

**Rule 1.1 BASIC REGULATIONS FOR ALL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs)**

**Disclaimer:** *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. Should you have any questions about specific locations, please call us at 601-432-2199 or visit [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com). To report a wildlife violation, call 1-800-BESMART.*

**A. Safety Precautions:** 1. Target shooting is prohibited, except on designated ranges. 2. No hunting or shooting within 200 yards of any building. 3. No alcoholic beverages allowed on WMAs. Persons intoxicated or careless with firearms shall be removed immediately. 4. 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 provided in Paragraph E., below.

**B. 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 or pink. When hunting quail or rabbit on a WMA, hunters must wear a fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink 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 fluorescent orange or pink when: Hunting from a deer stand that is elevated twelve (12) feet or more above the ground; or hunting in a fully enclosed blind.

**C. Firearms:** Shoulder fired weapons must be **unloaded and** cased while in a vehicle on a WMA.Shoulder-fired weapons in an ORV/ATV are not required to be cased. **The case must be a container specifically designed for firearms and must be zipped, snapped, buckled, tied or otherwise fastened with no portion of the weapon exposed.**

**D. Legal Weapons:** Unless otherwise stated in individual WMA regulations, the following are legal weapons for all WMAs. 1. Primitive Weapons: Primitive weapons are those defined by 40 Admin Code Part 4, Chap. 1, Rule 1.3 and Archery Equipment. 2. Archery Equipment: Longbows, recurves, compounds, and crossbows are legal archery equipment. 3. Turkey: Only archery equipment and shotguns with #2 shot or smaller may be used for turkey hunting. 4. Small Game: Legal weapons for small game hunting (excluding waterfowl) during Daylight hours are shotguns using #2 shot or smaller, rifles and air rifles, or handguns no larger than .22 rimfire (which includes .22 magnums), muzzleloading rifles .40 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment.

**E. 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.

**F. 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.

**G. Youth Hunt Eligibility:** Persons eligible to participate in spe-

cially designated youth hunts are those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger.

**H. 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.

**I. During permitted draw hunts for deer and turkey,** for select-ed 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. The drawn hunter may have one non-permitted licensed guest 16 years of age and older. This guest is not allowed to harvest deer or turkey.

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

**K. 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, regardless of size or type, vehicles allowed off-road or 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 regula-tions for exceptions to this rule.

**L. 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 or fluorescent pink during any open hunting season.

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

**N. Harassment of wildlife,** including spotlighting, is prohibited.

**O. 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.

**P. 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. Tree saddle users must remain connected to tree at all times by means of a lineman’s belt or tether.

**Q. 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.

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

**S. 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.

**T. 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.

**U. Posting of Regulations:** Area Managers shall post regula-tions, and changes thereto, at each check-in station and at the area

headquarters. All posted draw hunt procedures and rules must be followed.

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

**W. 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.

**X. Transporting or Releasing into the wild,** or capture and removal of any live animal or plant is prohibited without Commis-sion approval.

**Y. Other Seasons:** Hunting seasons for animals not listed in indi-vidual WMA regulations are the same as statewide seasons.

**Z. 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 mo-bility 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.

**AA. Applicants Selected to Hunt on a WMA during Permitted Draw Hunts** must follow all rules included in the draw hunt appli-cation and posted at the WMA.

**BB. Littering:** Littering is prohibited, including spent shotgun shells.

**CC. No one shall use metal detectors** on any Wildlife Manage-ment Area.

**DD. 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 popu-lation 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.

**EE. 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](http://www.mdwfp.com)

**FF. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles** may not be launched from or landed on MDWFP-Owned Wildlife Management Areas.

**GG. Trail cameras** must have the hunter’s name and phone num-ber permanently and legibly written on or attached to the camera.

**HH. WMA Check-In:** All visitors must check-in before using the WMA and check-out upon leaving the WMA and may do so by using the MDWFP WMA Check-In Application. All harvested game must be reported using the WMA Check-In Application or the Daily Visitor Use Card.

**II. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS,** TITLE 36 will be followed. Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§39-7-11, 49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-5-13.

**JJ. CWD Sampling:** All antlerless deer harvested on WMAs with-in a CWD Management zone must be submitted for sampling.

**LL. Tracking and/ or Retrieval of Wounded Deer: If blood-trail-ing/tracking dogs are used, no more than two (2) dogs may be used. If the deer being tracked is discovered alive, but wound-ed,the hunter or tracker may dispatch the deer by using a hand-gun with a barrel no longer than six (6) inches chambered in a caliber no larger than .45 caliber. WMA annual user permit and WMA check-in and out required. All off-road motorized vehicle/ATV/ UTV's rules apply.**

History: Updated April 2025

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.46 2025-2026 Regulations for Phil Bryant Wildlife Management Area Issaquena & Warren Counties <u>Backwoods Unit</u>			
SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see BAG LIMITS, DEER DATA COLLECTION, DEER HUNT-ING PERMITS, LEGAL BUCKS, and DOG RE-STRICCTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery Group Draw - Permit Only	Oct. 1	Nov. 2	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun Group Draw - Permit Only	Nov. 5	Jan. 14	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Senior Adult - Permit Only	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. See bag limits
TURKEY- Permit Only			See TURKEY HUNTING in SPECIAL IN-STRUCTIONS.
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 24	Sept. 30	
SQUIRREL & RABBIT - Group Draw	Oct. 1	Jan. 14	Open to hunters drawn during group draw hunts.
SQUIRREL & RABBIT	Jan. 15	Feb. 28	Daily.
SQUIRREL	May 15	June 1	Daily.
RACCOON	July 1	Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Jan. 15	Feb. 28	Daily.
TRAPPING	Jan. 15	Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL - Group Draw Permit Only	Open concurrent with state waterfowl season for hunters drawn during the group draw.		
WATERFOWL -	Jan. 15	Jan. 31	Open only on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH/VETERANS/ ACTIVE MILITARY	Open concurrent with statewide Youth/Veteran/Active Military season.		See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUC-TIONS.
WOODCOCK - Group Draw Only	Open concurrent with Statewide Season.		Open to hunters drawn during the group draw hunts.
WOODCOCK	Jan. 15	Jan. 31	Daily.
SNIFE - Group Draw Only	Open concurrent with Statewide Season.		Open to hunters drawn during the group draw hunts.
SNIFE	Jan. 15	Feb. 28	Daily.
FISHING - Group Draw Only	Oct. 1	Jan. 14	Open to hunters drawn during the group draw hunts.
FISHING	Jan. 15	Sept. 30	Daily.
Backwoods Unit is closed to scouting from Oct. 1–January 14.			

