

2011-
2012
Hunting
Season

Apalachicola River

Wildlife and Environmental Area

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



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area
Department of Environmental
Protection
Division of Forestry
Northwest Florida Water Management
District
Division of Historical Resources
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 Apalachicola River 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. 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 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:

Wild Hog-dog - 5, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 5 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 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, if allowed on the area. 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 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 other than campfires are prohibited. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
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.
20. Digging into or disturbance of archaeological sites or removal of artifacts is prohibited.
21. Taking turtles by bucket traps, snares or shooting with firearms is prohibited.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year round.
2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
3. Named or numbered roads may be closed to motorized vehicles by yellow gates in areas with established wildlife plantings beginning two days after the end of general gun season through the last day of the first phase of dove season. A red gate designates a service road and is closed to motorized vehicles throughout the year.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
5. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife and environmental area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
6. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited in that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District land and on those lands lying east of East Bay and Cash Bayou.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WEA 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. 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.
2. Target practice is prohibited.
3. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited (see exceptions under Wild Hog-dog and Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, and Bobcat seasons).
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 season with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**
8. 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.
9. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
10. 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 or wild hog with dogs is prohibited in still hunt areas (see map) and during the archery, muzzleloading gun and archery/muzzleloading gun seasons.
2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited in that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) land (except those lands lying south of the Chipola River and east of the St. Joe Canal) and on those lands lying east of East Bay and Cash Bayou.
3. The use of dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, on posted dove fields is prohibited during the first phase of dove 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. Deer dog training is prohibited except during the general gun season.
5. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
6. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed (except during spring turkey season), but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING:

1. Camping is allowed year round throughout the area, except where posted as "no camping".
2. Camping is limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited, unless contained in mobile campers. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.
3. No person shall bring building materials onto the area or erect permanent or semi-permanent structures.
4. Camping for more than 14 consecutive days at a time is prohibited in that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) land.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer - Daily limit 2; possession limit 4. Antlerless deer may only be taken during the archery season.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - Daily limit 1, all fall seasons combined limit 2, spring 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.

FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT SEASON:

Allowed year round except the use of dogs is prohibited during spring turkey season (March 17 through April 22).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting in the wild hog-dog area during the wild hog-dog season) and hunting license.

Legal to Hunt - Raccoon, opossum, rabbit, coyote, skunk, nutria, armadillo and beaver. Bobcat and otter from December 1 through March 1.

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

1. Fox and bobcats may be chased by the use of free-running dogs year round except during the spring turkey season. Killing fox is prohibited.
2. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited, except night hunting of raccoons and opossums is allowed with dogs and .22 caliber rimfire firearms, other than .22 magnums, or a single-shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6, provided that no firearm may be loaded except immediately prior to shooting treed raccoons or opossums. The hunting of raccoon or opossum by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited.

WILD HOG-DOG SEASON:

July 15-17, August 19-21 and September 16-18, 2010; and May 18-20 and June 15-17, 2011 (wild hog-dog area only).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit and hunting license.

Legal to Hunt - Wild hog, raccoon, opossum, rabbit, coyote, skunk, nutria, armadillo and beaver.

Regulations Unique to Wild Hog-dog Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Each wild hog-dog quota permit allows a hunting group of two persons and a guest (3 total) to participate in the hunt.
2. Hunting with more than three free-running dogs per hunting group is prohibited.

