

AUCILLA

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
SUWANNEE RIVER 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 Aucilla 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 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 special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the muzzleloading gun hunt. There are 550 special quota hunt permits available by application for the muzzleloading gun hunt. 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 550 regular quota hunt permits available by application for this area. Quota hunt applications are available from county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1. To apply for a permit, obtain a quota hunt permit application and follow the printed instructions. Permits will be issued by a random drawing from applications received by June 11. Any unissued permits remaining after the random drawing will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis as applications are received from a postal delivery service.

A daily hunt permit is required to hunt during the archery, muzzleloading gun,

general gun, small game, migratory bird and spring turkey seasons if entering or exiting the area through the Western Sloughs check station (no exemptions). Daily hunt permits are available at the Western Slough self-service check station.

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 season.
5. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season.
6. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.
7. State Waterfowl Permit: This \$3 permit is required while hunting ducks.
8. 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.
9. 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, 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. No person shall remove plants, rocks, minerals, animal life, other natural resources or parts thereof without written authorization. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written permission from the Executive Director.
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. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

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 exception under General Gun, Small Game and Spring Turkey).

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 bear is prohibited.

14. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

15. Killing fox is prohibited.

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.

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

18. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

19. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".

20. 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.

21. Authorized hunting equipment may be taken onto the area after 8 a.m. one day before the season and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of the season.

22. 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.

23. Digging into or disturbance of archaeological sites, or removal of artifacts is prohibited.

GUNS OR DOGS:

24. 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.

25. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited (see exceptions under General Gun and Small Game regulations).

26. 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.

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

28. 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.

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

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

31. 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.

32. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

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

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

35. The hunting or taking of hogs by the use of dogs is prohibited.

36. The possession or use of dogs other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers is prohibited in that portion of the area south of U.S. 98 and also on those lands lying north of Goose Pasture Road and east of the Aucilla River (see map). Hunting shall be restricted to small game **and wild hogs (through January 9)** only on that portion of the area south of U.S. 98.

37. Hunting wildlife, or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of

taking wildlife on or from right-of-way of U.S. 98 is prohibited.

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

VEHICLES:

39. Vehicles may be operated only on designated roads (see map).

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

41. The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited.

42. 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:

43. Camping is allowed only at Goose Pasture campground except during the General Gun Season. For information contact Suwannee River Water Management District (800) 226-1066 (good in Florida only) or (386) 362-1001.

44. Primitive camping (tents only) is allowed at designated sites along the Florida Trail. See No. 2 under General Information for a list of local camping facilities.

CHECK STATIONS:

45. A daily hunt permit is required of hunters who enter and exit the area through the Western Sloughs check station. This permit is available at the self-service check station and must be in possession while on the area.

46. Hunters who enter and exit through the Western Sloughs self-service check station must report all game taken.

SEARCH:

47. 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, daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station), state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and wild turkey permit (if hunting turkeys).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, turkeys of either sex, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Season—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. 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 other than waterfowl retrievers during the early duck season is prohibited.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

October **29-31**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, special quota hunt permit, muzzleloading gun permit, daily permit (if entering through Western Sloughs check station) 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 and migratory birds in season.

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

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that 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.

GENERAL GUN:

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

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit if hunting during the first nine

days), daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station), state waterfowl permit and federal duck 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, 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 Season—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers is prohibited south of U.S. 98 and also in that portion of the area lying north of Goose Pasture Road and east of the Aucilla River.

2. Hunting hogs by the use of dogs is prohibited.

3. 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, daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds) and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting ducks).

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

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season—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.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 19 through April 24.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station), and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take—Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Season—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

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

Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

TRAPPING:

January 10 through March 1.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, trapping license, wildlife management area permit and daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station).

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, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species, which coincide with open seasons for this area. Ducks and coots may be hunted during statewide seasons established by the Commission in accordance with the regulations listed below.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, daily hunt permit (if entering through the Western Sloughs check station), state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting ducks), special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the muzzleloading gun season), reg-

ular 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—In addition to these regulations and the regulations contained in the Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet, all general wildlife management area regulations contained in this pamphlet shall apply:

1. Ducks may be hunted with shotguns during the special September duck season established by the Commission.

2. Ducks and coots may be hunted during the duck and coot season established by the Commission.

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 Fishing Regulations shall apply and hunting frogs with guns is prohibited at night and during periods when hunting is not allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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

2. Local camping facilities available:

a. Newport Recreation Area – Wakulla County Parks and Recreation U.S. 98, Newport; (850) 926-7227; 38 sites - R.V. or Tent, Bath House, Dump Station, Limited electricity and water hookups, Daily fee required, Limit 5 people per site.

b. Shell Island Fish Camp - Privately owned; P.O. Box 115, St. Marks; (850) 925-6226; Public restrooms with showers; 15 sites - Full hookup, No tents, No limit on number of people, Daily fee required.

c. Holiday Park and Campground - Privately owned; U.S. 98 at Ochlockonee River; (850) 9845757; 74 sites - R.V., Full hookup, Bath House, Pool, Dock, Laundry, Daily fee required. (Five tent sites.)

d. Econfina On The Gulf - Privately owned; County Road 14 - Rt. 1, Box 256, Lamont, FL 32336; 75 sites - R.V. - Tent; (850) 5842135; Bath House, Boat Ramp, Store, Showers; Tent sites allowed at random, but one (1) camper unit per site; Daily fee required.

3. Florida Statute 267.13 prohibits digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds, collecting artifacts, or disturbing archeological and historic sites on state-owned lands.

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

5. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 265-3676 {(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 DONOT LITTER. 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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