

Hunting Seasons, Rules and Regulations 2009-11 & WMA Seasons, Rules and Regulations 2009-10 – Recommended Changes

Orange language is reason behind change recommendations.

Blue changes presented at 2/5/2009 Commission mtg.

1. For consistency and clarification of certain terms throughout notice of intent.
 - A. Standardized highway abbreviations-removed references to highway, L.A. highway, HWY, U.S. Highway, etc. to **LA #, US #, or I-#**
 - B. Standardized references to department, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, etc. to **LDWF**
 - C. Changed references to Fur and Refuge Division to **Coastal and Non-game Resources Division (CNR)**.
 - D. Changed muzzleloader and bow to **primitive firearm** and **approved archery**
 - E. Changed handicapped to **Physically Challenged**
 - F. ADD **PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED WHEELCHAIR CONFINED** where applicable to identify and clarify the type of hunt available

2. Proposal will push back the opening and closing dates of Area 4 deer season one week beginning with the **2010-2011** hunting season. LDWF has received public comment regarding a later season to take advantage of the later rut period. Department staff has reviewed the breeding data for Area 4 and determined the later season should provide additional opportunity without negatively impacting the deer herd.

2010-2011 DEER HUNTING SCHEDULE

Area	Archery	Primitive Firearms (All Either-sex except as noted)	Still Hunt (No Dogs Allowed)	With or Without Dogs
4	Oct. 1-Jan. 31	Nov. 13-19 Jan. 10-17	Nov. 20-Jan. 9	

3. Eliminate Daily Permit Hunts and Mandatory Check Hunts for Deer on WMAs for consistency on all WMAs. The elimination of these special permit hunts will also simplify the hunting regulations. All hunting activities will be monitored via Self-Clearing Permits that are already required.

Additionally, the provision to allow hunters during the managed deer hunts on WMAs to harvest antlerless deer without counting against their season limit will be eliminated. The intent of the provision was to encourage additional hunting opportunity on the WMAs and to allow greater attainment of recommended antlerless deer harvest on these properties. The regulation change added confusion to the hunters and overall lack of participation by WMA hunters was noted.

DAILY:

Daily permits when required shall be obtained at permit stations on or near each WMA after first presenting

~~a valid hunting license to a Department employee. Hunters must retain permit in possession while hunting. Hunters may enter the area no earlier than 2 hours before legal shooting time unless otherwise specified. Hunters must check out daily and exit the area not later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.~~

2009-2011 GENERAL DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

A. One antlered and one antlerless (when legal) deer per day EXCEPT on some Federal Refuges (check Refuge regulations) and National Forest Lands where the daily limit shall be one deer per day. Season limit is six, three antlered bucks and three antlerless deer (all segments included) by all methods of take, EXCEPT antlerless harvest on property enrolled in DMAP and LADT does not count in the season **or daily bag limit for hunters** ~~and except antlerless harvest on State Wildlife Management Areas during the daily permit deer hunts, when validated by LDWF personnel, does not count in the season bag limit for hunters.~~

AND;

On Wildlife Management Areas the daily limit shall be one antlered deer and one antlerless deer (when legal) per day. Season limit is three antlered and three antlerless (all segments included) by all methods of take., ~~EXCEPT antlerless deer harvested on Wildlife Management Areas during hunts designated as Daily Permit deer hunts do not count in the season bag limit for hunters. A numbered WMA tag must be affixed to the deer carcass by LDWF personnel and recorded in the official check station records.~~

AND;

Hunters may enter the WMA no earlier than 4:00 AM unless otherwise specified. ~~On days when Daily permits are required, permit stations will open 2 hours before legal shooting hours.~~ Hunters must check out and exit the WMA no later than two hours after sunset, or as otherwise specified. Reference individual WMA listings for specific requirements.

AND;

DAILY:

~~Daily permits when required shall be obtained at permit stations on or near each WMA after first presenting a valid hunting license to a Department employee. Hunters must retain permit in possession while hunting. Hunters may enter the area no earlier than 2 hours before legal shooting time unless otherwise specified. Hunters must check out daily and exit the area not later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.~~

AND;

~~When Mandatory Deer Checks are specified on WMAs, hunters must check deer at a check station.~~

AND;

~~special check station locations when daily permits are required and~~

AND;

~~Hunters who kill deer on WMAs that require daily permits must have the deer checked at the check station on the same day of the kill.~~

4. Change UNREGULATED QUADRUPEDS to OUTLAW QUADRUPEDS and all references to unmarked hogs to FERAL hogs. By statute the term Outlaw Quadrupeds is used thus the term unregulated is inappropriately used.

