

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Blackwater Public Small Game Hunting Area. 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.

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"): 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. 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 888-486-8356.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION: Quota permits are not required for the hunts on this area.

PUBLIC SMALL GAME HUNTING 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. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, set guns, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
2. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
3. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
4. No person shall cut, damage or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
5. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
6. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to those activities.
7. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
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. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
10. Wild hog may not be transported alive.
11. Littering is prohibited.
12. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
13. 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. The Florida Gas Transmission Line is closed to public vehicular traffic.

3. Vehicles may not be operated in the posted Environmental Enhancement Area from March 1 through September 30.
4. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic. Motorcycles may only be operated on roads open to other motor vehicles.
5. Use of airboats, tracked vehicles or all-terrain vehicles is prohibited, except by permit from the Florida Forest Service.
6. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
7. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

Hunting equipment may not be taken onto the WMA until 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. The discharge of any gun within 300 yards of any public campsite is prohibited.
2. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of State Roads 4, 189 and 191; U.S. 90; County Roads 2 and 180; Bryant Bridge, Norman Riley, Sandy Forest and Pleasant Home roads, and Carpenter Road from State Road 191 to Juniper Creek; Forest Roads 6, 23, 25, 31, 47, 48, 72 or 86 and the paved portions of Forest Roads 2, 9 and 57 is prohibited.
3. Children under the age of 16 hunting with a firearm must be in the presence of a supervising adult.
4. No person shall discharge a firearm or have a loaded firearm in hand while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
5. Hunting with full 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 set guns is prohibited.
6. The discharge of a firearm outside of periods open to hunting or in areas closed to hunting is prohibited per s. 790.15 FS.

DOGS:

1. Dogs may be used throughout the area to hunt wild hogs, but no more than 3 free-running dogs per hunting party may be used.
2. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of said 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.
5. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PETS."

CAMPING:

Camping is allowed at the following sites: Bear, Hurricane, Karick and Krul Lakes, Blackwater River State Park and other designated campsites. Some overnight camps require a fee. Some campsites may be closed for maintenance. Contact the Florida Forest Service for more information at 850-957-6140.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Wild hog - No size or bag limit.

WILD HOG-DOG SEASON:

May 4-6, 18-20, June 1-3, 15-17, July 6-8, 20-22, August 3-5, 17-19, September 7-9 and 21-23, 2012.

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

Legal to Take - Wild hog.

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

1. Hunts begin at 12:01 a.m. Friday morning and end at midnight Sunday evening.
2. Wild hogs may be taken during the day or at night by the aid of a light with dogs and a firearm provided that no wild hog shall be shot during the period from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise until bayed by dogs. The hunting of wild hogs under this provision by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited.
3. Hunting wild hog in any area designated as closed to hunting is prohibited (see map).
4. Hunting wild hog during the daytime between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset is prohibited in that portion of the area south of State Road 4 and west of County Road 191.
5. Hunting with more than 3 free-running dogs per hunting group is prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Information for persons with disabilities can be found at MyFWC.com/ADA.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 850-265-3676 (TDD 800-955-8771).
3. The FWC is not responsible for protection of personal property and will not be liable for theft of or damage to personal property.
4. Please report the location of any sick or extremely skinny deer to the Chronic Wasting Disease hotline, toll free at 866-293-9282.

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. No person shall operate any vehicle on managed lands controlled by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) at a speed greater than 30 mph, unless otherwise posted. No person shall operate any vehicle on managed lands except on designated roads, parking areas, or other areas established and specifically identified by the FFS.
2. Florida traffic laws relating to vehicles and vehicle operators apply on this area. The operation of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle is prohibited.
3. Construction of permanent or semi-permanent structures on state forests is prohibited.
4. The Florida Forest Service has an active year-round prescribed burning program on this area. Users are responsible for their personal safety and are encouraged to contact the FFS at 850-957-6140 for information and location of burn areas.
5. For information on other recreational uses, contact the FFS at 850-957-6140.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 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.

