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 3440

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 May 16, 2012, 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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3440 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Canal Section Wildlife Management Area and
John Bell Williams Wildlife Management Area

Itawamba, Monroe, Prentiss, and Tishomingo Counties

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see CLOSED AREAS, LEGAL BUCKS, DOG RESTRICTIONS, DEER DATA COLLECTION, YOUTH/HANDICAP DEER HUNTING, ARCHERY ONLY AREA, and LEGAL WEAPONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	October 1 through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
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 only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 – Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16 – Dec. 23	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 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 - Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
YOUTH TURKEY	March 8 – March 14	See ACKER LAKE TURKEY HUNTING
TURKEY	March 15 – May 1	
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	July 1 – Sep. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPPOSUM, BOBCAT	Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 – Feb. 28	See TRAPPING in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
WATERFOWL	See federal regulations.	See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
QUAIL	Thanksgiving day through the first Saturday in March.	

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.

CLOSED AREAS: No deer or hog hunting from the Tenn-Tom Waterway Levee. No loaded centerfire rifles or muzzleloaders allowed on the Tenn-Tom Waterway levee. Hunters must be past the toe of the levee before loaded weapons for deer hunting are allowed. The Matubby Creek Island is closed to all firearms.

HIGH WATER: Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed from south of Walker's Levee boat ramp road to north of Ironwood Bluff Road on the WMA when the Tombigbee River gauge at Fulton reads 16.0 ft or higher. River gauge readings may be obtained by calling 888-771-4601 ext.1322 or from www.mdwfp.com/wma.

ARCHERY ONLY AREAS: Archery only deer hunting areas include the portions of the WMA between the Tenn-Tom Waterway and the waterway levee from AB3 Waterfowl Impoundment (see map) south to Hwy. 45/25 at Aberdeen and between the Tombigbee River and the Tenn-Tom Waterway from Hwy. 6 south to the intersection of the old Tombigbee River and the Tenn-Tom Waterway.

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.

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.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be checked at a check station 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.

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.

YOUTH/HANDICAP DEER HUNTING: Only youth and handicapped hunters are allowed to deer hunt on the Acker Lake Tract. Only handicap hunters will be allowed ATV access on the Acker Lake Handicap Hunting Area each day of the deer seasons and vehicular access is only allowed on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays during the gun and primitive weapon seasons. All handicap hunters must pre-register by contacting the Jackson Office (601-432-2199).

ACKER LAKE TURKEY HUNTING: Only youth and handicapped hunters will be allowed to turkey hunt this area on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. Only handicapped hunters will be allowed ATV and vehicular access on those days. On Wednesday through Saturday of each week, all hunters are allowed to hunt. All handicap hunters must pre-register by contacting the Jackson Office (601-432-2199).

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting. EXCEPTION: Only archery equipment is allowed for deer hunting in the ARCHERY ONLY DEER HUNTING AREA.

TRAPPING: All kill type traps must be at least 50% submerged in water.

WATERFOWL: All man-made impoundment areas where waterfowl hunting is allowed will be open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon. The remainder of the WMA may be hunted each day from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are not allowed on Canal Section WMA. ORVs/ATVs are allowed on John Bell Williams WMA only for the 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 hard surface roads. No hunting from horses allowed on Canal Section WMA, however, raccoon hunting from horses is allowed on John Bell Williams WMA during nighttime hunting 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.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced on Canal Section WMA. For additional information, contact the Corps of Engineers at (662) 327-2142.

This adopted public notice will become effective the 29 day of June, 2012.
Witness my hand and seal this the 16th day of May, 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

_____
(NOTARY)

(SEAL)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
NOTARY PUBLIC
ID # 93475
ANNETTE S. CLARK
Commission Expires
June 29, 2013
RANKIN COUNTY