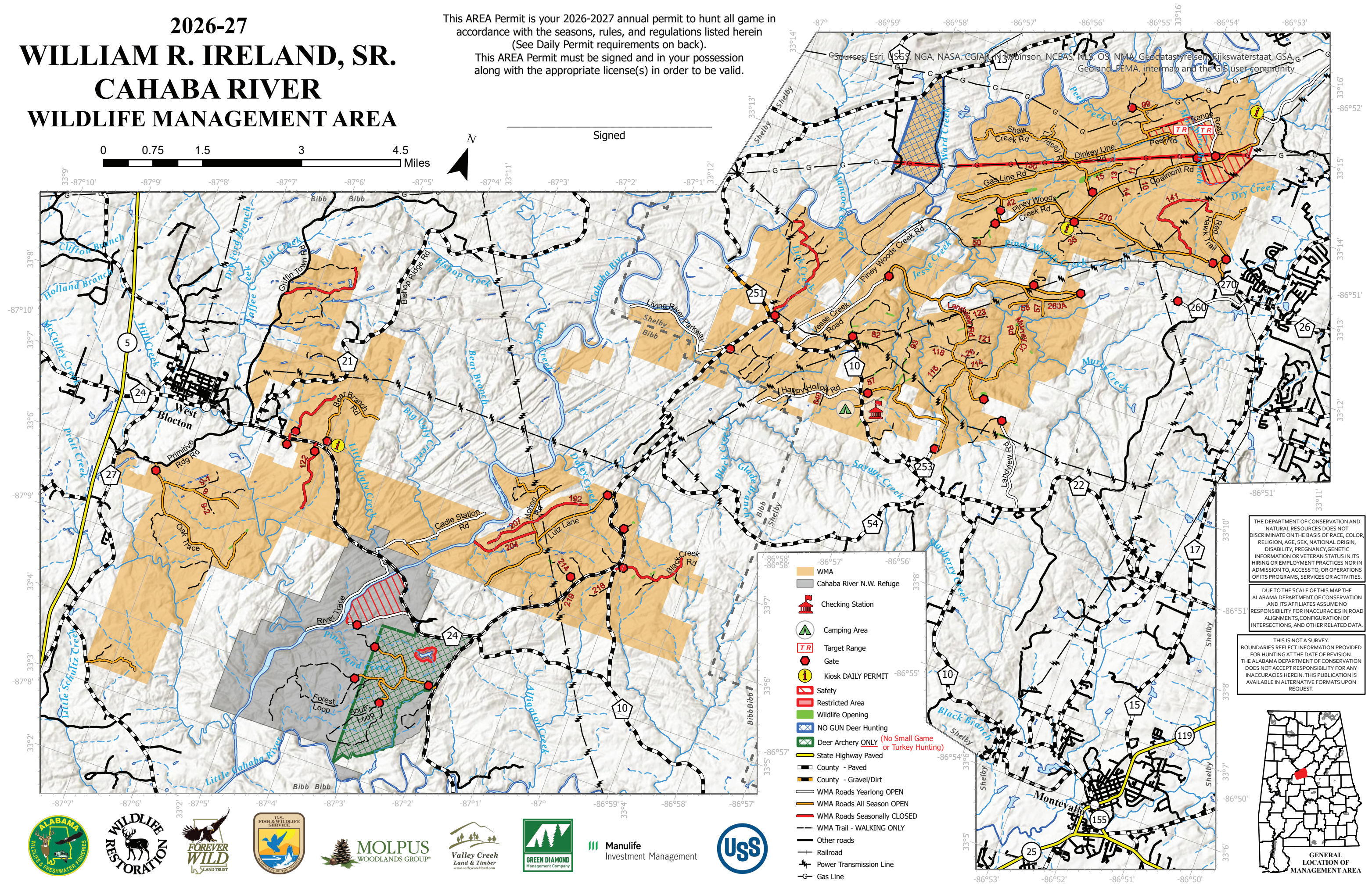


2026-27
WILLIAM R. IRELAND, SR.
CAHABA RIVER
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

This AREA Permit is your 2026-2027 annual permit to hunt all game in accordance with the seasons, rules, and regulations listed herein (See Daily Permit requirements on back).
This AREA Permit must be signed and in your possession along with the appropriate license(s) in order to be valid.





