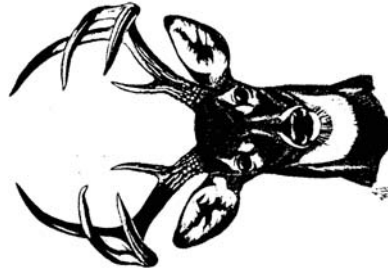


RALPH E. SIMMONS MEMORIAL

WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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 Ralph E. Simmons Memorial 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 Veteran's 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 for the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts. A no-cost regular quota permit is required to hunt on this area during the general gun hunt (no exemptions). There are 30 regular quota hunt permits available by application for the general gun hunt. Regular and special quota hunt permit applications are available from the county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1. To apply for a permit, obtain a quota hunt permit application and follow the printed instructions.

A no-cost mobility-impaired quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this

area during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt (no exemptions). There are 30 mobility-impaired general gun quota hunt permits available for the mobility-impaired general gun hunt. Mobility-impaired quota hunt applications are available at regional offices of the Commission on or about **July 2**.

A no-cost spring turkey quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the spring turkey hunts (no exemptions). There are 15 spring turkey quota hunt permits available for each hunt. Spring turkey quota hunt applications are available at regional offices of the Commission on or about **October 25**.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only to another exempt person. Mobility-impaired quota hunt permits are only transferable to persons who have been issued a mobility-impaired certificate by the Commission. 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. The \$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—1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per quota hunt permit.
2. Wild hog—No bag or size limit.
3. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Bobcat and otter—Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
6. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria—No bag limits.
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. No person shall cut or destroy any tree, or remove any tree, shrub, or

protected plant (as listed in Section 581.185, F.S.) from any wildlife management area without written permission from the landowner or primary land manager.

2. Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.

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. During spring turkey season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

6. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization from the Executive Director.

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

8. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

9. Taking fox is prohibited.

10. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

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

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

13. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

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

15. 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 the same unextinguished (Chapter 590, Florida Statutes).

16. Authorized hunting equipment may be taken onto the area after 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.

17. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.

18. 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.

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. During all hunting periods (except small game season), public access is restricted to those individuals with valid hunt permits. During the mobility-impaired general gun hunt two non-disabled helpers may accompany a mobility-impaired quota permit holder.

GUNS OR DOGS:

21. Hunting with gun and light 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 and setguns are prohibited.

23. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is 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 and check station areas. The discharge of firearms is prohibited on, from, or across any campsite or check station area.

28. 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.

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

30. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs may be used during the small game season.

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

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

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

33. Open for public access and use year-around, except during hunting periods when only persons with quota hunt permits are allowed. During small game season, a quota hunt permit is not required.

34. Vehicular access is permitted on all hunt days plus the weekend and day before all hunts, except spring turkey and small game seasons when it shall be permitted only on hunt days and the day before each hunt.

35. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt.

36. Vehicles may be parked only at designated parking areas, except during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt.

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

38. The use of tracked vehicles, motorcycles, or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited, except during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt.

39. Non-motorized bicycles may be used only on named or numbered roads and designated trails.

40. Horses are prohibited during periods open to hunting except when used by mobility-impaired hunters. During periods closed to hunting, horses may be used only on named or numbered roads and designated trails.

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

CAMPING:

43. During periods open to hunting, hunters in possession of a quota permit may only camp in **the Scotts Landing Road campground**. During periods closed to hunting, camping in **the Scotts Landing Road campground** is allowed **only** by permit from the Florida Division of Forestry, (904) 845-3597. Camping at primitive campsites along the St. Marys River is allowed **during periods closed to hunting** on a first-come, first-served basis.

CHECK STATION:

44. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station and check all game taken.

SEARCH:

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

ARCHERY:

September **25** through October **3**.

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

Legal to Take—Any deer (except spotted fawns), turkey of either sex, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, coyote, skunk, beaver, 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 on the area for hunting migratory birds when one or more of these species is designated legal to take on this area (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Regulation pamphlets).

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED GENERAL GUN:

October **16** through **19**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, mobility-impaired quota hunt permit, wildlife management area permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

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

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

1. No more than two non-disabled helpers may accompany a mobility-impaired permit holder.

2. Non-disabled helpers may not hunt or possess firearms.

3. Mobility-impaired hunters may use tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and horses throughout the area during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt.

4. **Only one quota hunt permit may be used per individual, per hunt.**

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, 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, coyote, skunk, beaver, 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 on the area for hunting migratory birds when one of more of these species is designated legal to take on this area (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Regulation pamphlets).

GENERAL GUN:

November **20** through **28**.

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

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

SMALL GAME:

December **20** through January **2** and February **5** through **13**.

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

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 **21**, April **1** through **3**, and April **15** through **17**.

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 Hunts—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 for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, mobility-impaired general 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), special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the archery or muzzleloading gun season), mobility-impaired quota hunt permit (if hunting during the mobility-impaired general gun hunt), regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during the general gun hunt), and migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlets.

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

2. Defacing, molesting, or destroying signs or other property on or about this management area is punishable by law.

3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at **(386) 758-0525** or **(800) 955-8771 (TDD)**. For information on recreational use other than hunting, please contact the Florida Division of Forestry at **(904) 845-3597**.

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.

If 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.

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.

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.)

RALPH E. SIMMONS MEMORIAL

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
(3,630 acres)
Nassau County



-  WMA Boundary
-  Unimproved Roads
-  Closed to Hunting
-  Paved Roads
-  Turkey Hunting Zone
-  Parking Area
-  Campground
-  Designated Entrance
-  Check station

