

2008-  
2009  
Hunting  
Season

# Matanzas

State Forest and  
Wildlife Management Area

Regulations Summary and Area Map  
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



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 Matanzas 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 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.

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, the Internet 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).

## QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

**Archery** - 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

**Muzzleloading Gun** - 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

**Family Hunt** - 20, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

**General Gun** - 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

**General Gun Hog** - 50, no cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

**Spring Turkey** - 15, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

Permit applications (**all application dates are for 2008**): Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits

at a license agent, county tax collector's office or online at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Most quota and special opportunity permits are issued during a random drawing, which includes all applications submitted during the times and dates listed below. Any remaining permits are issued first-come, first-served.

A worksheet with a list of available permits may be obtained 1 - 2 weeks before each application period from FWC offices, tax collectors, license agents and online at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Application for random drawings begins 10:00 a.m. eastern time on the first day of the application period and ends midnight eastern time on the last day. **Archery/Muzzleloading Gun and General Gun** quota permit applications may be submitted June 2 - 12. **Family Hunt** quota permit applications may be submitted June 25 - July 9. **Spring Turkey** quota permit applications may be submitted October 28 - November 6.

**Youth and Mentor exemptions: A youth hunter (less than 16 years of age) hunting during seasons listed as "no exemptions" or mentor license holder and their respective supervisor may access the area and participate in any quota hunt (except special-opportunity), provided at least one hunter holds a valid quota permit and both hunters share a single bag limit of game. A supervisor for a youth must be 18 years of age or older. A supervisor for a mentor license holder must be a licensed hunter, 21 years of age or older. Only those supervisors with proper licenses and permits may hunt.**

Transfer of permits: Quota permits are transferable. Quota permits issued to exempt hunters are transferable only to another person with the same type of exemption, except permits marked "exempt senior" may be transferred to a youth younger than 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota 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 objective 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 the 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 hogs 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. Vehicles must be parked at designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
5. Airboats, tracked vehicles, unlicensed motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited.
6. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic. Licensed motorcycles may only be operated on roads open to other motor vehicles.

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

1. Hunters shall enter and exit the area only at designated entrances.
2. 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.

#### **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 a gun and light is prohibited.
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 his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

7. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun, family hunt, small game and spring turkey seasons or by permit) or falconry may be used.
8. For taking 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 with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited.
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:**

1. Camping is only allowed by permit from the Division of Forestry (386) 446-6786.

#### **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:**

1. Deer - Daily limit 2, possession limit 4 (see legal to take for each season). During the family hunt, each person may take a bag limit.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - During the archery season, daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2. During the spring turkey season, 1 gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit.
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.

#### **ARCHERY SEASON:**

September 20 - 28 and September 29 through October 5.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, wild turkey permit (if hunting wild turkey), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

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 the 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).

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

October 24 - 26.

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 in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

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

#### **FAMILY HUNT:**

**November 8 - 9.**

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 - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the 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 SEASON:**

**November 10 - 16.**

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 - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

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

#### **GENERAL GUN HOG SEASON:**

**November 29 through December 7.**

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

Legal to Take - Wild hog only.

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

#### **SMALL GAME SEASON:**

**January 5 - 20.**

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, bobcat, otter, and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**TRAPPING:** Prohibited.

#### **SPRING TURKEY SEASON:**

**March 21 - 24 and 25 - 29.**

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

Legal to Take - Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the 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. The taking of any other animal is prohibited.
3. **Hunting turkey with centerfire rifles is prohibited.**

#### **MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:**

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, geese, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, family hunt or small game season.

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 the Migratory Bird Seasons - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese and coots is prohibited.
2. Centerfire shotguns are allowed 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:**

1. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (352) 732-1225 (**TDD** 800-955-8771).

#### **DIVISION OF FORESTRY RULES:**

1. Construction of permanent or semipermanent structures on state forests is prohibited.
2. **The speed limit for all motor vehicles is 30 MPH on Division managed lands, unless otherwise posted.**
3. **The speed limit in developed recreation areas (campgrounds and day use areas) is 10 MPH, unless otherwise posted.**
4. A valid fuelwood permit from the Division of Forestry is required before firewood may be removed from the area.
5. For information regarding general recreational use of this area contact the Division of Forestry at (386) 446-6786.
6. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning in most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry (386) 446-6786 for information and location of burn areas.

