

**DAVID K. NELSON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**(Greene, Hale, Marengo, & Sumter Counties)**  
**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES**  
**Hunting Regulations – September 2018 – August 2019**

**PERMITS:** Season permits for all hunts are available at the self-service box at the Damsite Unit entrance of David K. Nelson WMA; locally at Wal-Mart, Hwy 80, Demopolis; Willingham's Sports, Hwy. 80, Demopolis; Elk Food Mart Shell Station, Hwy. 43 North, Demopolis; AMOCO Food Shop, Hwy. 28 West, Coatopa; and Belmont Grocery, Belmont; or via the internet at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com). Requests for permits by mail should be sent to Area Biologist Justin Gilchrist, P.O. Box 993, Demopolis, AL 36732 (office phone (334) 289-8030). Include a large, self-addressed stamped envelope and current hunting license number. All deer, turkeys, and feral swine killed during any hunt **must** be reported by recording at the kiosk, or contacting the Area Biologist. **Trapping** permits must be obtained from the Area Biologist.

**NOTE:** • **A State Hunting License, Wildlife Management Area (WMA) License and a wildlife management area permit 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.**
- **A valid WMA license and a valid WMA permit are required to ride and/or possess horses on David K. Nelson WMA.**
- **Antlered buck restrictions apply to Damsite and Daub's Swamp Units– Minimum of 3 points (1 inch or more) on at least one main beam. 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 Army Corps of Engineers, 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.**

**LOCATION OF UNITS:** The Damsite Unit is located in Sumter County across the Tombigbee River from the city of Demopolis and Demopolis Lock and Dam. This unit is accessible by vehicle off Sumter Co. Rd. 23 near the Belmont community. Boat ramps giving access include Demopolis City, Old Lock 4 Park, Foscue Creek Park, and Belmont Park boat ramps. The Daub's Swamp Unit is located in the south end of Greene County and is accessible by boat only. Boat ramps providing the best access are Runaway Branch II Park and Belmont Park boat ramps. The Area 10 Unit is located in Marengo County at the confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers. This unit is accessible by boat from Runaway Branch II Park and Old Lock 4 Park boat ramps. The Backbone Unit is located in Greene County directly across from Backbone Creek Park off Greene Co. Rd. 18. Best boat ramps for accessing this unit are Backbone Creek Park and Arcola Park boat ramps. The Dead Lake Unit is located in Greene County northeast of the city of Demopolis. Best ramps for accessing this unit are Backbone Creek Park and Runaway Branch II Park boat ramps. The Hale County Bottom Unit is located in Hale County and is south of the Greene County Steam Plant. Best ramps for access are Arcola Park and Old Lock 5 Park boat ramps. The Spidle Lake Unit is located in Sumter County. Best access is from Belmont Park boat ramp. Johnson Branch Unit is located in Greene County southeast of the Greene County Steam Plant. Best access is from Arcola Park or Old Lock 5 Park boat ramps. The Prairie Creek Unit is located in Hale County along Big Prairie and Big German Creeks. Best access is from Old Lock 5 Park boat ramp.

**HUNTING DATES:**

DEER:	(Youth)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: <b>Nov. 10-11.</b> Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk or notify Area Biologist.
	(Gun)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: <b>Nov. 17-18, Dec. 7-13.</b> All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. * <b>Antlered buck restrictions apply.</b> Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: <b>Jan. 4-10, Jan.18-20, Jan. 25-27.</b> All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist. One antlered buck per day. * <b>Antlered buck restrictions apply.</b>
	(Primitive Weapons)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: <b>Nov. 15-16, Feb. 3-5.</b> All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. * <b>Antlered buck restrictions apply.</b>
	(Archery)	Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: <b>Oct. 15 – Feb. 10.</b> Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. Archery hunters must abide by all gun deer hunt regulations when hunting on days of gun deer hunts. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist. * <b>Antlered buck restrictions apply.</b>

**\*Damsite and Daub's Swamp Units (\*Antlered buck restrictions apply)**

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

TURKEY:	(Youth)	<b>Mar. 9-10</b> (daylight until 1:00 p.m.). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist.
	(Physically Disabled)	<b>Mar. 15</b> (daylight until 1:00 p.m.). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist.
	(Regular)	<b>Mar. 16 – Apr. 30</b> (daylight until 1:00 p.m.). Gobblers only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist.
DOVE:		State season (12:00 noon until sunset). No hunting on days of scheduled youth, gun, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
QUAIL:		<b>Nov. 3 – Feb. 28.</b> No hunting on days of scheduled youth, gun, and primitive weapons deer hunts.
RABBIT & SQUIRREL:		<b>Sep. 15 – Mar. 3.</b> No hunting on days of scheduled youth, gun, and primitive weapons deer hunts. Fox Squirrel season closed during February and March.

