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 3460

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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W17 3460 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area

George and Jackson Counties

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and AREA 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	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

Gun	Dec. 16 - Dec. 23	WITHOUT DOGS. Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 24 until 47 days of regular gun hunting for entire deer season	WITH DOGS in DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA only. Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Day after the final day of Gun Season through Feb. 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	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.	
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.

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.

AREA RESTRICTIONS:
DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located in Jackson County **east** of the Pascagoula River and **north** of Big Slough. 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.

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: That portion of the WMA located in George County and the portion located in Jackson County **west** of the Pascagoula River and **south** of Big Slough. Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dog season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 16 – Mar. 3 with weapons legal for small game.

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 or at the first self-service data collection station (see map) encountered by the hunter who harvested them before leaving 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, except during gun seasons with dogs, when a legal buck is a buck with an inside spread of at least 10 inches OR one main beam length of at least 13 inches.

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

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed only for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs and for use from camps to boat ramps. Access within the area commonly known as the Big Swamp, located between the Pascagoula River and Black Creek, is restricted to ORVs/ATVs only. ORVs/ATVs are restricted to designated trails only (see map). ORVs/ATVs are allowed on sandbars only for crossing along designated trails from one of the three access points. Deer hunting is not allowed from designated ORV/ATV trails. ORVs/ATVs

left unattended in the Big Swamp must be stored at one of the three designated storage areas. These areas must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner. ORVs/ATVs left unattended must have the owner's name and phone number permanently and legibly written and attached to the handlebars. ORVs/ATVs not in compliance with these regulations or left unattended on the area more than 30 days may be confiscated and disposed of by the MDWFP.

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 only in designated areas, or on sandbars and along rivers and creeks, provided such camp is visible from a boat. 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. All campsites must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner. 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 in the George County portion of the WMA when the Pascagoula River gauge at Merrill reads 18.0 ft or higher. Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed in the Jackson County portion of the WMA when the Pascagoula River gauge at Graham Ferry reads 15.0 ft or higher. Deep Slough and Graham Lake Roads in Jackson County will be closed when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 12.0 ft or higher. Overstreet Landing Road in Jackson County will be closed when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 10.0 ft or higher. Roads will be re-opened when conditions are suitable for vehicle use that will minimize road damage. River stages can be obtained from www.mdwfp.com/wma. The earliest daily reading will determine WMA closure for the entire day.

HOUSEBOATS: Houseboats are not allowed to be anchored, secured, or otherwise attached to any lands or structure within WMA boundaries.

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

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.

W18 3460
May 16, 2012 Commission Meeting

This adopted public notice will become effective the 1 day of July, 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

Annette S. Clark
(NOTARY)

(SEAL)

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