MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W12 3457

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at a meeting in New Albany, Mississippi on April 12, 2007, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent and thirty days thereafter did adopt the following wildlife management area regulations for the 2007-08 hunting year. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29, 49-5-13 and 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W11 3457 is hereby amended, and the following 2007-08 wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

2007-2008 Regulations for
Okatibbee Wildlife Management Area

Lauderdale and Kemper Counties

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, DEER WEIGHT LIMIT, DOG RESTRICTIONS, and LEGAL WEAPONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 1	Nov. 16	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Gun	Nov. 10	Nov. 16	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 17	Nov. 30	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 1	Dec. 14	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 15	Jan. 17	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 18	Jan. 28	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Handicap Hunt	Jan. 29	Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. SEE HANDICAP HUNT in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8	Mar. 14	See BAG LIMITS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
TURKEY	Mar. 15	May 1	See BAG LIMITS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Oct. 6	Oct. 12	

SQUIRREL	Oct. 13	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 6	Sep. 28	Friday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.		Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon.
RABBIT	Oct. 13	Feb. 28	
QUAIL	Nov. 22	Mar. 1	
DOVE	See Federal Regulations.		

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR OKATIBBEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W12 3457

WMA USER PERMIT: All persons using this wildlife management area, except those exempt from purchasing an annual hunting or fishing license, must carry on their person an annual statewide Wildlife Management Area User Permit. This permit is required in addition to the daily visitor use permit and any required license.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide bag limits EXCEPT: turkey - 2 legal gobblers per hunter.

PERMIT STATIONS: All visitors must obtain a DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card from a self-service permit station. Parts A and B of this permit must be legibly filled out before using the WMA. Part A of the permit must be deposited in the return box at a permit station before using the WMA. Part B must be displayed on the dash of the vehicle so that the name, address, and date are visible from outside the vehicle. Permits are invalid if not properly dated or if date has been changed. Before leaving the WMA, visitors must complete the reverse side of Part B of the permit and deposit it in the return box at a permit station. It is the responsibility of the Area Manager and other Agency personnel to have permit cards completed.

LEGAL BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with four or more antler points. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be checked at the WMA Headquarters before leaving the WMA. If WMA personnel are not available to check the deer, the hunter is responsible for collecting and legibly recording ALL biological data. Instructions and equipment will be provided.

DEER WEIGHT LIMIT: All antlerless deer must weigh a minimum of 65 pounds live weight to be legal for harvest. The average live weight of an adult doe on this WMA is 95 pounds. Any harvested antlerless deer less than 65 pounds live weight is an illegal deer.

HANDICAP HUNT: To apply, hunters must register at the WMA Office prior to Jan. 1, 2008. This is a three day hunt starting at 12:00 noon on Jan. 29 and ending at 12:00 noon on Jan. 31. Eligible handicap hunters must meet the criteria specified in Public Notice 3518. During the Handicap Hunt, weapons will be hunter's choice. Hunter may be accompanied by someone to assist (but not participate) in the hunt.

DOG RESTRICTIONS: Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only shotguns with slugs and primitive weapons may be used for deer hunting. Legal weapons for small game hunting (excluding waterfowl) during daylight hours are shotguns using #2 shot or smaller, rifles or handguns no larger than .22 rimfire magnum, muzzleloading rifles of.40 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads. When hunting with a handgun, no other gun may be in possession. Only archery equipment and shotguns with #2 shot or smaller may be used for turkey hunting.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: Off-road motorized vehicles/ATVs are allowed for retrieval of harvested deer only. No loaded weapon may be in possession when retrieving harvested game.

HORSES: No horses allowed.

CAMPING: Campers must use a designated, primitive camp site and obtain a camping permit from the Area Manager prior to camping. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. Camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. All camping equipment and garbage must be removed before final departure.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on this WMA. They are federally protected as a threatened subspecies. Hunting or disturbing bears is prohibited. Please report any bear sightings on your daily visitor use permit.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. For additional information, contact the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at (662) 327-2142.

This adopted public notice will become effective June 12, 2007. Witness my hand and seal this the 23rd day of May 2007.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
William C. Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director

I certify this to be a true and correct copy.

_____
Executive Director

_____
ALISON R. ENGLISH
NOTARY PUBLIC
Expires August 22, 2010
HINDS COUNTY, MS