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 W11 3174(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 April 21, 2009, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following basic wildlife management area regulations. 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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W10 3174 is hereby repealed, and the following basic wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

BASIC REGULATIONS FOR ALL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Safety Precautions: Target shooting is prohibited. No hunting or shooting within 200 yards of any building. No alcoholic beverages allowed. Persons intoxicated or careless with firearms shall be expelled from hunts immediately.

Hunter Orange: When hunting deer or hogs during any firearm season on deer on a WMA, including during special hunts, hunters must wear in full view a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange. When hunting quail or rabbit on a WMA, hunters must wear a hunter orange vest or cap. During any Youth Hunt for Deer, ALL deer hunters on the area must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

Firearms: Shoulder fired weapons must be cased while in a vehicle on a WMA. No firearms shall be permitted during closed seasons.

Primitive Weapons are those defined by Public Notice LE-2280.

Forfeiture of Hunting Privileges: If while on a WMA any person violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, or any game and fish statute, and is convicted for that violation, that person may be required by a review panel of MDWFP officials to forfeit, for a period of one calendar year from the date of conviction, all

hunting and fishing privileges on that WMA. In addition, the Commission may revoke, for a period of one calendar year, the person's privileges to hunt and fish on all WMAs within the state. Before the revocation of a person's privileges to hunt and fish on all WMAs within the state, the person shall be given notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, setting out the grounds on which revocation is sought, and the person shall have a right to be heard before the Commission at its next regular meeting.

All Vehicles within, entering, or leaving a WMA are subject to being checked at roadblocks or checkpoints for compliance with game and fish and/or WMA laws and regulations.

All Persons 15 Years of Age or Younger, while hunting on a WMA, must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a child as provided in this section must hold a valid Mississippi license for the species being hunted.

Youth Hunt Eligibility: Persons eligible to participate in specially designated youth hunts are those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger.

Youths Hunting During Primitive Weapon Deer Hunts on a WMA may carry and use any firearm allowed in the legal weapons for deer hunting descriptions for that specific WMA.

Dogs: Dogs are not allowed on WMAs during closed seasons except by field trial permit.

Roads/Vehicles: During all WMA deer firearms seasons, no loaded weapons allowed within 100 feet of the right of way of any public road. Public roads are any roads or designated vehicle trails maintained with federal, state, or local funds. No motorized vehicles allowed on any roads blocked or posted as closed. No ATV/ORV allowed on any public road open to licensed motorized vehicles or on power line/pipeline rights-of-ways. No loaded weapon may be in possession when operating an ORV/ATV. ORVs/ATVs may be used on the WMA by any Federal, State, or Local Officers, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty. Vehicles blocking any gate, road, trail, levee, right-of-way, or permit station may be towed at the owner's expense. See individual wildlife management area regulations for exceptions to Public Notice W 3174.

Horses: Horses are defined as any equine species, or livestock, that may be ridden. No horses allowed on any levees within a wildlife management area. On areas where horses are allowed, all horse riders must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange during any open hunting season.

Food Plots/Agricultural Leases: No horses, ATVs/ORVs or other vehicles allowed on wildlife food plots or on unharvested crop land.

Harassment of wildlife, including spotlighting, is prohibited.

Tree Stands and Blinds: It shall be illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. Destroying, defacing, cutting, driving nails or spikes into, or otherwise damaging any standing live tree, natural feature, or plant is prohibited. Portable stands (including tripods and ground blinds) that are not removed from the area daily must have a stand identification number permanently and legibly written on the stand. Stand identification numbers may be obtained by calling the appropriate district office for the WMA where the stand will be placed. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Portable stands may not be installed on the management area prior to 7 days before deer season opens, nor left longer than 7 days after deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the MDWFP.

Fall-Arrest Systems: While climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand on a WMA hunters must use a fall-arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

Baiting and Feeding: No bait or feed is allowed on WMAs at any time. No food plots may be placed on WMAs except by area personnel.

During Deer Seasons Without Dogs, the use of organized drivers and standers is prohibited.

During Raccoon, Opossum, and Bobcat Seasons, hunting is allowed without dogs during daylight hours and with dogs from one-half hour after sunset until 4:00 AM.

Beavers, Coyotes, and Hogs may be killed during any open season on a WMA with weapons and ammunition legal for that season.

Posting of Regulations: Area Managers shall post regulations, and changes thereto, at each check-in station and at the area headquarters.

Boundary Signs: It shall be the responsibility of WMA personnel to properly identify boundaries with agency signs at intervals no greater than 300 feet. Signs shall be replaced as needed.

Guides/Outfitters: No person or group of persons may act as a guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity for which they are paid or promised to be paid by any other individual or individuals for services rendered. Commercial dog training prohibited.

Transporting or Releasing into the wild or capture and removal of any live animal or plant is prohibited without Commission approval.

Other Seasons: Hunting seasons for animals not listed in individual WMA regulations are the same as statewide seasons.

Handicapped Hunter Access: Individuals who meet the criteria in Public Notice 3518 are eligible to access handicapped special use areas. Contact a MDWFP District Office for a permit application and additional information.

Applicants Selected to Hunt on a WMA During Permitted Draw Hunts must follow all rules included in the draw hunt application and posted at the WMA.

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 May 21, 2009.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
John C Stanley, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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