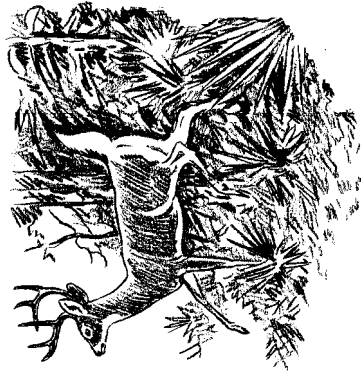


2011-  
2012  
Hunting  
Season

# Ocala

## Wildlife Management Area

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



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

U. S. Forest Service



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 Ocala 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:

**Muzzleloading Gun** (Church Lake Unit) - **250**, no-cost, quota permits.

**General Gun Dog** (Church Lake Unit) - 250 no-cost, quota permits.

**General Gun Still** (Church Lake Unit) - 250 no-cost, quota permits.

**Youth Turkey (Lake Delancy Unit)** - **40**, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

**Spring Turkey** - 30 (Hopkins Prairie Unit), 100 (Lake Delancy Unit), 15 (Church Lake Unit) and 220 (Pipeline Unit), no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 4 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](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. Guest permits are not issued for youth turkey quota permits. 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 (not including special-opportunity) 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 (including special-opportunity).

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 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 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 the written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
14. Wild hog may not be transported alive.
15. Littering is prohibited.
16. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
17. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.
18. 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.

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

1. Open to public access year round.
2. Motorized vehicles are allowed only on designated, named or numbered roads and mixed-use roads, except all-terrain vehicles and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles are allowed only on designated motorized trails and mixed-use roads.
3. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
4. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
5. A marked trail called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

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

1. 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.
2. No deer or turkey shall be dismembered or transported out of the hunt area until checked at a check station.

#### **GUNS:**

1. Any person who in taking or attempting to take any wildlife knowingly propels or causes to be propelled any potentially lethal projectile (which includes any projectile launched from any firearm, bow, crossbow, or similar tensile device) over or across private land without authorization commits trespass, a felony of the third degree.
2. 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.
3. Target practice is prohibited.
4. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from the rights-of-way of all paved roads; Forest Road 69 from State Road 42 to County Road 445; Forest Road 14; Forest Road 13; Blue Creek Lodge Road; Deerhaven Road; North Boulevard; Forest Road 46 east of Forest Road 33; Forest Road 33 south of Forest Road 46; Forest Road 05 south of Forest Road 38; and all county, state and Forest Service Roads in the Church Lake Unit is prohibited.
5. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited (see exception under Fox, Opossum, Bobcat and Raccoon Season).
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 only allowed in the Pipeline and Church Lake units during the general gun season, but not during the general gun still season in the Church Lake Unit.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited in the Hopkins Prairie and Lake Delancy Units, except bird dogs and retrievers are allowed during the small game, dove and waterfowl seasons.
3. Caged or leashed hunting dogs may be transported on established numbered roads in the Church Lake, Hopkins Prairie and Lake Delancy Units.
4. Dogs may be used to pursue rabbits from January 9 through April 15 in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19.

5. Deer dogs may be trained only in the Pipeline Unit from October 29 through November 7 from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.
6. 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.
7. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
8. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

#### **CAMPING:**

1. Camping is allowed throughout the year.
2. Use of trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles is prohibited except in designated campgrounds. During the general gun season, camping is prohibited, except in designated campgrounds and Juniper Prairie Wilderness.
3. Passes are required to camp at hunter camps during the general gun season and may be purchased from the U.S. Forest Service visitor centers and ranger stations in September (while supplies last). For more information, call 352-625-2520 or 352-669-3153.

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

1. Deer - Daily limit 1, no season limit, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - During the archery season, daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2. During the spring turkey season, 1 gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit, 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:**

September 24 through October 23.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), wild turkey permit (if hunting wild turkey), 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, 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).

#### **MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:**

October 28-30 (Hopkins Prairie, Lake Delancy and Church Lake Units).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting in Church Lake Unit), hunting license, management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, deer permit (if hunting deer) and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

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.

Regulations Unique to Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with archery equipment or firearms, other than muzzleloading guns, 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 (Pipeline, Lake Delancy and Hopkins Prairie Units):**

November 12 through January 8.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - 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. Hunting deer with dogs is allowed in the Pipeline Units only.

