BASIC REGULATIONS FOR ALL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs)
40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.1

Safety Precautions: Target shooting is prohibited, except on designated ranges. No hunting or shooting within 200 yards of any building. No alcoholic beverages allowed. Persons intoxicated or careless with firearms shall be expelled from hunts immediately. No shooting across WMA boundary lines. Unless they have been tampered-with, all WMA boundary lines are marked. Lands adjacent to any WMA may be private lands. Crossing onto adjacent private lands may subject the hunter to criminal liability for trespass. Stands, blinds, or other hunting positions should be placed so that the hunter does not shoot across any boundary line and onto adjacent private property. Hunters shall obey all markers and related signs on the WMA. A violation of this provision may also subject the hunter to charges for a violation of WMA hunting regulations and possible loss of hunting privileges on a WMA as defined in Forfeiture of Hunting Privileges section.

Hunter Orange: When hunting deer or hogs during any firearm season on deer on a WMA, including during special hunts, hunters must wear in full view a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange. When hunting quail or rabbit on a WMA, hunters must wear a hunter orange vest or cap. During any Youth Hunt for Deer, ALL deer hunters on the area must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange when hunting or walking to / from a stand / blind unless otherwise stated below. Hunters shall not be required to wear five hundred (500) square inches of solid unbroken hunter orange when: Hunting from a deer stand that is elevated twelve (12) feet or more above the ground; or hunting in a fully enclosed blind.

Firearms: Shoulder fired weapons must be cased while in a vehicle on a WMA, excluding ORVs/ATVs.

Legal Weapons: Unless otherwise stated in individual WMA regulations, the following are legal weapons for all WMAs.

Primitive Weapons: Primitive weapons are those defined by 40 Admin Code Part 4, Chap. 1, Rule 1.3 and Archery Equipment.

Archery Equipment: Longbows, recurves, compounds, and crossbows are legal archery equipment.

Turkey: Only archery equipment and shotguns with #2 shot or smaller may be used for turkey hunting.

Small Game: Legal weapons for small game hunting (excluding waterfowl) during Daylight hours are shotguns using #2 shot or smaller, rifles or handguns no larger than .22 rimfire (which includes .22 magnums), muzzleloading rifles .40 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads.

Forfeiture of Hunting Privileges: If while on a WMA any person violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, or any game and fish statute, and is convicted for that violation, that person may be required by a review panel of MDWFP officials to forfeit, for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of conviction, all hunting and fishing privileges on that WMA. In addition, the Commission may revoke, for a period of at least one (1) calendar year, the person's privileges to hunt and fish on all WMAs within the state. Before the revocation of a person's privileges to hunt and fish on all WMAs within the state, the person shall be given notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, setting out the grounds on which revocation is sought, and the person shall have a right to be heard before the Commission at its next regular meeting.

All Vehicles within, entering, or leaving a WMA are subject to being checked at roadblocks or checkpoints for compliance with hunting and fishing and/or WMA laws and regulations.

All Persons 15 Years of Age or Younger, while hunting on a WMA, 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 hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a child as provided in this section must hold a valid Mississippi license for the species being hunted.

Youth Hunt Eligibility: Persons eligible to participate in specially designated youth hunts are those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger.

Youths Hunting During Primitive Weapon Deer Hunts on a WMA may carry and use any firearm allowed in the "legal weapons for deer hunting" descriptions for that specific WMA.

During Permitted Draw Hunts for Deer and Turkey, for selected hunters 21 years old or older, one youth aged 15 years old or younger may accompany or hunt with the permitted adult hunter. The adult and youth combined harvest shall not exceed the permit bag limit.

Dogs: Dogs are not allowed on WMAs during closed seasons except by field trial permit.

