and instructions are available at county tax collector’s offices, FWC offices or MyFWC.com.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-permit hunts. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as “no exemptions,” recreational use permits, untreated disease programs and Comprehensive Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [Florida 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, who hunt on base 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.

Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, by telephone at 888-486-8356 or through the Commission’s Recreational License Issuance Services (RLIS). 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.

Quota Permit Information:

- Archery (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
- Muzzleloading Gun (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
- Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit, first 5 days) – 200, no-cost, quota permits.
- General Gun (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
- General Gun (Bear Island Unit, first 9 days) – 200, no-cost, quota permits.
- General Gun (Turner River Unit, first 9 days) – 500, no-cost, quota permits.
- Spring Turkey (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Purchasing permits: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-permit hunts through RLIS. Workbooks listing hunts, application periods, deadlines and instructions are available from county tax collectors’ offices and RLIS offices of MyFWC.com. quota application periods occur throughout the year beginning April 1, please refer to the brochure handbook of MyFWC.com for specific dates. Workbooks will be available 2 weeks prior to each application period.

Guest hunters: For any non-transferable archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, and spring turkey quota hunt worksheets for additional information.

Youth and mentor license holders: A supervisor is required to accompany a youth or mentor license holder during any hunt. A youth hunter (less than 16 years of age) may be supervised by a person at least 15 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 for which quota permits are issued, at least 1 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 keep a quota permit on the area.

Transfer of permits: Quota and guest permits are not transferable. A positive form of identification is required when using a non-transferable permit, except for a youth under 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota permit or guest permit is prohibited.

National Park Service Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Permit: Vehicle operators must be state licensed (regular or learner’s permit) and obtain an ORV operator’s permit from the NPS for all vehicles, including airboats, used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. ORV’s and their operators must be permitted and the vehicles inspected prior to operation in the preserve. The ORV permit is issued for the vehicle, but NPS maintains a record of applicant and ownership information for each permitted ORV. ORV vehicle operators are responsible for knowing NPS regulations that apply to ORV use in the preserve. Please contact the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Office, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34161, 239-659-1260, regarding vehicle use regulations or ask pogs@bcp/ufa/transport/vehicle-use.htm. The NPS ORV permit is available at the Oasis Visitor Center.

General Area Regulations: All general laws and regulations relating to wildlife and fish 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 season and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear a shirt, cap, or other visible object that is a different color from the deer being hunted and visible from a distance of 200 yards.

2. Taking of sport fish, either wild or fish is prohibited.

3. It is illegal to hunt both deer or other bird for wildlife on this area.

4. Dealing 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. Hunting for or attempting to take game, furbearers, wild hog or other wildlife is prohibited.

8. It is illegal to hunt or trap any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the National Park Service.

10. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

11. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the State of Florida.

Hunting for 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.

12. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

13. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the State of Florida.

14. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the National Park Service.

15. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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48. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

49. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the State of Florida.

50. It is illegal to hunt or take any animal, including birds, on lands owned or leased by the National Park Service.
Guns:

1. Hunting at night with a gun is prohibited.
2. 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 2 or more balls.
3. No person shall discharge a firearm or use a non-constituting, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition is prohibited.
4. Hunting with a firearm that is loaded with more than 20 rounds is prohibited. See Florida Fishing Regulations handbook for details on hunting.
5. Wild life may not be transported alive.
6. Pistols may not be used to take wild turkey.
7. It is unlawful to set fire to any grass, woods or brush.
8. All FWC Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in which they have probable cause to believe that a firearm or ammunition is being illegally possessed.
9. Falconers may hunt during the statewide falconry season any time and, by permit, for public parks and state wildlife areas.
10. No person shall discharge a firearm or load a firearm in hand while in the vicinity of any person hunting without the express consent of the person hunting.
11. No person shall discharge a firearm or load a firearm in hand while in the vicinity of any person hunting without the express consent of the person hunting.
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12. The release of any animal is prohibited, except by permit from FWC or written authorization from the landowner. These restrictions do not apply to the possession of non-aggressive hunting dogs in a hunter's vehicle.

13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or cat. The head and evidence of sex may also not be removed from the carcass of any other wildlife.

14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization from the landowner. These restrictions do not apply to the possession of non-aggressive hunting dogs in a hunter's vehicle.

15. Wild dogs may not be transported alive.

16. Dogs may not be used to hunt any species.

17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodland.

18. All FWC Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or, in an emergency, any structure, for permits or quotations during hunting seasons

19. Falconers may hunt during the statewide falconery season anytime a management area. These restrictions do not apply to the possession of non-aggressive hunting dogs in a hunter's vehicle.

20. Construction of buildings or other structures is prohibited, unless permitted by the National Park Service.

21. Cutting of trees, shrubs, minerals, animal life or other natural objects is allowed only in accordance with written permits obtained in advance from the National Park Service.