OUTLAW QUADRUPEDS

Holders of a legal hunting license may take coyotes, **feral** hogs where legal, and armadillos year round during legal daylight shooting hours. The running of coyotes with dogs is prohibited in all turkey hunting areas during the open turkey season. Coyote hunting is restricted to chase only when using dogs during still hunting segments of the firearm and archery only season for deer. Foxes are protected quadrupeds and may

be taken only with traps by licensed trappers during the trapping season. Remainder of the year “chase only” allowed by licensed hunters.

5. Eliminate redundant wording. The legal take of deer is already described in Subsection A under General Deer Hunting Regulations.

2009-2011 GENERAL DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

~~C. Deer hunting restricted to legal bucks only, EXCEPT where otherwise allowed.~~

6. To allow harvest of bobcats on some Corps of Engineer’s lands during seasons that allow the specified legal weapon for take of bobcat. This provision was already approved with last years regulations, however, the final Notice of Intent did not incorporate the change.

BOBCAT (Experimental Season)

No person other than the holder of a valid big game license may take or possess bobcat, EXCEPT licensed trappers who may take or possess bobcat during the open trapping season. A big game licensee shall only take bobcat during the time period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset with approved archery equipment, shotgun, primitive firearm, or centerfire firearm. A big game licensee shall not take more than one bobcat per calendar year. This regulation applies only to property that is privately owned, and state wildlife management areas, and the Bayou des Ourses, Bodcau, Bonnet Carre, Indian Bayou, Loggy Bayou and Soda Lake tracts owned by the Corps of Engineers, but does not apply to state wildlife refuges, the Kisatchie National Forest, or other federally owned refuges and lands. ~~owned by the Corps of Engineers.~~ On state wildlife management areas the take of bobcat is restricted to those open seasons on the WMAs which require the respective legal weapons noted above.

7. Deleted unnecessary language concerning early still hunting on WMAs. Several WMAs allow still hunting during the early portion of the season for the particular Area.

Deer hunting on WMAs is restricted to still hunting only. ~~No WMA will be open for deer during the early still hunt season unless so specified.~~

8. Added one weekend of PCHP wheelchair confined deer hunting on Floy W. McElroy WMA.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED WHEELCHAIR CONFINED Deer and Waterfowl Hunting Areas

Special deer and waterfowl hunting areas, blinds and stands identified with LDWF logos, have been established for PCHP wheelchair confined hunters on Wildlife Management Areas. Hunters must obtain PCHP permits and are required to make reservations to use blinds and stands. PCHP wheelchair hunting areas are available on Alexander State Forest, Big Colewa Bayou, Buckhorn, Clear Creek, Elbow Slough, Floy W. McElroy, Jackson–Bienville, Ouachita and Sherburne WMAs. Check WMA hunting schedules or call the LDWF Offices in Pineville, Ferriday, Lake Charles, Opelousas, Minden, Monroe or Baton Rouge for information.

9. To allow the limited use of Utility Type Vehicles on Certain WMAs

VEHICLES

Utility Type Vehicle (UTV, also Utility Terrain Vehicle) is defined as any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, not legal for highway use, designed for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, traveling on four (4) or more low-pressure tires, with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight 1900 lbs., length -128”, and width-68”. UTV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1” lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi. UTVs are commonly referred to as side by sides and may include golf carts.

UTV’s are restricted to marked UTV trails only.

UTV’s may not be used to retrieve downed deer or hogs.

10. Delete Pass-a-Loutre and Salvador WMAs from WMAs allowing a spring squirrel season. These areas consist of coastal marsh and do not offer squirrel hunting opportunities.

Spring Squirrel Season with or without dogs: May 2-10 on all WMAs, except Biloxi, Camp Beauregard, Fort Polk, **Pass-a-Loutre**, Peason Ridge and **Salvador** WMAs.

11. Allow small game and waterfowl hunting on certain WMAs during the firearm either-sex deer season which falls outside the traditional Thanksgiving 3 day either-sex hunts. The proposed language is needed to clarify the small game and waterfowl seasons that are not closed on several WMAs during these additional either-sex deer seasons on select WMAs. The open seasons will be noted under the WMA schedule for the particular area. The language will help clarify some of the hunter confusion of when these seasons are open.

