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 3473

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 for the 2012-13 hunting year. This was done under authority of Sections 49-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W16 3473 is hereby repealed, and the following 2012-13 wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

2012-2013 Regulations for
Natchez State Park

Adams County

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see BAG LIMITS, DEER DATA COLLECTION, DEER HUNTING PERMITS, ELIGIBLE HUNTERS, LEGAL BUCKS, SPECIAL BUCK TAGS and DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery – Permit Only	Oct. 1	Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Gun - Permit Only	Oct. 13	Dec. 9	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Handicapped Gun - Permit Only	Dec. 11	Dec. 13	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Muzzleloader - Permit Only	Dec. 15	Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.

YOUTH SQUIRREL – Permit Only	Feb. 2	Feb. 24	See YOUTH SQUIRREL HUNTING PERMITS in Special Instructions.
YOUTH TURKEY - Permit Only	Mar. 9	Apr. 27	See YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS in Special Instructions.

NO OTHER SEASON shall be open and no other animals shall be hunted or disturbed.

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.

HUNTING AREA: See map.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide bag limits EXCEPT: Legal Bucks – two (2) legal bucks per hunter.

PERMIT STATIONS: All hunters must check-in at the Park office and obtain a DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card. Parts A and B of this permit must be legibly filled out and Part A of the permit must be deposited at the park office before hunting. 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 park, hunters must complete the reverse side of Part B of the permit and deposit it at the park office.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be brought to the check station by the hunter who harvested them for biological data collection. 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.

DEER HUNTING PERMITS: Deer hunting is 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.

ELIGIBLE HUNTERS:

Youth:	Mississippi resident hunters 15 years of age or younger.
Handicapped:	Any hunter who is quadriplegic, paraplegic, or disabled, requiring mobility support from braces and/or crutches.
Muzzleloader:	Restricted to Mississippi residents.
Archery:	Restricted to Mississippi residents.

LEGAL BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches OR one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters 15 years of age or younger any antlered buck is a legal buck.

SPECIAL BUCK TAGS: For management purposes, a limited number of special buck tags, which allow one of the two buck bag limit per year to be any buck with hardened antlers visible above the natural hairline will be available for hunters. It is the hunter's responsibility to check on the availability of Special Buck Tags. If available, tags may be acquired at the park office or at the self-service deer check station. After harvest of a qualifying buck, hunters must retrieve a tag and attach it to the buck before leaving the park.

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

YOUTH SQUIRREL HUNTING PERMITS: Youth squirrel hunting is 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.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Youth turkey hunting is 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 muzzleloaders and archery equipment may be used for deer hunting, except for during the Youth and Handicap Gun hunts when archery equipment, centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders, or centerfire handguns may be used. Only shotguns may be used during the youth squirrel hunt.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed only for the retrieval of harvested deer and hogs only. Exception: handicapped hunters may access hunting area with ATVs during handicapped hunt only.

PARKING: Hunters must park in designated parking areas only. See map.

BOAT ACCESS: Access to hunting area by boat is allowed only from the south creek channel (see map).

HORSES: During deer and turkey seasons, horseback riding is restricted to roads open to motorized vehicles.

CAMPING: Camping is allowed under State Park regulation.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on this Park. They are federally protected as a threatened subspecies. Hunting or disturbing bears is prohibited. Please report any bear sightings to the Park office.

This adopted public notice will become effective July 13,2012. Witness my hand and seal this the 16th day of May 2012.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: _____
Billy Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND 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