This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Silver Springs Forest Public Small Game Hunting 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 and the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available 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 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.

Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, by telephone at 888-486-8356 or at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. 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:**
Not required for this area.

**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 seasons and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Legal shooting hours for game are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset except for migratory game birds. Legal shooting hours for migratory game birds are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset only.
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 in 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. Construction or use of permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.
6. Public access is prohibited in portions of public hunting areas that are posted as “Closed” or “Restricted.”
7. Hunting and fishing is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to those activities.
8. 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. Recorded calls and sounds can be used to hunt furbearers, wild hog and crows.
9. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
10. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
11. A hunting license is not required to take wild hog.
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, except by permit from FWC or written authorization from the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
14. Littering is prohibited.
15. Fires are prohibited.
16. An FWC Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.
17. Falconers may hunt during the statewide falconry season anytime a management area is open for public access.

Public Access and Vehicles:
1. Open to public access year-round.
2. During periods open for hunting, public access is allowed from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.
3. Motorized vehicles and vessels are prohibited on the area. Motorized vehicles are allowed only in designated parking areas.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or fireline.

Hunters:
1. Hunters must enter at the designated entrances.
2. Hunters may enter the area no earlier than 1.5 hours before sunrise and shall exit the area no later than 1.5 hours after sunset.
3. There is no check station on this area.

Guns:
1. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.
2. Hunting wildlife (other than migratory birds) with air guns is allowed. See Florida Hunting Regulations handbook for details.
3. Children under the age of 16 hunting with a firearm or air gun 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. For hunting non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles (muzzleloader and rimfire only), pistols, air guns, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used.
6. For hunting migratory game, only shotguns, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
7. Hunting with full automatic firearms, centerfire rifles, explosive or drug-injecting devices and set guns is prohibited.
8. 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. Hunting wild hog with dogs is prohibited.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except dogs may be used for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
3. 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.
4. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
5. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

Camping: Prohibited.

Bag and Possession Limits:
1. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
2. Gray squirrel and rabbit - Daily limit 12 per person, possession limit 24 for each game species.
4. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria - No bag limits.
5. Migratory birds - See Florida Hunting Regulations handbook.

Small Game Season:
October 18-20, 25-27, November 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, November 29 through December 1, December 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-29, January 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, January 31 through February 2, February 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 and February 28 through March 1.
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 Hunt – Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail (beginning November 9th), rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, and migratory birds in season

Regulations Unique to Small Game Season -
1. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except dogs may be used for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Trapping: Prohibited.

Fishing and Frogging:
Allowed year round.
Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Fishing license (if fishing) or management area permit (if frogging).
Legal to Take - See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.
Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging - All 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 season.

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 352-732-1225 (TDD 800-955-8771).
3. The FWC and the District are 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.

St. Johns River WMD Information:
1. For information regarding recreational use other than hunting, please call the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) at 386-329-4404.
2. The SJRWMD management activities include prescribed burning and timber management most months of the year, including hunting seasons. For more information, please visit https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/announcements/ or the SJRWMD at landmgmt@sjrwmd.com or 386-329-4404.

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 disability. 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.
SILVER SPRINGS FOREST
PUBLIC SMALL GAME HUNTING AREA
4,900 acres
Marion County

Legend

Designated Entrance
Parking Area
Paved Road
Trail
Management Area