

BLACK WARRIOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

(Lawrence & Winston Counties) ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES Hunting Regulations – September 2022 – August 2023**

LICENSE/PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

- In compliance with 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], 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 licensed hunters must have, in addition to the otherwise required licenses, a current HIP certification and valid State (ages 16 through 64) and Federal (ages 16 and over) Waterfowl Stamp.
- In addition to license and stamp requirements, an AREA Permit and a WMA daily permit are required unless using the Outdoor Alabama WMA Check-In application to check in and out each hunt day.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For information and questions regarding regulations or use of the WMA, please contact Biologist – Kevin Pugh at (205) 544-6744.

- Statewide antlered buck season bag limit applies to all WMAs.
- 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
- 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 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.

All deer harvested must be submitted at check station for collection of biological data on mandatory days specified below. The results of all hunts must be recorded using the Outdoor Alabama App or Daily Permit and submitted at kiosk at the conclusion of every hunt day.

HUNTING DATES:

DEER: Zone A & B

(Archery) Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Oct. 1 – Jan. 15. One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. *Antlered buck restrictions apply for

Zone B. Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Jan. 16 – 27. One antlered buck a day. *Antlered buck restrictions apply for Zone B.

Archery hunting is permitted in zone closed to gun deer hunting. Archery hunters must harvest antlered bucks on days of antlered buck only gun deer hunts. No hunting on days of youth gun deer hunt.

Archery hunters must abide by all gun deer hunt regulations when hunting on days of gun deer hunts and MANDATORY check station day

requirements.

Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Oct. 29 - 30. One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. Hunters must submit all harvested deer at check (Youth) station for data collection. *No antler restrictions apply.

(Primitive Weapons) Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Oct. 31 – Nov. 4. One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. *Antlered buck restrictions apply for Zone B.

Zone A

Zone B

Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice: Nov. 5 - 6. One deer a day, either one unantlered deer or one antlered buck. It is MANDATORY to bring all deer harvested (Gun)

on Nov. f 5 (including archery) to the check station for data collection. The check station will be open from f 9:00 AM to f 7:00 PM. Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Nov. 10 – 13, Nov. 24 – 27, and Dec. 15 – 18. One antlered buck a day. It is MANDATORY to bring all deer harvested on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of these hunts (including archery) to the check station for data collection. The check station

will be open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

(Gun) Stalk Hunting Antlered Bucks Only: Nov. 17 – 20, Dec. 1 – 4, and Dec. 8 – 11. One antlered buck a day. *Antlered buck restrictions apply. It is MANDATORY to bring all deer harvested on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of these hunts (including archery) to the check station for

data collection. The check station will be open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

*To be legal for harvest, antlered bucks in Zone B must have at least four (4) antler points (1 inch or longer) on at least one main beam.

Zones A & B

TURKEY:

April 1 (Daylight until 1:00 PM). Gobblers only. (Youth) April 7 (Daylight until 1:00 PM). Gobblers only. (Physically Disabled)

April 8 - May 8 (Daylight until 1:00 PM). Gobblers only. (Regular)

Bag Limit - No more than 1 gobbler during the first 10 days of each season. No decoys allowed for the first 10 days of the WMA regular season.

No more than 2 gobblers total per hunter from Black Warrior WMA.

RACCOON & OPOSSUM: Sept. 1 – March 5. Nighttime hours only. No hunting on nights preceding or nights of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. **Sept. 1 – March 5.** No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. CROW:

Sept. 10 – March 5. No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts. Fox squirrel season closed. RABBIT & SQUIRREL:

CLOSED. WOODCOCK: **State season.** No hunting on days of youth, primitive weapons, or gun deer hunts.

BOBCAT, COYOTE, FERAL SWINE, RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & FOX: FURBEARER TRAPPING

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

Oct. 29 – Feb. 28. Trapping permits must be obtained from Area Biologist.

(excluding feral swine):

QUAIL:

Deer - see above deer hunt schedule for limits; Turkey (Gobblers only) - no more than 1 gobbler during the first 10 days of each season (2 per season); Raccoon - 5 per day; Opossum - No Limit; Fox - 1 per day; Crow - No Limit; Rabbit - 8 per day; Squirrel - 8 per day; Woodcock - 3 per day; Feral Swine, Bobcat, and Coyote - No Limit; 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:

 $All\,WMA\,\,Seasons:\,\,We apons\,\,and\,\,ammunition\,\,defined\,\,in\,\,220-2-.55\,\,(excluding\,\,buckshot)\,\,and\,\,archery\,\,equipment\,\,in\,\,220-2-.03.$ Falconry will be legal on all WMA scheduled hunts for legally permitted falconers; following the dates those seasons are open on each WMA.

IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL:

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

- To hunt, trap, use dogs, possess firearms, traps, or bow and arrow, except on open designated target ranges and except bow fishing equipment, without a valid Area Permit, or by using the Outdoor Alabama App. An AREA permit or Outdoor Alabama App Check-In application is valid only during scheduled AREA seasons during legal hunting hours and only with the required hunting license(s) and stamps and only with weapons and ammunition permitted for hunting the wildlife listed on permit.
- For any person to possess or to carry in or on a vehicle, any of the following: any firearm [including pistols/handguns] 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 crossbow. (Nothing in this regulation prohibits or requires an 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.)
- To use dogs for hunting of deer, turkey, or feral swine. (Leashed dogs may be used for the express purpose of retrieving wounded deer, limited to two dogs per tracking event).
- To use dogs for hunting, training, or any other purpose outside any AREA established season.
- For any person under 16 years of age to hunt on the WMA unless accompanied by an adult who is either 21 years of age or older or the parent, and who is in possession of all state hunting licenses, stamps, and permits required to hunt the WMA.
- To camp in the WMA except in designated sites. Individuals or groups may camp on the WMA 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.
- To kill or willfully molest any species of wildlife except those designated game species while legally hunting.
- 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.
- To discharge fireworks at any time.
- To discharge firearms for target practice except on designated target ranges in accordance with listed rules during posted times and dates.
- 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 from within the right-of-way of any developed road which is open for vehicular traffic.
- To possess any open alcoholic beverages outside designated camping areas.
- 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 WMA.
- For any unauthorized person to operate ANY LICENSED MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLE on WMA, except when utilized

- for the express purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, or sanctioned activities; and when operated only on regularly used roads depicted on WMA Permit to be open for motorized vehicle traffic.
- 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, or access to the gate, is impeded.
- 17. For any person to hunt or trap any wildlife species (except turkey, migratory birds, and while hunting legally designated species during legal nighttime hours) without wearing a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or full sized hunter orange hat, except when hunting from an elevated tree stand twelve (12) feet or more from the ground, when hunting in an enclosed blind, or when traveling in an enclosed vehicle. A small logo and/or
- printing is permitted on the front of the hunter orange hat. For any person to possess, deposit, distribute, or scatter grain/corn, salt, litter, or any other materials on WMA without receiving approval from the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.
- To damage or remove any artifacts, trees, firewood, plants, dirt, gravel, or sod without legal authorization.
- To erect any permanent tree stand; install any screw-in style steps, spikes, or nails; or otherwise damage any tree.
- 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.
- For any unauthorized person to ride or possess horses on WMA except as detailed in Regulation 220-2-.55 (w) & (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 U.S. Forest Service with financial assistance from the Alabama Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.