

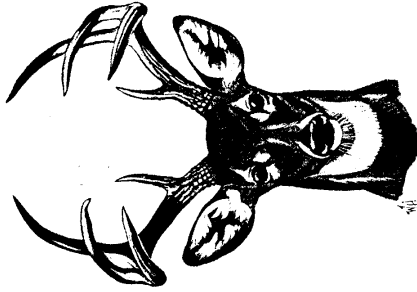
# Withlacoochee State Forest

2009-  
2010  
Hunting  
Season

# Croom

Wildlife Management Area

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



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

Division of Forestry



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 Croom 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](http://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.

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:

Muzzleloading Gun - 300, no-cost, quota permits.

General Gun (first nine days) - 300, no-cost, quota permits.

Spring Turkey - 10, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 3 hunts.

**Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits through the Commission's Total Licensing System (TLS) at a license agent, county tax collector's office or [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Worksheets listing hunts, application periods, deadlines**

**and instructions are available at county tax collector's offices, FWC offices or [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). The first quota application period begins June 1 and worksheets will be available about two weeks prior.**

**Additional hunters: A quota permit holder (host) may bring only one additional hunter. This additional hunter must be a youth under 16 years of age, a youth supervisor (if quota permit holder is a youth), a mentor license holder, mentor license supervisor (if applicable) or guest permit holder. The additional hunter does not receive a separate bag limit. The host must share a 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. The guest may only hunt while the host is on the area.**

**Guest permits: One guest permit may be issued for each archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, wild hog, spring turkey and mobility impaired quota permit issued through the Commission's TLS. A guest permit is not issued to a youth under 16, a youth supervisor, a mentor license holder or a mentor license supervisor. 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, guest permit or antlerless deer permit is prohibited.**

#### 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 roasted 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.

#### **PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:**

1. Open to public access year-round.
2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
3. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
4. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
5. Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles may be operated off road in the Croom Motorcycle Area by permit from Florida Division of Forestry.
6. Horses may be ridden only on named or numbered roads, or designated horse trails.
7. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

#### **HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:**

1. 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.
2. All game must be checked at the check station during the muzzleloading gun, general gun (first nine days only) and spring turkey seasons.
3. No turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.
4. Hunting is prohibited on the Withlacoochee State Trail.

#### **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 firearms is prohibited within the Croom Motorcycle Area. Hunting with bows or crossbows is allowed in the Croom Motorcycle Area during general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons.
4. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
5. 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.

6. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
7. No person shall have a gun under control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
11. 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 with dogs is prohibited.
2. 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 dogs of any size are allowed during the fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat season.
3. Dogs are prohibited within the Croom Motorcycle Area.
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, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

#### **CAMPING:**

1. The Division of Forestry regulates camping and a fee is required. Hunt camps also require a permit for reserved camping. For more information and dates hunt camps are open to the public, telephone the Withlacoochee State Forest Recreation Visitors Center at 352-754-6896. Sale of available reserved hunt camp sites begins the first Thursday after Labor Day.
2. When camping is allowed, only designated campsites may be used.
3. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

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

1. Deer - Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - One per quota permit, season 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.

#### **MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:**

October 30 through November 1.

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

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches 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 Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting is prohibited in the Croom Motorcycle Area.
2. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed for hunting, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed 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 14 through December 6.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during first 9 days), 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 Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches 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. Bobcat and otter beginning December 1.

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

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.
2. Hunting with bows and crossbows only is allowed in the Croom Motorcycle Area.

**SMALL GAME SEASON:**

December 7 through March 7.

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 Take - Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter until March 1.

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 dogs other than bird dogs is allowed only in that portion of the area south of Croom Road and bounded on the east by Croom Rital Road. Bird dogs may be used north of Croom Road.
3. Dogs and firearms are prohibited in the Croom Motorcycle Area.
4. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**TRAPPING:** Prohibited.

**FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT SEASON:**

December 17 through March 14. (5 p.m. Thursdays until sunrise Sundays only)

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

Legal to Take - Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat may be pursued with dogs.

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

1. Pursuit with dogs of any size is allowed.
2. Pursuit is allowed only in that portion of the area south of Croom Road and bounded on the east by Croom Rital Road.
3. The use of guns is prohibited.
4. Dogs are prohibited in the Croom Motorcycle Area.

**SPRING TURKEY SEASON:**

March 23-25, April 6-8 and 20-22.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit 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. Hunting turkey with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:**

Rails, common moorhen, mourning dove, white-winged dove, snipe, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the muzzleloading gun, general gun or small game seasons. Duck, geese and coot may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species.

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 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 863-648-3200 (TDD 800-955-8771).

**DIVISION OF FORESTRY RULES AND INFORMATION:**

1. The maximum speed limit on all forest roads is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.
2. Construction of permanent or semi-permanent structures on State Forests is prohibited.
3. A valid firewood permit is required from the Division of Forestry before firewood may be removed from the area.
4. Unless posted as closed, horse, hiking and bicycle trails are open. For information call the Withlacoochee Forestry Center 352-754-6896.
5. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Pets".
6. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas at 352-754-6896.