Public Access and Vehicles:

1. Open to public access year round.

2. All vehicles and aircrafts off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area shall have a National Park Service ORV permit. See National Park Service ORV Road Vehicle (ORV) Permit, section 1.

3. To access the Bear Island Unit, all persons shall enter and exit the area at the Bear Island Unit toll station located at the only access check station, located north of 1-75 in the southeast portion of the Bear Island Unit.

4. All access into the Addition Unit is only from the facilities located on Interstates 75 or rail tracks 51 and 63, the 2-6-26 Lake Curland Canaveral loops, and from adjacent management units.

5. The use of motor vehicles is prohibited in the Addition Unit except licensed and supervised public utility vehicles, which may be operated on portions of the L-26-26 Lake Curland Canaveral loops north of Interstates 75.

6. Vehicles on the Old Miami Road or the Florida Trail is prohibited; however, vehicles may cross Etonahoe Road at marked designated crossing points. Maps are available at the visitors center.

7. On Leptop Road, only vehicles with pneumatic tires may be operated and parked and may not exceed 15 mph.

8. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.

9. No motor vehicle shall be parked or left closed to vehicular traffic.

10. All aircrafts must be equipped with an orange flag at least 10 inches wide and 12 inches tall. Aircraft may not exceed 100 feet high and be 200 feet from the bottom of the vessel.

11. All vehicles shall be kept inside a fenced portion of the property is prohibited.

Hunt and Check Stations:

1. Note: As part of the South Florida Deer Study, there are GPS collared deer in the Bear Island and Deep Lake units. GPS collars may not be removed. If possible, please check harvested collard deer at staffed check and provide all required information. If you can only check-a-collard deer, please call 239-657-8202 or email southflorida@fws.gov. The South Florida Deer Study is a multi-agency collaborative project to investigate deer population dynamics and benefits.
Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following are exempt from license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as “no exemptions,” recreational use permits, alligator harvest permits, and those for Florida Residents only): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older, children who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing License or resident Florida Silver Streak Project license, Florida residents not stationed in Florida, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 15 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.

Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, by telephone at 888-486-8356 or through the Commission’s Recreational License Issuance System (RLIS). Quota, spring, recreational use, hunter safety, and antlerless license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp.

Quota Permit Information:
Archery (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
Muzzleloading Gun (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit, first 9 days) – 200, no-cost, quota permits.
General Gun (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
General Gun (Bear Island Unit, first 9 days) – 200, no-cost, quota permits.
General Gun (Turner River Unit, first 9 days) – 500, no-cost, quota permits.
Spring Turkey (Addition Unit) – 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special- opportunity permits through RLIS. Workshops listing hunt, application periods, deadlines and contact information are available on the tax collector’s website, or on the FWC website at MyFWC.com. Quota application periods occur throughout the year beginning April 1, please refer to the hunting handbook or MyFWC.com for specific dates. Workshops will be available 2 weeks prior to each application period.

Guest hunters: For each non-transferable archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, and spring turkey quota permit issued through RLIS, a quota permit holder (host) may take a guest hunter by obtaining a guest permit. A guest hunter must possess a complete guest permit or hunting license that allows exemptions, a non-exempt supervisor of a youth must have a quota permit to hunt.

Youth and mentor license holders: A supervisor is required to accompany a youth or mentor license holder during any hunt. A hunter/bearer (less than 16 years of age) 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 for which quota permits are issued, at least 1 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.

Transfer of permits: Quota and guest permits are not transferable. A form of identification is required when using a non-transferable permit, except for a youth under 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota permit or guest permit is prohibited.

National Park Service Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Permit: Vehicle operation must be state licensed (regular or learner’s permit) and obtain an ORV operator’s permit from the NPS for all vehicles, including airboats, used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. All ORVs and their operators must be permitted and the vehicles inspected prior to operation in the preserve. The ORV permit is issued for the vehicle but NPS maintains a record of applicants and equipment information for each permitted ORV. ORV operators are responsible for knowing NPS regulations that apply to ORV use in the preserve. Please contact the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Office, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34161, 239-695-1290, regarding vehicle use regulations or at ORV info@nps.gov/bry/travel/vacationinfo.htm. The NPS ORV permit is available at the Oasis Visitor Center.

General Area Regulations:
1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear a vest which covers at least 500 square inches of daylight-fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. These provisions are not required when hunting with a bow and arrow during archery season.
2. Taking of spotted fowl, nesting duck or roosting turkey is prohibited.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Deviating a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. Private property owners may erect, 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 binoculars, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited. Recorded calls and sounds can be used to hunt fur-bearing, wild hog and coyote.
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 “Closed to Public Access” by ESCRA administrative action.
10. Taking or delivering wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat which is under power is prohibited, unless power and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Migratory bird hunting: Hunting must cease 1 hour before sunrise until 1½ hour after sunset (see exceptions under each season).