

# OSCEOLA

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

### 2004-05

#### REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE  
AND RECREATIONAL AREA  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
An Equal Opportunity Agency  
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This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Osceola 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 still 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. Persons using the Commission-authorized shooting range are exempt from the wildlife management area permit requirement.

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 regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt on the dog hunt portions of this area during the first nine days of the general gun season. There are 800 regular quota hunt permits available for the dog hunt area. 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 regular quota hunt permit application and follow the printed instructions.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is only transferable 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 season.
5. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season.

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](http://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. Wild hogs—No bag or size limit.
3. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
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—Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping license.
7. Migratory birds—See Migratory Bird 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. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see individual seasons for exceptions).
6. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey while on the area. Portions of the carcass may be removed immediately prior to cooking.
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. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
10. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
11. Killing fox is prohibited.
12. Hunting or taking bear is prohibited.
13. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
14. Taking or possessing gopher tortoises is prohibited.

15. 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.

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 (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.

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

18. 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.

19. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited (see exception under General Gun and Small Game sections).

20. 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.

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

22. 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.

23. Guns are allowed only during periods and in areas in which their use for hunting is allowed, **except that guns are also allowed throughout the year on the shooting range and while being transported from US 90, north on McCloskey Road to FR 278, then west to the gun range, or from Williams Road, to FR 217, then easterly on 278 to the range. Guns being transported to and from the shooting range shall be unloaded and cased.**

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

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

26. Loaded, capped or primed guns are prohibited at campsites or check station areas. The discharge of guns is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or check station area.

27. Guns or dogs are prohibited on areas posted as "CLOSED."

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

29. Authorized hunting equipment or dogs may be taken onto the area in designated camping areas after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the hunt and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day after the hunt.

30. The eastern and western dog hunt areas are shown on the hunt map. Except for these areas, the possession or use of dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited.

31. No person shall transport dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, through the still hunt area to the western dog hunt area except on Forest Service Road 285; on Forest Service Road 236 eastward from US 441; on Forest Service Road 263; on Forest Service Road 262 east from US 441; on Forest Service Road 233 north from County Road 250; on Forest Service Road 233 east from US 441 to its junction with Forest Service Road 237 and then north on Forest Service Road 237 to the boundary of the dog hunt area; and on Forest Service Road 232 west from the east dog hunt area.

32. Leashed or caged dogs may be kept at the East Tower, Sandhill and West Tower hunt camps during general gun season.

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

34. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of I-10, C.R. 250, C.R. 250-A, C.R. 229, C.R. 127, C.R. 125, McCloskey Ave. (between U.S. 90 and C.R. 250), and S.R. 2 is prohibited.

35. Deer dogs may be trained October 30 through November 8 in the dog hunt area only.

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

36. This area is open to public use, year around.

37. Vehicles shall be restricted to numbered roads during the period November 1 through January 15 in that portion of the still hunt area south of I-10 and east of Forest Service Road 236 (McCloskey Ave.), and August 1 through January 15 in that portion of the western dog hunt area north of Forest Service Road 262. Vehicles shall be restricted to portions of numbered or named roads not posted as closed on those lands lying north and northeast of Forest Service Road 200, west of Forest Service Road 255, north of Forest Service Road 232, north of Forest Service Road 212, north of Forest Service Road 212-A in Baker County; and those lands lying north of Forest Road 36 (Sandhill Grade) in Columbia County.

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

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

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

#### **CAMPING:**

41. Camping is permitted throughout the year. Camping is restricted to designated campsites during the general gun season on that portion of the area designated and posted as National Forest lands (see Forest Service Regulations). On that portion of the area designated and posted as State Forest lands, camping is permitted only at designated sites and only by permit from the Division of Forestry. Camping is not permitted in Sandlin Bay. For more information contact the Osceola National Forest District Office - (386) 752-2577; Florida Division of Forestry - (904) 259-3997; or the Suwannee River Water Management District - (386) 362-1001.

#### **CHECK STATIONS:**

42. All deer taken must be checked at a check station. No deer shall be dismembered until checked at a check station.

#### **SEARCH:**

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

#### **FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT:**

August 7 through September 28 (dog hunt area only)

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

Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply:

1. Guns are prohibited.
2. Pursuit with dogs is permitted only in the dog hunt area (see map).
3. Pursuit with dogs is allowed only from sunset to sunrise.

#### **ARCHERY:**

September 25 through October 17.

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

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.

1. 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).

2. Hunting deer, wild hogs or turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

#### **MUZZLELOADING GUN:**

October 22 through 29 (still hunt area only).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun 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.