#### **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.*

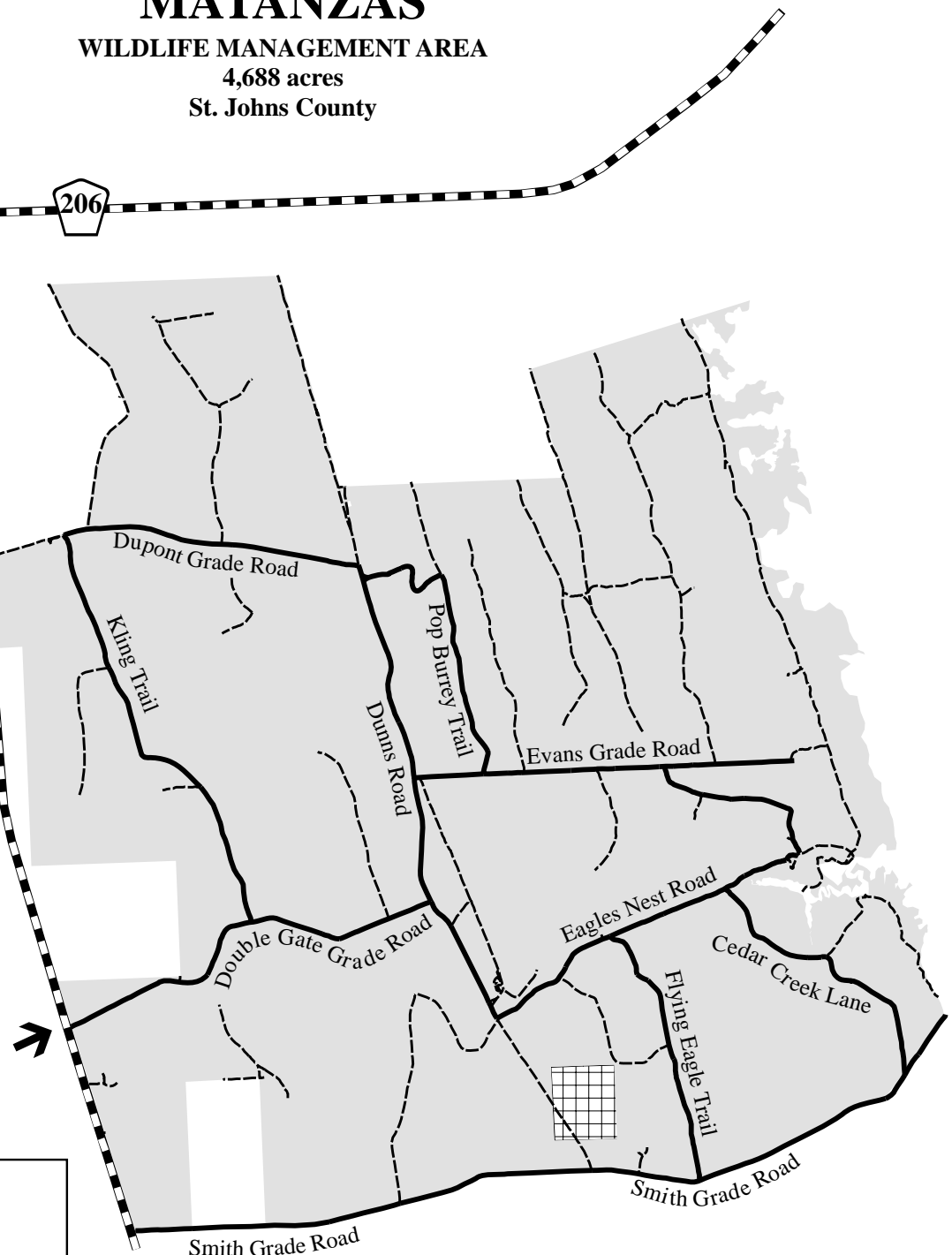
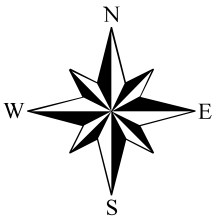
# MATANZAS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

4,688 acres

St. Johns County

To  
St. Augustine  
8 Miles



**Legend**

- Management Area
- Designated Entrance
- Private Property
- Paved Road
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road