**RACCOON & OPOSSUM:** **Sep. 1 – Mar. 3** (nighttime hours only). No hunting on nights preceding or nights of scheduled youth, gun, 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.

**FERAL SWINE:** **Mar. 1-4.** No Dogs Allowed. Daylight Hours Only. All successful hunters must record their harvest at the kiosk, or notify Area Biologist.

**SNIPE:** **Nov. 10 – Feb. 24.** No hunting on days of primitive weapons and gun deer hunts.

**WOODCOCK:** **Dec. 14 – Jan. 27.** No hunting on days of scheduled gun and primitive weapons deer hunts.

**WATERFOWL:** **Daub's Swamp, Dead Lake, and Spidle Lake Units.** State season Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays only (1/2 hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon).

All other units open during state season (1/2 hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon). No waterfowl hunting on days of scheduled gun and primitive weapons deer hunts.

**FURBEARER TRAPPING**  
(excluding feral swine):

**Nov. 3 – Feb. 28.** Trapping permits must be obtained from Area Biologist. All trappers must wear hunter's orange during gun deer season.

**BAG LIMITS:** Deer – Hunter's Choice- Two deer per day-one unantlered deer and one antlered buck; statewide antlered buck bag limit applies. **Antlered buck restrictions apply to Damsite and Daub's Swamp Units- Minimum of 3 points (1 inch or more) on at least one main beam;** turkey (gobblers only) – 1 a day (5 per season); squirrel – 8 a day; rabbit – 8 a day; quail – 8 a day; raccoon & opossum – no limit; mourning dove – 15 a day; feral hogs – no limit; coyote – no limit; bobcat – no limit; fox – 1 a day; waterfowl – State and Federal regulations apply.

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

Deer: <i>Stalk Hunts:</i>	As defined in Alabama Regulations legal arms and ammunition in 220-2-.02(2), (excluding buckshot) and archery equipment in 220-2-.03.
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, traps, or bow and arrow, without a valid permit.
2. To use dogs for stalk hunting of deer or for turkey hunting.
3. To conduct organized man drives during stalk hunts outside the hours of 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM.
4. To use dogs for hunting, training or any purpose from the end of small game season until August 31.
5. For any person under 16 years of age to hunt on any WMA unless accompanied by a licensed hunter, at least 21 years of age, at all times.
6. For any person to carry in or on a vehicle, any of the following: any firearms [including pistols/handguns, except as described in (20)] 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 (20) for limited exception for certain lawfully licensed handguns possessed for personal protection.
7. To camp on any WMA except in designated sites. Individuals or groups may camp on WMAs for a period not to exceed nine (9) days in any thirty (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.
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, 100 yards of any paved public road or highway; within a posted safety zone or on Sunday within one/half mile of any church.
12. To possess open alcoholic beverages outside designated camping areas.
13. For any person to possess any firearm while hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow, except on days of either-sex gun deer hunts (See (19) for limited exception).
14. 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.
15. For any unauthorized person at any time to operate any unlicensed motor scooter, motorcycle, trail bike, ATV, UTV, or other motor driven vehicle on the WMA. Utility right-of-ways are not open to vehicular traffic.
16. For any unauthorized person to ride or possess horses except on roads and trails open to four-wheel motorized vehicles or on roads and trails or in areas designated as open to horses, (except for raccoon hunters during the legal nighttime raccoon season where authorized. For any person to hunt deer or feral swine on days of scheduled youth, gun, or primitive weapons deer hunts without wearing an outer garment above the waist containing a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange color or either a full-size hunter orange hat or cap. Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange when hunting from a stand elevated twelve (12) feet or more above the ground. The hunter orange must be of solid color, except for a small logo and/or printing on the front of the cap, and visible from any angle.
17. For any person except authorized personnel to **park in front of a closed gate**, block or otherwise stop traffic on any road and park a vehicle in such a way that impedes traffic.
18. **For any person to deposit, distribute or scatter grain, salt, litter, or any other materials on any WMA.**
19. To damage or remove any artifacts, trees, crops, or other plants, dirt, gravel or sod without legal authorization.
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. **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 or take or to attempt to take wildlife except as otherwise provided by this regulation.**
22. For any person to field-dress or move any harvested antlered buck or turkey without first properly recording it on the hunter's Antlered Deer Harvest or Turkey Harvest Record form.
23. **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, Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, in cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**