

BLACKWATER

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA AND STATE FOREST

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE AND
RECREATIONAL AREA
BLACKWATER RIVER STATE FOREST
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 Blackwater 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 regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt November **25-28**, December **11-19** and January **17** through February **2**. There are 1,425 regular still hunt and 775 regular dog hunt permits available by application for this area. A special quota permit is required to hunt on the field trial area January **21-23**. There are 75 special quota permits available by application for this hunt. Applications are available from county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1. To apply, obtain an application and follow the printed instructions. Permits will be issued by a random drawing from applications received by June 11. Any unused 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.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only 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 or while archery hunting during the archery/muzzleloading gun season. It is not

required when using a bow and arrow during the general gun season.

5. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season or when hunting with a muzzleloading gun during the archery/muzzleloading gun season. It is not required when using a muzzleloading gun during the general 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. 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, coyote, skunk, armadillo, beaver and nutria—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. 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, Florida Statutes).
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 1 p.m.
7. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area, except that portions of the carcass may be removed imme-

diately 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. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs is prohibited in areas posted as closed.

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. 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.

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

17. 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 OR DOGS:

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

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, and explosive devices are prohibited.

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

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

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

26. Hunting turkeys with dogs is prohibited.

27. The possession of any firearm containing shells or cartridges, or any capped or primed muzzleloading gun is prohibited on any public campsite or check station area. The discharge of any firearm is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or check station area.

28. 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 2, 4, 191 and 189; U.S. 90; County Road 180; Carpenter Road from County Road 191 to Juniper Creek, Forest Roads 6, 23, 25, 31, 47, 48, 72 or 86 and the paved portions of Forest Roads 2, 9 and 57 is prohibited.

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. The discharge of any gun within 300 yards of any public campsite is prohibited.

32. All dogs are prohibited in the field trial area, except by permit, **or during the bird dog training season, October 1-15.**

33. Bird dogs may be trained throughout the year except during the spring turkey season and in the field trial area.

34. Hunting with dogs other than birds dogs and retrievers is prohibited in the still hunt area (see map).

35. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PETS."

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

37. 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:

38. Vehicles may be operated only on named and numbered roads, except south of State Road 4 and east of County Road 191 and those lands north of State Road 4 and east of Forest Road 31 (Hurricane Lake Road cutoff and Beaver Creek Road) where vehicles may be operated only on established roads.

39. The Florida Gas Transmission Line is closed to public vehicular traffic.

40. Florida traffic laws relating to vehicles and vehicle operators apply on this area. The operation of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle is prohibited.

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

42. Vehicles may not be operated in the Environmental Enhancement Area from March 1 through September 30.

43. The use of airboats, tracked vehicles or ATVs on this area is prohibited, except by use permit from the Florida Division of Forestry.

44. 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:

45. Camping is permitted at the following sites: Blackwater State Park, Bear Lake, Hurricane Lake, Karick Lake, Krul Lake and other designated sites.

46. Some overnight camps require a fee. Some campsites may be closed for maintenance. Contact the forest manager for further information at 11650 Munson Hwy., Milton, FL 32570, (850) 9576140.

SEARCH:

47. 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, hog or turkey with dogs is prohibited.

3. The field trial portion of the area is only open to deer hunting during the archery season prior to November 1.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

November **19-21** (in the still hunt area only).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, 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 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 Regulation pamphlet).

2. Hunting deer or hog with dogs is prohibited.

GENERAL GUN:

November **25-28** and December **11** through February **2**.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit (if hunting November **25-28**, December **11** through **19** and January **17** through February **2**), 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 hog, 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.

SMALL GAME:

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

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

migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during any of the general gun season quota periods).

Legal to Take—Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, wild hog, 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 the general gun season.

ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN:

February 17-27 in the still hunt area only and January 21-23 in the field trial area.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit (if archery hunting), muzzleloading gun permit (if muzzleloading gun hunting), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds) and special quota permit (if hunting in the field trial area). Archery or muzzleloading gun permits are not required for the field trial area hunt.

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. During the special hunt in the field trial area, any deer (except spotted fawn) may be taken (daily bag one).

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 hog 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—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:

Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat may be pursued with dogs from May 1 through March 13 north of SR 4 (except in the still hunt area).

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

Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply. During the time the area is open to raccoon hunting, 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 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.

TRAPPING:

Trapping is prohibited.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhens, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established for these species by the Commission which coincide with open hunts for the area. Mourning doves and white-winged doves may be hunted during the first phase of the dove season (**Monday through Saturday only**), during the second phase (**Monday through Wednesday only**) and during the third phase (**Monday through Wednesday only**) until January 1 on posted fields in that portion of the area known as the field trial area and throughout the remainder of the area during seasons established for these species by the Commission. See the Migratory Bird Hunting Regulation pamphlet.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit and regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during any of the general gun season quota periods).

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 except on the fish hatchery.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY REGULATIONS:

1. No person shall operate any vehicle on managed lands controlled by the Department at a speed greater than 30 mph, unless otherwise posted.

2. No person shall operate any vehicle on managed lands except on designated roads, parking areas, or other areas established and specifically identified by the Department.

3. No person shall consume alcoholic beverages on managed lands where designated or posted by the Department.

4. Garbage and trash generated from activities on managed lands shall be placed in designated containers. If such containers are not available, persons responsible for the generation of garbage or trash shall remove it from managed lands.

5. Construction of permanent or semipermanent structures on state forests is prohibited.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND STATE FORESTS 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 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. 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 size or bag limits.

2. Please be aware that other forest users such as hikers and horseback riders also are using the forest during hunting season.

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

4. The Division of Forestry has an active year-round prescribed burning program on this area. Users are responsible for their personal safety and are encouraged to contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas, (850) 957-6140.

5. Personal property is the responsibility of its owner and should not be left unattended on the area.

6. For information on other recreational uses, contact the Division of Forestry at (850) 957-6140.

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

8. 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:

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 dispose of carcasses in streams or rivers or along roadways. Deer cleaning and carcass disposal facilities are available for your use and are located adjacent to the Forest Headquarters in Munson and at the Karick Lake complex (see map).

When you spot law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-F WCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

All persons hunting small game are requested to wear blaze-orange headgear and/or vests.

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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