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 W16 3460(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 Waveland, Mississippi on June 22, 2010, under authority of Section 25-43-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following wildlife management area regulations for the 2010-11 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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W15 3460 is hereby repealed, and the following 2010-11 wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

2010-2011 Regulations for
Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area

George and Jackson Counties

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and AREA RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 15	Nov. 19	Does and legal bucks.
Youth Gun	Nov. 13	Nov. 19	Does and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 20	Dec. 1	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. 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. 19	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 20	Feb. 15	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 5	Mar. 11	
TURKEY	Mar. 12	May 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Oct. 23	Oct. 29	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 30	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 2	Sep. 25	Friday and Saturday nights only.

RACCOON, OPOSSUM & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.		
RABBIT	Oct. 16	Feb. 28	See DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PASCAGOULA RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
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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 and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold.

AREA RESTRICTIONS:
DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located in Jackson County **east** of the Pascagoula River and **north** of Big Slough. Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours from Feb. 16 - Mar. 4, 2011.

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located in George County and the portion located in Jackson County **west** of the Pascagoula River and **south** of Big Slough. Deer and hog hunting with dogs is allowed Nov. 20-Dec. 1, and Dec. 24, 2010-Jan. 19, 2011. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours from Feb. 16 - Mar. 4, 2011.

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 DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be checked at the WMA Headquarters or at the first self-service data collection station (see map) encountered by the hunter who harvested them before leaving 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.

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 buck.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs or buckshot, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting. Only rimfire rifles .22 caliber or smaller or any caliber handgun may be used when hunting hogs with dogs.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed only for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs and for use from camps to boat ramps. No loaded weapon may be in possession when retrieving harvested game. Access within the area commonly known as the Big Swamp, located between the Pascagoula River and Black Creek, is restricted to ATVs and motorcycles only. ATVs and motorcycles are restricted to designated trails only (see map). ATVs and motorcycles are allowed on sandbars only for crossing along designated trails from one of the

three access points. Deer hunting is not allowed from designated ORV/ATV trails. ATVs and motorcycles left unattended in the Big Swamp must be stored at one of the three designated storage areas. These areas must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner. ORVs/ATVs left unattended must have an identification number attached to the handlebars. ORV/ATV identification numbers may be obtained by contacting the district office at (601)928-3720. ORVs/ATVs not in compliance with these regulations or left unattended on the area more than 30 days may be confiscated and disposed of by the MDWFP.

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 in designated areas from October 1 to May 1 (see map). At other times, camping is allowed on sandbars and along rivers and creeks, provided such camp is visible from a boat. A WMA Camping Permit is required for any individual or group (maximum of 6 people) that is camping on this WMA and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold. 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.

HIGH WATER: Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed in the George County portion of the WMA when the Pascagoula River gauge at Merrill reads 18.0 ft or higher. Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed in the Jackson County portion of the WMA when the Pascagoula River gauge at Graham Ferry reads 15.0 ft or higher. River stages can be obtained from the internet at www.NOAA.com. The 6:00 am reading will determine WMA closure for the entire day.

HOUSEBOATS: Houseboats are not allowed to be anchored, secured, or otherwise attached to any lands or structure within WMA boundaries.

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

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.

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 _____.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
Bryan Jones, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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