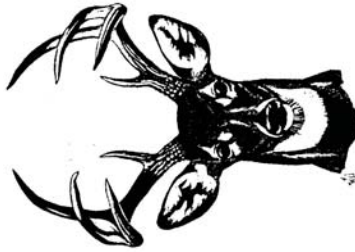


APALACHICOLA RIVER

WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
RECREATIONAL AREA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
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 of the Apalachicola River 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.

For additional information pertaining to hunting, trapping and fishing, consult the current editions of the Florida Hunting Handbook and Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

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 all 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. Wildlife Management Area Permit: A wildlife management area permit is not required for hunting 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. 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.

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

OPEN SEASONS:

1. Fishing and Frogging—permitted throughout the year.
2. Dove—During first phase of the mourning and white-winged dove season (see Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet), doves may be hunted in posted fields on Saturdays only.
3. Archery—October **16** through November **14**.
4. Muzzleloading Gun—November **19** through **21**.
5. General Gun—November **25-28** and December **11** through February **2**.
6. Fall Turkey—November **25-28** and December **11** through January **16**.
7. Small Game—November **13** through March **6**.
8. Archery/Muzzleloading Gun Season—February **17** through February **27**.
9. Spring Turkey—March **19** through April **24**.
10. Trapping—December **1** through March **1**.
11. Migratory Birds—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

LEGAL TO TAKE:

Only those species listed below are legal to take.

1. White-tailed Deer—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline. Deer of either sex (except spotted fawns) may be taken only during the archery season.
2. Turkey—Turkeys of either sex may be taken during the archery season and the muzzleloading gun season. Bearded turkeys or gobblers only may be taken during the fall turkey season and the spring turkey season.
3. Wild Hogs—Wild hogs (no size or bag limit) may be taken during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun and archery/muzzleloading gun seasons.
4. Rabbit, raccoon, opossum, coyote, skunk, nutria, armadillo and beaver may be taken throughout the year.
5. Gray squirrel and bobwhite quail may be taken during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, archery/muzzleloading gun and small game seasons.
6. Bobcat and otter—December 1 through March 1.
7. Migratory birds may be taken during seasons established for these species. See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer—Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog—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.
8. 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. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of any wildlife and environmental area posted as closed.
2. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
3. No person shall place, expose or distribute any grain or other food for wildlife. No person shall take wildlife on any land or waters upon which grain or other food has been deposited. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written permission from the Executive Director.
4. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization from the Executive Director.
5. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as “CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS”.
6. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the area.
7. The taking of turtles by shooting with firearms or by the use of bucket traps or snares is prohibited.
8. 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.
9. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
10. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
11. Digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds is prohibited (F.S. 267.13). The disturbance or removal of any manmade, cultural or natural materials or features, or non-renewable resources is prohibited.
12. It is unlawful to damage, destroy or remove any tree or other vegetation from state lands (F.S. Chapter 253.04(2), Chapter 18-14 F.A.C.). Planting of trees, shrubs or other vegetation is prohibited.
13. The removal or possession of saw palmetto berries is prohibited.
14. 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.
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 same unextinguished (Chapter 590.11, F.S.).
16. 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.

GUNS:

17. The possession of a gun while hunting fox is prohibited. The possession of a gun while chasing bobcat is prohibited, except from December 1 through March 1.
18. No person shall have any gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge 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 for hunting.
23. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
24. For taking migratory game birds: Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge plugged to a three-shell capacity with a filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, birds of prey and bows may be used.
25. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited, except night hunting of raccoons and opossums is permitted with dogs and with .22 caliber rimfire

firearms other than .22 magnums or a single shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than size 6, provided that no firearm may be loaded except immediately prior to shooting treed raccoons or opossums.

DOGS:

26. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited in that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands (except those lands lying south of the Chipola River and east of the St. Joe Canal) and on those lands lying east of East Bay and Cash Bayou.
27. The use of dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers on posted dove fields is prohibited during the first phase of dove season.
28. Fox and bobcats may be chased by the use of free-running dogs throughout the year except during spring turkey season.
29. Dogs may be used for hunting deer and hogs except in still hunt areas (see map) and except during archery, muzzleloading gun and archery/muzzleloading gun seasons when dogs may be used on leash only, for trailing wounded game.
30. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.
31. The use or possession of dogs is prohibited during spring turkey season.
32. **For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.**

VEHICLES:

33. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited in that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands and on those lands lying east of East Bay and Cash Bayou.
34. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
35. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife and environmental area designated and posted as “CLOSED” or “CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS”.
36. No person shall park any vehicle in a manner that obstructs a road, gate or firelane.

CAMPING:

37. Camping is permitted throughout the area, except where posted as no camping.
38. Camping is limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers unless contained in mobile campers, lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.
39. No persons shall bring building materials onto the area or erect permanent or semi-permanent structures.
40. Fires, other than campfires, are prohibited.

SEARCH:

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

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. This land was acquired under the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program. The purpose of EEL is to conserve and protect unique and irreplaceable lands, restore areas to their original condition as much as possible, and allow controlled multiple recreational and educational uses consistent with this purpose. A portion of the property was acquired under Save Our Rivers (SOR) specifically to protect water resources.
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 (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 this area. Random discharge of firearms has become an increasing threat to the quality of hunting and the general outdoor experience.

Please unload guns before entering vehicles, boats or campsite areas.

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.



**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.)

Apalachicola River WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA (82,554 acres) Franklin and Gulf Counties



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|--|---|
| | Observation Tower |
| | Boat Ramp |
| | Road |
| | Railroad |
| | US, State, or County Road |
| | Wildlife and Environmental Area Boundary |
| | Dove Fields |
| | Private Property |
| | Still Hunt Area |
| | Northwest Florida Water Management District Lands |

