

# HOMOSSA

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
AREA AND STATE FOREST

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY  
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE  
AND RECREATIONAL AREA  
WITH LA COOCHEE STATE FOREST  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
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 Homosassa 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 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 using this wildlife management area 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, except during special-opportunity spring turkey season.
3. Quota Hunt Permit: All hunters are required to have a quota hunt permit during the **small game** and general gun hog seasons; there are no exemptions for this area. **There are 30 first-come first-serve permits available at the check station for each of the small game hunts.** There are 25 regular quota hunt permits available by application for each general gun hog hunt. Regular quota hunt 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 an application and follow the printed instructions.
4. Special-Opportunity Turkey Permit: A \$175 special-opportunity permit is required to hunt on this area during the special-opportunity turkey

season; there are no exemptions. There are 5 special-opportunity permits available by application for each hunt. Special-opportunity applications are available from regional offices of the Commission on or about September 1 and must be received by October 15.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt and special-opportunity 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 or special-opportunity hunt permit is prohibited.

5. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.
6. State Waterfowl Permit: This \$3 permit is required while hunting ducks.
7. 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](http://www.duckstamp.com) for additional information regarding alternate methods and locations for purchasing of duck stamps.
8. Migratory Bird Permit: This free permit is required when hunting migratory birds.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Wild hog—No size or bag limit.
2. Turkey—1 gobbler or bearded turkey per special-opportunity turkey permit.
3. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
4. Bobcat and otter—Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria—No bag limits.
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. Public access, guns or dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".
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. Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
4. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the wildlife management area.
5. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.

6. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. During the special-opportunity turkey season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

7. 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).

**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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

11. Taking fox is prohibited.

12. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

13. Taking gopher tortoise is prohibited.

14. Taking or attempting to take 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. A special-opportunity permit shall be required for every person entering the area during special-opportunity hunts except that a non-permitted individual may accompany a permittee. While hunting or scouting, a non-permitted individual may accompany a permittee and participate in the hunt but shall not occupy a vehicle separate from the permittee or possess a gun, and shall be in the immediate vicinity (25 feet or less) of the permittee.

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

17. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

18. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, may be used.

19. Fully-automatic guns, silencer-equipped guns, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.

20. The possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

21. Guns are allowed only during periods in which their use for hunting is allowed.

22. No person shall have a gun in manual possession while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

23. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.

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

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

26. Hunting hogs with dogs is prohibited.

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

27. Open for public access and use year-around, **except from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise**, and during special-opportunity hunts when only those persons with quota permits are allowed.

28. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads. Bicycles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and designated firelanes.

29. Vehicles shall be parked within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.

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

31. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles or horses is prohibited.

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

33. Florida traffic laws relating to vehicles and operators apply on this area. The operation of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle is prohibited.

#### **CAMPING:**

34. Camping is prohibited.

#### **HUNT HEADQUARTERS:**

35. Hunters shall enter and exit the area at designated entrances and register at the hunt headquarters.

36. Hunt headquarters hours are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. during wild hog season, 4:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the special-opportunity turkey season, and 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. during small game season.

37. Hunters are required to check their harvested game at the hunt headquarters.

#### **SEARCH:**

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

#### **SMALL GAME:**

November **13** through December **5** and December **25** through January **9**.

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

Legal to Take—Wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter after November 30.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

#### **GENERAL GUN HOG:**

February **10** through **13** and February **24** through **27**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit and regular quota hunt permit.

Legal to Take—Wild hogs only.

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

#### **SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY TURKEY:**

March **19** through **25** and April **2** through **8**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, special-opportunity turkey permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take—Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to the Special-Opportunity Turkey Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

#### **TRAPPING:**

Trapping is prohibited.

#### **MIGRATORY BIRDS:**

Mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the small game season.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, **daily hunt permit**, 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—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Migratory Bird Hunting 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—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and 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 prime 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. Florida Statute 267.13 prohibits digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds, collecting artifacts or disturbing archaeological and historic sites on state-owned lands.
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 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, (352) 754-6896.
6. Wild hogs are not game animals on this area, but are considered trespass livestock. They may be taken during the small game and the general gun hog 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.*

*Since you have the privilege to use this wildlife management area, go the extra mile to exercise great caution and care while hunting, fishing, sightseeing or using the area in any way—leave the area better than you found it. Hunters, wildlife, the environment and conservation in general can only benefit.*

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

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

*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.*



**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License  
by Phone...  
Use Your Credit Card and**

**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.)**

