

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

A Walnut Hill Special-Opportunity Dove Hunt Permit is required of each person entering the dove field to hunt. Regular and Combination (youth/adult) permits will be available for each hunt on a first-come, first-served basis beginning two weeks before the first hunt. Each permit will be valid for one day only. Daily (\$35.50) and Combination (\$45.50) permits may be purchased anywhere licenses are sold. A Combination Permit allows an adult and youth, under the age of 16, to hunt together and for each to harvest a daily bag limit of birds. A Regular Permit allows an adult, or an adult and a youth, under the age of 16, to hunt together, however, it allows only one daily limit of birds to be harvested between the two. Annual Dove Club permits, which allow the permit holder to hunt all scheduled hunts for a particular field, are available from the Tallahassee Office beginning July 1, and will be sold until September 10. This permit costs \$150 and is non-transferable; it also allows the adult permit holder to invite a youth, under the age of 16, to hunt together and for each to harvest a daily bag limit of birds. If you purchase a Regular or Combination permit but later decide not to use it, you can transfer it to another hunter. Five-year and Lifetime license holders that purchased their license before July 1, 1998, can acquire their permit free of charge (only one permit, per hunt, per license holder). However, these “no-charge” permits may only be transferred to individuals with a valid Lifetime or Five-year hunting license purchased before July 1, 1998. All other hunters must purchase a permit. Only 25 permits will be issued for each dove hunt.

LICENSE INFORMATION

Unless exempted, each hunter on this small-game hunting area must have a Florida hunting license in possession and display it upon request of any Commission employee. Hunters must possess a Migratory Bird Permit or have the H.I.P. box checked on their hunting license and a Special-Opportunity Dove Hunt Permit. A Florida hunting license and Migratory Bird Permit may be acquired from offices of county tax collectors or their subagents. Additionally, Florida hunting licenses and Migratory Bird Permits may be obtained by calling 1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (1-888-486-8356) or on-line through the Commission’s web site at www.floridaconservation.org. Information on the categories and costs of hunting licenses are available in the Florida Hunting Handbook. Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older and residents certified totally and permanently disabled may

obtain a hunting license exemption certificate from the county tax collector. Hunters under age 16 and Florida residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida and home on leave for 30 days or less with orders in possession, are exempt from the hunting license requirements.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OPEN SEASONS: Only on the following Saturdays during the mourning and white-winged dove season: October 4, 11, 25; November 15, 29; December 13, 27; and January 10.

SHOOTING HOURS: Noon until sunset.

LEGAL TO TAKE: Mourning and white-winged doves only. ***Caution, it is the hunter’s responsibility to positively identify doves before shooting. Shooting at other species of birds is strictly prohibited.***

BAG LIMITS: Twelve (12) doves daily per hunter, including no more than four (4) white-winged doves.

AREA ACCESS AND CHECK STATION: Hunters must check in and out at the Hunt Headquarters. All vehicles must park in the designated parking area(s); driving beyond this point is prohibited. Each permitted hunter who is 18 or older may be accompanied by one NON-HUNTING youth less than 16 years of age. All persons must exit the area no later than one (1) hour after sunset.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Dove hunting is permitted only within the posted dove field boundaries.

2. Vehicles may be operated only on named and numbered roads and may be parked only in designated parking areas. Vehicles may not be operated on named and numbered roads designated by area regulations as closed to vehicular traffic or temporarily closed by administrative action and posting notice of such on those roads because of inclement weather, poor road conditions, construction or management activities or wildlife surveys.

3. Waterfowl retrievers, bird dogs, and other dogs with a shoulder height of 17 inches or less may be used for hunting during open seasons unless prohibited by specific area regulation. Dogs not normally used for hunting may be possessed provided they are kept under restraint.

4. The possession of firearms other than shotguns is prohibited.

5. Tracked vehicles, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited.

6. Construction or use of permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.

7. Tampering with or destruction of equipment, improvements, and water control structures is prohibited.

8. Public access is prohibited in portions of public hunting areas that are posted as “Closed” or “Restricted.”

9. Releasing wildlife of any species is prohibited unless authorized by permit from the executive director.

DOVE HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

1. Be sure to carefully check your shells before you enter the field. Be sure you are using a shell and shot designed for dove hunting (a dove hunting load). Also make sure your gun is plugged to hold no more than three (3) shells.

2. Do not load your gun until you have reached your shooting position. Unload your gun when you leave your shooting position.

3. At all times, know where other hunters are located on the field, and make sure other hunters know where you are.

4. Identify your safe zone of fire and only shoot within this zone. Your safe zone of fire is the area you can safely shoot considering the location of other hunters, roads, and field boundaries.

5. Do not shoot at low-flying birds; remember to always shoot skyward and not toward the horizon. Always wear safety glasses and a cap with a bill to protect your eyes from falling shot.

6. Be patient and careful when retrieving downed birds. Visually mark the location of the downed bird before you leave your shooting position. Be sure other hunters in your area are aware that you are entering the field.

7. Do not attempt to shoot at doves when you are retrieving a downed bird or when you are away from your shooting position for any other reason.

8. Do not hunt outside the boundaries of the dove field.

9. Please pick up all shotgun shells and trash before leaving the dove field.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HUNTING AREA

The Walnut Hill Small-Game Hunting Area is located approximately 18 miles northwest of Pensacola in Escambia County (see map on reverse side). If you’re traveling from I-10, take US 29 (exit 10B) north to SR 97. Travel north on SR 97 until you come to SR 99 south (go past SR 99 north) and turn left (south). Travel approximately 0.7 miles south and look for signs to dove field. Dove field is located on the right hand side of the road (west).

“DOVE HUNTERS HOTLINE”

Beginning in September, Dial **1-850-875-BIRD (2473)** or visit our web site at www.floridaconservation.org/ to find out the latest information on Special-Opportunity and Wildlife Management Area dove fields across the state of Florida. Most of the information will be updated every Thursday throughout the dove season. This information includes: dove numbers, previous weeks harvest and field condition.

1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (1-888-486-8356)

Purchase Florida hunting or fishing licenses 24 hours a day with a credit card and toll-free call. (A \$3.95 convenience charge will be added)

Wildlife law violators are thieves who steal from you and your natural heritage. To report wildlife law violators, call the **WILDLIFE ALERT** toll-free number **1-888-404-FWCC** (1-888-404-3922); cellular ***FWC** or **#FWC** in specific areas. You may qualify for a **Cash Reward** from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

This agency and the Department of Interior prohibit discrimination by race, color, nationality, age, sex or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility of this agency, write to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600; or to: Office for Human Relations, USFWS, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

WALNUT HILL DOVE FIELD 2003-2004



**WALNUT HILL
SMALL-GAME HUNTING
AREA
ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE
PUBLIC DOVE HUNTING
OPPORTUNITIES**



**THE FLORIDA
FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY"

For more information contact the
Commission's Northwest Region Office
in Panama City at (850) 265-3677

