

ESCAMBIA RIVER

WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA

2007-08

REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
An Equal Opportunity Agency
MyFWC.com

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Escambia River Wildlife Management Area. **Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code, on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure and the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at MyFWC.com.

Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as "no exemptions", recreational use permits and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [duck stamp]): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the duck stamp.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, and management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, wild turkey and state waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, the Internet at MyFWC.com/license or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a duck stamp; available at most post offices or at duckstamp.com.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION: Quota permits are not required for this area.

GENERAL AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically exempted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons, and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. This is not required during an archery-only season.

2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roasted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to take are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. No person shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
6. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" to those activities.
9. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat, which is under power is prohibited until power, and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Most game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions for each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
16. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year-round.
2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
3. The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited.
4. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.

5. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WMA after 8 a.m. the day before the opening of a season and shall be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the end of the season.

GUNS:

1. The display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from rights-of-way of Keyser Landing Road, Webb Landing Road, S.R. 184 or any other paved road within the area is prohibited.
2. Possession of a gun is allowed only during periods when hunting with a gun is permitted, except a person in possession of a valid Concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.
3. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
4. Muzzleloading guns used for taking deer must be .40 caliber or larger, if firing a single bullet, or be 20 gauge or larger if firing two or more balls.
5. Possession of a loaded, capped or primed firearm, or discharge of a firearm on, from or across any campsite or check station is prohibited.
6. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
7. No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
8. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun season or by permit only) or falconry may be used.
9. For taking migratory game, only shotguns, bow and arrow (not crossbows), and falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
10. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
11. Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited in the designated still hunt areas (see map).
2. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.
3. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
4. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING:

1. Camping is permitted throughout the area (except where posted as no camping) and limited to tents, trailers, or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers, lumber, sheet metal or other building materials, are prohibited. For additional information, call the Northwest Florida Water Management District at (850) 539-5999.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer – Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.
2. Wild hog – No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey – Daily limit 1, season limit 2, possession limit 2.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit – Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria – No bag limits.
6. Bobcat and otter – Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.

7. Migratory birds – See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

ARCHERY:

October 13 through November 11.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, wild turkey permit (if hunting wild turkey), and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take – Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, turkey of either sex, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).
2. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.

FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT:

November 1 through March 14 and April 21 through July 31.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license and management area permit.

Legal to Take – Raccoon (November 1 through March 1 only) and opossum. Bobcat from December 1 through March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited in the designated still hunt areas, except that raccoon or opossum may be taken at night with the aid of dogs on Parker and Morgan Islands in accordance with provisions of the following paragraph.
2. Raccoon or opossum may be taken at night by the aid of light and dogs, with .22 rimfire firearms other than .22 magnum, or with a single-shot .410 gauge shotgun using shot no larger than No. 6 provided that no firearm shall be loaded at any time except immediately prior to shooting of a treed or bayed raccoon or opossum. The hunting of raccoon or opossum under the provisions of this paragraph by display or use of light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited.
3. The possession of a gun while fox hunting is prohibited. The possession of a gun while chasing bobcat is prohibited, except from December 1 through March 1.

SMALL GAME:

November 10 through March 2.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon (through March 1), opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter from December 1 through March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited, except during general gun season.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

November 16 – 18.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting during the small game season and for

hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

2. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.

GENERAL GUN:

November 22 – 25 and December 8 through January 30.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season. Bobcat and otter beginning December 1.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN:

February 14 – 24.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, archery permit (if hunting with archery equipment), muzzleloading gun permit (if hunting with a muzzleloading gun) and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take – Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery/Muzzleloading Gun Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only bows or muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet) and small game may be harvested with any gun other than centerfire rifles.
2. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 15 through April 20.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take – Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.
3. The taking of any other animal is prohibited.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, geese, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese and coots is prohibited.
2. Centerfire shotguns are permitted during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to take.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted year-round.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Legal to Take – See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging – All General Area Regulations and General Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply and the taking of fish on or from rights-of-way of Keyser Landing Road and Webb Landing Road is prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 265-3676 (TDD 800-955-8771).

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay 20 percent of the cost of the program.



