

CITRUS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA AND STATE FOREST

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP
WITH LACOOCHEE
STATE FOREST



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
An Equal Opportunity Agency

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 Citrus 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 on this area from November **13** through **16** and **17** through **21** of the archery season. There are 1,000 quota hunt permits available by application for each hunt period. A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during each muzzleloading gun hunt. There are 850 special quota hunt permits available by application for each hunt. A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during each general gun hunt. There are 850 regular quota hunt permits available by application for each hunt. Regular and special quota hunt permit applications are available from county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1 and must be received by June

11. To apply, obtain a quota hunt permit application and follow the printed instructions.

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

4. State Waterfowl Permit: This \$3 permit is required while hunting ducks.
5. Federal Duck Stamp: Any hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp while hunting ducks. This \$15 stamp is available at post offices. Visit www.duckstamp.com for additional information regarding alternate methods and locations for purchasing of duck stamps.
6. Migratory Bird Permit: This free permit is required when hunting migratory birds.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer—Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hogs—No size or bag limit.
3. Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
4. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria—No bag limits.
5. Bobcat and otter—Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
6. Migratory birds—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

GENERAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations that 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. 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.
3. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area.
4. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
5. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands or for any individual or group of individuals to build a warming fire or campfire and leave same unextinguished (Chapter 590, Florida Statutes).
6. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer prior to being checked.
7. **The release of any animal is prohibited, without written**

authorization from the Executive Director.

8. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.

9. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

10. Taking gopher tortoise is prohibited.

11. Taking fox is prohibited.

12. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

13. 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.

14. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

15. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

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. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

18. Deer may be dismembered in the field or camp (after being checked), 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.

19. Hunting quail is prohibited between Forest Road 16 and County Road 480, which includes the field trial area.

GUNS OR DOGS:

20. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

21. 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.

22. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is prohibited.

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 and setguns are prohibited.

24. Guns are allowed only during periods 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. Loaded, capped or primed guns are prohibited at campsites or check station area. The discharge of guns is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or check station area.

28. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited.

29. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs may be used during the small game season and field trials. Dogs are prohibited at other times except as authorized.

30. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

31. Dogs on leash may be used for trailing wounded game.

32. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PETS" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

33. Authorized hunting equipment, including tree stands, may be taken onto the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each hunt and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day after each hunt.

34. The public is authorized to train bird dogs in the area between Forest Road 16 and Forest Road 20 from October 1 through October 31.

35. Scheduled bird dog field trial events are authorized only in the area between Forest Road 16 and County Road 480.

36. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from rights-of-way of all paved roads is prohibited.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

37. Open for public access and use year-around.

38. Persons operating vehicles shall enter and exit only at designated entrances.

39. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates or firelanes.

40. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.

41. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

42. The use of horses for hunting is prohibited except during the small game season. Horses are restricted to named or numbered roads and designated horse trails.

43. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited. Florida traffic laws relating to vehicles and vehicle operators apply on this area. The operation of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle is prohibited.

CAMPING:

44. Camping is permitted in designated campsites only. The Division of Forestry regulates camping, and a daily fee is required.

45. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

46. Hunt camps may be set up 14 days prior to the opening of archery season and must be removed by 6 p.m. six days following the close of small game season. A daily campsite fee is required, whether the camp is occupied or not. A permit is available for the archery and small game seasons in lieu of the daily fee. For information contact the Withlacoochee Forestry Center, Brooksville (352) 754-6896.

CHECK STATION:

47. All deer shall be checked and tagged at the check station prior to being dismembered or transported out of the hunt area.

SEARCH:

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

ARCHERY:

November 13 through December 5.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the first nine days), state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds during the archery season when one or more migratory birds are legal to take (See Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlets).

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

December 11 through 12 and January 1 through 2.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, special quota hunt permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, bobcat, otter, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds during the muzzleloading gun season when one or more migratory birds are legal to take (See Migratory Birds section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlets).

GENERAL GUN:

December 18 through 19 and January 8 through 9.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, bobcat, otter,

raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

SMALL GAME:

January 10 through March 6.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter through March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
3. During the small game season, dogs under restraint are allowed in the overflow area of the Holder Mine campsite.

TRAPPING:

Trapping is prohibited.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species, which coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun and small game hunts.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular or special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the first nine days of the archery, muzzleloading gun or general gun hunts), state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), and migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply, and the use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted throughout the year.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging—In addition to these regulations, statewide fishing regulations shall apply, and the possession of guns is permitted only during periods when hunting is allowed.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY REGULATIONS:

1. A valid fuel wood permit from the Division of Forestry is required before firewood may be removed from the area.
2. Construction of permanent or semipermanent structures on state forests is prohibited.

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. Water in wells is not certified for human consumption.
2. Defacing, molesting or destroying signs or other property on or about this management area is punishable by law.
3. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
4. 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)}.
5. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning in most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users

should contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas, (352) 754-6896.

6. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

COOPERATION REQUESTED

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

Small game hunters are requested to sign out daily and record harvest at game registration boxes located at most designated entrances.

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.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE TRASH OUT WITH YOU.

Your conduct on this area may determine your future use of the area.

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.)

