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 W18 3459 (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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W17 3459 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Old River Wildlife Management Area

Pearl River County

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and DOG 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	Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16 - Dec. 23	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

Gun	December 24 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for entire deer season	Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Day after the final day of Gun Season through February 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 nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 - Sep. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM & BOBCAT	Oct.1 - Feb. 28	See BOBCAT in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	See TRAPPING in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
RABBIT	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	

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.

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 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 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.

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 allowed during daylight hours only Feb. 16 – Mar. 3 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.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed only on designated trails for hunting and fishing access only. Off-road use of ORVs/ATVs are allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only. EXCEPTION: ORVs/ATVs are not allowed on that portion of the area within the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge (see map).

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

CAMPING: Camping is allowed in designated areas only (see map). 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. 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.

HIGH WATER: Hunting seasons (excluding Waterfowl season) are closed on the WMA when the Pearl River gauge at Bogalusa reads 18.0 ft or higher. River stages can be obtained from the internet at www.mdwfp.com/wma, the local newscast, or by calling 985-641-4343.

TRAPPING: Trapping is not allowed on that portion of the WMA within the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge (see map).

BOBCAT: The harvest of bobcat is not allowed on that portion of the WMA within the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge (see map).

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

SLAT BOXES: No slat boxes are allowed in or may be transported through the WMA.

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 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

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DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number ~~W16~~ W17 3459 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

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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.

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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 in designated areas only (see map). 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. 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.

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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