Roads/Vehicles: During all WMA deer firearms seasons, no loaded shoulder-fired weapons allowed within 100 feet of the center line of any road or designated vehicle trail within a WMA. No motorized vehicles allowed on any roads blocked or posted as closed. No ATV/ORV allowed on any public road open to licensed motorized vehicles. No loaded weapon may be in possession when operating an ORV/ATV. ORVs/ATVs may be used on the WMA by any Federal or State employee, Law Enforcement Officers, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty. Vehicles blocking any gate, road, trail, levee, right-of-way, boat ramp, or permit station are prohibited and may be towed at the owner's expense. See individual wildlife management area regulations for exceptions to this rule.

Horses: Horses are defined as any equine species, or livestock, that may be ridden. No horses allowed on any levees within a WMA unless otherwise stated. On areas where horses are allowed, all horse riders must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange during any open hunting season.

Food Plots/Agricultural Leases: No horses, ATVs/ORVs or other vehicles allowed on wildlife food plots or on un-harvested crop land.

Harassment of wildlife, including spotlighting, is prohibited.

Tree Stands and Blinds: It shall be illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. Destroying, defacing, cutting, driving nails or spikes into, or otherwise damaging any standing live tree, natural feature, or plant is prohibited. Portable stands (including tripods and ground blinds) that are not removed from the area daily must have the hunter's name and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Portable stands may not be installed on the management area prior to 7 days before deer season opens, nor left longer than 7 days after deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the MDWFP.

Fall-Arrest Systems: While climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand on a WMA, hunters must use a fall-arrest system (full body harness) that is manufactured to industry standards.

Baiting and Feeding: No bait or feed is allowed on WMAs at any time. No food plots may be placed on WMAs except by area personnel.

During Deer Seasons Without Dogs, the use of organized drivers and standers is prohibited.

During Raccoon, Opossum, and Bobcat Seasons, hunting is allowed without dogs during daylight hours and with dogs from one-half hour after sunset until 4 a.m.

Beavers, Coyotes, and Hogs may be killed during daylight hours only during any open season on a WMA with weapons and ammunition legal for that season.

Posting of Regulations: Area Managers shall post regulations, and changes thereto, at each check-in station and at the area headquarters.

Boundary Signs: It shall be the responsibility of WMA personnel to properly identify boundaries with agency signs at intervals no greater than 300 feet. Signs shall be replaced as needed.

Guides/Outfitters: No person or group of persons may act as a guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity for which they are paid or promised to be paid by any other individual or individuals for services rendered. Commercial dog training prohibited.

Transporting or Releasing into the wild, or capture and removal of any live animal or plant is prohibited without Commission approval.

Other Seasons: Hunting seasons for animals not listed in individual WMA regulations are the same as statewide seasons.

Handicapped Hunter Access: Individuals with disabilities who meet the criteria stated in Rule 1.4, may receive special permitted privileges on all Wildlife Management Areas, except on lands owned by the U.S. Forest Service, which may be subject to other rules. Special privileges to eligible hunters may include: access to handicapped-exclusive areas, special facilities, or access to any open portion of the WMA by ATV/UTV, or other power-driven mobility device. Users must provide documentation or other credible assurance of his or her disability in order to determine eligibility for these special privileges. Contact the Jackson Office at 601-432-2199 for information on obtaining a special privilege permit.

Applicants Selected to Hunt on a WMA During Permitted Draw Hunts must follow all rules included in the draw hunt application and posted at the WMA.

Littering: Littering is prohibited.

Metal Detectors: No one shall use metal detectors on any Wildlife Management Area.

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.

Bears: Black bears may be present on a WMA. Bears are State-protected as an Endangered species. Hunting or disturbing bears is prohibited. Please report any bear sightings on your daily visitor use permit card. Sightings may also be reported at www.mdwfp.com/bears.