## 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 completing the Daily Visitor User Permit or by using the WMA Check-In App and any required license and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold.

**BAG LIMITS:** Season bag limit of 3 deer, of which only 1 may be a legal buck. All harvested deer count towards statewide bag limits. The bag limit during the Senior Adult Hunt will be 1 legal buck and 1 antlerless deer per hunt. Bag limit for turkeys is 1 adult gobbler per permitted hunt.

**Backwoods Unit:** Group bag limit of 4 legal bucks and 8 antlerless deer. All harvested deer count towards the Phil Bryant WMA and statewide bag limits.

**DEER DATA COLLECTION:** All deer harvested must be checked at a WMA check station and recorded on WMA Daily Visitor User Permit Card or WMA Check-In App 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 (weight, antler measurements, and jawbone). Instructions and equipment will be provided. Deer harvest on Goose Lake Unit must be checked in at either the Hwy 61 Boat Ramp or Ten Point Unit data collection station. Deer harvested on Buck Bayou Unit must be checked in at the Buck Bayou Visitor Permit station at the Buck Bayou parking area, see map for location. Once the jawbone is removed, ALL antlerless deer heads harvested on Phil Bryant WMA must be tagged and deposited in the Mahannah or Phil Bryant CWD Collection freezer.

**DEER HUNTING PERMITS:** You may apply online at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com). See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.

**LEGAL BUCKS:** Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 16 inches OR one main beam

length of at least 20 inches. During ALL other Permit Only hunts, a youth hunter must harvest a buck with an inside spread of at least 16 inches OR one main beam length of at least 20 inches.

**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.

**TURKEY HUNTING:** Turkey hunting is allowed by special permit only.

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

**WATERFOWL:**  
**Backwoods Unit:** Only open to waterfowl hunting to those drawn for the group hunts from opening day of waterfowl season Jan. 14. Backwoods unit is open to waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from Jan. 15-31 and during the Youth/ Veteran/ Active Military Waterfowl days. From Jan. 15-31, shooting hours will end at 12 P.M. and waterfowl hunters must check out by 1 P.M.

**OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs:** ORVs/ATVs/Electric bicycles are allowed on designated roads or trails for hunting and fishing access only. Off-road use of ORVs/ATVs/Electric bicycles is allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or hogs. During all WMA deer firearms seasons, no loaded shoulder fired weapons allowed within 100 ft of any road within WMA, including ATV trails. Additionally, electric bicycles may be ridden on marked foot-traffic trails only by users 65 years of age and older. They may not be ridden on any leveed roads or trails.  
**HORSES:** Horseback riding is prohibited during WMA deer and turkey seasons. At all other times, horseback riding is restricted to roads open to motorized vehicles and designated ATV trails. Raccoon hunting from horses is allowed on entire area during nighttime hunting hours.

**CAMPING:** Camping is allowed in designated areas only. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. Camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. All camping equipment and garbage must be removed before final departure. Camping for Goose Lake Unit is ONLY allowed at the Ten Point or Mahannah WMA Campgrounds. Backwoods: Camping for Backwoods Unit 4 is only allowed at the Mahannah WMA campground.

**SCOUTING:**  
**Backwoods:** No scouting allowed from Oct. 1–Jan. 14. Open daily from Jan. 15 - Sept. 30.

**HIGH WATER:** Phil Bryant WMA will be closed to all activities, except waterfowl hunting, when the Mississippi River gauge at Vicksburg reaches 43 ft. and shall remain so until the Mississippi River level falls to or below 41.0 ft. and/or when the Steele Bayou landside gauge reaches 82.0 ft. and shall remain closed until the Steele Bayou level falls to or below 80ft. Waterfowl hunting shall open daily on the Ten Point and Goose Lake units during the waterfowl season after 82 feet on the Steel. Bayou Landside Gauge Previously drawn hunters for the Backwoods unit may only waterfowl hunt during Mahannah permitted waterfowl hunts.

**PARKING:** Buck Bayou visitors must park in the Buck Bayou Unit parking area only. See map for location. Visitors from Buck Bayou Unit and Mahannah WMA may not park at Backwoods Units Campsites between October 1 - January 31.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**MDWFP Regional Office:** (601) 859-3421

**MDWFP Jackson Office:** (601) 432-2199

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

### GPS Coordinates:

**Unit 1:** 32.549509, -90.956802

**Unit 2:** 32.549197, -90.954626

**Unit 3:** 32.533634, -90.947776

**Unit 4:** 32.522768, -90.901986



Scan to view information about Phil Bryant WMA.



Scan for Unit 1 Location



Scan for Unit 2 Location



Scan for Unit 3 Location



Scan for Unit 4 Location

## Phil Bryant Wildlife Management Area Backwoods Unit 2025-2026 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.

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## 1-800-BE-SMART Report Wildlife Violations

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