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 W 3812

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 3439, W15 3441, W15 3447, W15 3442, W15 3443, W15 3444, W15 3449, W16 3451, W16 3453, W10 3685, W16 3462, W15 3463, W15 3467, W15 3468, W15 3470, and W16 3472 are hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Bienville, Calhoun County, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasaw, Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, Sandy Creek, Sunflower, Tallahala, Upper Sardis, and Wolf River Wildlife Management Areas

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see LEGAL BUCKS, DEER DATA COLLECTION, DOG RESTRICTIONS, and LEGAL WEAPONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Oct. 1 through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. Bienville, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Calhoun County, Chickasaw, Choctaw, John Starr, Sandy Creek, Tallahala, Upper Sardis, and Sunflower.

	Oct. 15 through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. Chickasawhay, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, and Wolf River.
Youth Deer	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 through Dec. 1	Legal Bucks with Dogs: Caston Creek, Leaf River, and Mason Creek.
		Legal Bucks without Dogs: Chickasawhay, Little Biloxi, Red Creek, Sandy Creek, and Wolf River.
		Antlerless deer and legal bucks with dogs: Bienville, Calhoun County, Caney Creek, Chickasaw, and Tallahala.
		Antlerless deer and legal bucks without dogs: Choctaw, John Starr, Sunflower, and Upper Sardis.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 – Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16 – Dec. 23	Antlerless deer and legal bucks: Bienville, Calhoun County, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasaw, Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, Sandy Creek, Wolf River, Tallahala, and Upper Sardis. Legal bucks only: Sunflower
Gun	Dec. 24 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for entire deer season.	Legal bucks with dogs: Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasaw, Leaf River, Mason Creek, Sunflower, and Tallahala.

		Legal bucks without dogs: Chickasawhay, Little Biloxi, Red Creek, Sandy Creek, and Wolf River.
		Antlerless deer and legal bucks with dogs: Calhoun County.
		Antlerless deer and legal bucks without dogs: Choctaw, John Starr, and Upper Sardis.
	Dec. 24 – Dec. 31	Legal bucks without dogs: Bienville.
	Jan. 1 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for the entire deer season.	Legal bucks with dogs: Bienville.
Primitive Weapon	Day after the final day of Gun season - Jan. 31.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks: Bienville, Calhoun County, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, John Starr, Sandy Creek, Sunflower, Upper Sardis, and Tallahala.
	Day after the final day of Gun season – Feb. 15.	Legal bucks only: Chickasawhay, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, and Wolf River.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8 – Mar. 14	
TURKEY – PERMIT ONLY TURKEY	Mar. 15 – Mar. 28 Mar. 29 – May 1	See TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. Bienville, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Sandy Creek, Sunflower, Tallahala, and Upper Sardis.

TURKEY (for WMAs without permitted hunts)	Mar. 15 – May 1	Calhoun County, Chickasaw, Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, and Wolf River.
YOUTH SQUIRREL SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to Zone 1 opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday. Saturday nearest Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	Calhoun, Chickasaw, and Upper Sardis.
YOUTH SQUIRREL SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to Zone 2 opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday. Saturday nearest Oct. 15 – Feb. 28	Bienville, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek, Sandy Creek, Sunflower. Tallahala, and Wolf River.
RABBIT	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 – Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 – Sep. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPPOSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 – Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

WMA USER PERMIT: All persons participating in hunting, fishing, or trapping on these wildlife management areas, 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. Exceptions: Turkey Fork Lake, Davis Lake, Puskus Lake, and Choctaw Lake where no WMA user permits are required.

All persons using the following wildlife management areas, except those exempt from purchasing an annual hunting or fishing license must carry on their person an annual statewide Wildlife Management Area User Permit: Calhoun County, John Starr, and Wolf River. This permit is required in addition to the daily visitor use permit and any required license and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold.

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HUNTING PERMITS:

John Starr:

All hunters must obtain a hunting permit from the College of Forest Resources, Forest Operations Office, (662) 325-2191. Deer tags will be provided for persons wishing to hunt deer on the area.

CLOSED AREAS:

Chickasaw:

Areas with boundaries marked with white paint around Davis Lake area, Girl Scout Camp area, Prairie U. M. Church, and area west of Chickasaw WMA work center are designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREAS.

Choctaw:

Area with boundary marked with white paint around Choctaw Lake and Campground is designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREAS.

John Starr:

Areas with boundaries marked with red paint around Dorman Lake, School Forest hunter check station, campground on St. Mark Road, and ranger residence are designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREAS.

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 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 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 recorded on DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card before leaving the area. All deer harvested must be checked at a self-service data collection station (see map) 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, except for Sunflower WMA, 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 any antlered buck is a legal buck, EXCEPT FOR Bienville, Leaf River, Mason Creek, and Caston Creek where, during gun seasons with dogs, a legal buck is a buck with an inside spread of at least 10 inches OR one main beam length of at least 13 inches.

Sunflower:

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.

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: Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season.

Caney Creek:

AREA I (Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA north of I-20, south of Hwy. 80, and east of Hwy. 501.

AREA II (Deer Hunting With Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA south of I-20 and north of Morton-Marathon Road (Road 506).

AREA III (Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA south of Morton-Marathon Road (Road 506).

Caston Creek:

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: The portion of the area east of Forest Service Road 155 (see map).

From November 1 – January 31, all dog hunting groups or individuals hunting with dogs must obtain a permit to use dogs to hunt any animal or to train dogs on areas open to deer hunting with dogs on Homochitto National Forest. There is no cost for this permit. A permit will be issued to the dog hunting group. All hunters hunting with this group must be listed on the permit prior to hunting; except youth 15 years of age and younger. All hunters hunting with dogs or with the dog hunting group must have the permit on their person while hunting.

Five (5) guest permits will be available in addition the individuals listed on the permit. Guest permits will be valid for 4 consecutive days and must be filled out with the date,

hunter's name, hunting license number, and signed by the hunter prior to use. All guests must have the permit on their person while hunting. Guest permits must be turned in to the USFS Meadville office for replacement guest permits to be issued. When guest permits are turned in, a season permit will be issued for these individuals and replacement guest permits will be issued to the group.

Permit numbers must be visually displayed on the back window of all vehicles in the hunting group. A window permit will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters may use the window permit or create their own provided the permit number is displayed using 3–inch, block numbers in contrast to the background.

Permits will be available from the U.S. Forest Service Meadville office. Office location: 1200 Highway 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653. Office hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday).

Dogs must wear a functional tracking collar and be identified at all times with the permit number and the owner's contact information. Dogs must be kept on the Homochitto National Forest lands that allow deer hunting with dogs.

Upon conviction or documented evidence of two (2) violations of this section, the dog hunting permit may be revoked by a review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials for a period of 20 days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon the third conviction or documented evidence of a violation of this Public Notice, the dog hunting permit may be revoked by a review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials for a period of one (1) year.

Chickasaw:

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located north of Hwy. 32. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only from Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season.

DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located south of Hwy. 32. 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 only from Feb. 1 - Feb. 28.

Leaf River:

DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 16 - Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA west of Forest Service Road 315. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. In

addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 16 – Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

Little Biloxi, Wolf River, and Red Creek:

Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 16 - Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

Mason Creek:

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

Sandy Creek and Upper Sardis:

Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

Sunflower:

Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

Tallahala:

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: The portion of the WMA north of Forest Service Road 506 and west of Cedar Creek. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1- Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1 – Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Turkey hunting for Mar. 15 – Mar. 28 is allowed by special permit only on Bienville, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Sandy Creek, Sunflower, Tallahala, and Upper Sardis. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.

LEGAL WEAPONS:

Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs or buckshot, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting, EXCEPT FOR Calhoun County, Chickasaw, Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Little Biloxi, and Upper Sardis where only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting.

WATERFOWL:

Sunflower:

Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon in artificially flooded greentree reservoirs. During waterfowl season, hunting on artificially flooded greentree reservoirs will be limited to waterfowl only. FOR LOCATION OF FLOODED GREENTREE RESERVOIRS, see map at permit stations or at www.mdwfp.com.

NO HUNTING:

Sunflower:

No hunting from greentree reservoir levees or their rights-of-way and no hunting from pipelines.

Caney Creek:

No parking or hunting from I-20.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES/ATVs: Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Forest Service regulations or the regulations below:

Calhoun County and Wolf River:

Off-road vehicles/ATVs are allowed on designated trails for hunting and fishing access only and for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

John Starr:

On MSU College of Forest Resource property within the wildlife management area, off-road vehicles/ATVs are allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

Little Biloxi:

Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Forest Service regulations. On Weyerhaeuser property within the wildlife management area, off-road vehicles/ATVs are allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

Upper Sardis:

Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Forest Service regulations. Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations on property owned by the Corps within Upper Sardis WMA. Use of off-road vehicles/ATVs is allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs.

HORSES: Hunting from horseback is allowed.

Calhoun County, John Starr, and Wolf River:

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

Little Biloxi:

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

CAMPING: Camping is allowed subject to U.S. Forest Service regulations or the regulations below:

Calhoun County and Wolf River:

Camping is allowed in designated areas only. A WMA Camping Permit is required for any individual or group (maximum of 6 people) that is camping on these WMAs and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. Camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. All camping equipment and garbage must be removed before final departure.

John Starr:

Camping is allowed in designated campsites only. Campers must obtain a permit from MSU Forest Operations (662) 325-2191.

Little Biloxi:

USFS Portion: Camping is allowed subject to U.S. Forest Service regulations. Weyerhaeuser Portion: No camping allowed.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on these WMAs. 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 Forest Service at (601) 965-1600. Exceptions: Calhoun County, John Starr, and Wolf River.

Public Notice of Rule No. W 3812

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

Charles Rigdon, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: Sam Polles

Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director

SALLY L. SUTHERLAND NOTARY PUBLIC Expires May 31, 2011 RANKIN COUNTY, MS

Sally L. Sutherland

NOTARY

(SEAL)