

# SWAN CREEK & MALLARD FOX CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (Limestone, Morgan & Lawrence Counties) ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES** Hunting Regulations – September 2019- August 2020

PERMITS: Daily Permits REQUIRED FOR EACH HUNTER for each hunt day, for WMA small and big game hunting. Daily Permits will be available at self-service boxes located at Swan Creek WMA: Decatur Day Park; Main Launch Rd; Dairy Rd. Mallard-Fox Creek WMA: County Line Rd; Flower Hill Rd. WMA map/season regulations will be available at West End Chevron 17171 Hwy 72 West, Athens; Martha's Store, located at intersection of Lucas Ferry Road and Nuclear Plant Road, James's Food Mart located at intersection of Hwy 31 and Airport Rd. or Bud's Store, 16960 Hwy 20, Hillsboro, or from the self-service issuing station located next to the Swan Creek equipment shed; by writing Area Biologist Drew Able, 21453 Harris Station Rd., Tanner, AL 35671 (enclose current hunting license number with a self-addressed stamped envelope); by phoning (256) 353-2634: or by printing from the internet at www.outdooralabama.com (both front and back pages of the internet map/season regulations must be together to be valid). Permits for trapping must be obtained from area biologist. Hunting licenses and State and Federal duck stamps may be obtained from any hunting license vendor selling electronically generated licenses, or the website www.outdooralabama.com.

- NOTE: As per 220-2-.55 A Wildlife Management Area License (required for deer, turkey and waterfowl), PLUS the applicable Resident or Non-Resident Hunting License [for Alabama residents 16 through 64 years of age and for non-residents 16 years of age and older], PLUS a Wildlife Management Area map/season regulations [free of charge], are required for hunting on AREAS; provided however, that properly licensed persons under the "Wildlife Heritage License" may hunt legal small game except waterfowl on AREAS without the other licenses described herein. PLUS, in order to hunt waterfowl on AREAS, all persons must have, in addition to the otherwise required licenses and permit, a HIP and valid State (ages 16 through 64) and a valid Federal (ages 16 and over) Waterfowl Stamp.
  - Either a State Hunting License, Wildlife Heritage License (residents only), Fishing License (residents only), or WMA License is required when using a Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries WMA shooting range.
  - Statewide antlered buck season bag limit applies to all WMAs.
  - Administrators of the hunt shall have the right to distribute the hunters and to inspect all vehicles or other equipment while on the areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and landowners, who are making the hunting possible, hereby put each hunter on notice that he hunts at his own risk and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and such landowners shall not be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur.

# **HUNTING DATES:**

DEER:	(Archery)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Oct. 15 – Nov. 22. Two deer a day, one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. Hunters must record all
		harvested deer on permit and return at Daily Permit Boxes or kiosks.
WATERFOWL:		State Seasons. Hunters must record all harvested waterfowl on permit and return at Daily Permit Boxes or kiosks.
SANDHILL CRANE:		By draw permit only. Dec. 3 – Jan. 5 and Jan. 16-31 (Sunrise to 12:00 noon).

Limit of 1 box (25 shells a person) in possession on Swan Creek WMA while waterfowl hunting. No waterfowl hunting in Swan Creek WMA dewatering unit on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays except for the last 14 days of the waterfowl season. All activity prohibited in the dewatering unit on these days.

DOVE: RABBIT & SOUIRREL:	State Season (Noon until sunset). Sept. 14 – Mar. 8. Fox Squirrel season closed during February and March.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & FOX:	Sept. 1 – Feb. 29 (Nighttime Hours Only). Dogs Only- No Weapons.
CROW, STARLING, & PIGEON:	Sept. 7 – Feb. 29 (Closed During Regular Waterfowl Season).
QUAIL:	Closed Season
SNIPE:	State Season
WOODCOCK:	State Season
RAIL:	State Season
BOBCAT, BEAVER, FOX,	
& COYOTE:	Open during any other scheduled WMA Hunting Season using weapons and ammunition approved for those hunts. No Dogs Allowed. Daylight
	Hours Only. One fox a day.
FURBEARER TRAPPING	
(Excluding Feral Swine):	Nov. 2 - Feb. 29. Trapping permits must be obtained from Area Biologist.
BOWFISHING:	Mar. 1 - Aug. 31 – Non-game fish only.

### NOTE: TARGET RANGE WILL BE CLOSED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, AS NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE AND DURING THE REGULAR AND YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASONS.

