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 W17 3434

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 regulations concerning **2012 – 2013 White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29, 49-5-13, 49-7-20.1, 49-7-31, 49-7-35, 49-7-37, 49-7-39, 49-7-41, and 49-7-96, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3434 is hereby repealed, and the following White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits are adopted.

WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS:

Hill Zone – Areas east of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and east of U.S. Highway 61, excluding areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35. OPEN PUBLIC LANDS include National Forests, Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations.

AND

Delta Zone – Areas west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61. OPEN PUBLIC LANDS include National Forests, Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations.

Archery
October 1, 2012 – November 16, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Early Primitive Weapon
November 5 – 16, 2012 (ANTLERLESS DEER ONLY on private land and open public land)

The Commission finds there is a surplus deer population in the State of Mississippi. These special deer hunts are established pursuant to the authority granted the Commission in Sections 49-7-37(2), (3), & (4), Mississippi Code of 1972.

All deer hunters must wear 500 square inches of unbroken hunter orange while this special hunt is in effect.

ONLY ANTLERLESS DEER MAY BE HARVESTED WITH PRIMITIVE WEAPONS DURING THE EARLY PRIMITIVE WEAPONS HUNT.

Gun (with dogs)
November 17, 2012 – November 30, 2012 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land.)

Primitive Weapon
December 1 – 14, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Gun (without dogs)
December 15 – 23, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Gun (with dogs)
December 24, 2012 – January 17, 2013 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land.)

Archery /Primitive Weapon
January 18 – 31, 2013(Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Southeast Zone - Areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35. OPEN PUBLIC LANDS include National Forests, Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations.

Archery
October 15, 2012 – November 16, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Gun (with dogs)
November 17, 2012– November 30, 2012 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land.)

Primitive Weapon
December 1 – 14, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)
Gun (without dogs)

December 15 – 23, 2012 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

Gun (with dogs)
December 24, 2012 – January 17, 2013 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land)

Archery / Primitive Weapon
January 18 – January 31, 2013 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land)
February 1 – 15, 2013 (Legal bucks only on private land and open public land)

Special Hunts:

Statewide Special Deer Hunts (Hill, Delta, and Southeast Zones):
Special Archery Hunt
November 17, 2012 – January 17, 2013 (Either-sex on private land and open public land)

The Commission finds there is a surplus deer population in the State of Mississippi. These special deer hunts are established pursuant to the authority granted the Commission in Sections 49-7-37(2), (3), & (4), Mississippi Code of 1972.

All archery and primitive weapons hunters must wear hunter orange while these special hunts are in effect. Legal bucks and antlerless deer may be harvested during the Special Archery Hunt.

Youth Deer Hunts:

Hill Zone and Delta Zones: Private lands, and authorized state and federal lands
November 3, 2012 – January 31, 2013

Southeast Zone: Private lands, and authorized state and federal lands
November 3, 2012 – February 15, 2013

Authorized state and federal lands include Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Corps of Engineers managed lands which designate the youth deer season in their regulations and open U. S. Forest Service National Forest lands.

Persons eligible to participate in Youth Deer Hunts are those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger. A child at least twelve (12) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of

age must have a certificate of satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by the department before hunting in this state or be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when hunting. A child under the age of twelve (12) must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the child is hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a child as provided in this section must hold a valid Mississippi license for the species being hunted.

Youths may carry and use any firearm with which they can safely hunt, and in compliance with other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Both youth and adults must wear 500 square inches of unbroken hunter orange, except while the hunters are in a fully enclosed deer stand. Archery hunters must wear 500 square inches of unbroken hunter orange while these special hunts are in effect. Bucks and antlerless deer may be harvested during the Youth Deer Hunts. Hunters fifteen (15) years of age and younger may harvest any antlered buck regardless of antler size for all three (3) of their three (3) buck bag limit.

Bag limit:

Antlered Buck Deer:
The bag limit on antlered buck deer is one (1) buck per day, not to exceed three (3) per license year. Legal bucks must meet the following antler criteria within the appropriate deer zone.

Hill Zone and Southeast Zones Legal Buck:
Only antlered buck deer with either a minimum inside spread of ten (10) inches OR a minimum main beam length of thirteen (13) inches may be taken.

Delta Zone Legal Buck:
Only antlered buck deer with either a minimum inside spread of twelve (12) inches OR a minimum main beam length of fifteen (15) inches may be taken.

Statewide:
Hunters fifteen (15) years of age and younger may harvest any antlered buck regardless of antler size for all three (3) of their three (3) buck bag limit.

Antlerless Deer:
The bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per day, not to exceed five (5) per license year.

Antlerless deer are defined as any female deer and any male deer without

hardened antler above the hairline.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Army managed lands are authorized to harvest antlerless deer on days designated by Federal Regulations. Contact local National Wildlife Refuge, Corps of Engineers, or U.S. Army for details.

Legal Weapons for use during the following seasons:

Archery: Longbows, recurves, and compound bows. There is no minimum or maximum draw weight. There is no minimum length arrow. Fixed or mechanical broadheads may be used.

Primitive Weapons: primitive firearms as defined in Public Notice WL6-2280 and crossbows.

Gun: There are no caliber or magazine capacity restrictions on firearms. Crossbows and primitive firearms as defined in Public Notice WL6-2280 may be used during the gun seasons.

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP):

Management Buck Tags:
Any antlered buck deer may be taken by permit if it is necessary to manage deer on lands under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) or on Wildlife Management Areas. A written management justification issued by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks must accompany any request for such a permit. Any antlered deer harvested under this permit must be identified with a tag immediately upon possession. Antlered buck deer taken by permit shall not be subject to the daily bag limit or the annual bag limit on antlered deer.

Doe Tags:
The annual and daily bag limit on antlerless deer shall not apply to private lands under the DMAP or the Fee-based Antlerless Program (FMAP) as approved by the Department. However, all harvested antlerless deer that exceed an individual hunter's daily or annual bag limit must be tagged prior to moving with a DMAP or FMAP tag provided by the Department.

When transported from the hunting area, all deer or parts thereof harvested under these permits must be tagged.

Hunting with Dogs on Homochitto National Forest:

From November 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013, 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.

A person who violates any of the provisions of this regulation is guilty of a Class III offense, as provided in Miss. Code Ann. §49-7-101, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than Twenty Five ($25.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars ($100.00). In addition thereto, an administrative review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials may, upon two (2) convictions or documented evidence of two (2) violations of this regulation, revoke the dog hunting permit for a period of Twenty (20) days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon three (3) convictions or documented evidence of three (3) violations of this regulation, the dog hunting permit may be revoked for a period of one (1) year.
~~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.~~

W17 3434
May 16, 2012 Commission Meeting

This adopted public notice will become effective June 29, 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