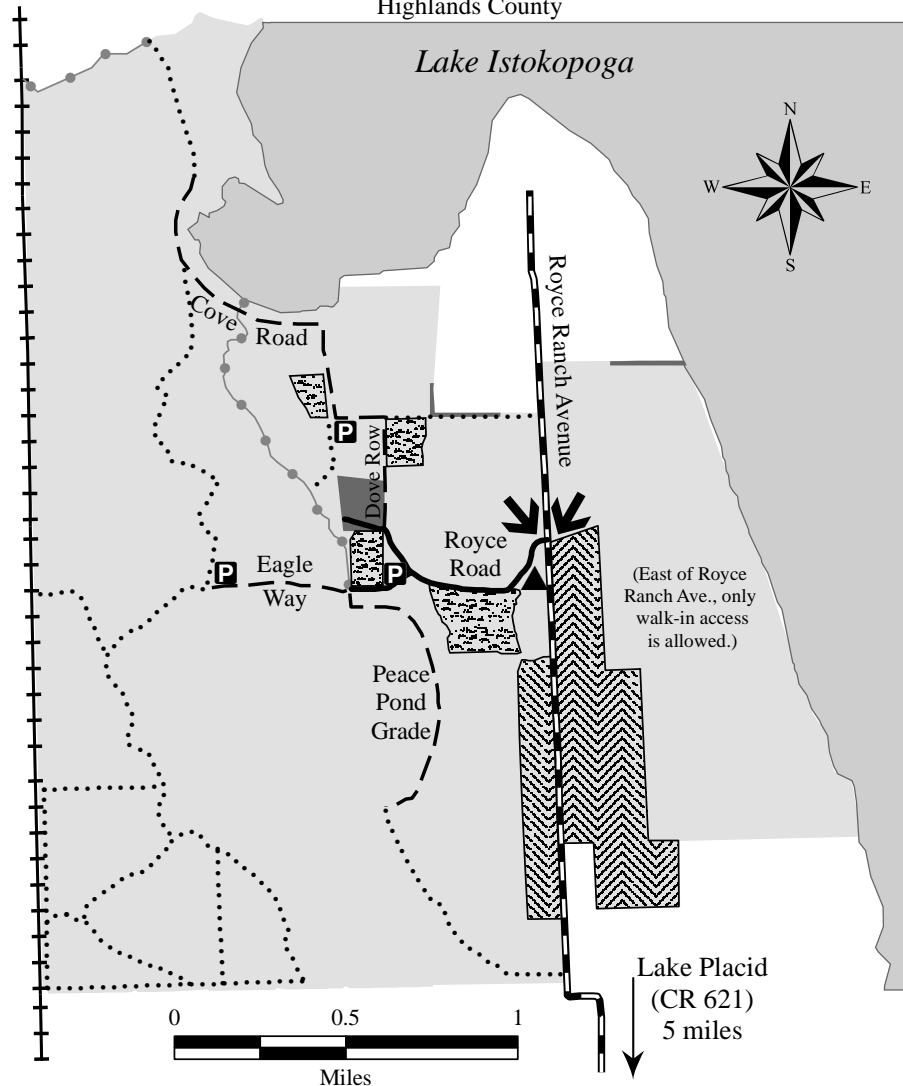


ROYCE UNIT
LAKE WALES RIDGE
WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA
 2,641 acres
 Highlands County



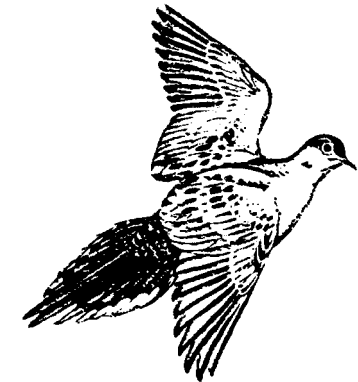
Legend			
Environmental Area	Closed to Public Access	Parking	Improved Road (Open Year Round)
Designated Entrance	Posted Dove Fields	Railroad	Unimproved Road (Open During Hunting Season)
Check Station	Closed to Hunting	Paved Road	Closed Road (No Vehicles)
	Hiking Trail (Blue Blaze)		

Dove Field

2011-2012
 Hunting Season

Royce Unit
 Public Small Game Hunting Area

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



A public small game hunting 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 Royce Unit Public Small Game Hunting 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 and the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook 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.

PERMIT, STAMP AND LICENSE INFORMATION:

Persons using Public Small Game Hunting 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:

Dove Hunt - 25, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 8 hunts.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota 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. To apply for this hunt, hunters should obtain a "Dove Quota Worksheet – Royce Unit" available mid-August.

A worksheet with a list of available permits may be obtained 1 - 2 weeks before the application period from FWC offices and MyFWC.com/hunting under "Limited Entry Hunts" then "Worksheets for all Limited Entry Hunts".

1. Prior to the hunts, individuals may be issued no more than two permits and each permit must be for a different hunt date.
2. Individuals issued a quota permit prior to the hunts must check-in at the check station between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the day of their scheduled hunt or their permit will be voided. Any voided permits may be obtained first-come, first-served at the check station beginning at 3:00 p.m.
3. Each permit allows one adult and one child under age 16 to hunt and each may take a daily bag limit.
4. Quota permits are valid only for the date listed on the permit.

Transfer of permits: Quota permits are transferable.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations that follow, all general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life shall apply, unless specifically exempted for this area.

1. Fires are prohibited.
2. Construction or use of permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.
3. Tampering with or destruction of equipment, improvements, and water control structures is prohibited.
4. Public access is prohibited in portions of public hunting areas that are posted as "Closed" or "Restricted."
5. The release of any animal is prohibited, 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.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. 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.
9. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
10. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
11. 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. Public access is allowed year-round.
2. All individuals shall enter and exit the area at a designated entrance.
3. Vehicles may be operated only on named and numbered roads and may be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.
4. Vehicles may not be operated on named and numbered roads designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
5. Horses and bicycles may be used only on firebreaks and named or numbered roads.

6. Airboats, outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower, tracked vehicles, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Dove hunters shall check in and out at the designated dove field check station when entering or exiting the area and check all game taken.
2. Dove hunters may enter the area no earlier than 11 a.m. and shall exit the area no later than one hour after sunset.

GUNS:

1. All firearms shall be securely encased 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 firearms other than shotguns is prohibited.
4. While hunting migratory birds, shotguns capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged to a three-shell capacity with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
5. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.

DOGS:

1. Waterfowl retrievers, bird dogs, and other dogs with a shoulder height of 17 inches or less may be used for hunting.
2. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING: Prohibited.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Dove (aggregate of mourning and white-winged doves) - Daily limit 15. Only one daily bag limit may be possessed while in the field or while returning from the field. A hunter may leave their birds with another person if the birds are tagged with the hunter's signature, address, the total number of birds, by species, and the date of harvest.

DOVE HUNT:

October 1, October 8, October 22, November 12, November 26, December 10, December 17 and January 7.

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

Legal to Take - Mourning dove and white-winged dove only.

Regulations Unique to the Dove Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Regulations shall apply.

1. Doves may be taken only within the posted dove field boundaries.
2. Shooting hours are noon to sunset.

DOVE HUNTERS HOTLINE:

Visit our web site at MyFWC.com/recreation/hunt_dovehotline.htm to find out the latest information on FWC dove fields across the state of Florida. Most of the information will be updated every Thursday throughout the dove season.