BAG LIMITS: Special Teal Season - State Bag Limits; Waterfowl- State Bag Limits; Coot: State Bag Limits; Goose Season: State Bag Limits; Squirrel - 8 a day; Rabbit - 8 a day; Raccoon & Opossum - no limit; Fox – 1 per day; Dove - 15 a day; Woodcock - 3 a day; Snipe - 8 a day; Rail - 15 a day; Falconers may take migratory game birds (not more than 3 per day in aggregate combination) and resident game birds and animals following the bag limits listed above for firearms and archery.

## PERMITTED FIREARMS, BOW AND ARROW, & FALCONRY:

Dee	r: Stalk Hunts:	As defined in Alabama Regulations archery equipment in 220-203.				
Ren	nainder of Seasons:	Legal arms and ammunition as defined in 220-202 and archery equipment in 220-203.				
Tra	oping:	As Defined in 220-230(1), except no .22 magnums are allowed.				
Falo	conry will be legal on a	Il AREA scheduled hunts for legally permitted falconers; following the dates those seasons are open on each AREA.				
IT S	HALL BE UNLAWFUL:					
1.	To hunt, trap, use dogs, possess firearms, ammunition, traps or bow and arrow, except bow fishing equipment without a valid permit. A permit is valid only during scheduled management or refuge area seasons during legal hunting hours and only with the required licenses and stamps and weapons and ammunition permitted for hunting the wildlife listed on permit. See (22) for limited exception for certain lawfully licensed handgun					
	possessed for person	al protection.				
2.	To use dogs for hunt	ing, training or any purpose from the end of small game season to the opening of the following fall gun season.				
2	To use dogs for stalk	hunting of deer or for turkey hunting (Leashed dogs may be used for the expressed purpose of retrieving wounded deer				

- limited to two dogs per tracking event).
- For any person under 16 years of age to hunt on the management area unless accompanied by an adult who is either 21 years old or older or the parent and who possesses all licenses to hunt.
- To have in possession any fully automatic rifle or firearms, ammunition or bow and arrow except as described in Permitted Firearms and Bow and 5. Arrow section or on a designated shooting range.
- 6. For any person to carry firearms in or on a vehicle, with ammunition in the magazine, breech or clip attached to firearms or black powder weapons with primer, cap or flash powder in place, or cocked crossbows. See (22) for limited exception for certain lawfully licensed handguns possessed for personal protection.
- To camp on Swan Creek WMA or Mallard-Fox Creek WMA. No warming fires shall be permitted on the areas. 7.
- 8.
- To kill or willfully molest any species of wildlife except those designated for hunting. For any person to hunt any wildlife species (except turkey, migratory birds and while hunting legally designated species during legal nighttime hours) without wearing the minimum requirement of hunter orange 9. as described in 220-2-.85.
- 10. To discharge fireworks at any time.
- To discharge firearms for target practice, except on the designated target range. 11.
- To hunt or discharge firearms within 150 yards of any camping area, dwelling, dam or timber operation, within 100 yards of any paved public road or highway, within a posted safety zone, or on Sunday within 12. one-half mile of any church.

#### To possess open alcoholic beverages. 13.

- For any person except authorized personnel to operate any motor driven vehicle behind, under or around any locked gate, barricaded road or sign which prohibits vehicular traffic. 14
- For any unauthorized person to possess and/or operate ANY UNLICENSED MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLE on any AREA, except when utilized for the expressed purpose of retrieving harvested deer, traveling to or 15. from a hunting location, or any other hunting related activity. ALL VEHICLES, whether licensed or unlicensed must remain on regularly used roads open for public use by four-wheel vehicle traffic.
- To ride or possess horses except on roads or trails open to four-wheel motorized vehicles or on roads, trails, or in areas designated as open to horses. Riding or possession of horses shall 16.
- s of a current valid Wildlife Management Area license and a valid wildlife management area permit.

(Add 1 hour When on Davlight Savings Time) SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN

