

**BLUE SPRING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
CONECUH NATIONAL FOREST
(Covington County)
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES
Hunting Regulations - September 2018– August 2019**

PERMITS: Season permits will be issued for small game, primitive weapons, archery deer and turkey. All deer hunters (including archery) during gun, and dog deer hunts shall be issued a daily permit from the checking station and shall report in and out at the checking station located at the Blue Spring Equipment Shed near Open Pond Tower in Conecuh National Forest. Checking station will open no later than 5:00 a.m. Permits requested by mail should be made to Area Biologist Griff Johnson, 1119 Forest Area Road, Kinston, AL 36453 (Telephone [334] 898-7013). Request must include current hunting license numbers and a large stamped, self-addressed envelope. Season permits available on a self-service basis from checking station or during business hours at the Wildlife District IV Office in Enterprise. Trapping permits must be obtained from the area biologist.

NOTE: • **A State Hunting License, wildlife management area permit, and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) License are required when hunting deer, turkey, or waterfowl on a wildlife management area. For residents, a State hunting license or Wildlife Heritage License (residents only) and WMA permit are required for hunting small game, except waterfowl, on wildlife management areas. Nonresidents must possess a wildlife management area license in addition to a hunting license and WMA permit to hunt big game and small game.**

- **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 remain within 30 feet of supervisors at all times.**
- **Individuals ages 16 through 64 that utilize the shooting range are required to possess a valid Wildlife Heritage License, State hunting license, WMA license, or resident annual freshwater fishing license, or pay the USFS fee of \$3.00 per vehicle.**
- **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 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.**
- **Users refer to U.S.F.S. for other regulations that apply to U.S. Forest Service Lands.**

HUNTING DATES:

DEER:	(Youth)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Nov. 10. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck.
	(Gun)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Nov. 17 and Nov. 24. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. *Antlered buck restrictions apply.
	(Dog)	Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Dec. 21-23, Jan. 11-12, Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 7-10. One antlered buck per day. *Antlered buck restrictions apply.
	(Primitive Weapons)	Dog Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 28-29. One antlered buck per day. *Antlered buck restrictions apply.
(Archery)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Nov. 12-16. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. *Antlered buck restrictions apply.	
	Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Oct. 15-24. One antlered buck per day. *Antlered buck restrictions apply.	

Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Oct. 25 – Feb. 10. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. No hunting on days of dog deer hunts. Archery hunters must obtain deer permit on days of gun hunts and abide by all gun deer hunt regulations. ***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.**

TURKEY:	(Youth)	Mar. 9 (daylight to 1 pm). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the check station.
	(Physically Disabled)	Mar. 15 (daylight to 1 pm). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the check station.
	(Regular)	Mar. 16 – Apr. 30 (daylight to 1 pm). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the check station.
DOVE:		State seasons (12:00 noon to sunset). Saturdays and Wednesdays only. No hunting on days of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
QUAIL:		Nov. 3 – Feb. 28. No hunting on days of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
RABBIT & SQUIRREL:		Sep.15 – Mar. 3. No hunting on days of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts. Fox squirrel season closed during February and March.
RACCOON & OPOSSUM:		Sep.15 – Feb. 28 (nighttime hours only). No hunting on nights preceding or nights of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
BOBCAT, COYOTE, FERAL SWINE & FOX:		Open during any other scheduled WMA Hunting Season using weapons and ammunition approved for those hunts. No Dogs Allowed. Daylight Hours Only. One fox per day.
FOX:		Sep. 1 – Oct. 14 (daylight hunting permitted). Dogs only – no weapons.
		Oct. 14 – Feb. 28 (nighttime hours only). No hunting on nights preceding or nights of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
SNIPE:		Nov. 10 – Feb. 24. No hunting on days of youth, gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
WOODCOCK:		Dec. 14 – Jan. 27. No hunting on days of gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
WATERFOWL:		State seasons. No hunting on days of gun, dog, and primitive weapons deer hunts. No hunting permitted on Open, Buck, Ditch, and Blue Ponds.
FURBEARER TRAPPING (excluding feral swine):		Nov. 3 – Feb. 28 (Excluding Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 28-29). Trapping permits must be obtained from Area Biologist. All trappers must wear hunter's orange while trapping on days of gun deer hunts.

