

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 2018- August 2019

PERMITS: A season permit is required for all hunting and trapping. Season waterfowl, small game, and archery deer map/permits may be West End Chevron 17171 Hwy 72 West, Athens; 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/permit 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, the website www.outdooralabama.com or by calling 1-888-848-6887. All deer harvested on Swan Creek and Mallard Fox Creek WMA must have data recorded at one of the following locations: the check station located just east of the Swan Creek equipment shed, 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., Mojo Deli 6, 3065 Hwy. 20 Decatur, or Bud's Store, 16960 Hwy 20, Hillsboro.

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 any 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 which requires a Federal and State Duck Stamp 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.

• 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.

• 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 arm's length of supervisors at all times.

• 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.

• Limit of 1 box of shells (25 per person) in possession on Swan Creek WMA while waterfowl hunting. This does not apply to the Youth Waterfowl Days. No waterfowl hunting in the Harris-Sweetwater (Swan Creek) dewatering impoundment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays of the regular waterfowl season except during the last 14 days of the season. All activity in the dewatering unit is prohibited on these days.

In order to remove predators such as fox, coyote, and bobcat from Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area:

*Note 1: All Small Game hunting, (except waterfowl), on the Swan Creek WMA will be closed North and West of Swan Creek Dec. 3-7 to trap furbearers.

*Note 2: All Small Game hunting, (except waterfowl), on the Swan Creek WMA will be closed South and East of Swan Creek Dec. 10-14 to trap furbearers.

HUNTING DATES:

(ARCHERY ONLY) Stalk Hunting Hunters' Choice. Oct. 15 – Nov. 16. Two deer per day - one unantlered deer and one antlered buck. DEER:

WATERFOWL: State Season. (1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset). (Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the dewatering unit except for the last 14 days). GOOSE (All Geese): State Season. (1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset). (Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the dewatering unit except for the last 14 days).

SPECIAL TEAL SEASON: **State Season** YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS: **State Season**

State Season *1, 2 (Noon until sunset). DOVE: RABBIT & SQUIRREL: **Sep. 15 – Mar. 3. *Note 1, 2.** Fox Squirrel season closed during February and March.

Nov. 10 – Feb. 24. *Note 1, 2. SNIPF:

RACCOON, OPOSSUM & FOX: **Sep. 1 – Feb. 28. *Note 1, 2.** (Nighttime hours only). Fox - Dogs only; No Weapons.

CROW, STARLING & PIGEON: **Sep. 8 – Feb. 28.** *Note 1, 2. (Closed during regular waterfowl season).

Closed Season QUAIL:

WOODCOCK: Dec. 14 - Jan. 27. *Note 2.

State Season *Note 1, 2. RAIL:

BOBCAT, BEAVER, FOX & COYOTE: Open during any other scheduled WMA hunting season using weapons and ammo approved for those hunts. No Dogs Allowed - Daylight Hours Only.

FURBEARER TRAPPING: Nov. 3 - Feb. 28. (excluding feral swine)

BOW FISHING: Mar. 1 – Aug. 31. Non-game fish only.

NOTE: TARGET RANGE WILL BE CLOSED EVERY TUESDAY 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; Quail - 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:

As defined in Alabama Regulations archery equipment in 220-2-.03. Deer: Stalk Hunts:

Legal arms and ammunition as defined in 220-2-.02 and archery equipment in 220-2-.03. Remainder of Seasons: Trapping: As Defined in 220-2-.30(1), 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.

- 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 (21) for limited exception for certain lawfully licensed handguns possessed for personal protection.
- To use dogs for hunting, training or any purpose from the end of small game season to the opening of the following fall gun season.
- 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 WMA.
- To have in possession any fully automatic rifle or firearms, ammunition or bow and arrow except as described about in Permitted Firearms and Bow and Arrow section or on a designated shooting range.
- For any person to carry firearms in or on a vehicle, any of the following, any firearm (including pistols) 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 (21) 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.
- To kill or willfully molest any species of wildlife except those designated for hunting.
- To discharge fireworks at any time. 9. 10.
- To discharge firearms for target practice, except on the designated target range. 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
- one-half mile of any church.
- To possess open alcoholic beverages. 12. 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.
- 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 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 be restricted to holders of a current valid Wildlife Management Area license and a valid wildlife management area permit.
- 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 To deposit, distribute or scatter grain, salt, litter, or any other materials on management area.
- To damage or remove any artifacts, trees, crops or other plants, dirt, gravel or sod from management area without legal authorization.
- 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.
- 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 (including persons while bow hunting) except as otherwise provided by this regulation.
- 22. 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 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 at the main launch only.
- Anyone launching a boat, preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit may not depart any launch site before 2:00 A.M daily. With the exception above, all other hunters preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit shall not be allowed in the water before 2:00 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.
- To use airboats on the dewatering sloughs.
- 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 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.
- 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.

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.

SUNRISE-SUNSET TIMES FOR SWAN CREEK & MALLARD FOX CREEK WMAs (Add 1 hour When on Daylight Savings Time)

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11 528 600 550 5	18 618 446	645 438	655 457	11
12 529 559 551 51	17 619 445	646 438	655 458	12
13 530 557 552 5	16 620 444	646 438	655 459	13
14 530 556 553 5	14 621 444	647 439	655 500	14
15 531 554 554 5	13 622 443	648 439	655 501	15
16 532 553 554 5	12 623 443	648 439	654 501	16
17 532 552 555 5	11 624 442	649 440	654 502	17
18 533 550 556 5	09 625 441	649 440	654 503	18
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21 535 546 559 5	06 628 440	651 441	653 506	21
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