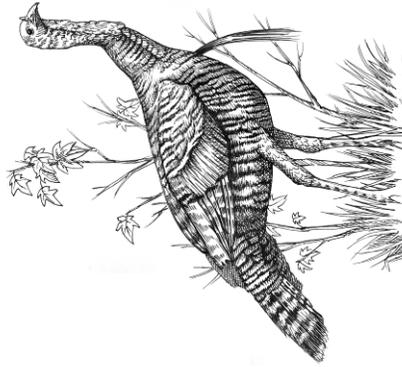


2011-
2012
Hunting
Season

Green Swamp West Unit Wildlife Management Area

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



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

Southwest Florida Water
Management District

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 Green Swamp West Unit 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.

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 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:

Special-opportunity Archery - 54, \$100, special-opportunity permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

Special-opportunity General Gun - 54, \$100, special-opportunity permits (no exemptions) for each of 3 hunts.

Wild Hog-still - 225, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Wild Hog-dog - 150, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Small Game - 60 (wild hog and small game) and 40 (small game only), no-cost, daily quota permits (no exemptions) are available first-come, first-served at the check station each day of the season.

Special-opportunity Spring Turkey - 24 (8 per zone), \$100, special-opportunity 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. Guest permits are not issued for special-opportunity 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. 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: Special-opportunity permits are transferable, except permits issued to persons exempt from paying permit fees are only transferable to another person exempt from paying permit fees; quota and guest permits are not transferable; antlerless deer permits are 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, guest permit or antlerless deer 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. 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. Falconers are not exempt from quota or special-opportunity permits during hunts requiring them.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year round, except during the special-opportunity archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons.
2. During periods open for hunting, motorized vehicles may only be operated by persons participating in the hunts.
3. Persons participating in the special-opportunity or wild hog hunts are allowed vehicle access from sunrise until sunset on the day before the permitted hunt. Vehicle access is not allowed the day prior to small game hunts.
4. Vehicles may be operated only on named roads.
5. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
6. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
7. The use of tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, airboats and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.
8. Horses are prohibited during periods open for hunting.
9. Horses and bicycles may be ridden only on designated trails.
10. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. During special-opportunity archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons, an individual may accompany a special-opportunity permittee provided that while hunting or scouting the individual shall not occupy a vehicle separate from the permittee, shall not possess archery equipment or a firearm, and shall be in the immediate vicinity (25 feet or less) of the permittee.
2. 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. Vehicle access is not allowed the day following the close of a season.
3. Hunters shall enter and exit at the designated entrance.
4. Hunters shall check in or out at the check station when entering or exiting the area, and check all game taken.
5. No game shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.
6. Check station hours are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Saving Time and 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time, except during the small game season when hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the special-opportunity spring turkey season when hours are **5 a.m.** to 3 p.m.

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.
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 with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less are allowed during the small game season, and no more than 3 free-running dogs per wild hog-dog quota permit are allowed during the wild hog-dog season.
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.
3. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
4. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

CAMPING:

1. Camping is allowed at designated campsites during hunting seasons.
2. Camping equipment 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.
3. Unless contained in mobile campers, kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited. Lumber, sheet metal and other building materials are also prohibited.
4. Tampering in any way with official markings of campsites is prohibited.
5. Campers shall assure that their campsite is clean at all times.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer - 1 antlered deer per special-opportunity permit, 1 antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - 1 per special-opportunity turkey 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 - Prohibited.
7. Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY ARCHERY SEASON:

November 5-8 and 17-20.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Special-opportunity permit, hunting license, archery 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 having 4 or more points (each point 1-inch or more in length), antlerless deer by antlerless deer permit only (each antlerless deer permit allows the take of only one doe or one buck with antlers less than 5 inches in length, but not spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to Special-opportunity 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.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY GENERAL GUN SEASON:

January 26-29, February 6-9 and 15-18.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Special-opportunity permit, hunting license, 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 having 4 or more points (each point 1-inch or more in length), antlerless deer by antlerless deer permit only (each antlerless deer permit allows the take of only one doe or one buck with antlers less than 5 inches in length, but not spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

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

WILD HOG-STILL SEASON:

December 16-18.

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

Legal to Hunt - Wild hog.

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

WILD HOG-DOG SEASON:

January 11-13.

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

Legal to Hunt - Wild hog.

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.

SMALL GAME SEASON:

February 24-26 and March 2-4.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Daily quota permit, hunting license and management area permit.

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

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

1. Hunting with bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less is allowed.
2. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.
3. Wild hog may be hunted only by those persons issued a daily quota permit with "wild hog" printed on it.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

March 17-20, 26-29, March 31 through April 3, April 9-12 and 14-17.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Special-opportunity permit, hunting license and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Hunt - Bearded turkey or gobbler.

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

1. Wild turkey may be hunted with shotguns only and **using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**
2. Legal shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
3. Hunting other animals is prohibited.

MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:

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

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Special-opportunity permit, hunting license, 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. The use of shotguns for hunting migratory birds is prohibited during the special-opportunity archery season.

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.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 863-648-3200 (TDD 800-955-8771).

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on this area.
2. All persons using the area should become familiar with the status of control burning areas on a daily basis. These areas will be posted at the check station. Please do not park vehicles or leave any equipment in or adjacent to these areas.

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.

Please do not drive vehicles from sunrise to 9 a.m. during the special-opportunity hunts.

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.

GREEN SWAMP WEST UNIT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

34,335 acres

Pasco County

Legend

Management Area

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C

↑ Designated Entrance

▲ Check Station

▲ Primitive Campground

↔ Florida Trail

▨ Withlacoochee River Park

▬ Paved Road

— Improved Road

