

Withlacoochee State Forest

2008-
2009
Hunting
Season

Citrus

Wildlife Management Area

Regulations Summary and Area Map
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

Division of Forestry



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Citrus Wildlife Management 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, 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.

Persons using wildlife management 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", recreational use permits and 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.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, and management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, wild turkey and state waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, the Internet at MyFWC.com/license or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. 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; available where hunting licenses are sold, at most post offices or at duckstamp.com.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

Archery (first nine days) - 1000, no-cost, quota permits for each of 2 hunts.

Muzzleloading Gun - 850, no-cost, quota permits for each of 2 hunts.

General Gun - 850, no-cost, quota permits for each of 2 hunts.

Spring Turkey - 25, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 3 hunts.

Permit applications (**all application dates are for 2008**): Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits at a license agent, county tax collector's office or online at MyFWC.com.

Most quota and special opportunity permits are issued during a random drawing, which includes all applications submitted during the times and dates listed below. Any remaining permits are issued first-come, first-served.

A worksheet with a list of available permits may be obtained 1 - 2 weeks before each application period from FWC offices, tax collectors, license agents and online at MyFWC.com. Application for random drawings begins 10:00 a.m. eastern time on the first day of the application period and ends midnight eastern time on the last day. **Archery/Muzzleloading Gun and General Gun** quota permit applications may be submitted June 2 - 12. **Spring Turkey** quota permit applications may be submitted October 28 - November 6.

Youth and Mentor exemptions: A youth hunter (less than 16 years of age) hunting during seasons listed as "no exemptions" or mentor license holder and their respective supervisor may access the area and participate in any quota hunt (except special-opportunity), provided at least one hunter holds a valid quota permit and both hunters share a single bag limit of game. A supervisor for a youth must be 18 years of age or older. A supervisor for a mentor license holder must be a licensed hunter, 21 years of age or older. Only those supervisors with proper licenses and permits may hunt.

Transfer of permits: Quota permits are transferable. Quota permits issued to exempt hunters are transferable only to another person with the same type of exemption, except permits marked "exempt senior" may be transferred to a youth younger than 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota permit is prohibited.

GENERAL 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. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. This is not required during an archery-only season.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roasted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to take are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.

4. Driving 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. 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 as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. 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.
11. Most game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions for each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
16. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.
19. Quail hunting is prohibited east of County Road 491 between Forest Road 16 and County Road 480.
5. 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 two or more balls.
6. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
7. No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
8. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons or by permit) or falconry may be used.
9. For taking migratory game, only shotguns, bow and arrow (not crossbows), and falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
10. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
11. Fully 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 setguns are prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs are allowed during the Small Game season and Field Trial Events. Field Trial Events are authorized only in the area east of County Road 491 between Forest Road 16 and County Road 480.
3. Bird dogs may be trained, October 1 - 31, in the area east of County Road 491 between Forest Road 16 and 20.
4. 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.
5. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
6. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year-round.
2. Persons operating vehicles shall enter and exit only at a designated entrance.
3. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
5. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
6. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited.
7. The use of horses for hunting is prohibited, except during the Small Game season.
8. Horses may be ridden only on named or numbered roads, or designated horse trails.
9. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WMA 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.
2. No deer **or** turkey shall be dismembered or removed from the area until checked at a designated check station.

GUNS:

1. **All firearms shall be securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent, during periods when they are not a legal method of take.** Persons in possession of a valid concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.
2. **Target practice is prohibited.**
3. Hunting or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from rights-of-way of all paved roads is prohibited.
4. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.

CAMPING:

1. Camping is allowed at designated campsites only.
2. A daily fee is required whether the camp is occupied or not. A permit is available for the Archery and Small Game seasons in lieu of the daily fee. For information contact the Division of Forestry, Withlacoochee Forestry Center, 352-754-6896.
3. Hunt camps may be set up 14 days prior to the opening of Archery season and must be removed by 6 p.m. six days following the close of Small Game season.
4. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.
5. During the Small Game season, dogs under restraint are allowed in the overflow area of the Holder Mine campsite.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer - Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - One per quota permit, daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria - No bag limits.
6. Bobcat and otter - Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
7. Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

ARCHERY SEASON:

November 8 - 30.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during first 9 days), hunting license, management area permit, archery

permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:

December 6 - 7 and December 27 - 28.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, bobcat, otter and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed for hunting, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

GENERAL GUN SEASON:

December 13 - 14 and January 3 - 4.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, 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 Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, bobcat and otter and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

SMALL GAME SEASON:

January 5 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 Take - Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter until March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs is allowed.
2. Hunting from horses is allowed and horses may be ridden only on named or numbered roads, or designated horse trails.
3. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

March 24 - 26, April 7 - 9 and 21 - 23.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take - Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. The taking of any other animal is prohibited.
3. **Hunting turkey with centerfire rifles is prohibited.**

MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, geese, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun or small game seasons.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during any quota period), hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese and coots is prohibited.
2. Centerfire shotguns are allowed during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to take.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Allowed year-round.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Legal to Take - See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging - All General Area Regulations and 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 particular season.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
2. Water in wells is not certified for human consumption.
3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 386-758-0525 (TDD 800-955-8771).

