

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 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 cased while in a vehicle on a WMA, excluding ORVs/ATVs.

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), muzzle-loading 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 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 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.

History: Updated June 2024

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.2 2024-2025 Regulations for Caston Creek and Sandy Creek Wildlife Management Areas Adams, Amite, and Franklin 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. 22	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth Deer	Nov. 9	Nov. 22	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 23	Dec. 1	Legal Bucks with Dogs: Caston Creek. Legal Bucks without Dogs: Sandy Creek.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2	Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Legal bucks only.
Gun	Dec. 24	Jan. 22	Legal Bucks with Dogs: Caston Creek. Legal Bucks without Dogs: Sandy Creek.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 23	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 1	
YOUTH SQUIRREL	Sept. 24	Sept. 30	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
	May 15	June 1	
RABBIT	Oct. 12	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1	Sept. 30	Friday and Saturday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
Whenever the opening date set above falls on 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 checked at a self-service data collection station and recorded on DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT CARD or on the 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. 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, EXCEPT FOR Caston Creek, where during gun seasons with dogs, a legal buck is a buck with an inside spread of at least 10 inches OR one main beam length of at least 13 inches.

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

Caston Creek:

DEER HUNTING WITHOUT DOGS AREA: The portion of the area west of Forest Service Road 155. Hog hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only during Feb. 1-28 with weapons legal for small game.

DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS AREA: The portion of the area east of Forest Service Road 155. 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. 1-28 with weapons legal for small game.

Caston Creek:

Homochitto National Forest Dog Hunting Permits: From November 1–January 31, all dog hunting groups or individuals hunting with dogs must obtain a permit to use dogs to hunt any animal or to train dogs on areas open to deer hunting with dogs on Homochitto National Forest. There is no cost for this permit. A permit will be issued to the dog hunting group. All hunters hunting with this group must be listed on the permit prior to hunting; except youth 15 years of age and younger. All hunters hunting with dogs or with the dog hunting group must have the permit on their person while hunting.

Five (5) guest permits will be available in addition to the individuals listed on the permit. Guest permits will be valid for 4 consecutive days and must be filled out with the date, hunter’s name, hunting license number, and signed by the hunter prior to use. All guests must have

the permit on their person while hunting. Guest permits must be turned in to the USFS Meadville office for replacement guest permits to be issued. When guest permits are turned in, a season permit will be issued for these individuals and replacement guest permits will be issued to the group.

Permit numbers must be visually displayed on the back window of all vehicles in the hunting group. A permit number will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters must display this permit number using 3-inch, block numbers in contrast to the background color.

Permits will be available from the U.S. Forest Service Meadville office. Office location: 1200 Highway 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653. Office hours: 8 am–4:30 pm (Monday–Friday).

Dogs must wear a functional tracking collar and be identified at all times with the permit number and the owner’s contact information. Dogs must be kept on the Homochitto National Forest lands that allow deer hunting with dogs.

An administrative review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials may, upon two (2) convictions or documented evidence of two (2) violations of this regulation within a 3-year period, revoke the dog hunting permit for a period of Twenty (20) days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon three (3) convictions or documented evidence of three (3) violations of this regulation within a 3-year period, the dog hunting permit may be revoked for a period of one (1) year.

Any person who files a false affidavit in justice court alleging a violation or violations of this rule, provides false information regarding a violation of this rule, or facilitates a situation which will cause a violation of this rule to occur may be subject to prosecution for perjury and, if found guilty, punished under the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. §97-9-19, and/or be subject to a civil suit for false prosecution by the person accused of the violation.

Sandy Creek:

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. 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.

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.

CASTON CREEK WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:

WMA Headquarters: (601) 277-3636
MDWFP South Regional Office: 1201 N. Clark Ave., Magnolia, MS 39652, (601) 783-2911

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Beginning at the intersection of Hwy 84 and Hwy 98 in the Bude community, travel south-southeast on Hwy 98 approximately 2.6 miles to the intersection of Yap Road. Turn west (right) on Yap Road and travel approximately 2.6 miles where it will change into Gloster Road. Continue west-southwest on Gloster Road for approximately 5.4 miles. The WMA headquarters is on the left.

GPS Coordinates: 31.356837, -90.933772



Scan to view location of Caston Creek WMA Headquarters.



Scan to view information about Caston Creek WMA.

SANDY CREEK WMA CONTACT INFORMATION:

WMA Headquarters: (601) 277-3636
MDWFP South Regional Office: 1201 N. Clark Ave., Magnolia, MS 39652, (601) 783-2911

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Hwy 61 and Liberty Road in Natchez, travel south-east on Liberty Road approximately 14 miles to the intersection of Garden City Road. Turn south(right) on Garden City Road and continue for approximately 4 miles. The WMA headquarters is on the right.

GPS Coordinates: 31.404548, -91.186115



Scan to view location of Sandy Creek WMA Headquarters.



Scan to view information about Sandy Creek WMA.

MDWFP Jackson Office: (601) 432-2199

Caston Creek/ Sandy Creek

Wildlife Management Area 2024-2025 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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Published by the Mississippi Department of
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive • Jackson, MS 39211-6374

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