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.

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 unharvested 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.

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.39
2016-2017 Regulations for
Theodore A. Mars, Jr. Memorial Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife Management Area
Pearl River County

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL DEER, and DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Youth Gun	Nov. 5	Feb. 15	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 24	Sept. 30	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
RABBIT	Oct. 15	Feb. 28	
QUAIL	Nov. 24	Mar. 4	

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.

BAG LIMITS: Same as statewide.

PERMIT STATIONS: All visitors must obtain a DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card from the 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 the permit station before using the WMA. Part B must be kept on the dash of the vehicle 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 the 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 the DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card.

LEGAL DEER: Antlerless deer and bucks with hardened antlers visible above the natural hairline are legal for harvest.

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. 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 or buckshot, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: ORVs/ATVs are allowed on designated trails and for the retrieval of harvested deer or hogs only.

HORSES: No horses allowed.

CAMPING: No camping allowed.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

WMA Headquarters: (601) 772-9024

MDWFP South Regional Office: 1201 N. Clark Ave., Magnolia, MS 39652, (601) 783-2911

MDWFP Jackson Office: (601) 432-2199

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From the intersection with I-59 at Poplarville, follow Hwy. 53 south 4 miles.

GPS Coordinates: 30.760710, -89.497890

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to see the location of Theodore A. Mars, Jr. Memorial Wildlife Refuge WMA Headquarters.

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to download a copy of the Theodore A. Mars, Jr. Memorial Wildlife Refuge WMA map.

Theodore A. Mars, Jr.
Memorial Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife Management Area
2016-2017 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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1-800-BE-SMART
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