SMALL GAME (SQUIRREL, RABBIT, QUAIL, MOURNING DOVE, WOODCOCK, SNIPE, RAIL, AND GALLINULE)

Same as outside EXCEPT CLOSED during modern firearm either-sex deer seasons on certain WMAs (**See WMA schedule**) EXCEPT non-toxic shot must be used for snipe, rail and gallinule, and EXCEPT consult regulations for Bodcau, Jackson-Bienville and Sabine Island and EXCEPT all small game hunting closed on Tunica Hills and Alexander State Forest during the muzzleloader season.

WATERFOWL (DUCKS, GEESE, AND COOTS)

Same as outside EXCEPT CLOSED during modern firearm either-sex deer seasons **on certain WMAs (See WMA schedule)** and EXCEPT waterfowl hunting will be allowed on Attakapas, Bodcau, Jackson-Bienville, Joyce and Salvador/Timken WMAs, Pintail Alley on Ouachita WMA, Pearl River WMA south of Hwy. 90, the greentree impoundment on Dewey Wills WMA and the South Farm Complex of Sherburne WMA during either-sex deer season, unless otherwise specified.

12. Creation of a special shotgun season to take feral hogs with buckshot or slugs from February 16-March 31 on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs. Hunters will have similar hunter orange restrictions as deer hunters. The season will provide additional opportunities to control feral hogs on these coastal WMAs.

Centerfire rifles and handguns larger than .22 caliber rimfire, shotguns slugs or shot larger than BB lead or F steel shot cannot be carried onto any WMA except during modern firearm deer season **and during special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs (consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMA regulations).**

13. Add the requirement for quail and woodcock hunters and hunters participating in special dog season for feral hogs to wear a minimum of a hunter orange cap for safety reasons. Requiring quail and woodcock hunters will allow LDWF regulations to be more consistent with other public-land areas managed by other agencies. LDWF currently requires via permit that hunters participating in the special dog season for feral hogs to wear a minimum of a hunter orange cap. The provision will now be included in the general regulations.

All hunters (including archers and small game hunters) EXCEPT waterfowl hunters and mourning dove hunters on WMAs must display 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap during open gun season for deer. **Quail and woodcock hunters and hunters participating in special dog seasons for rabbit, squirrel and feral hogs** are required to wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap. All other hunters and archers (while on the ground) EXCEPT waterfowl hunters also must wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap during special dog seasons for rabbit, squirrel and feral hogs. **ALSO, all persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display "Hunter Orange." Hunters participating in special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs must display 400 square inches of hunter orange and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap.**

14. Increase the number of days allowed to take feral hogs with dogs on Red River/Three Rivers WMA and Pearl River WMA. Establish a season to take feral hogs with dogs on Bodcau, Bouef, Jackson-Bienville, and Dewey Wills WMAs. The season on these WMAs will be from Feb. 1 to the end of February. The provision will increase the ability of LDWF to control feral hogs on these WMAs. Additionally, this will help satisfy the provisions of HCR No. 192 of the 2007 Regular Session in regards to control of feral hogs on WMAs.

15. Change the dates of the youth lottery hunts on Atchafalaya Delta WMA to the 3rd weekend and 4th weekend of October. The change is being requested to allow the season to occur later in the month. Require tent campers to utilize the self-clearing permit. This will allow LDWF to better estimate the number of WMA users.

ATCHAFALAYA DELTA (Owner - State of Louisiana - 137,695 Acres, New Iberia Office):
Self-Clearing Permit required for deer, feral hog hunting and tent camping. Self clearing permits available from Main Delta campground and Cul-de-sac on Big Island. Camping and houseboat mooring allowed ONLY in Designated areas.

Deer: Youth Lottery: 3rd Sat. of Oct. for 2 days and 4th Sat. of Oct. for 2 days on Big Island only, either-sex, daily youth permit required. Call New Iberia office, Fur and Refuge Division (337) 373-0032 for details.

16. Add feral hogs may be taken by properly licensed bowhunters from Oct. 1-Jan 31 on Big Colewa Bayou WMA.

BIG COLEWA BAYOU (Department Owned - 899 Acres, Monroe Office):

Feral Hogs: May be taken by properly licensed bowhunters from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

17. Add an additional 7 days of primitive weapon opportunity to the current season on Tunica Hills WMA for a total of 17 days. The deer season on THWMA is restricted to primitive weapon and archery only. The restrictive seasons have resulted in a lower than average harvest. The additional days should allow an increased harvest while providing additional opportunity to primitive weapon hunters. Camping on the area has been restricted on this remote WMA. LDWF will have an area developed for tent camping only. Historically, the north tract on THWMA has been restricted from after turkey season until Sept. 1. This restriction will be removed and the area open to users during this time period. Eliminate the youth lottery deer hunt. The youth deer hunt will be the same weekend without the need to apply for the lottery.

