Hutton Unit at Blackwater WMA

Dear mobility-impaired hunter:

You have been selected to participate in a mobility-impaired hunt on the Hutton Unit of Blackwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Santa Rosa County. Your quota permit may be printed online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. The quota permit is nontransferable.

Please be familiar with the current Hutton Unit of Blackwater WMA Regulations Summary and Area Map. This special mobility-impaired hunting program is unique and attention should be given to all operational guidelines to assure an enjoyable, high-quality experience for all. The Florida Disabled Outdoors Association has participated in the formation of rules and guidelines, and fully supports the complete compliance with them.

Each mobility-impaired quota permit allows for one guest hunter to participate in the hunt with a guest permit, which prints as the second page with the quota permit. The permit holder and guest hunter must share a bag limit, and only mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer. One guest hunter is allowed per day, and the host and guest must enter and exit the area together. Guest hunters may hunt only when the host is also on the area.

Unless exempt from license requirements, all participants in these hunts must have their hunting license and appropriate permits in their possession, including a management area permit and deer permit. This includes both host quota permit holders as well as their guests.

In addition to a guest hunter as described above, permit holders may also be accompanied by one non-hunting assistant. One assistant is allowed per day and must also enter and exit the property with the host hunter and guest. Assistants may participate in the hunt by assisting the permit holder, and do not require a hunting license or permits, but assistants may not harvest wildlife.

All mobility-impaired hunt participants are strongly encouraged to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at 2 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on the Thursday before the hunt. Topics include hunter safety, specific hunt recommendations and a drawing for hunt sites. Quota permit holders who do not attend this meeting cannot participate in the stand location drawing, and therefore must use only those stand locations that are still available following the drawing. Up to 50% of unused permits may be re-issued to stand-by mobility-impaired hunters who attend the meeting. Reissued permits are not eligible for guest permits. The pre-hunt meeting is held at the Hutton Unit check station located on Pond Road, which is just north of U.S. Highway 90 in Harold, FL.

Some suggested hunt recommendations to be discussed are also listed below:

1. **Check-in period.** Hunters are required to check-in at the check station between 5-6 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. CST each day. Other times, which may be more suitable for the hunt, will be discussed and adopted through a democratic system at the pre-hunt orientation meeting.

2. **Stand locations.** There are 30-40 stand locations established by WMA staff. A map identifying hunt stations will be available at the check station on scout and hunt days. Stands are marked as vehicle or ATV stands; vehicles are not allowed on ATV sites. Stand locations will be selected by the WMA staff by a drawing and noted on the hunt map during the pre-
hunt orientation meeting. This facilitates identifying neighboring hunters for communication and safety reasons. Options will be available to change stands to any unmarked area, but do not impose upon or crowd another hunter.

The mobility-impaired hunters have priority over all hunting guests for stand placement. Hunting guests should not move away from the immediate area of their mobility-impaired hunting partner, and not move into the area of, or impose on, another hunter.

The order of the draw determines priority in consideration for neighboring hunt stands. Other options regarding stand locations will be discussed and adopted through a democratic system at each pre-hunt orientation meeting.

3. **Stand hours.** An important element of the mobility-impaired hunt program are the stands and stand hours. Please be considerate of other hunters and keep movements to a minimum. There will be no vehicular movement during stand hours; hunters and their guests and assistants will be asked to terminate vehicle movement from 6-10 a.m. CST as well as 3 p.m. CST until the end of legal shooting hours (½ hour after sunset). These times will be adjusted at each pre-hunt meeting if necessary.

4. **Firearm recommendation.** Although all legal weapons are permitted, it is requested that hunters observe the safety zone around the check station. Safety is the top priority. **Hunter orange is required when hunting in the area.** The mobility-impaired hunt program allows more hunters per area than generally allowed and it is extremely important that everyone knows and adheres to all hunt guidelines. Be very cautious with the handling of your firearm. Know your target and be aware of the shooting zone beyond. Since many participants will be hunting from roads, extra consideration must be taken. Know where your neighboring hunters’ stands are located.

5. **Gate access.** All hunters must enter and exit through the check station gate on Pond Road. All exterior gates must be kept closed and locked to keep unauthorized persons from entering the area.

6. **Road/vehicle use.** Vehicular access is restricted to only those persons with a mobility-impaired quota permit and their guests and assistants. Participants may hunt from their stationary vehicles, provided the vehicle is not moving and the engine is not running. Please use extreme caution when shooting on roadways, as others may be in the area. Only the mobility-impaired hunters may use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and ATV use is restricted to established roads, trails and firebreaks. Do not drive vehicles on food plots. Please tread lightly and be environmentally friendly. Please try not to drive in the hunt stand area of others. Currently, all trail roads are expected to be open. Participants are encouraged to use good judgment in the capabilities of their vehicle. Please report downed trees at the check station.

7. **Legal to take.** The bag limit for deer during the mobility-impaired hunts is two per quota permit, which is shared by the host and guest. Antlerless deer, which includes does and bucks with antlers less than 5-inches in length, but not spotted fawns, may be taken by mobility impaired hunters only and the daily limit is one. Legal antlered deer are those deer with at least one antler with three or more points, with each point being at least one inch in length, or which has a main beam length of ten or more inches. Please check all game taken at the check station daily. Please help in cleaning up and taking care of the area and do not put deer remains in the Blackwater River or area streams.
8. **Scouting.** The Hutton Unit will be open for scouting one day prior to each mobility-impaired hunt. It is recommended that all hunters and their assistants scout the area prior to the pre-hunt orientation meeting to familiarize themselves with the area. Firearms should remain encased and unloaded when in the area during this time.

9. **Camping.** Camping is allowed at the Hutton Unit Check Station (no power) or the following sites on the Blackwater River State Forest: Bear Lake, Hurricane Lake, Karick Lake, Krul Lake and other designated sites. Some overnight camps on the forest require a fee. Some campsites may be closed for maintenance. The forest manager may be contacted for further information at 11650 Munson Highway, Milton, FL, 32570, or by phone at 850-957-5700.

Camping is also available at the following facilities near the Hutton Unit:

- **Blackwater State Park** at 7720 Deaton Bridge Road, Holt, FL 32564. Phone: 850-983-5363.
- **Milton/Gulf Pine KOA** at 8700 Gulf Pines Drive, Milton, FL 32583. Phone: 850-623-0808.
- **Rivers Edge RV Campground** at 4001 Log Lake Road, Holt, FL 32564. Phone: 850-837-2267.