MIDDLE AUCILLA

WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP

A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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 Middle Aucilla 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.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations for the area. 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: All hunters are required to have a quota hunt permit during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, and spring turkey hunts (no exemptions). A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts. There are 30 special quota hunt permits available by application for both the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts. A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the general gun season. There are 30 regular quota hunt permits available by application for the general gun hunt. Special and 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 for a permit, obtain a quota hunt application and follow the printed instructions.

A no-cost spring turkey quota permit is required to hunt on this area during the spring turkey hunt. There are 30 spring turkey quota hunt permits available by application for each spring turkey hunt. Spring turkey quota hunt applications are available at regional offices of the Commission and county tax collectors on or about October **25** and will be accepted between November **1** and November **10**.

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. Archery Permit: This $5 permit is required when hunting during the archery hunt.
5. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This $5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun hunt.
6. Wild Turkey Permit: This $5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.
7. State Waterfowl Permit: This $3 permit is required while hunting ducks.
8. 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.
9. 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. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
3. Wild hogs—No size, bag or possession limit.
4. Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria. No bag limits.
6. Bobcat and otter—Bag limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
7. 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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

4. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the 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 (see exception under Spring Turkey).

7. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area. Portions of the carcass may be removed immediately prior to cooking.

8. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written permission from the Executive Director.

9. Fires are prohibited

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

11. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.

12. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

13. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

14. Killing fox is prohibited.

15. Hunting or taking bear is prohibited.

16. 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.

17. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" to hunting, fishing or trapping.

18. Authorized hunting equipment may be taken onto the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the season and shall be removed before 6 p.m. one day following the close of the season.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. Digging in or disturbance of archaeological sites, or removal of artifacts from the area is prohibited.

GUNS OR DOGS:

22. The possession of dogs, other than bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers, is prohibited.

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

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

25. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun hunt only) or birds of prey may be used.

26. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

27. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.

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

29. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of such wildlife with dogs is prohibited.

30. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

31. 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.

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

33. 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.

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

35. Hunting hogs by the use of dogs is prohibited.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

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

37. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on designated roads.

38. The use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited.

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

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

41. Public access, guns or dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

CAMPING:

42. Camping is prohibited.

SEARCH:

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

ARCHERY:

September **25** through October **24**.

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

Legal to Take—Any deer (except spotted fawn), turkeys of either sex, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

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, 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:

October **30** through November **7**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, special quota hunt permit, 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, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

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, 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:

November **13** through January **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, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter after November 30.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Hunt—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—Wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season; bobcat and otter may be taken until March 1.

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

SPRING TURKEY:

March **19** through April 24.

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

Legal to Take—Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

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

1. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

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 seasons.

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

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet. 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:

Permitted throughout the year.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Fishing license.

Legal to Take—See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. This land was acquired under the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program. The purpose of the SOR program 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. 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. Florida Statute 267.13 prohibits digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds, collecting artifacts, or disturbing archeological and historic sites on state-owned lands.
5. 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**)} or the Suwannee River Water Management District (386) 362-1001.

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 wild hogs or 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 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.

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YOUR PURCHASE SUPPORTS WILDLIFE RESTORATION

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.)