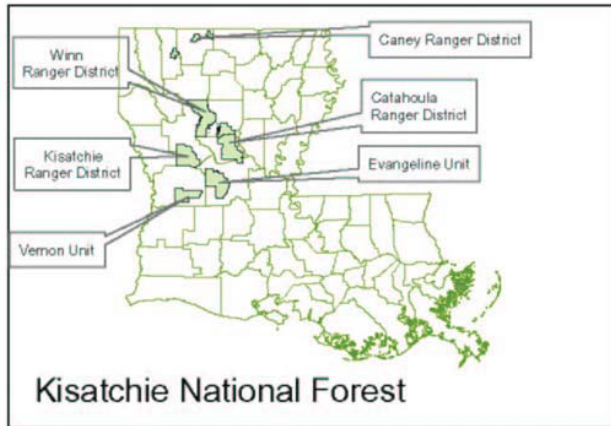
TUNICA HILLS (Department Owned - 5,783 Acres, Baton Rouge Office): All vehicles restricted to Parish roads. Access to restricted areas is unauthorized. Refer to WMA map. Camping restricted to tent camping only. North of LA 66 (North Tract) CLOSED to all users April 13-August 31.

18. The Forest Service has requested inclusion of language to restrict the hunting of deer to still hunt only. The proposal includes a prohibition against offseason training of deer dogs. Additionally, their request includes language to have similar regulations as LDWF's WMAs pertaining to hunting stands, blinds, etc.

ATV travel will be restricted to 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset with a prohibition against nighttime travel. Changes to hunter orange requirements are being requested. These changes will be similar to WMA regulations.

A clarification concerning the take of feral hogs, coyotes, armadillos, and beavers has been added. The change is similar to WMA regulations.

A night-time chase only season for raccoons and opossums from March 1-Sept. 30, Tuesday and Thursday only will be established. No night-time ATV use allowed.



KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST (KNF)

All Seasons for KNF are for 2009-10 only. **All deer hunting is still hunting only.** Bag Limit = 1 deer of the appropriate sex per day up to the statewide seasonal limit of three antlered and three antlerless deer. All deer must be tagged as required by LDWF regulations. **Hunting stand, blind, tripod, etc regulations applicable to LDWF WMAs (pg XX) are in effect on KNF.**

Motorized travel off designated roads and trails and outside designated areas is prohibited on the entire KNF. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) showing designated roads and trails and associated vehicles and travel seasons are available in all Forest Service offices and on the Kisatchie Web site www.fs.fed.us/r8/kisatchie. **ATV travel is allowed between 1 hour before sunrise and 1 hour after sunset; nighttime ATV travel is prohibited.** Game retrieval with an ATV is only allowed within designated 300-foot corridors within the National Wildlife Management Preserves (see MVUM). Camping corridors for highway-legal vehicles to drive within 100 feet of the road and camp are designated on the Caney District and in the National Red Dirt Wildlife Management Preserve

Catahoula Ranger District (Grant & Rapides Parishes), **Winn Ranger District** (Winn, Grant & Natchitoches Parishes), **Kisatchie Ranger District** (Natchitoches Parish), **Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Rapides Parish), and **Vernon Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Vernon Parish, excluding Fort Polk WMA):

Deer:

Oct. 17-18, primitive firearms, either-sex, still hunt only.
Oct. 24-25, either-sex, still hunt only.
Oct. 26, bucks only, still hunt only.
Oct. 30-Nov. 1, bucks only, still hunt only.
Nov. 7-8, 14-15, 21-26, bucks only, still hunt only.
Nov. 27, either-sex, still hunt only.
Nov. 28-29, bucks only, still hunt only.
Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-24, 26-31, bucks only, still hunt only.
Jan. 1-3, bucks only, still hunt only.

Caney Ranger District (Webster and Claiborne Parishes):

Deer:

Same as outside including Youth Hunt (Area 2) except still hunt only. Either-sex entire season.

Other seasons on KNF:

Archery: Vernon Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District: Sept. 19 - Jan. 15. Remainder of KNF: Oct. 1- Jan. 31. Either-sex deer may be taken at any time by archers during archery season except when bucks-only firearms seasons are in progress on KNF (archers must hunt only bucks during bucks-only firearm seasons).

All Other Small Game: Same as outside except closed to squirrel hunting during the spring season and waterfowl hunting ceases at 2 p.m.

