

2011-
2012
Hunting
Season

Osprey Unit Hilochee Wildlife Management 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 Osprey Unit of Hilochee 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:

Archery - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

Family Hunt - 15, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Wild Hog-still - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Wild Hog-dog - 10, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

Youth Turkey - 5, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Spring Turkey - 5, 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 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 family or youth turkey hunts. 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: 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. 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 permits during hunts requiring them.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year round from 1½ hours before sunrise until 1½ hours after sunset, except during the small game season when public access is allowed at anytime beginning 1½ hours before sunrise on the first day of the season until 1½ hours after sunset on the last day of the season. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than by foot, bicycle or horse is prohibited.
2. All persons must enter and exit the area through a designated entrance.
3. During all hunts, except small game, only individuals participating in a hunt may operate a motor vehicle on the area. Motorized vehicle access is allowed one day before each hunt and during each hunt from 1½ hours before sunrise until 1½ hours after sunset, except small game. During small game season, any individual may operate a motor vehicle on the area from 1½ hours before sunrise on the first day of the season until 1½ hours after sunset on the last day of the season.
4. Motor vehicles must be operated on named roads and parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named road.
5. Motor vehicles must enter and exit the area at the designated entrance located at the intersection of C.R. 557 and Robert L. Tanner Grade.
6. The use of airboats, outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower, tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.
7. Horses are prohibited on days open for hunting.
8. Horses are allowed on named roads or designated trails only.
9. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.

10. 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:

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. Hunters are encouraged to remove all equipment on the last day of a hunt because vehicle access is not allowed the day after.

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 exception under small game season).
4. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
5. No person shall have a gun under control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
6. 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.**
7. 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.
8. 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 wild hog with dogs is prohibited except during the wild hog-dog season.
2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, is prohibited, except dogs of any size may be used during the wild hog-dog and small game seasons.
3. 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.
4. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
5. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING: Prohibited.

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

1. Deer - Prohibited.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - 1 per person per hunt (during a spring turkey hunt a host and guest may each take one turkey, but not on the same day), 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 8-9 and 15-16.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, archery permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Hunt - Wild hog, 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).

FAMILY HUNT:

November 12-13.

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

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

Regulations Unique to Family Hunt - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. One or two youths (under 16 years of age but not younger than 8 years of age) per quota permit, may hunt under the direct supervision of an adult (at least 18 years of age), but the quota permit holder must be present for the youth to hunt.
2. The quota permit holder may hunt, but only in the presence of at least one youth.

WILD HOG-STILL SEASON:

November 26-27.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, 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 7-8 and 28-29.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, 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 2-13.

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 dogs of any size is allowed, except hunting wild hog with dogs is prohibited.
2. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.
3. 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 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6, provided that no firearm shall be loaded at any time except immediately prior to shooting of 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: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

Youth Turkey: March 10-11.

Spring Turkey: April 13-14 and 20-21.

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

Legal to Hunt - Bearded turkey or grouse.

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, 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 archery, small game and family hunts.

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 hunt.

FISHING:

Allowed year round.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Fishing license.

Legal to Take - See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Daily Bag Limits -

1. Black crappie - 10.
2. Bluegill - 20.
3. Catfish - 6.
4. Other - See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing - All General Area Regulations and General Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply.

1. No person shall kill or possess any largemouth bass.
2. No person shall kill or possess any bluegill less than 8 inches total length or black crappie less than 10 inches total length.
3. Possession of nets (except dip nets), fish traps, trotlines, set lines, minnow seines, cast nets or bush hooks is prohibited.
4. Frogging 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 863-648-3200 (TDD 800-955-8771).

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

It is critical for the FWC to conduct controlled burns during hunting seasons to maintain quality wildlife habitat. All persons using the area should become familiar with the status of potential burn 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.

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.

OSPREY UNIT

HILOCHEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

6,093 acres
Polk County

Legend

-  Management Area
-  Parking
-  Designated Entrance
-  Paved Road
-  Improved Road
-  Closed to Public Access
-  Trail - No Vehicles

