

SPRING CREEK UNIT

BIG BEND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
STATE OF FLORIDA
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 Spring Creek Unit of Big Bend 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.

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 this area during the first nine days of the general gun season. There are 150 regular quota hunt permits available by application for the 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 quota hunt 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 hunt.
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 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. Deer—Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Turkey—Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
3. Wild hog—Daily limit 1, 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 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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
3. 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.
4. The removal or possession of saw palmetto berries is prohibited.
5. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area.
6. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
7. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions under individual seasons).
8. 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.

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

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

11. Fires are prohibited.
12. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
13. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
14. Taking fox is prohibited.
15. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
16. Taking or attempting to take game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game call or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug, or poison is prohibited.
17. Taking bear is prohibited.

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

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. 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 from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of the season.

21. 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.

22. Digging in or disturbing of archaeological sites or removing artifacts from the area is prohibited.

23. No person shall remove plants, rocks, minerals, animal life, other natural resources or parts thereof without written authorization from the Commission.

24. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written permission from the Executive Director.

GUNS OR DOGS:

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 (see exceptions under General Gun and Small Game seasons).

27. 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.

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

29. 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.

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

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

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

33. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

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

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

36. The possession of any firearm containing shells or cartridges, or any capped or primed muzzleloading gun, is prohibited on any check station area. The discharge of any firearm is prohibited on, from or across any check station area.

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

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

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

39. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads from September 1 through April 30. From May 1 through August 31, motorized vehicles may be operated only on Spring Creek Road.

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

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

CAMPING:

43. Camping is prohibited, except primitive overnight camping shall be permitted at designated sites at Spring Warrior Creek, by permit only from the Commission, for those individuals utilizing the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail from September 11 through June 30 only. The permit shall be valid for through-paddlers only and shall be valid for one night only. To obtain a permit contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at **(850) 488-5520**.

CHECK STATION:

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

45. Check station hours are from 5 a.m. to one hour after sunset when manned. When unmanned, hunters shall use self-service check stations.

SEARCH:

46. 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, 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 with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, 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. 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).

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers may be used during mourning dove and duck seasons.

GENERAL GUN:

November **13** through January **9**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota permit (if hunting 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 with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, 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 and 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 provided that 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, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria, migratory birds in season, bobcat and otter.

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

1. The possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

2. 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 provided that 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.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 19 through April 24.

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

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 general gun season), and migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlets. In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting from permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.
2. 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).

Legal to Take—See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing regulations shall apply and taking frogs with gun or bow is prohibited at night and during periods when hunting is not allowed.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS 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. Portions of this land were acquired under the Save Our Coasts (SOC) program. The purpose of SOC is to conserve and protect unique and irreplaceable lands and allow controlled multiple recreational and educational uses consistent with this purpose.

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

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) 7580525 {(800) 955-8771 (TDD)}.

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 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.

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**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)**

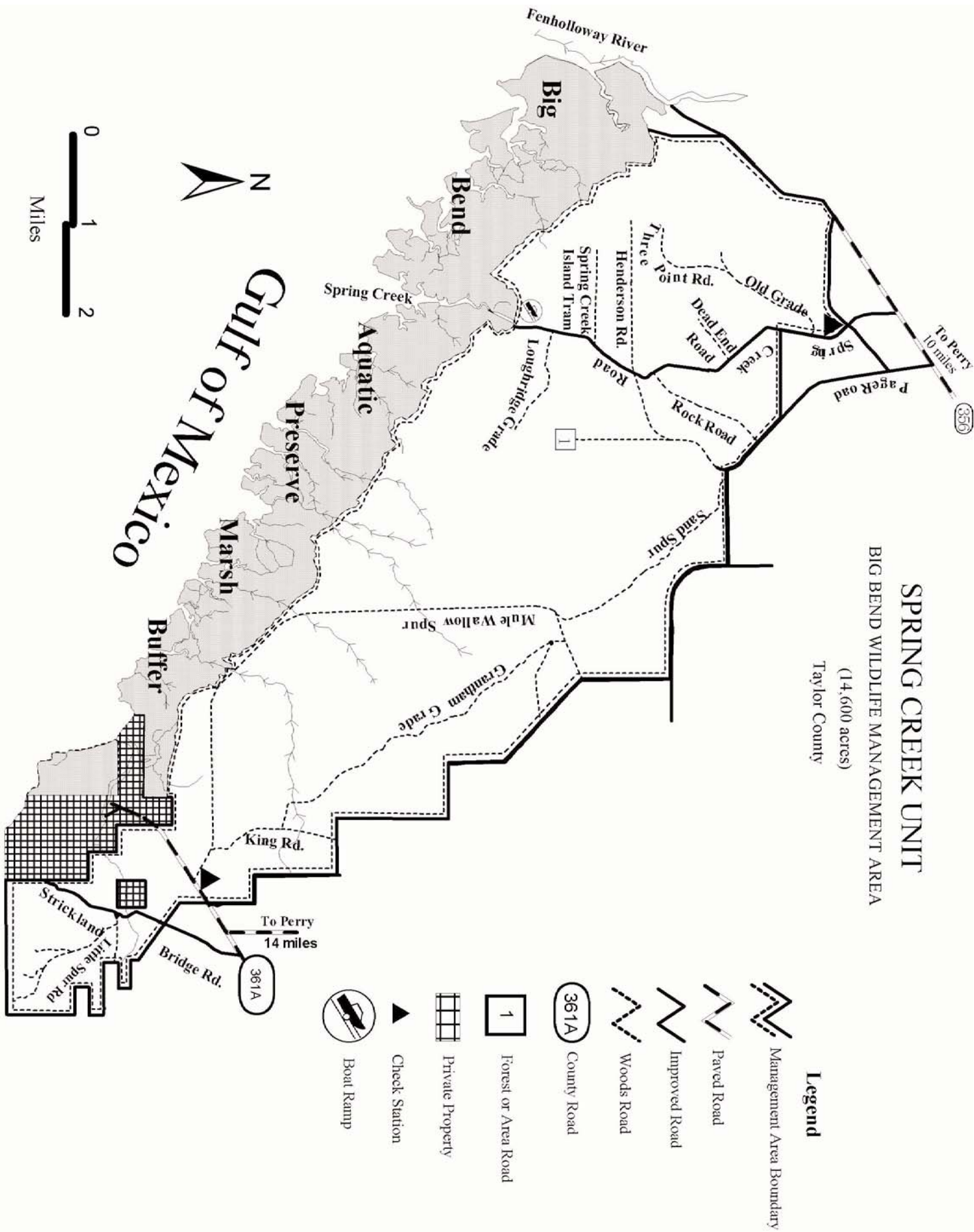
(NOTE: There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)

SPRING CREEK UNIT

BIG BEND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(14,600 acres)

Taylor County



Legend

- Management Area Boundary
- Paved Road
- Improved Road
- Woods Road
- 361A County Road
- 1 Forest or Area Road
- Private Property
- Check Station
- Boat Ramp

