

HILOCHEE

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2004-05

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC
WILDLIFE AND RECREATIONAL AREA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
An Equal Opportunity Agency

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This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Hilochee 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.** Area users still should familiarize themselves with all regulations for the area. 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 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, each recreational user 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, except during the special-opportunity dove hunts.
3. Daily-Use Permit: Persons engaged in recreational activities other than hunting on the Lake County portion of the area must possess a daily-use permit or a wildlife management area permit. Daily-use permits may be purchased at designated entry points of the wildlife management area that are in Lake County. Daily-use permits are \$3 per person, \$6 per non-commercial vehicle, \$75 per group of 25 to 100 people and \$150 for groups of 101 people or more. Cash and personal checks are acceptable methods of payment.
4. Quota Hunt Permits: During the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun hog, and spring turkey seasons, all hunters are required to have a quota permit; there are no exemptions. A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons. There are 5 special quota hunt permits available by application for both the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons. A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the general gun hog season. There are 20 regular quota hunt permits available by application for each general gun hog hunt. Special and regular quota hunt permit applications are available from county tax collec-

tors, their subagents, and at regional offices of the Commission on or about June 1.

A no-cost spring turkey quota permit is required to hunt on this area during the spring turkey season. There are 5 spring turkey quota hunt permits available by application for each spring turkey hunt. Spring turkey quota hunt permit applications are available from county tax collectors and at regional offices of the Commission on or about October 25.

A daily hunt permit is required to hunt on this area during the small game season; there are no exemptions. Twenty daily hunt permits are available for the small game hunt on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station each day.

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.

5. Special-Opportunity Dove Hunt Permit: All hunters, except minor children as described below, must possess a special-opportunity dove hunt permit (Annual Dove Club, Regular or Combination Permit) to hunt the special-opportunity dove field.

A regular special-opportunity dove hunt permit may be purchased for \$35.50. This permit will allow the permittee to hunt on the specified date. One minor under 16 years of age may accompany an adult permittee and may hunt under the supervision and in the presence of the permittee, providing that the minor and the adult permittee collectively may take only one daily bag limit.

A combination special-opportunity dove hunt permit may be purchased for \$45.50. This permit will allow the permittee to hunt on the specified date. This permit will allow one minor, under 16 years of age, to accompany an adult permittee and hunt under the supervision and in the presence of the permittee. This permit will allow the minor and the adult to each take a daily bag limit of doves.

An annual Dove Club permit may be purchased for \$150.50. An annual Dove Club permit allows the permittee to hunt all scheduled hunts for the specified dove field. Under this permit, one minor child under 16 years of age may accompany an adult permittee and may hunt under the supervision and in the presence of the permittee, providing that the permittee and minor may each take one daily bag limit of doves. This permit is non-transferable and shall be valid only for the dove field specified.

Special-opportunity dove field permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, their subagents, Internet or by telephone. Annual Dove Club permits will be available July 1 through September 10. Regular and Combination special opportunity dove hunt permits will be available beginning September 18, 2004. Lifetime license holders who purchased their license before July 1, 1998 can obtain a special-opportunity dove hunt permit free-of-charge.

There are 30 special-opportunity dove hunt permits available for each hunt (no exemptions). Permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for refunds must be made at the dove field on the date the permit was valid, and will only be accepted if the permit was not used. The Commission will make every effort to manage these dove fields for successful hunting. If you purchase a permit and decide you cannot use it, you can transfer the permit to another hunter prior to entering the area unless the permit is an annual special-opportunity dove field permit.

6. Archery Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the archery season.

7. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during

the muzzleloading gun season.

8. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.
9. Migratory Bird Permit: This free permit is required when hunting migratory birds.
10. Fishing License (if fishing on the area): Information on the categories and costs of fishing licenses is available in the Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.
11. Hilochee Fishing Permit: This free permit is required when fishing on the area. There are 10 fishing permits available for each Saturday. To obtain a permit, call the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area Field Office at (352) 241-8501. There are no exemptions from the requirement to obtain a daily fishing permit, and the permits are non-transferable.

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 during the archery hunt. One gobbler or bearded turkey per quota hunt permit during the spring turkey hunts.
4. Gray squirrel, quail, and 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. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.
2. It is illegal to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands or for any individual or group of individuals to build a warming fire and leave same unextinguished.
3. No person shall cut or destroy any tree on or remove any tree, shrub, or protected plant from any wildlife management area without written permission from the landowner or primary land manager.
4. The removal or possession of saw palmetto berries is prohibited.
5. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area.
6. 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.
7. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization from the Executive Director.
9. Cutting or damaging fences is prohibited.
10. Hunting or fishing is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to hunting or fishing.
11. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear a minimum 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material above the waistline as an outer garment. This is not required during the archery season.
12. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".
13. Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
14. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
15. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
16. Taking of fox is prohibited.
17. Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
18. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
19. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than by foot, horse, or bicycle is prohibited, except that motorized vehicles shall be permitted one day prior to the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun hog, and spring turkey hunts, and by individuals in possession of a valid fishing permit.
20. 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. Shooting hours on posted dove fields are noon until sunset.
21. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
22. Authorized hunting equipment 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.

23. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written permission from the Executive Director.

GUNS OR DOGS:

24. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
25. Guns are allowed only during periods in which their use for hunting is allowed.
26. No person shall have a gun in manual possession while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
27. Hunting with gun and light 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. 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.
30. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited, except that during the small game season dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used.
31. **For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.**
32. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited.
33. Dogs on leashes may be used to trail wounded game.

VEHICLES:

34. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and shall be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of named and numbered roads.
35. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" or "CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS".
36. All users shall enter and exit the area through designated entrances.
37. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates or firelanes.
38. The use of tracked vehicles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, or horses is prohibited, except that horses are permitted on named and numbered roads or designated horse trails during periods closed to hunting.

CAMPING:

39. Camping is prohibited.

CHECK STATION:

40. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station when entering or exiting the area and shall check all game taken.
41. No deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.
42. Check station hours are 11 a.m. until one hour after sunset during the special-opportunity dove season. Check station hours are 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Savings Time and 5 a.m. until 8 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time, except during the spring turkey season when hours are 4:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

SEARCH:

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

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY DOVE:

The first, second, and fourth Saturdays only, during the first phase; the first and third Saturdays only, during the second phase; and the first, third, and fifth Saturdays only, during the third phase of the mourning and white-winged dove season established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements—Hunting license, migratory bird permit and special-opportunity dove hunt permit.

Legal to Take—Mourning dove and white-winged dove.

Regulations Unique to the Special-Opportunity Dove Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunters must possess a special-opportunity dove hunt permit to hunt in posted dove fields.
2. Hunters must hunt from assigned stations in the posted dove field.
3. Hunt station assignments may be transferred at the hunt headquarters.
4. Shooting hours are from noon until sunset. Hunters may enter the area one hour before shooting time and shall exit the area by one hour after sunset.
5. The drawing for blind sites for the special-opportunity dove hunt will begin at the check station 45 minutes prior to legal shooting hours.

ARCHERY:

October 22 through 24.

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

Legal to Take—**Deer with at least one antler with three or more points (each point one-inch in length or more), antlerless deer (which includes does and bucks with antlers less than 5 inches in length, but NOT spotted fawns), wild hogs, turkeys of either sex, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, beaver, nutria, armadillo and migratory birds in season.**

Regulations Unique to the Archery Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds during the archery season when one or more migratory birds are legal to take (See Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

November 5 through November 7.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, special quota hunt permit, muzzleloading gun permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Deer with at least one antler with three or more points (each point one-inch or more in length), wild hogs, gray squirrels, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds during the muzzleloading gun season when one or more migratory birds are legal to take (See Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

GENERAL GUN HOG:

December 3 through 5, January 14 through 16, and January 21 through 23.

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

Legal to Take—Wild hogs only.

Regulations Unique to the General Hog Hunt—In addition to these regulations, All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply, and hunting with dogs is prohibited.

SMALL GAME:

January 28 through February 6.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, daily hunt permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take—Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, beaver, coyote, nutria, bobcat, otter and migratory birds in season.

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

SPRING TURKEY:

March 25 through 27 and April 8 through 10.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, spring turkey quota hunt 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 and shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhen, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, woodcock, ducks, coots, and crows may be hunted during the seasons established by the Commission for these species, which coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun and small game seasons.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the archery or muzzleloading gun seasons), daily hunt permit (if hunting during the small game season) and migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds—See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations. All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

TRAPPING:

Trapping is prohibited.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Frogging is prohibited.

Fishing is permitted on Peat Lake, Little Peat Lake, Hidden Lake, Stock Lake and Turtle Pond by those in possession of a Hilochee Fishing Permit.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Fishing license, wildlife management area permit or daily-use permit and a Hilochee fishing permit.

Legal to Take—No person shall kill or possess any largemouth bass. No person shall take, in any one-day, more than 20 bluegill, 10 black crappie or 6 catfish. No person shall kill or possess any bluegill less than 8 inches total length or black crappie less than 10 inches total length.

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

1. The possession of guns is permitted only during periods when hunting is allowed.
2. The possession of nets (except dip nets), fish traps, trotlines, set lines, minnow seines, cast nets, or bush hooks is prohibited.
3. Fishing is permitted only on Saturdays and only during daylight hours.
4. Operation of any boat propelled by an internal combustion engine is prohibited.

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 Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program. The purpose of CARL 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.
2. Florida Statute 267.13 prohibits digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds, collecting artifacts or disturbing archaeological and historic sites on state-owned lands.
3. Defacing, molesting or destroying signs or other property on or about this management area is punishable by law.
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 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (863) 648-3203 {(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.