WILLIAM R. IRELAND, SR. – CAHABA RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Bibb and Shelby County

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL
RESOURCES – DIVISION OF WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES

Hunting Regulations September 2026 – August 2027

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For information and questions regarding regulations or use of the WMA,
please contact Biologist – **Logan McCord (334) 850-5459**

WHAT YOU NEED:

- **To hunt DEER or TURKEY:** a Wildlife Management Area License and the applicable Resident or Non-Resident All Game Hunting License [for Alabama residents 16 through 64 years of age and for non-residents 16 years of age and older], are required.
- **To hunt WATERFOWL:** a Wildlife Management Area License, current HIP certification and valid State (ages 16 through 64) and Federal (ages 16 and over) Waterfowl Stamp, and applicable Resident or Non-Resident Small Game or All Game Hunting License [for Alabama residents 16 through 64 years of age and for non-residents 16 years of age and older], are required.
- **To hunt small game except waterfowl:** a Wildlife Heritage License OR applicable Resident or Non-Resident Small Game or All Game Hunting License [for Alabama residents 16 through 64 years of age and for non-residents 16 years of age and older], is required.
- **For ALL HUNTS:** a paper AREA Permit and a paper WMA daily permit are required UNLESS using the Outdoor Alabama WMA Check-In application to check in and out each hunt day.

NOTES:

- Statewide antlered buck season bag limit applies to all WMAs, except for bonus buck as allowed.
- Youth hunters on youth deer and turkey hunts must be less than 16 years of age. Supervisors must be 21 years old or older, or a parent, and must be properly licensed. Youth must always remain within 30 feet of supervisors.
- Administrators of the hunt shall have the right to distribute the hunters and to inspect all vehicles or other equipment while on the WMA. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and landowners, who are making the hunting possible, hereby put each hunter on notice that they hunt at their 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 & BAG LIMITS:

DEER: (No Dog Deer Hunting) (No Buckshot)

(Archery)

Oct. 15-Feb. 10 – One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. No hunting on days of youth gun deer hunt. Including Cahaba River Refuge. ***Antlered buck restrictions apply.**

Archery hunters must abide by all mandatory check station day requirements and gun deer hunt regulations/antler restrictions when hunting on days of gun deer hunts.

(Youth)

Nov. 14-15 – One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. No gun deer hunting permitted on Cahaba River Refuge; youth deer is archery only on Refuge. ***No antler restrictions apply.**

(Primitive Weapons)

Nov. 16-20 and Nov. 30-Dec. 4 – One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. Archery only for deer on Cahaba River Refuge ***Antlered buck restrictions apply.**

(Gun)

Nov. 21-23 and Nov. 28-29 – One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. Archery only for deer on Cahaba River Refuge ***Antlered buck restrictions apply.**

(Gun)

Dec. 10-13, Dec. 17-20, Dec. 24-27, Dec. 31-Jan. 3, Jan. 7-10, Jan. 21-24 – (**Dec. 12 Bonus Buck Day, must be validated by WFF personnel at check station prior to leaving area**). One antlered buck a day. Archery only for deer on Cahaba River Refuge. ***Antlered buck restrictions apply.**

*** To be legal for harvest, antlered bucks must have at least three (3) antler points (1 Inch or longer) on at least one main beam.**

DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be submitted at check station for data collection on the following dates: Nov. 21, Nov. 28, Dec. 11-12, Dec. 19. The check station is open from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Additionally, the results of all hunts must be recorded using the Outdoor Alabama App or Daily Permit and submitted at the kiosk at the conclusion of every hunt day.

TURKEY: (Youth)

March 13 (Daylight until 1 p.m.) Gobblers only. Decoys Allowed.

(Physically Disabled)

March 19 (Daylight until 1 p.m.) Gobblers only. Decoys Allowed.

(Regular)

March 20-May 3 (Daylight until 1 p.m.) Gobblers only. Decoys Allowed.

BAG LIMIT – No more than 1 gobbler during the first 10 days of each season. No more than 2 gobblers total per hunter from William R. Ireland-Cahaba River WMA.

