

# POTTS

WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA

## 2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY  
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE  
AND RECREATIONAL AREA  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
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 Potts 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 during the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts (no exemptions). There are 30 special quota hunt permits available by application for each of these hunts. A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required for each group of two hunters to hunt on this area during the general gun hog-dog hunt (no exemptions). There are 30 regular quota hunt permits available for this hunt. A spring turkey quota permit is required to hunt on this area during the spring turkey hunts (no exemptions). There are 20 spring turkey quota hunt permits available by application for each of these hunts. Regular and special quota hunt applications are available from county tax collectors or their

subagents on or about June 1 and must be received by June 11. Spring turkey quota hunt applications are available at regional offices of the Commission and county tax collectors on or about October 25 and must be received between November 1 and November 10. To apply for a quota hunt permit, obtain a regular, special, or spring turkey quota hunt application and follow the printed instructions.

A daily hunt permit is required to hunt during the small game hunt. There are 30 daily hunt permits available on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station each day.

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](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 hog—No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2; except only 1 gobbler or bearded turkey per spring turkey quota hunt permit.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
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 spring turkey season, shooting hours are from 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. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.

11. Taking or attempting to take game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, nets, drug, or poison is prohibited.

12. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED".

13. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than on foot (pedestrian), bicycle or horseback is prohibited unless by permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

14. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

15. Taking fox or fox squirrels 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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

18. Deer or 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 which it was taken, and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification.

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

19. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

20. The use of dogs is prohibited except that dogs on leashes may be used to trail wounded game; bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used during the small game season; and up to three dogs per quota permit may be used during the general gun hog-dog season.

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

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

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

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

27. Loaded, capped or primed guns are prohibited at campsites and the check station. The discharge of guns is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or the check station.

28. 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.

29. 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.

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

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

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

32. Open for public access and use year-around. During periods closed to hunting, access is permitted only via foot, bicycle, or horseback. However,

vehicles will be allowed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., one day prior to each hunt, except for the small game hunt.

33. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and shall be parked within 25 feet of those roads. Bicycles may be ridden only on designated trails.

34. The use of tracked vehicles, motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles is prohibited. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, horses may be ridden only on designated roads and designated trails.

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".

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

#### **CAMPING:**

37. Camping is permitted at designated campsites during the hunting season. Camping is allowed at other times by permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, (352) 796-7211.

38. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers, are prohibited. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.

39. Each camper shall ensure that their campsite is clean at all times.

40. The altering, defacing, moving, or tampering in any way with official markings of campsites is prohibited.

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

42. The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for each campsite shall be visibly affixed to the camping shelter.

43. Camping equipment may be taken onto the area from 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each season and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of each season.

#### **CHECK STATIONS:**

44. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station when entering or exiting the area, and shall check all game taken.

45. No deer, hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.

46. Check station hours are 5 a.m. through 9 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Savings Time and 5 a.m. through 8 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time. During the spring turkey season, check station hours are 4:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the small game season, check station hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### **SEARCH:**

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

#### **ARCHERY:**

October 9 through 17.

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), wild hogs, turkeys of either sex, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, armadillo, 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:**

November 5 through 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, armadillo, 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 HOG-DOG:**

November **19** through **21**.

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-Dog Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Each quota hunt permit holder may be accompanied by an assistant. However, the assistant must possess all other licenses and permits.

2. Only one gun may be possessed per permit.

3. Dogs may be used, but only up to three dogs per quota hunt permit are allowed.

#### **SMALL GAME:**

December **10** through **12**, January **7** through **9**, and February **4** through **6**.

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, armadillo and migratory birds in season.

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

#### **SPRING TURKEY:**

March **19** through **22** and March **23** through **27**.

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

Legal to Take—Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

#### **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 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), and migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds—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—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.

