

# BIG SHOALS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
AREA AND STATE FOREST

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY  
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE  
AND RECREATIONAL AREA  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
An Equal Opportunity Agency  
[www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area. **To make it easier to learn about regulation changes on this area, regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** For the exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure and the quota hunt application forms should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities.

For information pertaining to hunting on private lands and trapping, consult the current Florida Hunting Handbook. This publication is available from any Commission office as well as county tax collectors and their subagents.

## PERMIT, STAMP AND LICENSE INFORMATION:

Persons utilizing the wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, stamps and permits. Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older, and residents who have obtained a no-cost license through a certification of total and permanent disability by the Armed Forces or Veterans Administration, or a certification of total disability by the Social Security Administration, may be exempt from most permit, stamp and license requirements on this area. Hunters under age 16 and Florida residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida and home on leave with orders in possession, are exempt from most permit, stamp and license requirements on this area.

Hunting License, Trapping License, Fishing License and Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Wildlife Management Area, Wild Turkey and State Waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, their subagents, Internet or by telephone.

Unless exempted, all hunters on this wildlife management area must have the following in their possession and display them upon request of any Commission employee:

1. Hunting License: Information on the categories and costs of hunting licenses is available in the Florida Hunting Handbook.
2. Wildlife Management Area Permit: This \$26.50 permit is required to hunt on this area.
3. Quota Hunt Permit: A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt this area during the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons (no exemptions). There are no exemptions for this area. There are 35 special quota hunt permits available for each archery hunt and 20 special quota hunt permits available for each muzzleloading gun hunt. Special quota hunt applications are available from county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1, and accepted June 1 through June 11. To apply for a permit obtain a special quota hunt permit application and follow the printed instructions.

Daily Hunt Permits: Daily hunt permits are required to hunt on this area during the small game hunts (no exemptions). There are 30 daily hunt permits available on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station for each hunt

during the small game season.

A spring turkey quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area (no exemptions) for each spring turkey hunt. There are 20 spring turkey quota hunt permits available by application for each three-day period. Spring turkey quota hunt applications are available at regional offices of the Commission on or about October 25, and accepted November 1 through November 10. To apply for this permit, obtain a spring turkey quota hunt application and follow the printed instructions.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only to another exempt person. The sale or purchase of any quota hunt permit is prohibited.

4. Zone Tags: The designated hunter quota is divided among zones (see map): archery—A17, B18; muzzleloading gun and spring turkey—A10, B10; small game—A-15, B-15. Zone tags will be issued on a first-come, first served basis at the check station. Zone tags may not be transferred from one hunter to another. If available, one zone tag may be exchanged for another at the check station during any hunt day. No hunter shall hunt in any zone other than that for which he has obtained a zone tag. Zone tags shall be returned to the check station at the end of each hunt day. All hunters must wear zone tags visibly.

5. Archery Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the archery season.

6. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season.

7. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer—Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
3. Wild hogs—No bag, size or possession limit.
4. Gray squirrel and rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.

## GENERAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations which follow, all general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically excepted for this wildlife management area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in the manner set forth herein.

1. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
2. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area.
3. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands or for any individual or groups of individuals to build a warming fire or campfire and leave same unextinguished (Chapter 590, Florida Statutes).

4. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
5. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Except during spring turkey season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
6. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
7. No person shall cut or destroy any tree, or remove any tree, shrub or protected plant (as listed in F.S. 581.185) from any wildlife management area without written permission from the landowner or primary land manager.
8. **The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization from the Executive Director.**
9. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.
10. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
11. Taking fox is prohibited.
12. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
13. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
14. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug, or poison is prohibited.
15. Hunting is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED."
16. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material above the waistline as an outer garment. This is not required when hunting during an archery-only season.
17. Deer and turkey may be dismembered in the field or camp, but each portion shall have a tag affixed to it identifying the name, address and hunting license number of the person who killed it; the date and location at which it was taken; and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification.
18. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

#### **GUNS OR DOGS:**

19. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
20. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), or birds of prey may be used.
21. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.
22. For hunting deer, muzzleloading guns firing a single bullet must be at least .40 caliber; those firing two or more balls must be 20 gauge or larger.
23. Fully automatic firearms, silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices, or setguns are prohibited.
24. Guns are allowed only during periods and in areas in which their use for hunting is allowed.
25. No person shall have a gun in manual possession while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
26. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
27. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife.
28. **For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.**

#### **PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:**

29. Open for public access and use year-around, from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.
30. Vehicles may be operated only on designated portions of named or numbered roads (see map).
31. The use of tracked vehicles, motorcycles, airboats or ATVs is prohibited on the area.
32. Florida traffic laws relating to vehicles and vehicle operators apply on this area. The operation of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle is prohibited.
33. Horses are permitted on roads open to vehicular use or on designated horse trails.
34. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates or firelanes.
35. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" or CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS/CLOSED".

