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 3458 (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 18, 2012, 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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3458 is hereby repealed, and the following Wildlife Management Area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
O'Keefe Wildlife Management Area

Quitman County

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		
Archery	Oct. 1 through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Deer	Saturday two weeks prior to opening day of Primitive Weapon season through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon	Saturday prior to Thanksgiving - Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	Legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
TURKEY	Closed	

YOUTH SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday.	
SQUIRREL	Saturday nearest Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	
RABBIT	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 – Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 - Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
POST SEASON LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER	See Federal Regulations.	Open after waterfowl season.
DOVE	See Federal Regulations.	

Whenever the opening date set above falls on a Sunday, the season shall begin on the preceding Saturday.

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.

CLOSED AREA: The portion of the WMA in Tallahatchie County. No deer hunting in flooded greentree reservoir prior to 1:00 PM.

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 checked at the 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 15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 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. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only from Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

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

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 noon. Hunters may not leave the parking area prior to 5:00 am.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed on designated roads or trails for hunting and fishing access only. Off-road use of ORVs/ATVs is allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or hogs.

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 and designated ATV trails. Squirrel hunting from horses is allowed in February on entire area. Raccoon hunting from horses is allowed during nighttime hours.

CAMPING: No camping allowed.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on this WMA. 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 May 18, 2012.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
William "Billy" Deviney, 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
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ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number ~~W15~~ W16 3458 is hereby repealed, and the following
Wildlife Management Area hunting regulations are adopted.

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CLOSED AREA: The portion of the WMA in Tallahatchie County. No deer hunting in flooded greentree reservoir prior to 1:00 PM.

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 checked at the 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.

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WATERFOWL: Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 noon. Hunters may not leave the parking area prior to 5:00 am.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ~~Off-road motorized vehicles~~ORVs/ATVs are allowed ~~from Sep. 1 - Feb. 28~~ on designated roads or trails for hunting and fishing access only. Off-road use of ORVs/ATVs is allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or 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 and designated ATV trails. Squirrel hunting from horses is allowed in February on entire area. Raccoon hunting from horses is allowed ~~on entire area~~ during nighttime hours.

CAMPING: No camping allowed.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on this WMA. 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 May 18, 2012.~~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~~William "Billy" Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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

_____
~~NOTARY~~

~~(SEAL)~~