

**Hunting Bears on WMAs  
Summary of Proposed Rules  
Agenda Item 11 A  
June 24, 2015**

General regulations for hunting bears and a list of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) where bear hunting is allowed may be found below.

Please see the area-specific WMA brochure for information on hunting other species:  
<http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures>.

**NOTE: The bear season within a given Bear Management Unit (BMU) may close as early as midnight on October 25 if the harvest objective is reached within that BMU. To determine if the season has been closed, hunters must check the season status daily for the BMU in which they plan to hunt. Up-to-date season status information may be obtained daily after 9 p.m. by calling: **Number to be inserted in Final Version** or visiting **MyFWC.com/link to be updated**.**

**General Regulations for Bear Hunts:**

- Hunters must possess a special-use bear permit and all other required licenses and permits when hunting bears.
- Bears must be checked and tagged at a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)-designated check station within 12 hours of recovery.
- Daily, possession and season bag limit: One bear per person.
- The harvest of bears with one or more cubs present is prohibited.
- The harvest of bears less than 100 lbs. is prohibited.
- Positive evidence of sex identification in the form of testicles, penis, penis sheath, udder or vulva shall remain naturally attached to the all bears taken and shall remain attached until the bear is checked at a FWC-designated check station.
- No bear shall be dismembered until checked at a FWC-designated check station. Bears may be dismembered in the camp or field only after being checked at a FWC-designated check station, and each portion shall have a tag affixed to it identifying the name, address, and FWC Customer ID number of the person who harvested it.
- Legal methods of take: Centerfire rifles and handguns, shotguns, longbows, compound bows, recurve bows and crossbows (unless otherwise designated below).
- Bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds and arrows or bolts must be equipped with broadheads having at least two sharpened edges with minimum widths of 7/8 inches.
- Muzzleloading guns firing single balls must be at least .40-caliber or larger. Muzzleloading guns firing two or more balls must be 20-gauge or larger.
- Hunting with nonexpanding full metal case (military ball) or rimfire cartridges is prohibited.
- Hunting with centerfire semi-automatic rifles having magazine capacities of more than five rounds is prohibited.
- The use of any bait or feed is prohibited.
- Hunting bears with dogs is prohibited, except a dog on a leash may be used to trail a wounded bear.
- When hunting bears on WMAs, hunters are required to follow all regulations for the area in which they hunt. All legal methods of take are allowed for hunting bears (bows, crossbows or firearms), unless otherwise designated on the list below (e.g., "archery only" or "muzzleloading gun only").

## WMAs – Bear Hunting Allowed

### Northwest Region WMAs

#### East Panhandle BMU

**Apalachee WMA:** October 24-30, rifles are prohibited. No quota permit required.

**Apalachicola WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Apalachicola WMA - Bradwell Unit:** October 24-30, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Apalachicola River WEA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Aucilla WMA (Except Pinhook still hunt area):** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Aucilla WMA - Pinhook still hunt area:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Beaverdam Creek WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Box-R WMA:** October 24-30, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Chipola River WMA (Except Altha Tract):** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Chipola River WMA - Altha tract:** October 24-30, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Econfina Creek WMA (Except Fitzhugh Carter, Cat Creek and mobility-impaired areas):** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Econfina Creek WMA – Fitzhugh Carter and Cat Creek areas:** October 24-30, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Juniper Creek WMA:** October 24-30. U.S. Forest Service zone tag required.

**Ochlockonee River WMA:** October 24-25 and 30, archery only.

**Pine Log WMA:** October 24-30, archery only. No quota permit required.

**Talquin WMA:** October 24-25 and 30. No quota permit required.

**Tate's Hell WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Tate's Hell WMA - Womack Creek Unit:** October 24-30, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Tyndall WMA:** October 24-30, in areas, on days and by methods designated by Installation Commander. Tyndall permit required.

**Wakulla WMA:** October 24-25 and 30, archery only. Quota permit required.

### North Central Region WMAs

#### East Panhandle BMU

**Big Bend WMA - Hickory Mound Unit:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Big Bend WMA - Snipe Island Unit:** October 24-25, archery only. No quota permit required.

**Big Bend WMA - Snipe Island Unit:** October 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Big Bend WMA - Spring Creek Unit:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Big Bend WMA - Tide Swamp Unit:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Lower Econfina WMA:** October 24-25, archery only. No quota permit required.

**Middle Aucilla WMA:** October 24-30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Twin Rivers WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

## **Central BMU**

**Bayard WMA:** October 24-30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Belmore WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Lochloosa WMA:** October 24-25, archery only. October 30, muzzleloading gun only. No quota permit required.

**Raiford WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

## **North BMU**

**Cary WMA:** October 24-26 and 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Cypress Creek WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Four Creeks WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Little River WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Osceola WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Ralph E. Simmons Memorial WMA:** October 24-30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

## **Northeast Region WMAs**

### **Central BMU**

**Etoniah Creek WMA:** October 24-26 and 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Jumper Creek WMA:** October 24-26, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Lake Monroe WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Marshall Swamp WMA:** October 24-25, archery only. Quota permit required.

**Ocala WMA (Except Church Lake Unit):** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Ocala WMA – Church Lake Unit:** October 24-29. No quota permit required.

**Ocala WMA – Church Lake Unit:** October 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Rock Springs Run WMA:** October 24-26 and 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Seminole Forest WMA:** October 24-25 (mobility-impaired hunt). October 30, muzzleloading gun only. Quota permit required.

**Tiger Bay WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

## **South Region WMAs**

### **South BMU**

**Okealoocoochee Slough WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.

**Picayune Strand WMA:** October 24-25. Quota permit required.

**Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA:** October 24-30. No quota permit required.