

DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 20-126 OF "AGRICULTURAL 10 DISTRICT (A-10)" OF ARTICLE II, DIVISION 4, ZONING DISTRICTS OF CHAPTER 20 OF THE COUNTY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR COMMERCIAL PRIMITIVE CAMPING AS A PERMITTED USE IN SAID ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Chapters 125 and 163, Florida Statutes, authorize counties of the State of Florida to adopt and enforce regulations in the interest of public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the DeSoto County ("County") Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to adopt ordinances regulating the use of land in the County through the adoption of Land Development Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to amend the County Land Development Regulations to include for-profit commercial primitive camping uses in the A-10 zoning district, provided there is compliance with the State Department of Health for water and sanitary facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that adoption of this ordinance is in the best interest of the residents of the County and serves a proper public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board has properly noticed and held public hearings in accordance with law prior to adopting this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 20-126 of the Land Development Regulations of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances. Chapter 20, Article II, Division 4, Section 20-126 of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE II. – Zoning Districts and Requirements

DIVISION 4. – ZONING DISTRICTS

Sec. 20-126. - Agricultural 10 District (A-10). The intent of the Agricultural 10 District (A-10) is primarily agricultural, pastoral, the extraction or processing of non-phosphate minerals, and low-density residential development. This district is designed to accommodate traditional agricultural uses and conservatory measures, where appropriate, while protecting the rural areas of the County. The regulations in this district are intended to permit a reasonable use of the property, at a gross density of one dwelling per ten acres. At the same time, the intent is to prevent the creation of conditions which would endanger damage or destroy the agricultural base of the County, the environmental resources of the County, the potable water supply and the wildlife resources. The first priority of this district is agricultural uses.

(1) Uses and structures. No building or structure, or part thereof, shall be erected, altered or used, or land used, in whole or in part, for other than the following:

a. Permitted uses and structures (allowable without the need for any other use or structure).

14. *Primitive tent camping for recreational, commercial and noncommercial purposes, that:*

- (i) Is provided to the general public with or without a fee;*
- (ii) Is provided to the general public ~~without any~~ meeting any associated water and/or sanitary facilities or improvements required by the Florida Department of Health;*
- (iii) Has a maximum of two primitive camping sites per acre; ~~and~~*
- (iv) Is limited to no more than seven days per calendar month per campsite; -*
- (v) Must conform to all Federal, State, and County zoning, flood, environmental, and open burning (campfire) regulations.*

Section 3. Amendment to Section 20-1650 of the Land Development Regulations of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances. Chapter 20, Article XII, Section 20-1650 of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add the following definition:

Primitive Camping means overnight occupancy of tents at designated primitive campsite facilities. Primitive campsite facilities are sites that are only accessible by non-motorized or minimally powered means, and contain only basic site improvements, such as fire rings, cleared tent pads, and picnic tables.

Section 4. Severability. If any portion of this Ordinance is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity

of the remainder of this Ordinance. If any court determines that this Ordinance, in whole or in part, cannot be legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such determination will not affect the applicability of this Ordinance to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

Section 5. Codification. It is the intent of the Board and is hereby provided that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances, and that the sections for the Ordinance may be renumbered or lettered to accomplish such intention, and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section” or “article” or other appropriate designation in order to accomplish such intention.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2026.**

ATTEST:

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Mandy Hines,
County Administrator

By: _____
Steve Hickox,
Chairman

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

By: _____
Valerie Vicente,
County Attorney