Since you have the privilege to use this wildlife management area, exercise great caution and care while hunting, fishing, sightseeing or using the area in any way—leave the area better than you found it. Users, wildlife, the environment and conservation efforts in general can only benefit.

Your conduct on this area may determine your future use of the area.

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 proper size and when conditions are suitable. UNCONTROLLED FIRES DO NOT BENEFIT WILDLIFE. Please use caution with smoking materials and vehicles to prevent damage to wildlife habitats.

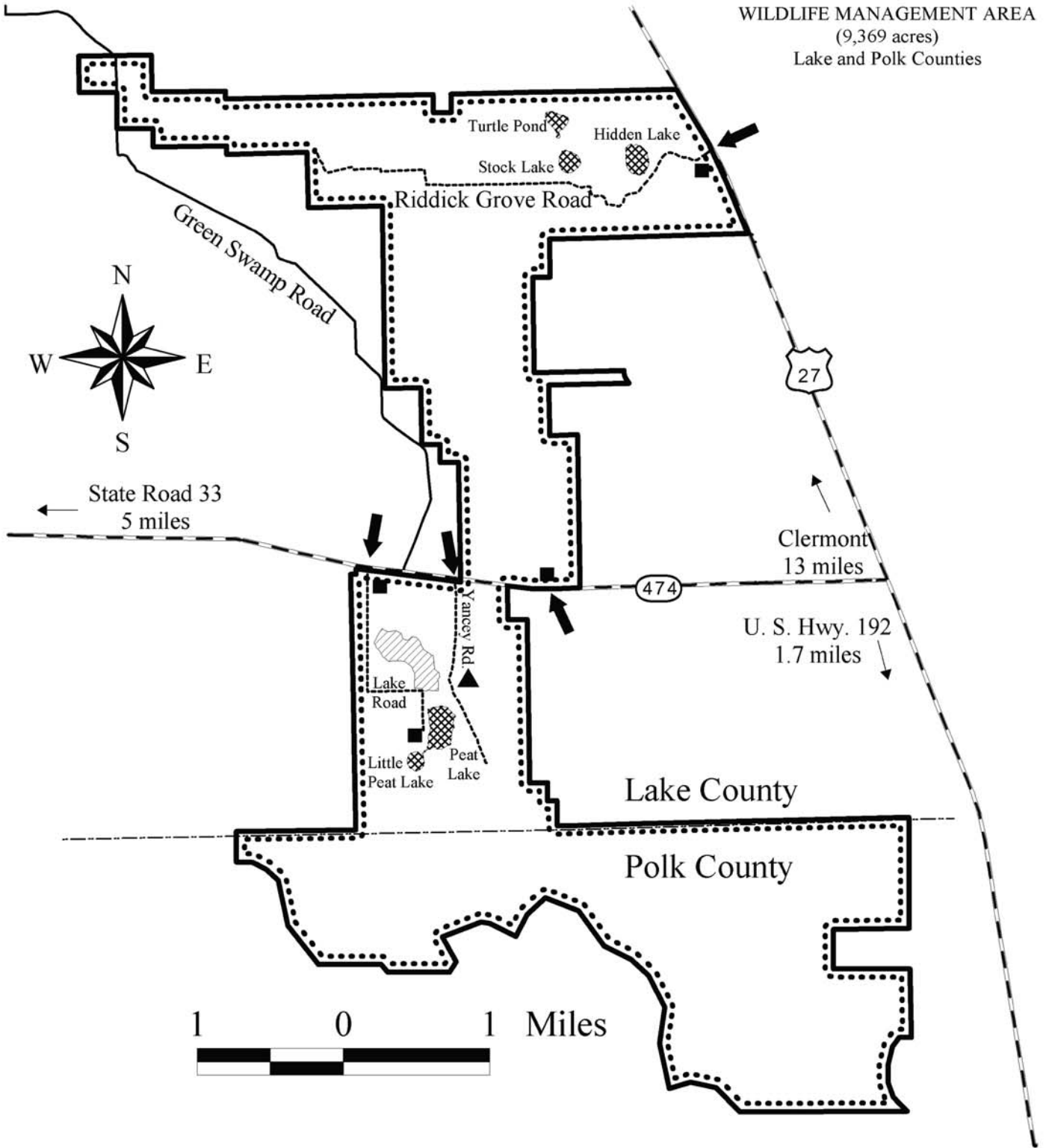
When you spot law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

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 of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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HILOCHEE

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
(9,369 acres)
Lake and Polk Counties



LEGEND	
↑	Designated Entrance
■	Parking Area
▲	Check Station
⋯	Management Area Boundary
▬	Paved Road
▬	Improved Road
▬	Unimproved Road
▨	Special Opportunity Dove Field
▩	Lakes (open for fishing by permit only)