December are 11am – 1pm. The rest of the year the ranges are open during daylight hours. Our Rifle/Pistol Range has target backboards from 25 yards up to 300 yards for your use. We encourage all hunters to sight in their weapons at the ranges before hunting. Know the limitations of yourself, your weapon, and your ammunition. Accurate placement of your shot improves your chance of a clean, sportsmanlike kill.
- 17) All deer hunters are expected to comply with the current Deer Management Policy as approved by the Deer Management Committee.
- 18) After deer stands have been assigned, do not enter another hunter's assigned area without permission of that assigned hunter or the Manager.

¹ The only exception to this would be in the case of a life-threatening situation.

² Unless you purchased a target made of synthetic material designed for the purpose of archery.

- 19) In the interest of safety and to avoid disturbing another hunter's area, hunters using guns must stay in their assigned stands and immediate area. The deer stands are placed so that the possibility of shooting accidents is minimized. Stalking is not permitted unless you are tracking an already wounded deer.
- 20) Bow hunters are allowed to set up their own ground or tree stands/blinds, subject to management approval. No one shall erect a ground blind or disturb the habitat within a 200-yard radius of a rifle blind. Tree stands are allowed within this 200-yard radius provided the habitat is not disturbed.
- 21) When rifle blinds are used, they should be left in good condition and the doors closed and latched.
- 22) During the firearm & muzzleloading seasons, bow hunters are subject to the same "no stalking" rules as gun hunters and must choose a permanent deer stand assignment and stay within 300 yards of that stand.
- 23) Michigan law prohibits any type of baiting for deer in our area of the state.³
- 24) Driving or flushing of deer by any method is not permitted at any time.
- 25) No hunting is allowed within 150 yards of King's Highway (the main road between M-72 and the Manager's house). Hunting from inside of Stand #10 is the only exception.
- 26) "It is illegal to hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, motorboat, PWC [personal water craft], ORV [off-road vehicle] or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat,"³ except as allowed by a DNR "permit for disabled hunters". Additionally, we consider this unethical and seriously unsportsmanlike, and therefore these activities are strictly forbidden on Reed Ranch.
- 27) Although it is allowable to shoot a deer along any of the other two-tracks on the property, you must not be in a vehicle (see previous rule). Be as considerate of the other guests as you expect them to be to you. If you hunt outside your assigned hunting area, you may be risking another guest's life, limb or property, or at least ruin another's hunting opportunities if you are in their stand's vicinity.
- 28) "It is illegal to harm or harass a deer or bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other waterbody."³
- 29) "It is illegal to kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag."³ Every hunter is responsible for following through on the shots they make, so note the location of your buck before you shoot and carefully inspect that area for even the slightest bloodstains, hair, or other evidence of a successful shot. A mortally wounded buck may run several hundred yards before collapsing. Trackers are available, and are recommended especially if you are not familiar with your stand area, to avoid becoming disoriented, lost or wandering into another hunter's line of fire if lengthy tracking is necessary. If a wounded animal runs into adjacent property, you have no legal right to pursue and track it without permission from the landowner. The Ranch Manager can assist you with this.
- 30) "It is illegal to shoot reptiles and amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air or gas propelled)."³
- 31) The use of lamps or flashlights to view wildlife during November is illegal. It is also illegal to use artificial lamps to look for wildlife between the hours of 11pm and 6 am the rest of the year.
- 32) ATV's are restricted to established roads with the exception of recovering a downed deer.
- 33) During archery hunting season, no one other than active bow hunters shall venture into the woods between the hours of 4:00 PM and 10:00 AM.

BASIC SAFETY TIPS

- 34) Always treat every weapon you see or touch as loaded. Never touch someone else's weapon without first getting permission from the owner and knowing whether it is loaded. Make sure they show you it is unloaded before accepting any weapon, and then check it again for yourself. This could save your life or someone else's some day.
- 35) Always point weapons in a safe direction away from people, houses, or any direction that is likely to cause injury (e.g. your foot), whether loaded or not.
- 36) It is wise to use binoculars instead of your gun scope to spot for game, to avoid accidentally putting a person into your sights.
- 37) Know how to use a gun safely. If you do not know how, please ask someone to teach you.
- 38) Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- 39) Never put your finger on the trigger unless you are ready to take a shot.
- 40) Always be aware of what is in front of & beyond your target!!!
- 41) Don't rush. Rest if you become fatigued. Rushing & fatigue contribute to mistakes and injuries.

IN CONCLUSION

We wish everyone to enjoy their experience at Reed Ranch, but the safety of all our guests must be our primary concern, and thus we must insist upon strict compliance with this document by our guests. Violations of these rules and regulations may result in the loss of privileges to bring weapons onto Reed Ranch, and/or immediate and permanent expulsion from the property. It is through the cooperation of all guests that we will be able to continue to improve your hunting experience and preserve this tradition for ourselves and the next generation. In assisting others to follow these rules you help to keep the Ranch a safer place to hunt and vacation.

³ Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide