MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RULE PROPOSED NUMBER W17 3457

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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3457 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Okatibbee Wildlife Management Area

Lauderdale and Kemper Counties

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.
Youth Gun	Saturday two weeks prior to the opening day of Primitive Weapon/Shotgun season through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon/Shotgun	Saturday prior to	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

	Thanksgiving - Jan. 28	
Handicapped Hunt	Jan. 29 - Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. See HANDICAPPED HUNT in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8 - Mar. 14	
TURKEY	Mar. 15 - May 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to the 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	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon.
RABBIT	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
QUAIL	Thanksgiving Day through the first Saturday in March.	
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.

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.

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 the check station near the WMA Headquarters building 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.

HANDICAPPED HUNT: To apply, hunters must register at the WMA Office prior to Jan. 1. This is a three day hunt starting at 12:00 noon on Jan. 29 and ending at 12:00 noon on Jan. 31. Eligible handicapped hunters must meet the criteria specified in Public Notice 3518. During the Handicapped Hunt, weapons will be hunter's choice. Hunters may be accompanied by someone to assist, but not participate in the hunt.

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. Hunting, running, or pursuing hogs with the use of dogs is prohibited.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only shotguns with slugs and primitive weapons may be used for deer hunting, EXCEPT that youth may use centerfire rifles during the youth deer hunt and during the shotgun/primitive weapon season.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

HORSES: No horses allowed.

CAMPING: No camping allowed.

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.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. For additional information, contact the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at (662) 327-2142.

W17 3457
May 16, 2012 Commission Meeting

This adopted public notice will become effective the 30 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