

2009-  
2010  
Hunting  
Season

# Apalachicola River

Wildlife and Environmental Area

Regulations Summary and Area Map  
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010



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](http://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 [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.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, and management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, wild turkey and state waterfowl 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). Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility information is available at [MyFWC.com/ADA](http://MyFWC.com/ADA).

**QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:** Quota permits are not required for this area.

## GENERAL AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life 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. This is not required during an archery-only season.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roosted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to take 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.
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 one-half hour before sunrise until one-half 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. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the area.
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. Fires other than campfires are prohibited.
20. Digging into or disturbance of archaeological sites or removal of artifacts is prohibited.
21. The taking of 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 by gate (painted yellow) to motorized vehicles in areas with established wildlife plantings beginning the second day 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 lands and on those lands lying east of East Bay and Cash Bayou.

**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 Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, and Bobcat season).
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, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons or by permit) or falconry may be used.
8. For hunting migratory game, only shotguns, bow and arrow (not crossbows), and 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 setguns 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 lands (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.
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 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, 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.

**BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:**

1. Deer - Daily limit 2; possession limit 4.
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 game species.
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 free-running dogs is prohibited during spring turkey season (March 20 through April 25).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license.

Legal to Take - Raccoon, opossum, rabbit, coyote, skunk, nutria, armadillo and beaver. Bobcat 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. 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.

**ARCHERY SEASON:**

October 17 through November 15.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, archery permit, wild turkey permit (if hunting wild turkey) and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take - Any deer (except spotted fawn), 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 is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting during the small game season and for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

**SMALL GAME SEASON:**

November 14 through March 7.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds) and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter from December 1 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, except during general gun season.

**MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:**

November 20-22.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, muzzleloading gun permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds) and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - 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 Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting during the small game season and for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

**GENERAL GUN SEASON:**

November 26-29 and December 12 through February 3.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, wild turkey permit (if hunting turkey), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, bearded turkey or gobbler (through January 17 only), 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.

**TRAPPING SEASON:**

December 1 through March 1.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Trapping license (if using traps or taking for commercial purposes) or hunting license (if using only guns and taking for noncommercial purposes).

Legal to Take - Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, otter and bobcat.

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

**ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:**

February 18-28.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, archery permit (if hunting with archery equipment), muzzleloading gun permit (if hunting with a muzzleloading gun) and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take - 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 Archery/Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with bows or muzzleloading guns only except small game may be harvested with any gun other than centerfire rifles.

**SPRING TURKEY SEASON:**

March 20 through April 25.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take - 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 one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. Hunting other animals is prohibited.
3. The possession of dogs is prohibited.

**MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:**

Rails, common moorhen, snipe, duck, geese, coot, mourning dove, white-winged dove, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species except on posted dove fields, where dove may be hunted on Saturdays only during the first phase of the mourning and white-winged dove season (see Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Bird Seasons - In addition to these regulations, all General Area 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:**

If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 265-3676 (TDD 800-955-8771).

**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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# Apalachicola River

## WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

86,140 acres  
Franklin and Gulf Counties



**Legend**

- Dog Hunt Area
- Still Hunt Area
- NFWWMD Land
- Private Property
- Paved Roads
- Improved Roads
- Boat Ramps
- Observation Tower
- Railroad
- Dove Field