WATERFOWL:

State Season. ½ hour before sunrise until sunset. No hunting on days of primitive weapons or gun deer hunts. **NO OPEN SEASON ON THE CAHABA RIVER REFUGE. State bag limits.**

DOVE:

State Season. (Opening day: 12:00 noon to sunset; remainder of season – 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset). Wednesday and Saturdays only. No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Bag limit: 15 per day. NO OPEN SEASON ON CAHABA RIVER REFUGE.**

RABBIT & SQUIRREL:

Sept. 12-Feb. 28 – Fox squirrel season closed during February. No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Bag limit: 8 squirrels per day. 8 rabbits per day.**

CROW:

Sept. 1-Feb. 28 – No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **No bag limit. NO OPEN SEASON ON CAHABA RIVER REFUGE.**

QUAIL:

Nov. 7-Feb. 28 – No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Bag limit 8 per day.**

WOODCOCK:

State season. No hunting on days of primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Bag limit: 3 per day. NO OPEN SEASON ON CAHABA RIVER REFUGE.**

SNIPE:

State season. No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Bag limit: 8 per day.**

RACCOON & OPOSSUM: **Sept. 1-Feb. 28** – Nighttime hours only. No hunting on nights preceding or nights of youth, primitive weapon, or gun deer hunts. **No bag limit.**

BOBCAT, COYOTE, OPOSSUM, FERAL SWINE, RACCOON, FOX:

Open during any other scheduled WMA Hunting Season using weapons and ammunition approved for those hunts. No dogs allowed. Daylight hours only. **No bag limit.**

FURBEARER TRAPPING: (Excluding feral swine) **Oct. 31-Feb. 28** – Trapping permits must be obtained from Area Biologist. **NO OPEN SEASON ON CAHABA RIVER REFUGE.**

IMPORTANT:

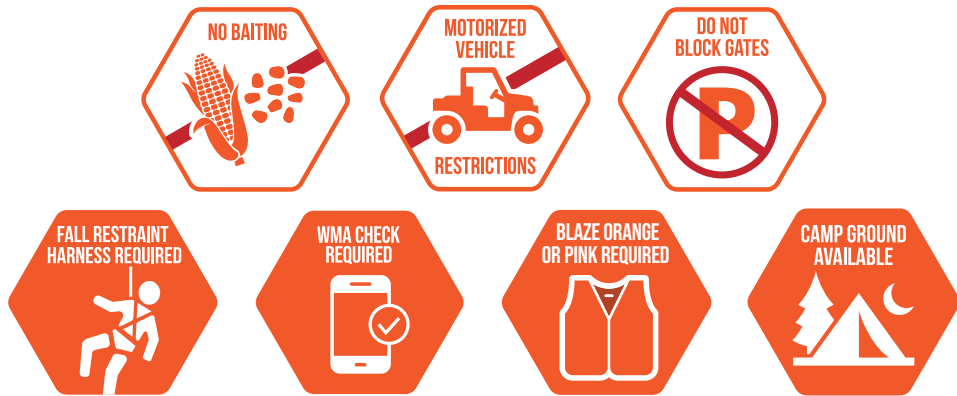
All hunters must be familiar with WMA Regulation 220-2-.55. This regulation contains complete rules for hunting on this property. **In addition, it shall be unlawful:**

***Users must refer to WMA Regulation 220-2-.55 for the complete list of WMA regulations.**

1. To transport harvested deer or turkey from the WMA before reporting harvest in the Game Check System. Hunters must also submit such harvests at the WMA check station for data collection if hunt date is indicated as a mandatory check station day on the Outdoor Alabama WMA Application or AREA Permit. All other harvested game must be recorded on the Outdoor Alabama WMA Application or WMA Daily Permit.
2. To discharge firearms for target practice except on designated target ranges in accordance with listed rules during posted times and dates.
3. For any person, except authorized personnel, to operate any motor-driven vehicle behind locked gates, barricaded roads, or signs which prohibits vehicular traffic.
4. For any unauthorized person to possess and/or operate **ANY UNLICENSED MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLE on WMA.**
5. To damage or remove any artifacts, trees, firewood, plants, dirt, gravel, or sod without legal authorization.
6. To erect any permanent tree stand; install any screw-in style steps, spikes, or nails; or otherwise damage any tree.
7. For any unauthorized person to ride or possess horses on WMA except as detailed in Regulation 220-2-.55 sections (w) and (x).

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 Forever Wild Land Trust, Manulife Investment Management Timberland and Agriculture LLC, USX Corporation, Green Diamond Management Company LLC, and USFWS.

KNOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS



For a complete list of legal firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, see QR code.



By using this Wildlife Management Area I acknowledge I have read, understand, and agree to the current WMA Regulation 220-2-.55. The information provided here is not the full regulation and users must refer to 220-2-.55

Scan the QR code or visit OutdoorAlabama.com/WMARules for the complete WMA rules and regulation 220-2-.55