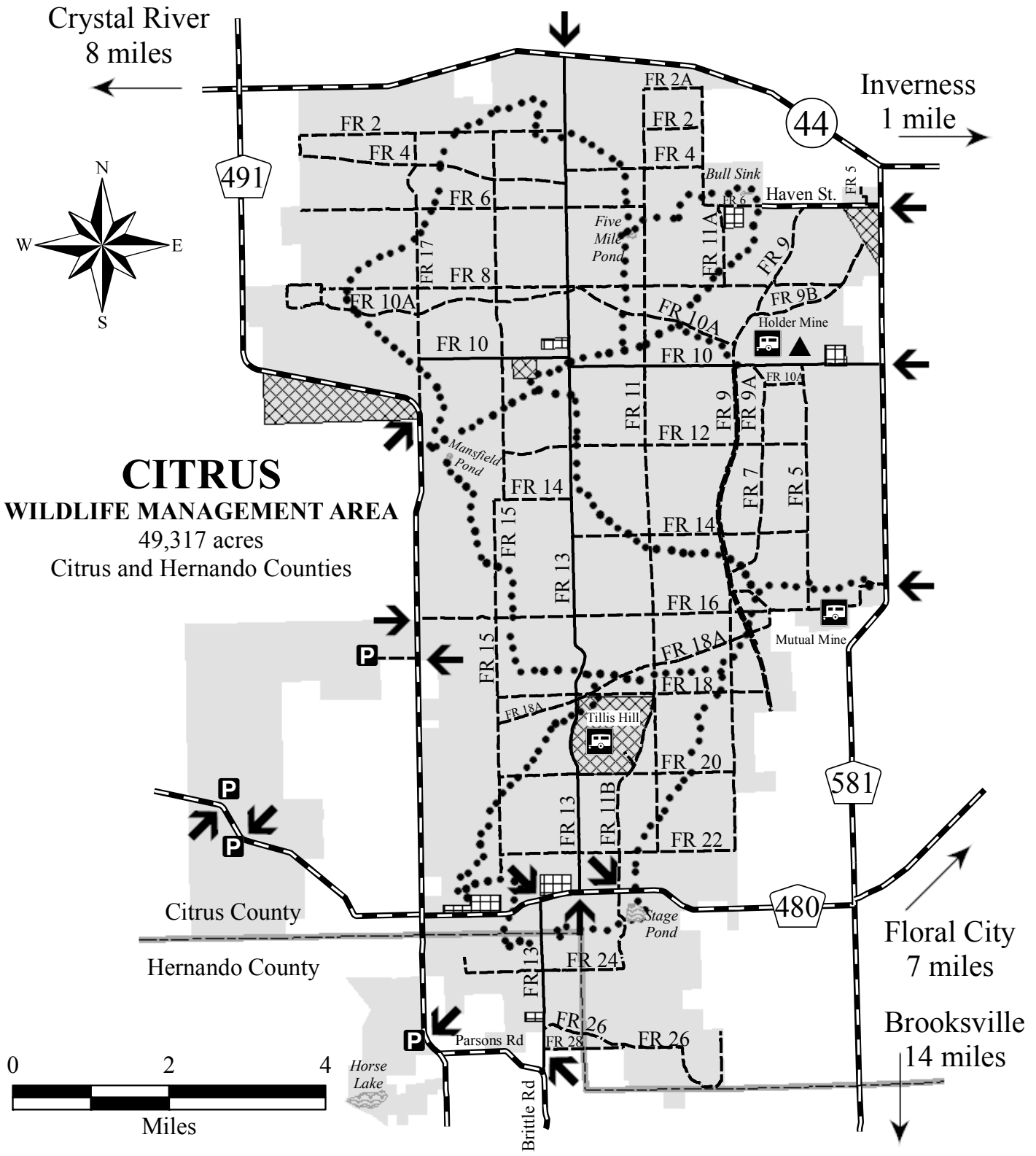
DIVISION OF FORESTRY RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. **The maximum speed limit on all forest roads is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.**
2. Construction of permanent or semi-permanent structures on State Forests is prohibited.
3. A valid firewood permit is required from the Division of Forestry before firewood may be removed from the area.
4. Unless posted as closed, horse, hiking and bicycle trails are open. For information call the Division of Forestry, Withlacoochee Forestry Center, 352-754-6896.
5. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Pets".
6. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas at 352-754-6896.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-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.



Legend			
	Management Area		Private Property
	Designated Entrance		Closed to Hunting
	Check Station		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Parking Area
	Paved Road		County Boundary
	Improved Road		Unimproved Road