

2011-  
2012  
Hunting  
Season

# Hickory Mound Unit Big Bend Wildlife Management Area

Regulations Summary and Area Map  
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

Division of Forestry



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

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 Hickory Mound Unit of the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. **Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the 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. This brochure, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, and quota permit worksheets should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).

Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as "no exemptions", recreational use permits, antlerless deer permits and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [federal duck stamp]): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the federal duck stamp. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 and 16 years of age or older must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license, except the Hunter Safety Mentoring exemption allows anyone to purchase a hunting license and hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter, 21 years of age or older, for one year.

Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, at [MyFWC.com/license](http://MyFWC.com/license) or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp; available where hunting licenses are sold, at most post offices or at [duckstamp.com](http://duckstamp.com).

#### QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

**General Gun** (first 16 days) - 175, no-cost, quota permits for each of 2 hunts. This permit is not needed for hunting duck, geese and coot in the Hickory Mound Impoundment.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits through the Commission's Total Licensing System (TLS). Worksheets listing hunts, application periods, deadlines and instructions are available at county tax collector's offices, FWC offices or [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Quota application periods occur throughout the year beginning April 1; please refer to the hunting handbook or [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) for specific

dates. Worksheets will be available about 2 weeks prior to each application period.

**Guest hunters:** For each non-transferable archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, wild hog, spring turkey and mobility-impaired quota permit issued through the Commission's TLS, only one guest permit may be obtained. The following persons may be a guest hunter, but are not required to obtain a guest permit: a youth under 16 years of age, a youth supervisor, a mentor license holder or a mentor license supervisor. A quota permit holder (host) may only bring 1 guest hunter at a time. The following persons are not considered to be guest hunters: other quota permit holders, non-hunters and exempt hunters (on areas and during seasons that allow exemptions). The host must share the bag limit with the guest and the host is responsible for violations that exceed the bag limit. The guest and host must enter and exit the area together and must share a street-legal vehicle while hunting on the area; ATVs may be ridden independently. The guest may only hunt while the host is on the area. A person is only eligible for one guest permit per hunt. Guest permits may only be obtained from license agents or county tax collector's offices. Guest permits may be obtained up to and during the last day of the hunt. Refer to the quota hunt worksheets for additional information.

**Youth and mentor license holders:** A youth hunter (less than 16 years of age) must be supervised by a person at least 18 years of age. A mentor license holder must be supervised by a licensed hunter at least 21 years of age. Unless exempt, only those supervisors with proper licenses and permits may hunt. If the supervisor is hunting during any hunt for which quota permits are issued, at least one person in the party must be in possession of a quota permit. During a hunt that allows exemptions, a non-exempt supervisor of a youth must have a quota permit to hunt. A non-hunting supervisor is allowed to accompany a youth or mentor license holder during any hunt.

**Transfer of permits:** Quota and guest permits are not transferable. Except for youth under 16 years of age, a positive form of identification is required when using a non-transferable permit. The sale or purchase of any quota permit or guest permit is prohibited.

#### GENERAL AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wildlife and fish shall apply unless specifically exempted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. These provisions are not required when hunting with a bow and arrow during archery season.

2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roosted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to hunt are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. No person shall cut, damage or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
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. Recorded calls and sounds can be used to hunt furbearers, wild hog and crows.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to those activities.
9. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat, which is under power is prohibited until power, and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Most game may be hunted from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset (see exceptions for each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hog may not be transported alive.
16. Littering is prohibited.
17. Fires are prohibited.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.
19. Falconers may hunt during the statewide falconry season anytime a management area is open for public access. Falconers are not exempt from quota permits during hunts requiring them.
20. Commercial fishing and crabbing are prohibited in the Hickory Mound Impoundment.

#### **PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:**

1. Open to public access year round.
2. All persons must enter and exit only at designated entrances. The Painted Rock Road entrance may be used only during the general gun season.
3. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads from September 1 through April 30, except that Ward Tram will be open to vehicles only during the general gun season. From May 1 through August 31, motorized vehicles may be operated only on Cow Creek Grade, Coker Road, J. C. Franklin Grade and Swartz Tram west of J. C. Franklin Grade.
4. Airboats and vehicles are prohibited inside the Hickory Mound Impoundment.
5. Gas-powered outboard motors are prohibited in the Hickory Mound Impoundment from August 31 through March 31; gas-powered motors of 4 hp or less are allowed April 1 through August 30.
6. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
7. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic. Motorcycles and ATVs may only be operated on roads open to other motor vehicles.

#### **HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:**

1. During the first 16 days of archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons, hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering or exiting the area, obtain a daily hunt permit, which they shall keep on their person, and check all game taken.
2. Waterfowl hunters using the Hickory Mound Impoundment must check in and out at the check station whenever it is manned and check all game taken.
3. Hunting from permanent blinds or structures in the Hickory Mound Impoundment is prohibited.

4. Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WMA after 8 a.m. the day before the opening of a season and shall be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the end of the season.

#### **GUNS:**

1. Only shotguns or bows are allowed for hunting in the Hickory Mound Impoundment, but shotguns may be used for hunting only on days when waterfowl hunting is allowed and only for hunting migratory game birds.
2. The discharge of any firearm from the Hickory Mound Impoundment dikes is prohibited.
3. All firearms shall be securely encased and in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent, during periods when they are not a legal method of take. Persons in possession of a valid Concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.
4. Target practice is prohibited.
5. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited (see exceptions for general gun and small game seasons).
6. Muzzleloading guns used for taking deer must be .40 caliber or larger, if firing a single bullet, or be 20 gauge or larger if firing two or more balls.
7. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
8. No person shall have a gun under control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
9. For hunting non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. **Hunting during the spring turkey season with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**
10. For hunting migratory game, only shotguns, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
11. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
12. Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and set guns are prohibited.

#### **DOGS:**

1. Hunting deer with dogs is allowed only during the general gun season.
2. Hunting with dogs is allowed during the general gun and small game seasons.
3. Hunting with dogs is prohibited (including deer dog training) during the archery season.
4. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.
5. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
6. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

#### **CAMPING:**

Camping is prohibited, except for primitive overnight camping at designated sites at Rock Island by through-paddlers using the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail from September 11 through June 30, if in possession of a camping permit from the Commission (850-488-5520). The permit will be valid for one night only.

**BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:** During quota hunts, host hunters and guests must share all bag and possession limits.

1. Deer - Daily limit 2, possession limit 4. During archery season, that limit may include any combination of antlered and antlerless deer. During other seasons, only antlered deer may be taken.
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.
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.

## **ARCHERY SEASON:**

### **October 1-30.**

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Daily hunt permit (during the first 16 days), hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), wild turkey permit (if hunting wild turkey) and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

**Legal to Hunt** - Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, turkey of either sex, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

**Regulations Unique to Archery Season** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with firearms or crossbows (except by disabled crossbow permit) is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to hunt (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

## **GENERAL GUN SEASON:**

### **November 5-13, 14-20 and November 21 through January 1.**

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Daily hunt permit and quota permit (if hunting during the first two hunts), hunting license, management area permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

**Legal to Hunt** - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter beginning December 1.

**Regulations Unique to General Gun Season** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. 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 shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6. 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.

## **SMALL GAME SEASON:**

### **January 2 through February 26.**

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

**Legal to Hunt** - Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, bobcat, otter and migratory birds in season.

**Regulations Unique to Small Game Season** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with 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 shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6. 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 SEASON:**

### **January 9 through March 1.**

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Trapping license and management area permit.

**Legal to Trap** - Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, otter and bobcat.

**Regulations Unique to Trapping Season** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

## **SPRING TURKEY SEASON:**

### **Spring Turkey: March 17 through April 22.**

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Daily hunt permit (during the first 16 days of the season), hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit.

**Legal to Hunt** - Bearded turkey or gobbler.

**Regulations Unique to Spring Turkey Season** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Legal shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. Hunting other animals is prohibited.
3. **Hunting with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**

## **MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:**

Rails, common moorhen, mourning dove, white-winged dove, snipe, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, general gun or small game seasons. Duck, geese and coot may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species.

**Permit, Stamp and License Requirements** - Daily hunt permit (during first 16 days of archery and general gun seasons), quota permit (if hunting outside the Hickory Mound Impoundment during any quota period), hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

**Legal to Hunt** - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

**Regulations Unique to Migratory Bird Seasons** - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations and Migratory Bird Regulations shall apply.

1. Waterfowl hunting is allowed in the Hickory Mound Impoundment only on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday of the special September duck season, and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and the first day of each phase of the duck, goose and coot season; shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise until noon. On the remainder of the WMA, waterfowl hunting is allowed on all days of special September and regular waterfowl seasons.
2. Hunting duck, geese and coot with lead shot is prohibited.
3. Centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to hunt.
4. Waterfowl hunters shall check in and out at the check station anytime it is open and check all game taken.

## **FISHING AND FROGGING:**

**Allowed year round.**

**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 Area Regulations and General Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply.

1. Commercial fishing or crabbing is prohibited in the Hickory Mound Impoundment.
2. Shooting frogs is allowed only during the listed open hunting seasons and only with the legal methods of take during each particular season.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. The WMA extends into the Gulf of Mexico to the outermost occurrence of black needlerush.
2. Information for persons with disabilities can be found at [MyFWC.com/ADA](http://MyFWC.com/ADA).
3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 386-758-0525 (TDD 800-955-8771).

## **COOPERATION REQUESTED:**

*If you see 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.*

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