DAY	AM PM	DAY				
1	521 614	543 532	608 454	637 437	655 448	1
2	522 613	543 530	609 453	638 437	655 449	2
3	523 611	544 529	610 452	638 437	655 450	3
4	523 610	545 528	611 451	639 437	655 451	4
5	524 609	546 526	612 451	640 437	655 452	5
6	525 607	547 525	613 450	641 437	656 452	6
7	525 606	547 524	614 449	642 437	656 453	7
8	526 604	548 522	615 448	643 437	656 454	8
9	527 603	549 521	616 447	643 437	656 455	9
10	528 602	550 520	617 447	644 438	655 456	10
11	528 600	550 518	618 446	645 438	655 457	11
12	529 559	551 517	619 445	646 438	655 458	12
13	530 557	552 516	620 444	646 438	655 459	13
14	530 556	553 514	621 444	647 439	655 500	14
15	531 554	554 513	622 443	648 439	655 501	15
16	532 553	554 512	623 443	648 439	654 501	16
17	532 552	555 511	624 442	649 440	654 502	17
18	533 550	556 509	625 441	649 440	654 503	18
19	534 549	557 508	626 441	650 440	653 504	19
20	535 547	558 507	627 440	651 441	653 505	20
21	535 546	559 506	628 440	651 441	653 506	21
22	536 545	600 505	628 440	652 442	652 507	22
23	537 543	600 504	629 439	652 442	652 508	23
24	538 542	601 502	630 439	652 443	651 509	24
25	538 540	602 501	631 439	653 444	651 510	25
26	539 539	603 500	632 438	653 444	650 511	26
27	540 537	604 459	633 438	654 445	649 512	27
28	540 536	605 458	634 438	654 446	649 513	28
29	541 535	606 457	635 438	654 446	648 514	29
30	542 533	607 456	636 437	655 447	648 515	30
31		608 455		655 448	647 516	31

- For any person except authorized personnel to block or otherwise stop traffic on any road or at any gate by parking a vehicle in such a way that passage around the vehicle is impossible. 17.
- 18. For any person to possess, deposit, distribute or scatter grain/corn, salt, litter, or any other materials on any AREA maintained by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources prior to receiving approval from said Department
- To damage or remove any artifacts, trees, crops or other plants, dirt, gravel or sod from management area without legal authorization. 19.
- 20.
- To hunt from an elevated stand or platform without first attaching themselves to the tree or platform with a full body safety harness capable of supporting their weight. For any person to release any animal, bird, fish, or other wildlife on any WMA, Refuge or Public Lands without first obtaining permission from the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. 21.
- Nothing in this regulation prohibits or requires a wildlife management area permit for the possession of handguns by lawfully licensed persons for personal protection, provided the handguns are not used to hunt 22. or take or to attempt to take wildlife (including persons while bow hunting) except as otherwise provided by this regulation.
- For waterfowl hunters to possess more than 25 shotgun shells (1 box) per person (in possession or in a boat) on Swan Creek WMA. This regulation does not limit the number of shells 23. one could possess in a vehicle or during special youth waterfowl hunts.

### The following regulations will apply only to the dewatering slough within the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area:

- To leave their vehicle parked at the approved launching sites; hunters must use the designated parking areas. However, approved handicapped vehicles may be parked at the designated handicap parking location 24. at the main launch only.
- Anyone launching a boat, preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit may not depart any launch site before 3:00 A.M daily. With the exception above, all other hunters preparing to hunt waterfowl 25. within the dewatering unit shall not be allowed in the water before 3:00 A.M daily. All boats and boat blinds used in the harvest of waterfowl within the dewatering area shall be floated to an approved launching site for overnight mooring or removed from the dewatering unit no later than 7:00 PM daily.
- To take fish for commercial purposes and/or to use commercial fishing gear within the dewatering unit at any time. 26.
- To use airboats on the dewatering sloughs. 27.
- It shall be illegal to install permanent waterfowl blinds (those using building materials and/or remaining in position overnight anywhere on the Swan Creek or Mallard-Fox Creek WMA except on the Swan Creek 28. WMA dewatering unit where specified. All such blinds to be placed in the dewatering area must be registered with Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division officials in accordance with the Regulations and Permanent Blind Drawing Qualification Procedures.
- 29. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt the Swan Creek Harris-Sweetwater dewatering unit on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during regular waterfowl season except for the last 14 days of the season. All activity in the dewatering unit is prohibited during this time. During splits between the youth season and regular season gates to West Dike road and the Main Launch road will be locked. All activity in the dewatering unit during this time is prohibited.
- Users should refer to WMA Regulation 220-2-.55 for the complete list of WMA specific regulations. 30.

**NOTE**: Hunters must contact the Swan Creek Management Area District Office for regulations governing the construction of permanent blinds on the dewatering slough. **BE COURTEOUS**. AS AN ETHICAL HUNTER, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE WATERFOWL SEASON FOR ALL HUNTING PARTIES IN THE DEWATERING AREA TO MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 150 YARDS BETWEEN ANY OTHER HUNTING GROUP.

WMA is provided by the Wildlife Section of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority.