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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RULE NUMBER W16 3445

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 Crawford, Mississippi on May 24, 2011, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, adopted 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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W15 3445 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Copiah County Wildlife Management Area

Copiah County

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, SPECIAL BUCK TAGS, DOG RESTRICTIONS, and LEGAL WEAPONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 1 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 -Jan. 7	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

Archery/Youth Gun	Jan. 8 - Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8 - Mar. 14	
TURKEY – Permit Only	Mar. 15- Mar. 28	See TURKEY HUNTING PERMIT in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
TURKEY	Mar. 29 - May 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday.	
SQUIRREL	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 - Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1- Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	
RABBIT	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
QUAIL	Thanksgiving Day through the first Saturday in March.	
DOVE	See Federal Regulations.	Each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon of the first dove season.

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.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide bag limits.

PERMIT STATIONS: All visitors must obtain a DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card from the 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 placed on the check-in board at the 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 by recording the number of animals harvested and deposit both Parts A and B in the return box at the 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 WMA Headquarters by the hunter who harvested them 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.

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 15 years of age or younger any antlered buck is a legal buck.

SPECIAL BUCK TAGS: For management purposes, a limited number of special buck tags, which allow one of the three buck bag limit per year to be any buck with hardened antlers visible above the natural hairline, will be available for hunters. It is the hunter's responsibility to check on the availability of Special Buck Tags. If available, tags may be acquired at the WMA headquarters or at the self-service deer check station. After harvest of a qualifying buck, hunters must retrieve a tag and attach it to the buck before leaving the WMA.

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 only 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.

DOG RESTRICTIONS: Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hunting, running, or pursuing hogs with the use of dogs is prohibited.

TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Turkey hunting from Mar. 15 – Mar. 28 is allowed by special permit only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting. Exception: youth deer hunters, 15 years of age or younger, are allowed to use centerfire rifles.

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

HORSES: Horseback riding is prohibited during WMA deer and turkey seasons. At all other times, horseback riding is restricted to roads open to motorized vehicles. Raccoon hunting from horses is allowed on entire area during nighttime hunting hours. Small game hunting from horseback is allowed only by special permit from area manager.

CAMPING: No camping allowed.

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.

Public Notice of Rule No. W16 3445

This adopted public notice will become effective June 26, 2011. Witness my hand and seal this the 24th day of May 2011.

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)