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.2
2017-2018 Regulations for
Choctaw and John Starr Wildlife Management Areas
Choctaw, Oktibbeha, and Winston Counties

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see LEGAL BUCKS, DEER DATA COLLECTION, DOG RESTRICTIONS, and LEGAL WEAPONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Sept. 30	Nov. 17	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Deer	Nov. 4	Nov. 17	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 18	Dec. 1	Legal bucks without dogs.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2	Dec. 15	Legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Legal bucks without dogs.
Gun	Dec. 24	Jan. 17	Legal bucks without dogs.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 18	Jan. 31	Legal bucks.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8	Mar. 14	
TURKEY	Mar. 15	May 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	
SQUIRREL	Sept. 30	Feb. 28	
	May 15	June 1	
RABBIT	Oct. 14	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	July 1	Sept. 29	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Sept. 30	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	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 participating in hunting, fishing, or trapping on these wildlife management areas, except those exempt from purchasing an annual hunting or fishing license must carry on their person an annual statewide Wildlife Manage-ment Area User Permit. This permit is required in ad-dition to the daily visitor use permit and any required license and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold. Exceptions: Choctaw Lake where no WMA user permits are required. All persons using the following wildlife management areas, except those exempt from purchasing an annual hunting or fishing license must carry on their person an annual statewide Wildlife Management Area User Permit: John Starr. 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 PERMITS:

John Starr:
All hunters must obtain a hunting permit from the College of Forest Resources, Forest Operations Office, and (662) 325-2191. Deer tags will be provided for persons wishing to hunt deer on the area.

CLOSED AREAS:

Choctaw: Area with boundary marked with white paint around Choctaw Lake and Campground is designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREAS.

John Starr:
Areas with boundaries marked with red paint around Dorman Lake, School Forest hunter check station, campground on St. Mark Road, and ranger residence are designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREAS.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide bag limits, except the bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per day.

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. Daily visitor use permits must be turned in daily.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be recorded on DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card before leaving the area. All deer harvested must be checked at a self-service data collection station 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.

DOG RESTRICTIONS: 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 centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES/ATVs: Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Forest Service regulations or the regulations below:

John Starr:

ORVs/ATVs are allowed for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

HORSES: Hunting from horseback is allowed.

John Starr:

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 subject to U.S. Forest Service regulations or the regulations below:

John Starr:

Camping is allowed in designated campsites only. Campers must obtain a permit from MSU Forest Operations (662) 325-2191.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. For additional information, contact the US Forest Service at (601) 965-1600.

CHOCTAW WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:
WMA Headquarters: (662) 272-8303
MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy 43 S, Canton, MS 39046, (601)859-3421
Driving Directions: From Ackerman, take Hwy 15 south 3.3 miles to Choctaw Lake Road. Turn east (left) and follow signs to Choctaw WMA headquarters.
GPS Coordinates: 33.273836, -89.126939

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to see the location of Choctaw WMA Headquarters.

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to see maps and other data about John Starr WMA

JOHN STARR WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:
WMA Headquarters: (662) 272-8303
MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy 43 S, Canton, MS 39046, (601)859-3421
Driving Directions: From Starkville, take Hwy 25 south toward Louisville. Travel approximately 10 miles and turn left on Dorman Lake Rd. Permit station is on the left. (There is no headquarters on this WMA).
GPS Coordinates: 33.377470, -88.862357

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to see the location of John Starr WMA Headquarters.

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to see maps and other data about John Starr WMA

MDWFP Jackson Office: (601) 432-2199

Choctaw/John Starr

Wildlife Management Areas
2017-2018 Regulations

CAUTION: Public use trails may be located on this wildlife management area. Recreational trail users, hunters, and other visitors should be aware that other users may be on the area at the same time they are. All users should learn and observe trail safety guidelines and always make other users aware of their presence.

State wildlife management areas (WMAs), fishing lakes, and parks are managed to be as close to a natural condition as possible, while providing access and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Any number of animals, plants, and insects, some of which may be dangerous to humans, may be found on state WMAs, lakes, and parks. Please enjoy the opportunities we offer to interact with nature, but be mindful of your surroundings.

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