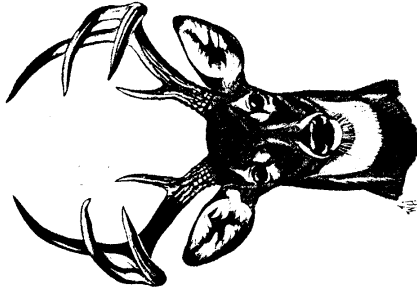


2008-
2009
Hunting
Season

Apalachicola

Wildlife Management Area

Regulations Summary and Area Map
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

U.S. Forest Service
Northwest Florida Water
Management District

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
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 Apalachicola 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, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, and quota permit worksheets 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 federal duck stamp; available where hunting licenses are sold, at most post offices or at duckstamp.com.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION: A quota permit is required to hunt quail in the Quail Enhancement Area. See the Apalachicola WMA Quail Enhancement Area brochure at myfwc.com for more information or call 850-265-3677.

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 roosted 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. **Motor vehicles are restricted to named or numbered roads or those roads posted for mixed-use by the U.S. Forest Service.**
3. **All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) may be used only on designated OHV trails and roads posted for mixed-use by the U.S. Forest Service.** The use of ATVs is prohibited on Northwest Florida Water Management District lands (see map).
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.
6. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area. This trail is open to hikers throughout the year.

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.
2. **Quail hunting is prohibited on the Quail Enhancement Area (that portion of the area lying north of Oak Ridge Road, east of State Road 61 and Highway 319, south of State Road 263, and west of State Road 363) except during the quail season by persons possessing a quota permit. See the Apalachicola WMA Quail Enhancement Area brochure at myfwc.com for more information or call 850-265-3677.**

GUNS:

1. **All firearms shall be securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent, during periods when they are not a legal method of take.** Persons in possession of a valid Concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.
2. **Target practice is prohibited, except at the shooting range.**
3. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of State Roads 12, 65, 67, 260, 263, 267, 299, 368, 369, 373, 375, 379 or that portion of County Road 22 east of Ochlockonee River is prohibited.
4. Hunting of deer is prohibited within 50 yards of the right-of-way of State Road 375.
5. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited (see exceptions for Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat season).
6. 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.
7. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
8. No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
9. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons or by permit) or falconry may be used.
10. 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.
11. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
12. 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 and retrievers is prohibited in that portion of the area lying west and south of State Road 375 and east of the Ochlockonee River; also those lands lying north and east of the Florida River and Larkins Slough (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.
5. Bird dogs may be trained June 1 through March 1, **except on the Quail Enhancement Area where bird dogs may be trained November 1 through December 31 only.**
6. Deer dogs may be trained October 25 through November 13 in that portion of the area open to fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunting.

CAMPING:

1. Camping during the general gun season is allowed only in designated campsites indicated on the hunt map and shall be limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Camping is allowed from 14 days prior to 14 days after the general gun season. Outside this specified season, camping is not confined to these designated areas but is limited to a maximum of 14 days. Hickory, Whitehead, Porter Lake, and Mack

Landings have restrooms and water and require camping fees. All other hunt camps are free of charge and have no permanent restrooms or water. For additional information on camping in the Apalachicola National Forest contact the U.S. Forest Service at 850-926-3561 or 850-643-2282.

2. Camping is allowed year-round throughout that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands. The District provides a campground at Florida River Island. Camping in the northern portion of that campground is limited to primitive camping while the southern portion of the campground has sites for motor homes. For additional information, contact the 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, all fall seasons combined limit 2, spring 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.

FOX, RACCOON, OPOSSUM AND BOBCAT SEASON:

October 1 through March 1 (fox hunt area).

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

Legal to Take - Raccoon 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. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat may be pursued with dogs during the day and at night in the designated fox hunting area shown on the map.
2. Killing fox is prohibited.
3. During the Small Game and General Gun seasons, raccoon or opossum may be taken at night throughout the wildlife management area 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.

ARCHERY SEASON:

October 18 through November 16.

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. Hunting with firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed 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.

SMALL GAME SEASON:

November 8 through March 1.

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

Legal to Take - Wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, 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. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited, except during general gun season.

MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:

November 21 – 23.

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 federal 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 for hunting, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed 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 SEASON:

November 27 – 30 and December 13 through February 4.

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

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, bearded turkey or gobbler (through December 24 only), 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. **During general gun season, the use of a light in a manner capable of disclosing the presence of wildlife from 12 a.m. (midnight) until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited, except when hunting raccoon or opossum (See Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat Season).**

TRAPPING SEASON:

February 5 through March 1.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Trapping license (if using traps or taking for commercial purposes) or hunting license (if using only guns and taking for noncommercial purposes) and management area permit.

Legal to Take - Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, otter and bobcat.

Regulations Unique to Trapping - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

ARCHERY/MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:

February 19 through March 1.

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 for hunting except small game may be hunted with any gun other than centerfire rifles.
2. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

March 21 through April 26.

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 Regulations shall apply.

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

MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, geese, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with open seasons for the area. Ducks may be hunted during the early duck season and dove may be hunted during the first phase of dove season.

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

Legal to Take - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to the Migratory Bird Seasons - In addition to these regulations, all General Regulations shall apply.

1. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese and coots is prohibited.
2. Only shotguns are allowed for hunting during the rail and moorhen and special September duck seasons, and the first phase of the dove season.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Allowed 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. Shooting frogs is allowed only during the listed open hunting seasons and only with the legal methods of take during each particular season.

