



Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 785-823-4540
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

November 4, 2011

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-12-5

SUBJECT: LTP–Wetlands Reserve Program Acceptable Structures Guidance

Purpose: Provide guidance on acceptable structures located on a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement

Expiration Date: September 30, 2013

Title 440-Conservation Programs Manual, Part 514, Wetlands Reserve Program, Section 514.62 D. states that “undeveloped recreational uses reserved under the terms of the warranty easement deed (including hunting equipment such as tree stands and hunting blinds that are rustic and customary for the locale, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS]) are not subject to the Compatible Use Authorization (CUA) process.” However, the state conservationist must develop guidelines that identify whether a structure is rustic and customary in a particular locale. The state conservationist, in consultation with the Kansas Technical Committee, has established the following guidelines for structures.

Hunting equipment, including tree stands and blinds, that is rustic and customary for the locale would include manufactured wildlife feeders, ladder stands, hanging tree stands, cloth ground blinds, tripod stands, and tower stands that are not constructed with any foundation, footings, or poles placed in the ground. In addition, homemade portable ground blinds that are made of metal or wood, have no electricity or water, and are placed on the ground surface and can be easily moved would be considered rustic structures. Blinds and tree stands, to be considered rustic structures, are limited to no more than 75 square feet of floor area and should blend in with the landscape.

Hunting equipment that does not meet the description above or where soil is being excavated or vegetation is being disturbed will require a CUA approval from NRCS prior to placement of the structure. CUA for structures not considered rustic in nature will be limited to those structures that have less than 150 square feet of floor area, have no water or electricity, and blend in with the landscape.

Landowners should be aware that all rustic blinds and other structures authorized through a CUA could be subject to damage during management of the easement area, i.e., prescribed burning.

Contact: Jeffrey L. Gross, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, at 785-823-4550, or Lynn E. Thurlow, Soil Conservationist, at 785-823-4548.

(signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

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