Visitor Rules and Guidelines

These visitor rules and guidelines provide for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPR RCA). These are enforceable under public land regulations in 43 CFR 8360, and supplementary rules published in Federal Register Notice, Vol. 54 No. 168, August 31, 1989. Rule No. 4, as amended by the Resource Management Plan Decision in July 2019. Contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office for additional information on these rules and guidelines.

Motorized Vehicles- Licensed motorized vehicles are permitted only on designated roads - the highways and public roads that traverse the SPR RCA. Only authorized motorized vehicles are allowed to use the administrative, gated, closed roads. Information about designated roads and trails is available on BLM maps, brochures, trailhead signage, and from BLM offices.

Bicycles and E-bikes- are allowed on the San Pedro Trail except the following educational trails: Murray Springs loop, Millville loop, river and Kingfisher Pond trails near the San Pedro House, within Terenate site, Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank Townsite, San Pedro House gardens, and Clanton Ranch. No bike travel is allowed off roads or official trails.

Trapping- Trapping is allowed, governed by Arizona State Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) regulations.

Firewood- Woodcutting is prohibited. Gathering of dead and down wood is allowed only for permitted campers staying in designated areas.

Firearms- Target shooting and "plinking" are prohibited. Hunting with firearms is allowed throughout the SPR RCA except within the Rural Recreation Management Zones around the San Pedro House, Fairbank Townsite, and areas one-quarter mile from associated recreation facilities, in accordance with AZGFD hunting regulations.

Camping- Overnight camping is permitted at least 1/2 mile from any trailhead, developed area, or public road, or at the Miller Backcountry Camp. RV and car camping are not allowed. Camping requires a permit, obtainable from self-service stations located at most trailheads. Campers are required to pack out all trash. Campfires are permitted where camping is allowed. There is a $2 per person per night fee.

Length of Stay- Persons may camp within the SPR RCA for a period of not more than 7 days within any period of 21 consecutive days unless otherwise authorized.

Pets- Pets, including hunting dogs, must be leashed at all developed facilities and in other posted areas. Unleashed hunting dogs may only be used during the recognized hunting period in the areas open to hunting. All dogs must be under direct control at all times. Owners should clean up after their dogs and remove the waste. Dog waste stations are provided at Fairbank and the San Pedro House.

Horse Use- Horses should not be tethered within the Fairbank Townsite and San Pedro House Recreation Management Zones, developed area, or trailhead. Do not clean out horse trailers in any parking area. You may traverse the Townsite and San Pedro House area to connect to trails. Horses are allowed and excluded from the same areas as outlined for bikes above.

Closures- Portions of the SPR RCA may be temporarily closed or restricted for the protection of natural and cultural resources or for public safety. These areas will be signed and displayed on maps of the local area.

Metal Detectors- The use of metal detectors is prohibited everywhere in the SPR RCA.

Cultural Resources- All historical and prehistoric objects and structures in the SPR RCA are protected by Federal law. No digging or collecting is allowed.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)- Drones may not take off or land anywhere within the SPR RCA. They may not be operated over the San Pedro House Recreation Management Zone including trails along the river and ponds, the Fairbank townsite, trailheads, or developed sites. Drone operations are otherwise governed by FAA regulations.

Collection of Natural Objects- Collection of any natural product or fossil is prohibited.

Special recreation permits (SRPs) are required for commercial recreational use, competitive events, and organized group activities. Contact the BLM office for information (520-258-7200).
Violations of these rules and public land regulations is subject to fines, imprisonment, or both.