

CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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 Choctawhatchee River 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 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. Archery Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the archery season or while archery hunting (after February 2) during the archery/muzzleloading gun seasons. It is not required when hunting with a bow and arrow during the general gun season.
4. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season or while muzzleloading gun hunting during the archery/muzzleloading gun seasons. It is not required when hunting with a muzzleloading gun during the general gun season.
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 pos-

sess 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.

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 hogs—**No size or bag limit.**
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, beaver, nutria and armadillo—No bag limit.
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 which 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. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands or for any individual or groups of individuals to build a warming or campfire and leave same unextinguished (Chapter 590.11, Florida Statutes).
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 exception under Spring Turkey).
6. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer 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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
10. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
11. Turkeys may not be taken north of the pipeline right-of-way located up river (north) of Cedar Log Landing (Walton County) and Billy Lee Landing (Washington County).

12. Killing fox is prohibited.
13. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
14. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare drug, or poison is prohibited..
15. 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.
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. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".
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.

GUNS OR DOGS:

19. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.
20. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun season only) or birds of prey may be used.
21. 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.
22. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is prohibited.
23. 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.
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. Guns or hunting with dogs are allowed only during the open seasons established for the area.
28. Possession of guns or dogs is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".
29. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited in the designated still hunt areas (see map).
30. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited.
31. **For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.**
32. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
33. Authorized hunting equipment or dogs may be taken on 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.

VEHICLES:

34. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
35. The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited.
36. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates or firelanes.
37. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

CAMPING:

38. Camping is permitted throughout the area and limited to tents, trailers, or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers, lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited. For additional information, call the Northwest Florida Water Management District at (850) 539-5999.

SEARCH:

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

ARCHERY:

October **16** through November **14**.

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).

Legal to Take—Any deer (except spotted fawn), turkeys of either sex (**except in the area closed to turkey hunting**), 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. 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 are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

3. Turkeys may not be taken north of the pipeline right-of-way located up river (north) of Cedar Log Landing (Walton County) and Billy Lee Landing (Washington County).

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

November **19-21**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting ducks).

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

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except centerfire shotguns are permitted on the area for hunting migratory birds when one or more of these species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

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

SMALL GAME:

November **13** through March **6**.

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

Legal to Take—Wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter may be taken December 1 through March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited, except during general gun season.

GENERAL GUN:

November **25-28** and December **11** through February **2** (except Holmes Creek Unit and East River Island).

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

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 may be taken after November 30.

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

ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN:

February **17-27** (except Holmes Creek and East River Island: November **25-28**, December **11** through February **2** and February **17-27**).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit (when archery hunting after February **2**) or muzzleloading gun permit (when muzzleloading gun hunting after February **2**) 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, bobcat, otter and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery/Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only muzzleloading guns or bows and arrows are allowed, except centerfire shotguns are permitted on the area for hunting migratory birds when one or more of these species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

2. Hunting deer or hogs with dogs is prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 19 through April 24 (except in the area closed to turkey hunting).

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

3. Turkeys may not be taken north of the pipeline right-of-way

located up river (north) of Cedar Log Landing (Walton County) and Billy Lee Landing (Washington County).

TRAPPING:

December 1 through March 1 (except in dog hunt areas: February 1 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.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during statewide seasons established for these species by the Commission.

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

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 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.

Regulations Unique to Fishing—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and statewide fishing regulations shall apply.

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. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 2653676 {(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.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE OUT TRASH 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.

All persons, including non-hunters, entering the area should wear blaze orange or other highly visible clothing during hunting seasons.

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.)

