

2008-
2009
Hunting
Season

Ross Prairie

State Forest and
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 Ross Prairie 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:

Quota permits are not required for this area.

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. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
2. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
3. No person shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
4. 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.
5. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
6. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" to those activities.
7. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.

8. 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.
9. Most game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions under each season).
10. The release of any animal is prohibited, without the written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
11. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
12. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
14. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
15. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
16. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year-round.
2. Motorized vehicles are prohibited except in designated parking areas.
3. Horses and bicycles are allowed only on roads, firelines and designated trails.
4. The use of airboats, tracked vehicles and all terrain vehicles is prohibited.
5. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
6. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.

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. Hunters shall enter or exit the area only at designated entrances.

GUNS:

1. Hunting with firearms other than shotguns is prohibited.
2. **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.
3. **Target practice is prohibited.**
4. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
5. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.

6. No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. For taking migratory game, shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
8. Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used for hunting small game.
2. 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.
3. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
4. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING:

1. Allowed at designated campsites only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
2. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria - No bag limits.
3. Bobcat and otter - Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.
4. Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

SUPERVISED SMALL GAME SEASON:

October 11 - 17, November 15 - 21, December 13 - 19, and January 10 - 16.

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 - Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter beginning December 1.

Regulations Unique to the Supervised Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Only persons under 16 years of age and their adult supervisor may hunt.

TRAPPING: 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 supervised small game season.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - 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 the Migratory Bird Seasons - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese and coots is prohibited.

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. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (352) 732-1225 (TDD 800-955-8771).

DIVISION OF FORESTRY RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. A valid fuelwood permit from the Division of Forestry is required before firewood may be removed from the area.
2. Construction of permanent or semipermanent structures on state forests is prohibited.
3. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning in most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry (352) 732-1201 for information and location of burn areas.

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.



**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License
by Phone...
Use Your Credit Card and Call**

**1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) OR
1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)**

(There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)

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ROSS PRAIRIE

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
(3,522 acres)

Marion County



LEGEND

- Management Area Boundary
- Paved Road
- Fireline
- State Road
- County Road
- Designated Entrance
- Parking Area
- Closed Area - No Hunting

