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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT NUMBER W13 3471a(I)

TO: The Honorable Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
AND
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at a meeting in Jackson, Mississippi on July 23, 2008, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following wildlife management area regulations for the 2008-09 hunting year. This was done under authority of Sections 49-5-13 and 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W13 3471 is hereby repealed, and the following 2008-09 wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

2008-2009 Regulations for
Ward Bayou Wildlife Management Area
Jackson County

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, ANTLERLESS DEER REGULATIONS, and DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 15	Oct. 31	Legal bucks only.
Archery	Nov. 1	Nov. 21	Does and legal bucks
Youth Gun	Nov. 15	Nov. 21	Does and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 22	Dec. 1	WITH DOGS. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2	Dec. 15	Does and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	WITHOUT DOGS. Legal bucks only.
Gun	Dec. 24	Jan. 21	WITH DOGS. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 22	Feb. 15	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 7	May 1	Friday, Saturday, and Sunday by permit only. See SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Oct. 18	Oct. 24	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 25	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 4	Sep. 26	Friday nights only.

RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	
RABBIT	Oct. 18	Feb. 28

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR WARD BAYOU WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT NUMBER W13 3471a(I)

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.

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 kept with the visitor while on the WMA. 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.

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

LEGAL BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches OR one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

ANTLERLESS DEER REGULATIONS: This WMA is NOT open to antlerless deer hunting during statewide either-sex gun days(Dec. 20-21).

DOG RESTRICTIONS: Deer hunting with dogs is allowed Nov. 22-Dec. 1, and Dec. 24, 2008-Jan. 21, 2009 EXCEPT in the Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area (see map). Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hunting, running, or pursuing hogs with the use of dogs is prohibited.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Youth turkey hunting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from March 7 - May 1 will be allowed by special permit only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com, or to receive an application, send a self-addressed, stamped, letter size envelope to Ward Bayou WMA Youth Turkey Hunt, 211 Critz St. N, Wiggins, MS 39577. Only one application per hunter will be accepted. Completed applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2009 to be eligible for drawing. Hunters who provide an e-mail address will be notified by e-mail if drawn. Hunters who are selected and do not provide an e-mail address will be notified by mail.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs or buckshot, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns 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 .40 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads. 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 the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only. No loaded weapon may be in possession when retrieving harvested game. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on sandbars.

HORSES: During WMA deer and turkey seasons, horseback riding is restricted to roads open to motorized vehicles. Raccoon hunting from horses is allowed on the entire area during nighttime hours.

CAMPING: Camping is allowed only on sandbars and along rivers and creeks, provided such camp is visible from a boat, and in designated areas. In addition to the regular daily visitor use permit, campers must fill out the front side of another daily visitor use permit from a self-service permit station and display it so the name and address are visible from the outside of the camping unit. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. All campsites must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner. Camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. All camping equipment and garbage must be removed before final departure.

HANDICAPPED AREA: Only handicapped hunters are allowed to hunt the designated handicapped area (see map). Individuals must meet the criteria in Public Notice 3518. Contact area personnel for additional information.

HIGH WATER: Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed on the WMA when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 15.0 ft or higher. River stages can be obtained from the Internet at www.NOAA.com or WLOX (Channel 13) News Cast or by calling 228-769-6508.

TREE REMOVAL: No timber or firewood may be cut or removed from area without written permission from the Area Manager, to include the removal of live, dead, floating, or submerged timber.

COMMERCIAL FISHING: Commercial fishing is not allowed within the WMA.

CLOSED SANDBARS: Those sandbars south of Cumbest Bluff within the WMA boundaries are closed from Apr. 1 - Oct. 1 for the protection of nesting endangered species. A map of restricted sandbars can be obtained from the WMA Headquarters.

NATURE TRAILS: Use of designated nature trails is allowed from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset only.

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.

Anyone wishing to comment on the above proposed action may do so in writing to the Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, P. O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205, no later than August 22, 2008.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
John C Stanley IV, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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