

2011-
2012
Hunting
Season

Suwannee Ridge

Wildlife and Environmental Area

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



A public wildlife and recreational area



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 Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental 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.

Persons using wildlife and environmental areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps; and display them upon request of any Commission employee. 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 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.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

General Gun Mobility-impaired - 8, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 4 hunts.

Spring Turkey Mobility-impaired - 4, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

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. Quota application periods occur throughout the year beginning April 1; please refer to the hunting handbook or MyFWC.com for specific dates. Worksheets will be available about two 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.

Assistant for mobility-impaired hunters: Mobility-impaired hunters may be accompanied by a guest hunter, as specified above, and one non-hunting assistant (no license required) that may participate in the hunt, but the assistant may not harvest wildlife with archery equipment or a firearm.

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.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roasted 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 wild hog.
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.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year round from 1½ hours before sunrise until 1½ hours after sunset, except during hunting seasons when only persons participating in the hunt are allowed on the area.
2. During periods open to hunting and one day prior, vehicles may be operated only on designated portions of named or numbered roads. During non-hunting periods, access is allowed only on foot from the County Road 249 parking area.
3. Airboats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), horses, motorcycles and tracked vehicles are prohibited on the area, except that ATVs are allowed during hunts.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
5. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Hunters must enter and exit the area only through Road 2 on Holton Creek WMA.
2. Hunters must check in and out at the check station on Holton Creek WMA and report all game taken.

GUNS:

1. 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 throughout the year.
2. Target practice is prohibited.
3. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
4. 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.
5. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
6. No person shall have a gun under control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. For hunting non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. **Hunting during the spring turkey mobility-impaired season with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**
8. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
9. 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. Dogs are prohibited, except dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
2. 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.

CAMPING: Prohibited.

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

1. Deer - 2 per quota permit (only certified mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer).
2. Wild hog - No bag or possession limit.
3. Turkey - 1 per day, 2 per quota permit, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
4. Gray squirrel and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each.

GENERAL GUN MOBILITY-IMPAIRED SEASON:
October 14-16, 28-30, November 4-6 and December 16-18.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit and deer permit (if hunting deer).

Legal to Hunt - Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel and rabbit.

Regulations Unique to General Gun Mobility-impaired Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. All hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at the Holton Creek check station at 3 p.m. the day prior to their hunts.
2. Quota permit holders may be accompanied by 1 hunting guest and 1 non-hunting assistant (no license required) that may participate in the hunt, but the non-hunting assistant may not harvest wildlife.
3. Only certified mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY MOBILITY-IMPAIRED SEASON:
March 23-25 and April 13-15.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit

Legal to Hunt - Bearded turkey or gobbler.

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

1. All hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at the Holton Creek check station at 3 p.m. the day prior to their hunt.
2. Quota permit holders may be accompanied by 1 hunting guest and 1 non-hunting assistant (no license required) that may participate in the hunt, but the non-hunting assistant may not harvest wildlife.
3. Legal shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
4. Hunting other animals is prohibited.
5. **Hunting with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Information for persons with disabilities can be found at MyFWC.com/ADA.
2. 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.

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-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) OR
1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)**

(There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)

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SUWANNEE RIDGE WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

1,428 acres
Hamilton County

Legend

- Management Area
- Private Property
- Designated Entrance
- Check Station
- Parking
- Paved Road
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road

