

Annual List of Rule-Making Activity
Rules Adopted January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014
Prepared by the Secretary of State, pursuant to 5 MRSA, §8053, sub-§5

Agency name: Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Authority
Umbrella-Unit: **94-335**
Statutory authority: P & SL 1989 Ch. 108: §2; §3 sub-§§ 1-7; §5 sub-§§ 8, 9
Chapter number/title: **Ch. 1**, Rules for Public Use of Wells Reserve
Filing number: **2014-051**
Effective date: 3/30/2014
Type of rule: Routine Technical
Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

We needed to change language in setting fees to give us flexibility to establish them annually, and we needed to add prohibitions relating to ensuring public safety, such as no fires, no camping, remaining on walking trails.

Basis statement:

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve was established under 15 *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 921. It is maintained to provide undisturbed areas as a natural field laboratory and educational site. This includes the protection of the area for short and long-term research, education, and interpretation. The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve is also maintained to protect fish, wildlife, and plant communities. Multiple uses including low intensity recreational uses are allowed to the extent that they do not conflict with the operation of the Reserve for research and education.

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Authority (the Authority) was established by the State legislature through passage of *Private and Special Law* #108 in 1990. The legislation was amended in 2003 by LD #777 and in 2013 by LD #987. The purpose of the Authority is to manage and sustain the coastal lands and other resources within the reserve, further coordination and cooperation among state agencies, the Town of Wells and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Laudholm Trust, develop and implement programs for estuarine research and education and provide public access and opportunities for public enjoyment compatible with the protection of the reserve's natural resources. The Authority, in compliance with the Reserve Management Plan approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is responsible for management of the Reserve lands for which the Authority holds a license, lease or other interest or lands that are under agreement with a cooperating agency. The Authority has overall jurisdiction over the establishment and coordination of research, education, and resource protection policies for the Reserve. A violation of the rules of the Reserve is a Class E crime.

The Authority is revising its rules that govern public use of the Reserve to enhance public safety and to allow for annual flexibility in changing fees for use of the Reserve facilities

Fiscal impact of rule:

None