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 3471

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Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3471 is hereby repealed, and the following wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

Regulations for
Ward Bayou Wildlife Management Area

Jackson County

SPECIES	SEASON	COMMENTS
DEER		For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, DOG RESTRICTIONS, and LEGAL WEAPONS 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 - Feb. 15	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8 - May 1	Friday, Saturday, and Sunday by permit only. See SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Saturday prior to opening day of Squirrel season through the following Friday	
SQUIRREL	Saturday nearest Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1 - Sept. 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.

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 self-service data collection station (see map) 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, 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.

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 allowed EXCEPT in the Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area (see map). Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season. Hunting, running, or pursuing hogs with the use of dogs is prohibited.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Youth turkey hunting on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March 8 - May 1 will be allowed by special permit only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.

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

WATERFOWL HUNTING: Waterfowl hunting in and entering into any ponds west of the hill road from the WMA headquarters to the large power line is prohibited.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on sandbars.

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 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. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. 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 on the WMA when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 15.0 ft or higher. Ward Bayou Road will be closed from the double gates eastward when the river gauge at Graham Ferry reads 12.0 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.

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

COMMERCIAL FISHING: Commercial fishing is not allowed within the WMA.

CLOSED SANDBARS: Sandbars south of Cumbest Bluff within the WMA boundaries are closed from 5 pm – 8 am, Apr. 1 – Oct. 1 for the protection of nesting endangered species. No overnight camping allowed during this time. No dogs allowed on sandbars. All visitors to sandbars must remove personal refuse before leaving.

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

NATURE TRAILS: Use of designated nature trails is allowed from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset only.

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 3471
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

_____
(NOTARY)

(SEAL)

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