Unmarked Hogs, Coyotes, Armadillos and Beavers: **May be taken incidentally on any KNF hunt by properly licensed hunters with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily or seasonal bag limit of game is taken.** The placing of seed, corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement for any species, including hogs, is prohibited on KNF. Hunting over such feed is prohibited on KNF. Moving deer or hogs with organized drivers and standers, drivers, or making use of noise or noise-making devices is prohibited.

Raccoons and opossums: May be hunted during daylight or nighttime from Oct. 1-Feb. 28 only. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum, one per person per day, except during the trapping season when there shall be no limit. **Night-time chase only: May 1 – Sept. 30, Tuesdays and Thursdays only. No firearms allowed. Nighttime ATV travel is prohibited.**

Crows, blackbirds, grackles, and cowbirds: May be taken September 1 - January 1 only.

All hunters (including archers and small game hunters; excluding waterfowl and dove hunters) must display 400 square inches of hunter orange and wear a hunter orange cap during any firearm season for deer. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds during firearms season must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees. Rabbit, quail, and woodcock hunters must wear a hunter orange vest or cap outside the firearm seasons for deer. All persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to wear hunter orange. Hunting in or within 150 yards of a developed recreation site, campsite, any residence, or any building is prohibited.

Hunting-dog training from Mar. 1 - Sept. 30 is allowed only in the following circumstances: dogs are within voice-command distance of handler; dogs are participating in night-time raccoon chases mentioned above; dogs are participating in licensed events conducted by nationally-recognized kennel clubs (KNF permit required – contact Forest Supervisor's office); dogs are under close control of hikers; and any dog on a leash. The training of deer dogs is prohibited year-round. No firearms allowed while training dogs.

NATIONAL CATAHOULA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESERVE and NATIONAL RED DIRT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESERVE

Owner - U. S. Forest Service: Catahoula Preserve -

36,000 Acres in Grant and Winn Parishes; Red Dirt

Preserve - 38,000 Acres in Natchitoches Parish. Season Permit required from Forest Supervisor's office, Winn, Catahoula or Kisatchie Ranger District offices or www.fs.fed.us/r8kisatchie/hunting/index.html for all hunting. Additionally, weekend permits, available at the check stations, are required for deer gun hunts.

Deer: Oct. 10-11, special youth hunt, either-sex, still hunt only. Weekend permit required. Youths between the ages of 8-17 inclusive only. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. Legal firearms are the same as described for deer hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt. **Also**, special season for physically-challenged hunters with a LDWF Physically Challenged Hunt Permit, either-sex, still hunt only. Weekend permit required.

Oct. 17-18, primitive firearms, either-sex, still hunt only, weekend permit.

Oct. 24-25, either-sex, still hunt only, weekend permit.

Nov. 27, either-sex, still hunt only, weekend permit.

Nov. 28-29, bucks only, still hunt only, weekend permit.

Rabbit: Same as outside except beagles allowed for rabbit Jan. 9 - Feb. 28 only. Only beagle hounds which do not exceed 15 inches at the front shoulder and which have recognizable characteristics of the breed may be used on the Wildlife Management Preserve.

Squirrel: Same as outside except squirrel hunting with dogs allowed Jan. 9 - Feb. 28 only. Hunting parties may not include more than one dog. Closed to squirrel hunting during the spring season.

Raccoon (Nighttime): Dogs allowed Jan.9 - Feb. 28 only.

All Other Game: Consult KNF's Catahoula and Red Dirt Preserve Regulations issued by KNF. To obtain permits and information, visit website listed above or contact: KNF Forest Supervisor's Office, 2500 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360, telephone (318) 473-7160. Office hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

19. Camp Avondale annual special request.

Camp Avondale, Boy Scout Camp, Clinton, LA, November 7-8-9, 2009 and November 14-15-16, 2010

20. Add language to further define permanent blinds on WMAs and to clarify the term natural vegetation. Waterfowl hunters, particularly on coastal WMAs, are constructing elaborate blinds that include placing large corner posts. These blinds are being used to reserve hunting locations. Additionally, the remaining large posts can create hazards to navigation.

Natural vegetation is generally defined as natural branches that are 2 inches or less in diameter and includes any corner posts.

21. Add language to stipulate that crossbows cocked and in the ready position are not allowed in or on vehicles, boats, under power, motorcycles, ATVs etc while on WMAs.

4. Firearms

a. Firearms having live ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder, or clip when attached to firearms **or crossbows cocked and in the ready position** are not allowed in or on vehicles, boats under power, motorcycles, ATVs, ATCs or in camping areas on WMAs.