

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE NUMBER W17 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 Jackson, Mississippi on March 16, 2011, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following wildlife management area regulations. This was done under authority of Sections 49-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3460 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

**Regulations for
Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area
George and Jackson Counties**

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and AREA RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 15 through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Gun	Saturday two weeks prior to opening day of Gun season through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Saturday prior to Thanksgiving - Dec. 1	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

Gun	Dec. 16 - Dec. 23	WITHOUT DOGS. Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 24 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for entire deer season	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Day after the final day of Gun Season through Feb. 15	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8 - Mar. 14	
TURKEY	Mar. 15 - May 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday	
SQUIRREL	Saturday closest to Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 - Sep. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM & BOBCAT	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	
RABBIT	Saturday closest to Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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.

WILD HOGS: Wild hogs are classified as nuisance animals and hunters are encouraged to kill them at every lawful opportunity. The opportunity to kill hogs on WMAs is provided only for population control purposes and not for sport. Wild hogs may be killed during daylight hours during any open WMA hunting season with weapons and ammunition legal for that season. Trapping (including snaring) of hogs is prohibited. Moving or transporting live hogs is prohibited.

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 allowed during daylight hours only Feb. 16 – Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

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. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dog season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours during Feb. 16 – Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

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 10 inches OR one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters 15 years of age or younger, outside the gun seasons with dogs any antlered buck is a legal buck.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs or buckshot, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting.

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 the owner's name and phone number permanently and legibly written and attached to the handlebars. 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, or 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.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=pascagoula%20river%20and%20gulfdrainagebasins. The earliest daily reading will determine WMA closure for the entire day. Deep Slough Road and Overstreet Landing Road in Jackson County will be closed when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 9.0 ft or higher.

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 04/25/2011.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: 
Charles Rigdon, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE NUMBER ~~w16~~W17 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 Jackson, Mississippi on ~~July 22, 2010~~ March 16, 2011, under authority of Section 25-43-~~73.103~~, Mississippi Code of 1972, ~~did~~ 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 ~~49-7-34~~, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number ~~w15~~W16 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	SEASON	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER				For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and AREA RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. -15 <u>through the</u> <u>Friday prior to</u> <u>Thanksgiving</u>		Nov. -19	Deer <u>Antlerless deer</u> and legal bucks.

Youth Gun	Nov. 13	<u>Saturday two weeks prior to opening day of Gun season through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving</u>	Nov. 19 <u>Does Antlerless deer</u> and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 20	<u>Saturday prior to Thanksgiving - Dec. —1</u>	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. —2	<u>Dec. 15</u>	Dec. 15 <u>Does Antlerless deer</u> and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16 - Dec. 23	<u>Dec. 16 - Dec. 23</u>	Dec. 23 WITHOUT DOGS. <u>Legal Antlerless deer and legal bucks only.</u>
Gun	Dec. —24	<u>Dec. 24 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for entire deer season</u>	Jan. 19 WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 20	<u>Day after the final day of Gun Season through Feb. 15</u>	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY		Mar. —5 <u>Mar. 8 - Mar. 14</u>	Mar. 11
TURKEY	Mar. 12	<u>Mar. 15 - May —1</u>	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Oct. —23	<u>Saturday prior to opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday</u>	Oct. 29
SQUIRREL	Oct. —30	<u>Saturday closest to Oct. 15 - Feb. 28</u>	
RACCOON	Jul. —21	<u>Sep. 30</u>	Sep. 25 Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM & BOBCAT		<u>Oct. —1 - Feb. 28</u>	Feb. 28
TRAPPING		<u>Nov. —1 - Feb. 28</u>	Feb. 28
WATERFOWL		See Federal Regulations.	

RABBIT ~~Oct. 16~~ Saturday closest to Oct. 15 - Feb. 28 See ~~DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.~~

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PASCAGOULA RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W16 3460

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.

WILD HOGS: Wild hogs are classified as nuisance animals and hunters are encouraged to kill them at every lawful opportunity. The opportunity to kill hogs on WMAs is provided only for population control purposes and not for sport. Wild hogs may be killed during daylight hours during any open WMA hunting season with weapons and ammunition legal for that season. Trapping (including snaring) of hogs is prohibited. Moving or transporting live hogs is prohibited.

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~~ only Feb. 16 – Mar. 4, 2011, 3 with weapons legal for small game.

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 any deer with dog season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours ~~from~~ during Feb. 16 – Mar. 4, 2011, 3 with weapons legal for small game.

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~~10 inches OR one main beam length of at least ~~15~~13 inches. For hunters ~~less than 16~~15 years of age, ~~one of or younger, outside the threegun seasons with dogs any antlered~~ buck ~~bag limit may be any~~ is a legal 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~~ the owner's name and phone number permanently and legibly written and 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,~~ or 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~~ www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=pascagoula_river_and_gulf_drainage_basins. The ~~6:00~~

earliest daily reading will determine WMA closure for the entire day. Deep Slough Road and Overstreet Landing Road in Jackson County will be closed when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 9.0 ft or higher.

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.

~~This adopted public notice will become effective _____.~~ Witness my hand and seal this
the _____ day of July 2010.

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: _____
Charles Rigdon, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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

—NOTARY

(SEAL)