**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.*

**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License  
by Phone...**

**Use Your Credit Card and Call**

**1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) OR  
1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)**

**(There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)**

**When you spot law violators or suspicious activities,  
contact your nearest Commission regional office or  
call**

**1-888-404-FWCC**

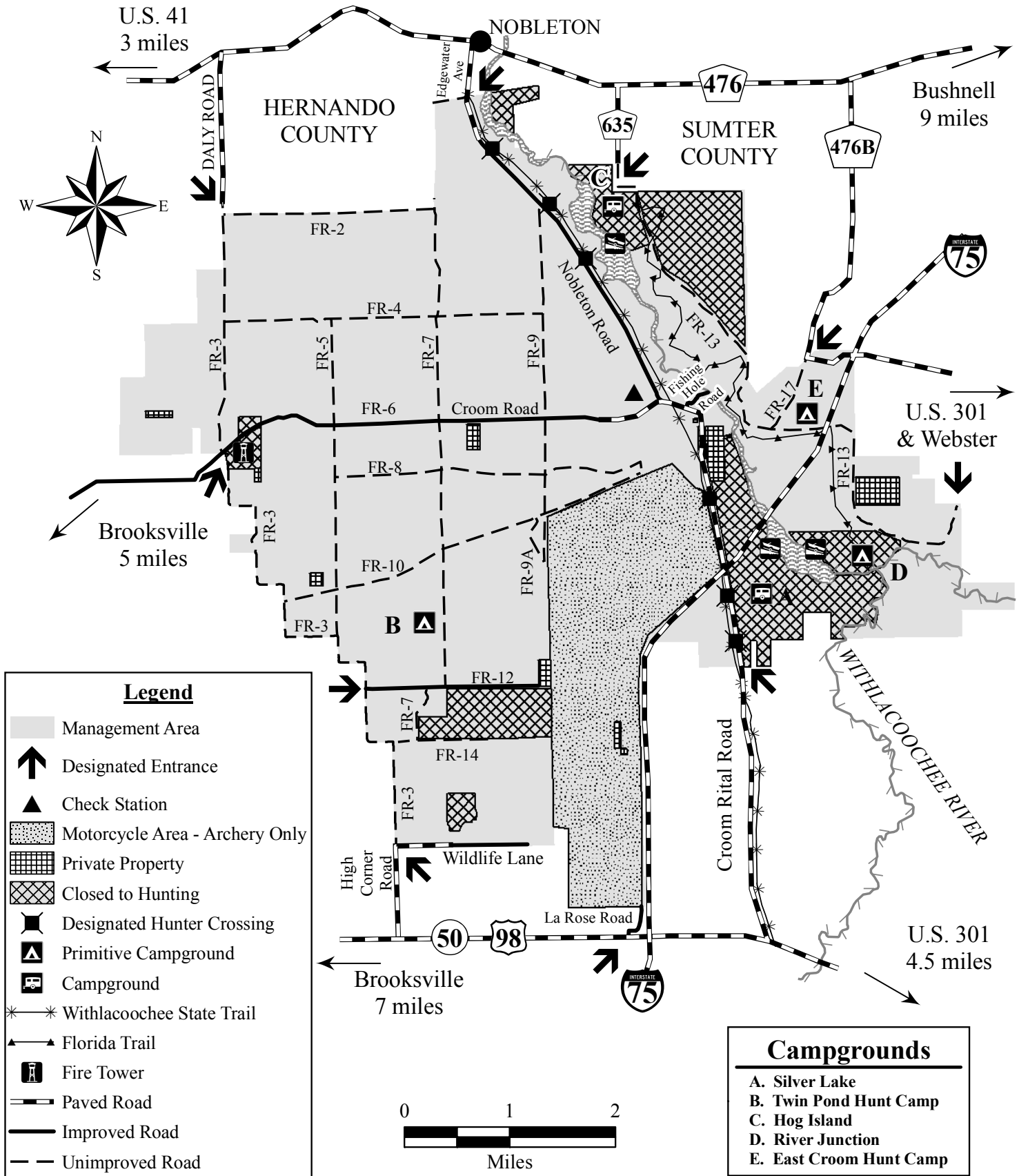
**You may qualify for a cash reward from the  
Wildlife Alert Reward Association.**

# CROOM

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

20,595 acres

Hernando and Sumter Counties



### Legend

- Management Area
- Designated Entrance
- Check Station
- Motorcycle Area - Archery Only
- Private Property
- Closed to Hunting
- Designated Hunter Crossing
- Primitive Campground
- Campground
- Withlacoochee State Trail
- Florida Trail
- Fire Tower
- Paved Road
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road

### Campgrounds

- A. Silver Lake
- B. Twin Pond Hunt Camp
- C. Hog Island
- D. River Junction
- E. East Croom Hunt Camp

