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. 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, illegal drugs, or illegal drug paraphenalia allowed. Persons intoxicated, under the influence of drugs 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 specially 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 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. 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 regulations 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 regulations, 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 personnel 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 Commission approval.

Y. Other Seasons: Hunting seasons for animals not listed in individual 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 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.

AA. 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.

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

CC. No one shall use metal detectors on any Wildlife Management 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 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.

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

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 number 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 within a CWD Management zone must be submitted for sampling.

LL. Tracking and/ or Retrieval of Wounded Deer: If blood-trailing/ tracking dogs are used, no more than two (2) dogs may be used. If the deer being tracked is discovered alive, but wounded,the hunter or tracker may dispatch the deer by using a handgun 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/ UTVs rules apply.

History: Updated April 2026

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.2
2026-2027 Regulations for
Bienville, Livingston/ Windham at Caney Creek, and Tallahala Wildlife Management Areas
Jasper, Newton, Scott, and Smith 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	Oct. 1	Nov. 20	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Deer	Nov. 7	Nov. 20	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 21	Dec. 1	Legal bucks with dogs.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2	Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 24	Jan. 20	Legal bucks with dogs: Caney Creek and Tallahala.
	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Legal bucks without dogs: Bienville.
	Jan. 1	Jan. 20	Legal bucks with dogs: Bienville.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 21	Jan. 31	Legal bucks only.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8	Mar. 14	
TURKEY (Permit Only)	Mar. 15	Mar. 31	See TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
TURKEY	Apr. 1	May 2	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 24	Sept. 30	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 1 May 15	Feb. 28 June 1	
RABBIT	Oct. 17	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	July 1	Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.		
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 Management Area User Permit. This permit is required in addition to completing the Daily Visitor Use Permit Card or using the WMA Check-In App and any required license and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide bag limits, except the bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per day. All harvested deer count towards statewide bag limits, unless otherwise stated.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be recorded on DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT CARD or the WMA Check-In App 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 (weight, antler measurements, and jawbone). Instructions and equipment will be provided.

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, EXCEPT FOR Bienville, where during gun seasons with dogs, a legal buck is a buck with an inside spread of at least 12 inches OR one main beam length of at least 15 inches.

DOG RESTRICTIONS: Small game hunting with dogs is allowed during any small game season.

Caney Creek:

AREA I (Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA north of I-20, south of Hwy. 80, and east of Hwy. 501. Hunting, running, or pursuing hogs with the use of dogs is prohibited.

AREA II (Deer Hunting With Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA south of I-20 and north of Morton-Marathon Road (Road 506). Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1–Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

AREA III (Deer Hunting Without Dogs Area): That portion of the WMA south of Morton-Marathon Road (Road 506). Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1–Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

Tallahala:

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: The portion of the WMA north of Forest Service Road 506 and west of Cedar Creek. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1–Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1–Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

Bienville:

Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season. In addition, hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1–Feb. 28 with weapons legal for small game.

TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS: Turkey hunting from Mar. 15–Mar. 31 is allowed by special permit only on Bienville, Caney Creek, and Tallahala. 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.

NO HUNTING:
Caney Creek: No parking or hunting from I-20.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES/ATVs: Off-road vehicle use, including electric bicycles, will be governed by U.S. Forest Service regulations.

HORSES: Hunting from horseback is allowed.

CAMPING: Camping is allowed subject to U.S. Forest Service regulations.

BIENVILLE WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:
WMA Headquarters: (601) 469-1918
MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy. 43 S., Canton, MS 39046, (601) 859-3421
Driving Directions: From I-20, Exit 77: Take Hwy 13 north to Hwy 80. Turn right on Hwy 80 and go approximately 4 miles and turn left at US Forest Service sign saying "National Forest Service Trail". Go approximately 6 miles and headquarters is on the left.
GPS Coordinates: 32.431201, -89.558632

Scan to view location of Bienville WMA Headquarters.

Scan to view information about Bienville WMA.

CANEY CREEK WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:
WMA Headquarters: (601) 469-1918
MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy. 43 S., Canton, MS 39046, (601) 859-3421
Driving Directions: From I-20, Exit 88: Take Hwy 35 south approx. ¼ mile and turn right onto West Moore Tower Road. Headquarters is approximately 1 mile on left.
GPS Coordinates: 32.324620, -89.505256

Scan to view location of Caney Creek WMA Headquarters.

Scan to view information about Caney Creek WMA.

TALLAHALA WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:
WMA Headquarters: (601) 469-1918
MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy. 43 S., Canton, MS 39046, (601) 859-3421
Driving Directions: From I-20, Exit 100: Take Hwy 80 East. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right (south) on Hwy 505. Go approximately 5 miles and turn right onto Roberts County Line Rd. (Hwy 507). Go approximately 3 miles and headquarters is on the right.
GPS Coordinates: 32.200295, -89.283469

Scan to view location of Tallahala WMA Headquarters.

Scan to view information about Tallahala WMA.

MDWFP JACKSON OFFICE: (601) 432-2199

Bienville/ Caney Creek/Tallahala

Wildlife Management Area
2026-2027 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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