#### **GENERAL GUN SEASON (Church Lake Unit):**

November 12 through December 4.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - General gun dog quota permit (if hunting November 12-20), general gun still quota permit (if hunting November 26 through December 4), 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 Still Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting deer with dogs is allowed from November **12-20** only.
2. Deer may only be taken in the Church Lake Unit November **12-20** and November **26** through December **4**.

**FOX, OPOSSUM, BOBCAT AND RACCOON SEASON** (Pipeline and Church Lake Units):

November 12 through April 15.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during any quota period), hunting license and management area permit.

Legal to Hunt - Raccoon, opossum, bobcat and fox may be taken in accordance with the season-specific regulations set forth below. Bobcat may be killed only from December 1 through March 1.

Regulations Unique to Fox, Opossum, Bobcat and Raccoon Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. From November **12** through March **1** only: Raccoon and opossum may be taken at night by the aid of light and dogs, with a .22 rimfire firearm other than .22 magnum, or a single shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6, provided that no such firearm may be loaded except immediately prior to the shooting of a bayed or treed raccoon or opossum.
2. Killing fox is prohibited.
3. Fox and bobcat may be chased, with the use of free-running dogs, in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19, from January **9** through April **15**.
4. Raccoons may be chased, with the use of free-running dogs, in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19, from March **5** through April **15**.

**SMALL GAME SEASON:**

January 9 through March 4.

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 and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter through March 1.

Regulations Unique to Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**TRAPPING SEASON:**

December 1 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 - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Trapping is prohibited in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19.

**SPRING TURKEY SEASON:**

Youth Turkey: March 10-11 (Lake Delancy Unit).

Spring Turkey: March 22-25, March 29 through April 1, April 5-8 and 12-15.

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 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.**
4. **During the youth turkey hunt, only youth under 16 years of age may hunt and must be under the supervision and in the presence of an adult not younger than 18 years of age. Adults with required licenses and permits for taking wild turkeys may participate when in the presence of a youth, but may not harvest a wild turkey.**

**MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:**

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

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting 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. Hunting duck, geese and coot with lead shot is prohibited.
2. Centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to take.

**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. 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. Information for persons with disabilities can be found at [MyFWC.com/ADA](http://MyFWC.com/ADA).
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (352) 732-1225 (TDD 800-955-8771).

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE RULES:**

1. Camping is allowed year round except camping with equipment drawn, propelled or contained by a motor vehicle is prohibited except in designated areas.
2. The Forest Service is not responsible for hunting equipment left on the area. Prescribed burning and logging activities are conducted year round. There is a risk that any hunting equipment left on the area may be damaged or destroyed.
3. The use of all-terrain vehicles or any motor vehicle that is not street legal is prohibited from 1½ hours after sunset until 1½ hours before sunrise.
4. The Navy Bombing Range is closed to the public.
5. Construction of permanent or semi-permanent structures is prohibited.
6. A valid permit is required before firewood may be removed from the area.
7. Leaving debris or garbage, or depositing sewage or other waste, except into receptacles provided for that purpose, is prohibited.
8. Discharge of a firearm from, across or on a Forest Development Road or within the safety zones posted around recreation areas is prohibited. Where no signs are posted, discharge of a firearm within 150 yards of a recreation facility or residence is prohibited.
9. For all other information on the area, including camping, boating, recreational access, prescribed burning and updates on the Forest Access Plan implementation: For that portion of the area north of S.R. 40, call the Lake George Ranger Station at (352) 625-2520, and for that portion of the area south of S.R. 40, call the Seminole Ranger Station at (352) 669-3153, or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida).
10. Possessing, storing or leaving any food, refuse or bear attractant is prohibited unless it is properly stored in a bear-resistant container; suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points, suspended at least 4 feet horizontally from any other tree or pole next to the supporting tree or pole; stored in a closed motor vehicle without a soft convertible top; or being eaten, being prepared for eating or being transported.
11. Discarding or abandoning any food, refuse or bear attractant is prohibited unless it is disposed of in a bear-resistant trash receptacle which has been provided by the Forest Service for that purpose.
12. Burning or burying any food, refuse or bear attractant is prohibited.

**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 20 percent of the cost of the program.*



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# OCALA

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

385,349 acres

Lake, Marion and Putnam Counties