1. Hunting is allowed only in the still hunt area.
2. 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).
3. Hunting deer or wild hogs with dogs is prohibited.

#### **GENERAL GUN:**

November 13 through January 9.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit (if hunting in the dog hunt area, 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, 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—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply:

1. Dogs, other than bird dogs and retrievers, may not be used for hunting in the still hunt area.

2. Vehicles are restricted to designated numbered roads (see hunt map) south of I10 and east of Forest Service Road 236 (McCloskey Ave.); and in the portion of the western dog hunt area north of Forest Service Road 262.

3. In the dog hunt areas, raccoon or opossum may be taken at night by the aid of a light and dogs, with .22 rimfire firearms other than .22 magnum, or with a single-shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6. No firearm shall be loaded at any time except immediately prior to shooting of a treed or bayed raccoon or opossum. The hunting of raccoon or opossum under the provisions of this paragraph by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited.

#### **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, wild hogs, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria, migratory birds in season, and bobcat and otter until March 1.

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

1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs is prohibited in the still hunt area.

2. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

3. In the dog hunt areas, raccoon or opossum may be taken at night by the aid of a light and dogs, with .22 rimfire firearms other than .22 magnum, or with a single-shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6. No firearm shall be loaded at any time except immediately prior to shooting of a treed or bayed raccoon or opossum. The hunting of raccoon or opossum under the provisions of this paragraph by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited.

#### **TRAPPING:**

January 10 through March 1.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting License, trapping license and wildlife management area permit.

Legal to Take—Bobcat, otter, raccoon, skunk, opossum, beaver, coyote and nutria.

Regulations Unique to Trapping—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and licensed trappers may possess .22 rimfire pistols or rifles for the purpose of removing legal furbearers from traps.

#### **SPRING TURKEY:**

March 19 through April 24.

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

#### **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, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during the first nine days of the general gun season, in the dog hunt area), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

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 wildlife management area regulations contained in this pamphlet shall apply.

1. The use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.

2. Shotguns are permitted during the early duck season by hunters meeting the license, permit and stamp requirements for hunting ducks.

#### **FISHING AND FROGGING:**

Permitted throughout the year.

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

Legal to Take—See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply and taking frogs with gun or bow is prohibited at night and

during periods when hunting is not allowed.

#### **FOREST SERVICE REGULATIONS:**

1. Fenced areas are open to hunting unless otherwise posted. Close all gates.

2. Camping during the general gun season is permitted only in the designated campsites indicated on the hunt map. Outside this specified season, camping is not confined to these designated areas. User fees will be imposed by the Forest Service at East Tower, West Tower and Hog Pen Landing Campsites.

3. Constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of structure or other improvement is prohibited without a written permit from the District Ranger in Olustee. The permit must be posted on the structure at all times.

4. The use of permanent tree stands is prohibited. Portable stands are encouraged.

5. Obstructing roads is prohibited.

6. Leaving fires unattended or starting wildfires is prohibited.

7. Leaving debris or garbage, except in the containers provided, is prohibited.

8. Cutting, nailing into, driving over or otherwise damaging living trees is prohibited.

9. Discharging a firearm across or on a Forest Development Road or within 150 yards of a designated campground or a residence is prohibited (C.F.R. Title 36261.10(d)).

10. Depositing sewage or other waste, except into receptacles provided for that purpose, is prohibited.

11. The U.S. Forest Service is currently involved in a road and trailway designation process. This process will ultimately result in changes to roads and trails designated open for public access. Please consult with your local District Ranger at the Osceola District Office to check on access changes, (386) 752-2577

12. **It is prohibited to ride all-terrain vehicles or any unregistered motor vehicle from 1 and 1/2 hours after sunset until 1 and 1/2 hours before sunrise.** All motor vehicles operated on roads shown on this map must have valid registration and vehicle license as required by state law.

13. Cross-country travel by motorized vehicles is prohibited on all National Forests. Cross-country travel is travel across land where no road, trail or travel way exists.

#### **DIVISION OF FORESTRY REGULATIONS:**

1. No person shall operate a motorized vehicle on state forest lands unless the vehicle displays a valid license tag and is operated by a properly licensed driver.

2. Certain roads will be closed after the spring turkey season. These roads will reopen prior to the next hunting season.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

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

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

3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (386) 7580525 or (800) 955-8771 (**TDD**).

4. Controlled burning occurs throughout the year. For safety and protection of equipment, people should not use areas where controlled burning is taking place. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area (see map). 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 1-888-404-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.*

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