BAG LIMITS: Deer (either sex) – two per day (except spotted fawns) – one unantlered deer and one antlered buck; Deer (Antlered bucks only)- one per day; archery – two deer per day (except spotted fawns) – one unantlered deer and one antlered buck; Turkey (gobblers only) - 1 a day (5 per season); Dove – 15 a day; Squirrel - 8 a day; Quail - 8 a day; Rabbit - 8 a day; Raccoon & Opossum - no limit; Fox – 1 a day; Woodcock - 3 a day; Waterfowl - State Limit.

PERMITTED FIREARMS, BOW AND ARROW, & FALCONRY:

Deer: *Stalk Hunts:* As defined in Alabama Regulations legal arms and ammunition in 220-2-.02(2), (excluding buckshot) and archery equipment in 220-2-.03.
Dog Hunts: Buckshot only.
Primitive Weapons: Using only muzzle loading rifles (.40 caliber or larger), muzzle loading shotguns, air-powered guns (.30 caliber or larger) or archery equipment as defined in 220-2-.03.

Turkey: As defined in 220-2-.02(3), except no center-fire pistols or crossbows allowed.
Remainder of Seasons: Legal arms and ammunition as defined in 220-2-.02 and archery equipment in 220-2-.03.
Trapping: As Defined in 220-2-.30(2), except no .22 magnums are allowed.
Falconry will be legal on all AREA scheduled hunts for legally permitted falconers; following the dates those seasons are open on each AREA.

IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL:

1. To hunt, trap, use dogs, possess firearms, ammunition, traps or bow and arrow without a valid permit (except for legally licensed handguns). A permit is valid only during scheduled management area seasons during legal hunting hours and only with weapons and ammunition permitted for hunting the wildlife listed on permit.
2. To use dogs for stalk hunting of deer or for turkey hunting.
3. To use dogs for hunting, training or any purpose from March 6 until August 31.
4. For any person under 16 years of age to hunt on the management area unless accompanied by a licensed hunter at all times.
5. For any person to hunt deer with gun or bow and arrow on scheduled gun deer hunts without first presenting his required hunting license at the checking station.
6. For any person to carry firearms in or on vehicle with ammunition in the magazine, breech or clip attached to firearms, or black powder weapons with primer, cap or flash powder in place (except for legally licensed handguns).
7. To camp in the management area except in designated sites. On management areas located on U.S. Forest Service lands, this camping restriction applies from October 1-January 31. Individuals or groups may camp on the management area for a period not to exceed nine (9) days in any 30 day period. Campfires must be extinguished before departing. No warming fires shall be permitted away from camping area.
8. To kill or willfully molest any species of wildlife except those designated for hunting. However, this regulation shall not apply to bobcat, feral swine, or coyote which may be killed during all scheduled management area hunts, during daylight hours only, when possessing a valid permit and using weapons and ammunition that are legal for such designated hunts.
9. To discharge fireworks at any time.
10. To discharge firearms for target practice.
11. To hunt or discharge firearms within 150 yards of any camping area, dwelling, dam or timber operation, or within 100 yards of any paved public road, highway, or within a posted safety zone, or within one-half mile of a church on Sunday, or to hunt or discharge firearms from any **open** U.S. Forest Service Road.
12. To transport deer killed during the gun hunts from the management area before being examined at the checking station for scientific data.
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 at any time to operate any unlicensed motor driven vehicle on Blue Spring Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
15. For any person to hunt deer on days of scheduled gun or primitive weapons hunts without wearing a vest containing a minimum 144 square inches of hunter orange color, or either a full size hunter orange hat or cap. The hunter orange must be of solid color, except for a small logo on the front of the cap, and visible from any angle.
16. For any person except authorized personnel to block or otherwise stop traffic on any road by parking a vehicle in such a way that passage around the vehicle is impossible.
17. To deposit, distribute or scatter grain, salt, litter, or any other materials on management area prior to receiving approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
18. For any person to damage or remove any trees, crops or other plants, dirt, gravel or sod from management area without legal authorization.
19. To erect or use a permanent tree stand or scaffold on management area without written permission from the landowners.
20. To hunt from an elevated stand or platform without attaching themselves to the tree or platform with a full body safety harness capable of supporting their weight.
21. **Users should refer to WMA Regulation 220-2-.55 for the complete list of WMA specific regulations.**

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 United States Forest Service.