#### **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. 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 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.*

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

*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.**

*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.*

*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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**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License  
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**Call 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356) OR  
1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356)**

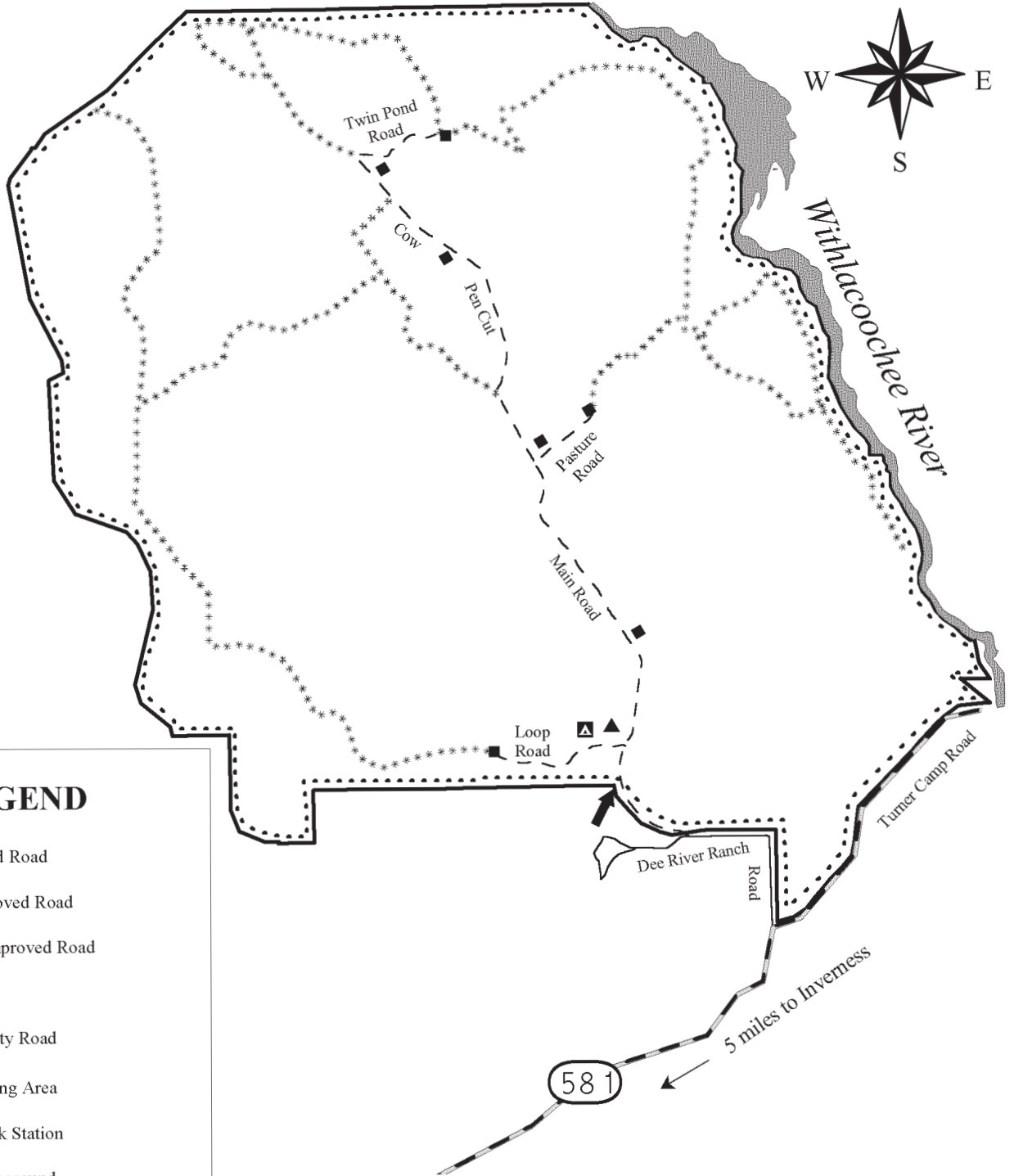
**(NOTE: There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)**

# POTTS











WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(7,408 acres)

Citrus County



## LEGEND

-  Paved Road
-  Improved Road
-  Unimproved Road
-  Trail
-  County Road
-  Parking Area
-  Check Station
-  Campground
-  Designated Entrance
-  Management Area Boundary

Scale

