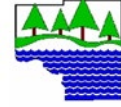


## **Hunting Structures & Related Activities** **on Itasca County Managed Lands**



Itasca County recognizes that county managed lands have long been widely used for hunting by the public and welcomes visitors to its forest lands. Users should respect and minimize their impact on others and the resource as they hunt these lands. Currently, a significant number of hunting stands and land clearing activities have established land use and/or timber trespass. In these circumstances, policies outlined below will provide regulation required in applying land use trespass laws, and referenced laws pertinent to state forest lands will be applied under county authority defined in [MN Chapters 282](#) and [373](#). The purpose is to promote public enjoyment of forest lands in ways that will leave them unimpaired and minimize conflicts among users.

### **Hunting Structures and Stands**

- Except as specifically authorized, permanent structures of any kind for private use or occupancy are prohibited on county managed lands ([MN Statute 282.04](#)). All structures with walls and/or a roof are considered an unauthorized building or occupancy trespass (as defined in [MN Statute 97.20](#)) except as described below:
  - *Hunting stands with walls and/or roof are allowed September 1st through December 31st of each year, but they must be removed or, at a minimum, have the walls and roof removed from county managed lands from January 1st to August 31st of each year to avoid penalty and stand disposal.*
- Any method for permanently affixing a hunting stand onto a foundation, tree, in the ground or similar (e.g. posts, anchors) is prohibited.
- The use of nails, screws, bolts or similar on trees for hunting stands or causing similar damage to trees is prohibited and may be subject to penalty (as defined in [MN Statute 609.591](#))
- Itasca County reserves the right to seize and dispose of abandoned and noncompliant hunting structures (as described in [MN Admin. Rules 6100.1650](#)) without cause or notice between January 1st to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Shooting Lanes and Access Trails**

- The cutting of trees for shooting (i.e. sighting) lanes, trails or for any other use without authorization constitutes timber trespass on county managed lands and is subject to penalty trespass (as described in [MN Statute 282.04](#), [M.S. 282.132](#), & [M.S. 90.301](#)).

### **Food Plots and Mowing**

- Clearing, tilling, planting and/or mowing of county managed lands for any use without authorization is prohibited and subject to penalty (as defined in [MN Statute 282.04 subd. 1\(d\)&\(e\)](#)).

### **Garbage and Abandoned Property**

- It is unlawful to leave garbage, debris, etc. on public lands which is subject to penalty (as defined in [MN Statute 609.68](#)).
- Itasca County reserves the right to seize and dispose of abandoned or stored property (in accordance with [MN Statute 6100.1650](#) and [MN Statute 282.04 subd. 2\(d\)](#)) on county managed lands at its sole discretion without cause or notice.

### **Equal Access on Public Lands**

- County managed lands are open to hunting with equal public access (as defined in [MN Statute 97A.015 subd.40](#)) to all unless otherwise posted, and therefore, cannot be unduly claimed by an individual or group
- Hunting related stands and structures left unattended on county managed lands are available to the public and are not the property of the person who constructed them ([MN Statute 97B.326](#)); they must be open to public use and not locked.