

SUWANNEE RIDGE

WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
RECREATIONAL AREA
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 Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental 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 fish and wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure and the mobility-impaired quota hunt application should provide the information necessary to plan your hunting activities.

For information pertaining to hunting on private lands, and trapping, consult the 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 and environmental 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 the age of 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 and environmental 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. Quota Hunt Permit: A no-cost mobility-impaired quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area (no exemptions) during the mobility-impaired general gun and spring turkey hunts. There are 8 mobility-impaired quota hunt permits available by application for each general gun hunt. Mobility-impaired quota hunt applications for the general gun hunts are available from county tax collectors or regional offices of the Commission on or about **July 2**, and will be accepted between **July 14** and **July 30**. There are 4 mobility-impaired spring turkey quota hunt permits available by application for each spring turkey hunt. Spring turkey quota hunt applications for the spring turkey hunts are available from county tax collectors or regional offices of the Commission on or about **October 25**, and will be accepted between **November 1** and **November 10**. To apply for a permit, obtain a spring turkey quota hunt permit application and

follow the printed instructions.

Quota hunt permits are not transferable except to persons who have been issued a mobility-impaired certificate by the Commission.

3. Wildlife Management Area Permit: This \$26.50 permit is required to hunt on this areas.

4. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.

5. Fishing License: Information on the categories and costs of fishing licenses is available in the Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer—Two per quota permit.

2. Turkey—Two gobblers or bearded turkeys per quota permit.

3. Wild hog—No size, bag or possession limit.

4. Gray squirrel and rabbit — Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.

5. Freshwater fish—See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

GENERAL 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 and environmental 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. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the area.

2. Public access into the area is allowed during non-hunting periods by use of the Adams Grade parking area (foot traffic only, see map).

3. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

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

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

6. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

7. Killing fox is prohibited.

8. Fires are prohibited.

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

10. Hunting is prohibited in areas posted as CLOSED.

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

12. No person shall cut or destroy any tree, or remove any tree, shrub, or protected plant (F.S. 581.185) from this area unless authorized by landowner or the Commission.

13. The disturbance or removal of any man-made or cultural materials, or

natural materials or features, is prohibited.

14. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place, expose or distribute any grain or other food for wildlife on this area.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

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

GUNS OR DOGS:

19. The possession of dogs is prohibited.

20. No person shall have any gun under their control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

21. The possession or use of guns is prohibited except during periods when hunting is allowed.

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

23. 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.

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

25. 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.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

26. Open for public access and use; EXCEPT during mobility-impaired hunts when only quota permit holders and one designated hunting partner are allowed on the area.

27. During hunting periods, hunter access to the area is permitted only through the designated access point (see map) and only by individuals with a valid quota hunt permit and a designated hunting partner.

28. During non-hunting periods access is restricted to foot traffic only.

29. Vehicular entry and exit are permitted only during hunting periods and one day prior, and only at the designated point on Road 2.

30. Vehicles may only be operated on the area from one and one-half hour (1 1/2) before sunrise until one and one-half hour (1 1/2) after sunset, only on designated portions of named and numbered roads and only during and periods open to hunting and one day prior.

31. Track vehicles, airboats, motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on the area, except ATVs are permitted during mobility-impaired hunts.

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

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

34. Horses are prohibited.

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

CAMPING:

36. Camping is prohibited.

CHECK STATION:

37. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station on Holton Creek WMA and shall check or report all game taken (see map).

SEARCH:

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

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED GENERAL GUN HUNT:

October 15 through 17, October 29 through 31, November 5 through 7, and December 17 through 19.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Mobility-impaired quota hunt

permit, hunting license and wildlife management area permit.

Legal to Take— Any deer (except spotted fawns), only mobility-impaired hunters may take an antlerless deer, wild hogs, gray squirrel and rabbit.

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

1. All hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at Gibson Park opposite the Agricultural Inspection Station at 3 p.m. on October 14, October 28, November 4, and December 16.

2. Hunters may be accompanied by one able-bodied hunting partner who may participate in the hunt.

3. Only one quota hunt permit may be utilized per individual, per hunt.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED SPRING TURKEY HUNT:

March 25 through 27, and April 15 through 17.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Mobility-impaired quota hunt permit, hunting license, wild turkey permit and wildlife management area permit.

Legal to Take—Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

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

1. All hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at Gibson Park opposite the Agricultural Inspection Station at 3:00 p.m. on March 24 and April 14.

2. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

3. Hunters can be accompanied by one able-bodied hunting partner who may participate in the hunt.

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

TRAPPING:

Trapping is prohibited.

FISHING:

Permitted throughout the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. This site was purchased through FWC's Mitigation Park program. The funding needed to acquire and manage this site originated from mitigation actions taken by land developers whose projects have adverse impacts on listed wildlife populations. Multiple recreational uses are allowed 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. 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)}.

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 drive vehicles between sunrise and 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. until sunset.

Please do not discharge firearms at anything other than legal game while in this area. Target practice and random discharge of firearms have become increasing threats to the quality of hunting and the general outdoor experience. Please unload guns before entering vehicles or boats.








PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE TRASH OUT WITH YOU.

Since you have the privilege to use this wildlife and environmental area, go the extra mile to exercise great caution and care while fishing, hunting, sightseeing or using the area in any way — leave the area better than you found it. People, wildlife, the environment and conservation in general can only benefit.

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.

LEGEND

-  Hunter Entrance
-  Check Station
-  WMA Boundary
-  Graded Road
-  Improved Road
-  Primitive Road
-  Holton Creek WMA
-  Parking Area
-  Private

SUWANNEE RIDGE
WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA
(1,425 acres)
Hamilton County

