

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 and air rifles*, or handguns no larger than .22 rimfire (which includes .22 magnums), muzzleloading rifles .40 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment.

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. ***The drawn hunter may have one non-hunting guest 16 years of age or older.***

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, 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.

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

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.

All posted draw hunt procedures and rules must be followed.

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.

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

Trail Cameras: Trail cameras must have the hunter's name and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the camera.

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.

CWD Sampling: All antlerless deer harvested on WMAs within a CWD Management zone must be submitted for sampling.

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.

Updated April 2023

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.37 2023-2024 Regulations for Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area Humphreys and Leflore Counties			
SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, and DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery - Permit Only	Oct. 5	Nov. 4	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. (Thursday, Friday, & Saturday only.)
Youth Gun	Nov. 9	Nov. 11	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. (Thursday, Friday, & Saturday only.)
Primitive Weapon - Permit Only	Nov. 16	Jan. 27	Antlerless deer and legal bucks. (Thursday, Friday, & Saturday only.)
TURKEY	SEASON CLOSED		
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 23	Sept. 27	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday only.
SQUIRREL	Sept. 30	Jan. 31	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday only.
	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	Daily.
RACCOON	July 1	Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Sept. 30	Jan. 31	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday only.
	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	Daily.
TRAPPING	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	
WATERFOWL	See Federal Regulations.		Sunday, Saturday, & Wednesday only. Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon. See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
YOUTH/VETERAN WATERFOWL	Open concurrent with state-wide Youth Waterfowl Season		See WATERFOWL in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
POST SEASON LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER	See Federal Regulations.		Open after waterfowl season.
DOVE	Same as statewide seasons.		Shooting hours are from 2:00 pm–sunset.
RABBIT	Oct. 14	Jan. 31	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday only. See DOG RESTRICTIONS in Special Instructions.
	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	Daily.
QUAIL	Nov. 26	Jan. 31	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday only.
	Feb. 1	Mar. 2	Daily.

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 Use Permit Card or by using the WMA Check-In App and any required license and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold. Visitors to the Sky Lake Boardwalk and Visitor's Center are exempt from the WMA User Permit.

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 checked at a self-service deer check station located on Sky Lake WMA and recorded on WMA Daily Use 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 HUNTING PERMITS: Deer hunting, except for the youth gun hunt, 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 BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters 15 years of age or younger any antlered buck is a legal buck.

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.

SMALL GAME HUNTING: Small game seasons

for species not listed will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during their respective statewide season dates until January 31. After January 31 these seasons will be open daily.

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting during the youth deer hunt. Other deer seasons are restricted to archery and primitive weapons.

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 noon. All hunt participants, spent shot shells, and equipment must be removed from the WMA by 1:00 p.m., except during the youth waterfowl hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.

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 ORV/ ATV/ Electric bicycles is allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or hogs. Additionally, electric bicycles may be ridden on marked foot-traffic trails on ly 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 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 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.

SCOUTING: *Scouting is allowed daily from February 1 - September 30 and on Sunday - Wednesday from October 1 - January 31.*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. For additional information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (601) 631-5000.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

WMA Headquarters: (662) 335-2422

MDWFP Central Regional Office: 506 Hwy 43 South, Canton, MS 39046, (601) 859-3421

MDWFP Jackson Office: (601) 432-2199

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From Belzoni, go north on Hwy 7 approximately 8 miles. Turn left on Four Mile Road. Go approximately 3 miles to permit station. Take left at permit station on Lake Road. Go approximately .25 miles to the WMA headquarters on the right.

GPS Coordinates: 33.303901, -90.456460



Scan to view location of Sky Lake WMA Headquarters.



Scan to view maps and data about Sky Lake WMA.

Sky Lake

Wildlife Management Area

2023-2024 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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