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contact your nearest Commission regional office or
call**

1-888-404-FWCC

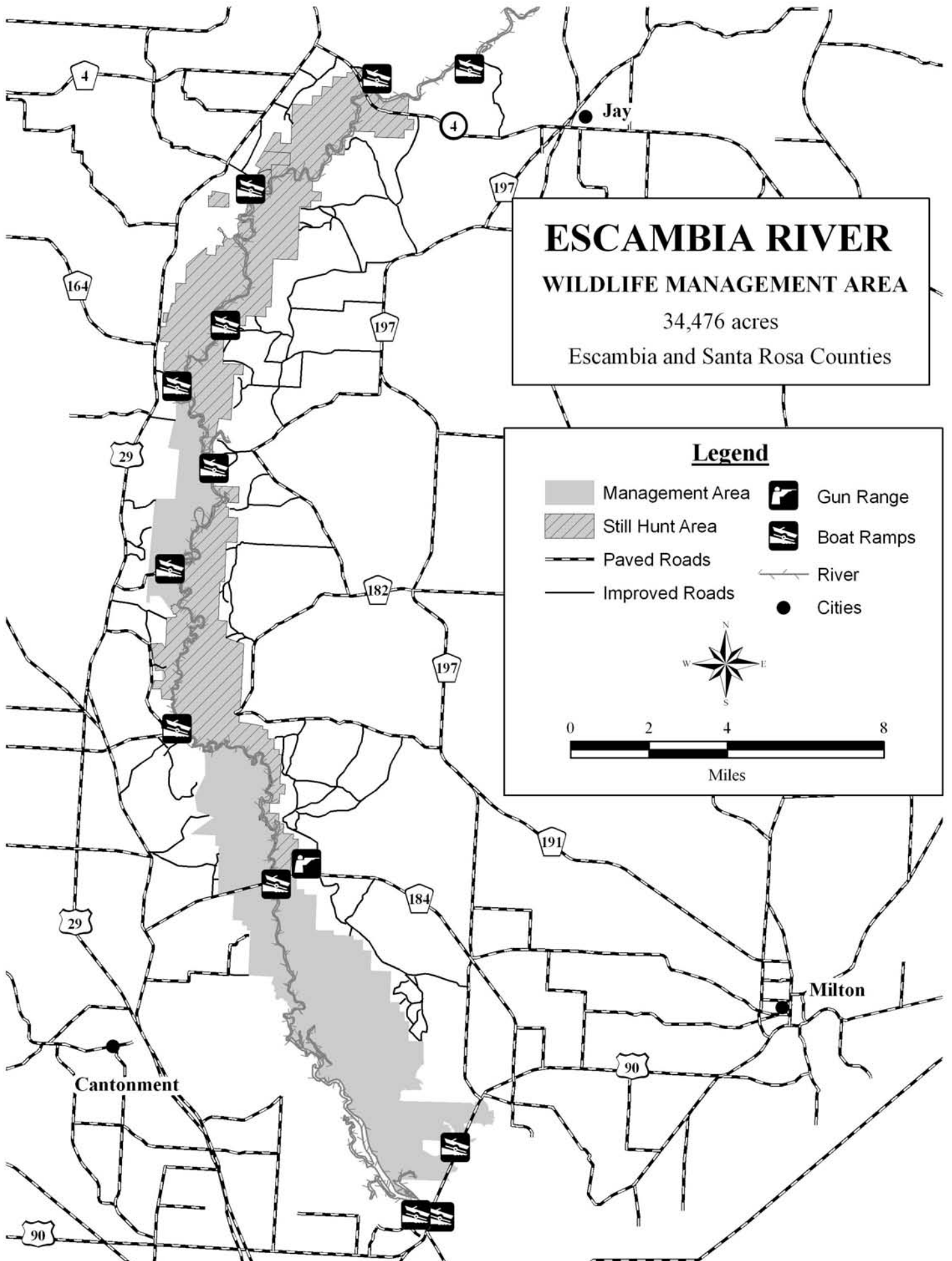
**You may qualify for a cash reward from the
Wildlife Alert Reward Association.**

**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License
by Phone...**

Use Your Credit Card and Call

**1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) OR
1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)**

(There is a vendor fee of \$3.95 per license.)



ESCAMBIA RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

34,476 acres

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Management Area |  Gun Range |
|  Still Hunt Area |  Boat Ramps |
|  Paved Roads |  River |
|  Improved Roads |  Cities |



Miles