

2009-
2010
Hunting
Season

Osprey Unit Hilochee Wildlife Management Area

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



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 the 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.

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 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. Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility information is available at MyFWC.com/ADA.

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).

General Gun Hog-Still - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

General Gun Hog-Dog - 10, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

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) at a license agent, county tax collector's office or MyFWC.com. Worksheets listing hunts, application periods, deadlines and instructions are available at county tax collector's offices, FWC offices or 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. 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 from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.
2. All persons must enter and exit the area through a designated entrance.
3. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than by foot, bicycle or horse is prohibited.
4. Only individuals participating in a hunt may operate a motor vehicle on the area. Participants may only operate a vehicle during their hunt and one day prior for scouting.
5. Motor vehicles must be operated on named or numbered roads and parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.

6. 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.
7. The use of airboats, outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower, tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or **unlicensed and unregistered** motorcycles is prohibited.
8. Horses are prohibited on days open for hunting.
9. Horses are allowed on named or numbered roads or designated trails only.
10. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
11. 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.
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, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun and spring turkey seasons, or by permit) or falconry may be used.
7. 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.
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 setguns are prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, is prohibited, except that dogs may be used during the general gun 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.

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 - One per person per hunt (the 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 game species.
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.

ARCHERY SEASON:

October 10-11 and 17-18.

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

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 migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

FAMILY HUNT:

November 14-15.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, 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.

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).
2. A supervisor with proper licenses and permits may hunt, but only in the presence of at least one youth.

GENERAL GUN HOG-STILL SEASON:

November 28-29.

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

Legal to Take - Wild hog.

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

GENERAL GUN HOG-DOG SEASON:

January 9-10 and 30-31.

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

Legal to Take - Wild hog.

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

1. **Each general gun 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.**
3. **Hunting with more than one gun per hunting group is prohibited.**

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

April 16-17 and 23-24.

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.

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 season and family hunt.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, 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:

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:

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:

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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1-888-404-FWCC








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

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