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).

FOREST SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. Discharging a firearm across or on a Forest Development Road is prohibited (CFR Title 36261.10[d]).
2. Constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of structure or other improvement is prohibited without a written permit from the district ranger. The permit must be posted on the structure at all times.
3. The use of permanent-type tree stands is prohibited. Portable-type tree stands are encouraged but must be removed at season's end.
4. Removing firewood from the forest without a permit from the district ranger is prohibited.
5. Fenced areas are open to hunting unless posted as closed. CLOSE ALL GATES.
6. Cross-country travel by motorized vehicles is prohibited on National Forest lands. Cross-country travel is travel across land where no road, trail or travel way exists.
7. Be aware that hikers, horse, mountain bike, ATV, and motorcycle riders use trails throughout the year.
8. For information on camping or for additional information on Forest Service regulations in the Apalachicola National Forest contact the U.S. Forest Service at 850-926-3561 or 850-643-2282. Violations may result in fines or imprisonment.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

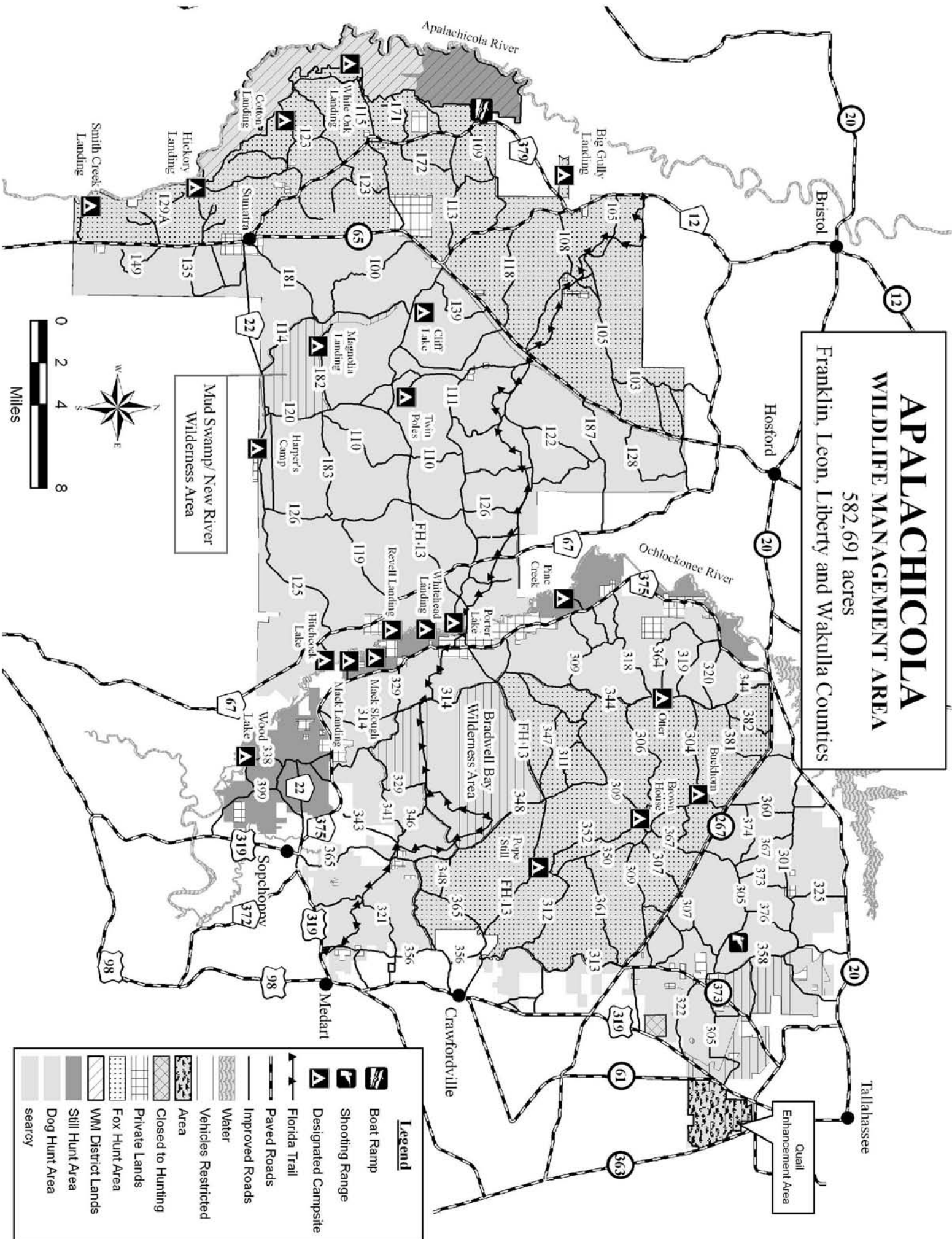
If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

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.

APALACHICOLA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Franklin, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla Counties

582,691 acres



Mud Swamp/New River
Wilderness Area

Bradwell Bay
Wilderness Area

Quail
Enhancement Area

Legend

- Boat Ramp
- Shooting Range
- Designated Campsite
- Florida Trail
- Paved Roads
- Improved Roads
- Water
- Vehicles Restricted Area
- Closed to Hunting Area
- Private Lands
- Fox Hunt Area
- WMI District Lands
- Still Hunt Area
- Dog Hunt Area
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