

APALACHICOLA

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
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 Apalachicola 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 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. Persons using the Commission-authorized shooting range are exempt from the wildlife management area permit requirement.

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 during the archery/muzzleloading 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 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 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.
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. Wild hogs— No size or bag 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. 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 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. 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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
4. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the 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 (See exception under Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat). During spring turkey season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1p.m.
7. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area. Portions of the carcass may be removed immediately prior to cooking.
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. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
11. Killing fox is prohibited.
12. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
13. 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.
14. Taking or possessing gopher tortoises is prohibited.
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. This is not required when hunting during an archery-only season.

16. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as “CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS”.

17. 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:

18. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited in that portion of the area lying west and south of State Road 375 and east of the Ochlockonee River; also those lands lying north and east of the Florida River and Larkins Slough (see map).

19. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited (see fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunt for exceptions).

20. 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.

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

28. Guns or dogs are prohibited on areas posted as “CLOSED” or “CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS”.

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

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

31. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

32. Bird dogs may be trained June 1 through March 6.

33. Deer dogs may be trained October 30 through November 18 in that portion of the area open to fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunting.

34. Authorized hunting equipment or dogs may be taken onto the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the hunt and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day after the hunt.

35. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of State Roads 12, 65, 67, 260, 263, 267, 299, 368, 369, 373, 375, 379 or that portion of County Road 22 east of Ochlockonee River is prohibited.

36. Hunting of deer is prohibited within 50 yards of the right-of-way of State Road 375.

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

VEHICLES:

38. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited on that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands (see map).

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

40. 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:

41. Camping is permitted only at designated campsites during the general gun season, except on Northwest Florida Water Management District lands where camping is permitted throughout the area. See Forest Service Regulations and the General Information section for additional details.

SEARCH:

42. 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), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, turkeys of either sex, 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 deer, wild hogs or turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

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 hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—In addition to these regulations, 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 and 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 hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, armadillo and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter may be taken from 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 the general gun season.

GENERAL GUN:

November 25-28 and December 11 through February 2.

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

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hog, bearded turkeys or gobblers (through December 22 only), 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.

ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN:

February 17 through 27.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit (if hunting with bow and arrow), muzzleloading gun permit (if hunting with a muzzleloading gun) 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 hog, 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 bows or muzzleloading guns are permitted.
2. Hunting deer or wild hogs with dogs is prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 19 through April 24.

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.

FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT:

October 1 through March 6.

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

Legal to Take—Raccoon and opossum, bobcat (December 1 through March 6).

Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon and Bobcat Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat may be pursued with dogs during daylight and at night in the designated fox hunting area shown on the map.
2. During the period November 13 through March 6, raccoon or opossum may be taken at night throughout the wildlife management area 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.
3. Guns are not permitted while using dogs in the designated fox hunting area prior to November 25.

TRAPPING:

February 3 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 seasons established for these species by the Commission which coincide with the open seasons for the area. Ducks may be hunted during the special September duck season. Mourning and white-winged doves may also be hunted during the first phase of the dove season.

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

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.

1. Only shotguns are allowed during the rail and moorhen and the special September duck seasons, and the first phase of the dove season.
2. The use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted throughout the year.

FOREST SERVICE REGULATIONS:

1. Discharging a firearm across or on a Forest Development Road is prohibited (CFR Title 36261.10(d)).
2. Within the restricted areas, as shown on the maps, motorized vehicles are permitted only on numbered roads.
3. **It is prohibited to ride all-terrain vehicles or any unregistered motor vehicle from one and one-half hours after sunset until one and one-half hours before sunrise.** Unregistered vehicles are prohibited on roads with numbered signs. Copies of the Forest Motorized Vehicle Management Plan are available from the district ranger.

4. Obstructing roads is prohibited.

5. Camping during the general gun season is permitted only in designated campsites indicated on the hunt map and shall be limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Camping is allowed from 14 days prior to 14 days after the general gun season. Outside this specified season, camping is not confined to these designated areas but is limited to a maximum of 14 days. Hickory, Whitehead and Mack Landings have restrooms and water. Camping fees for these areas are \$3 per day or \$40 per year. All other hunt camps are free of charge and have no restrooms or water. For additional information on camping on Apalachicola National Forest contact the U.S. Forest Service at 850-643-2282.

6. Constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of structure or other improvement is prohibited without a written permit from the district ranger. The permit must be posted on the structure at all times.

7. Leaving fires unattended or starting wildfires is prohibited.

8. The use of permanent-type tree stands is prohibited. Portable-type tree stands are encouraged but must be removed at season's end.

9. Removing firewood from the forest without a permit from the district ranger is prohibited.

10. Cutting, nailing into, driving over or otherwise damaging living trees is prohibited.

11. Leaving debris or garbage, except in containers provided, is prohibited.

12. Depositing sewage or other waste, except into receptacles provided for that purpose, is prohibited. A sanitary dump station is situated at Silver Lake Recreation Area.

13. Fenced areas are open to hunting unless posted. CLOSE ALL GATES.

14. Forest. Cross-country travel by motorized vehicles is prohibited on National Forest. Cross-country travel is travel across land where no road, trail or travel way exists.

More information on Forest Service regulations is available at the District Ranger Station and at campgrounds. Violations may result in fines or imprisonment.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Wild hogs are not game animals on this area but are considered trespass livestock. They may be taken during archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, archery/muzzleloading gun and small game seasons with no bag or size limit.

2. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

3. Camping is permitted year-round throughout that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands. The District provides a campground at Florida River Island. Camping in the northern portion of that campground is limited to primitive camping while the southern portion of the campground has sites for motor homes. For additional information, contact the Northwest Florida Water Management District at (850) 539-5999.

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

5. 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 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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