#### **CAMPING:**

**36. Prohibited during periods open to hunting. Allowed during periods closed to hunting,** but only with a permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District at (386) 362-1001.

#### **CHECK STATIONS:**

37. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station when entering or exiting the area and shall check all game taken.
38. Persons may enter the area no earlier than one and one-half hour before sunrise and shall exit no later than one and one-half hour after sunset year around.
39. During hunting periods, access for hunters will be only through the check station on County Road 135 (east of the park entrance). A quota permit is required of any hunter entering the area.

#### **SEARCH:**

40. A Fish and Wildlife Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat; in accordance with law.

#### **ARCHERY:**

- September **27** through October **2**, October **4** through **9**, and October **11** through **16**.
- Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit, special quota hunt permit, zone tag, and wild turkey permit (if hunting turkeys).
- Legal to Take—Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hogs, turkeys of either sex, gray squirrel and rabbit.
- Regulations Unique to the Archery Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited.

#### **MUZZLELOADING GUN:**

- October **29** through **31** and November **5** through **7**.
- Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, special quota hunt permit, and zone tag.
- Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs, gray squirrel and rabbit.
- Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and only muzzleloading guns are allowed.

#### **SMALL GAME:**

- December **20** through **25** and December **27** through January **1**.
- Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, daily hunt permit, and zone tag.
- Legal to Take—Gray squirrel and rabbit.
- Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

#### **SPRING TURKEY:**

- March **24** through **26** and April **14** through **16**.
- Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, spring turkey quota hunt permit, zone tag, and wild turkey permit.
- Legal to Take—Bearded turkeys or gobblers only.
- Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

#### **TRAPPING:**

- Trapping is prohibited.

#### **FISHING:**

- Permitted throughout the year.
- Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Fishing license.
- Legal to Take—See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.
- Regulations Unique to Fishing—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND STATE FORESTS ARE NOT JUST FOR HUNTING AND FISHING!**

They have been purchased for preservation to benefit all of Florida's residents and you don't have to hunt or fish to enjoy them! The same habitat management practices that provide hunting and fishing opportunities also create opportunities for wildlife viewing. These areas provide a range of opportunities, from scenic driving routes to rugged hiking adventures. See the natural Florida that we have protected through acquisition and careful management.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. This land was acquired under the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program and the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program. The purpose of CARL and SOR is to conserve and protect unique and irreplaceable lands and water resources, restore areas to their original condition as much as possible, and allow controlled multiple recreational and educational uses consistent with this purpose.

2. For recreational use, except hunting, another entrance to the area is located on SE 94th Street or Godwin Bridge Road (entrance No. 2 on map). A picnic area, canoe launch and nature trail are available.

3. Defacing, molesting or destroying signs or other property on or about this management area is punishable by law.

4. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.

5. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas, (386) 208-1461.

6. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (386) 758-0525 {(800) 955-8771 (TDD)}.

7. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PETS."

8. Hunters are requested to utilize the parking areas identified on the map when feasible.

9. Wild hogs are not game animals on this area, but are considered trespass livestock. They may be taken during the archery and muzzleloading seasons with no size or bag limits.

### **COOPERATION REQUESTED:**

*When you spot law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.*

*Please do not discharge firearms at anything other than legal game while in a wildlife management area. Target practice and random discharge of firearms have become increasing threats to the quality of the hunting experience.*

*All persons hunting small game are requested to wear blaze-orange headgear and/or vests.*

**PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE TRASH OUT WITH YOU.**

*In recent years, unauthorized and uncontrolled fires have caused severe damage to area wildlife and wildlife habitats. Controlled fires are beneficial only when they are of the proper size and location, and when area conditions are suitable. UNCONTROLLED FIRES DO NOT BENEFIT WILDLIFE. Please use caution with campfires, smoking materials and vehicles to prevent damage to wildlife habitats.*

*The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.*

*The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay \$2,357,686 or 20 percent of the cost of the program.*



