

**Annual List of Rule-Making Activity**  
**Rules Adopted January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**  
*Prepared by the Secretary of State, pursuant to 5 MRSA, §8053-A, 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:** 2019-004  
**Effective date:** 1/19/2019  
**Type of rule:** Routine Technical  
**Emergency rule:** No

**Principal reason or purpose for rule:**

To clarify language relating to the places where the public can access the Reserve property and paying entry fees, add a prohibited activity that will ensure visitor safety and privacy and maintain property use in keeping with the Reserve's purpose, and more specificity about the one location on our property where smoking is permitted.

**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, education, and stewardship, 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 visitor safety, health, and privacy and to clarify language relating to places where the public can assess Reserve property and pay entry fees.

**Fiscal impact of rule:**

None