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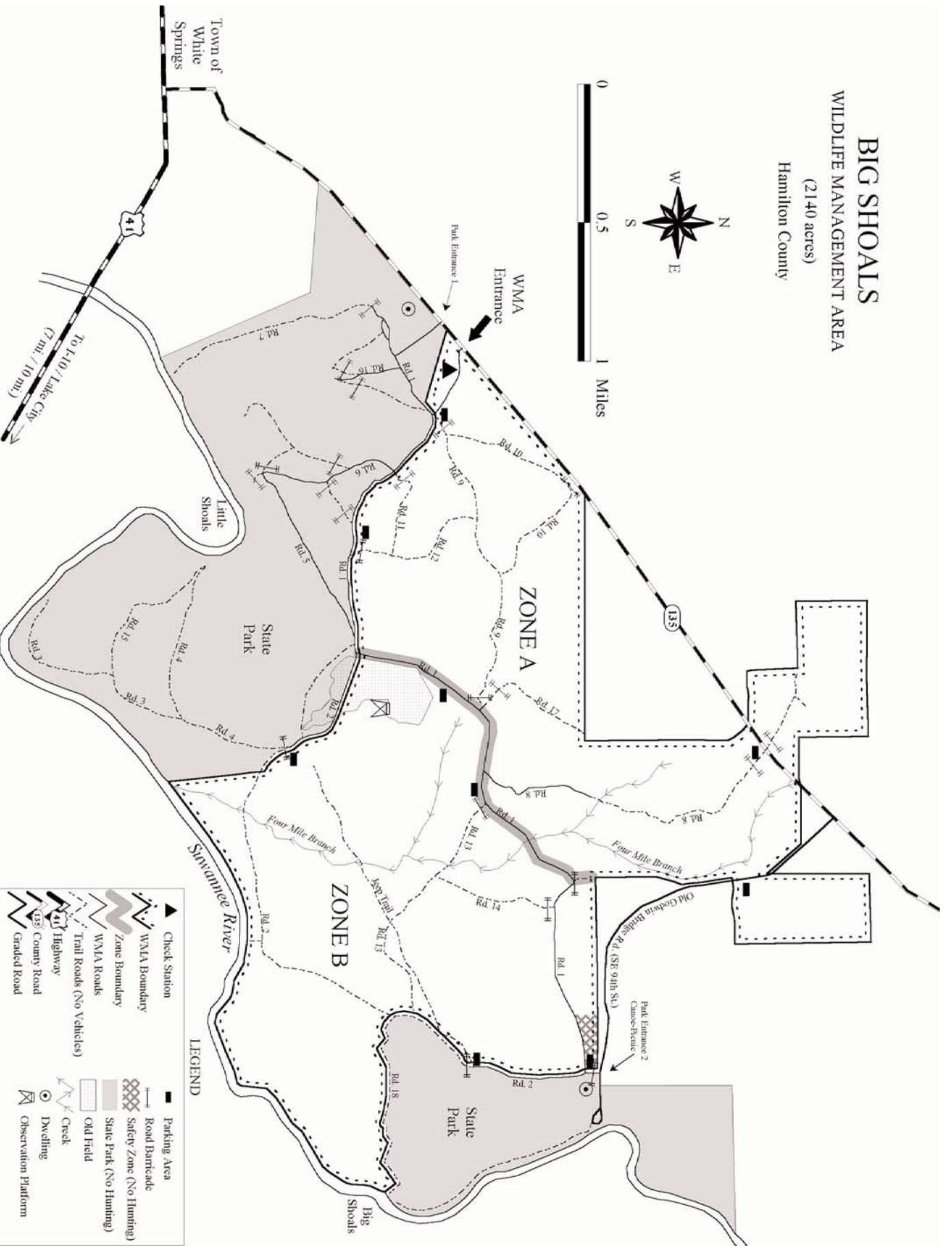
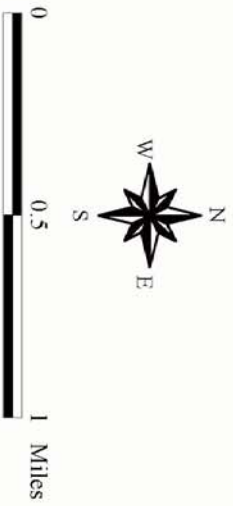
**Call 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356) OR  
1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356)**

**(NOTE: There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)**

# BIG SHOALS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(2140 acres)

Hamilton County



**LEGEND**

	Check Station		Parking Area
	WMAA Boundary		Road Barricade
	Zone Boundary		Safety Zone (No Hunting)
	WMAA Roads		State Park (No Hunting)
	Trail Roads (No Vehicles)		Old Field
	Highway		Creek
	County Road		Dwelling
	Graded Road		Observation Platform