Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when fished as “no exemptions”) recreational use permits, and deerless food permits and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (federal duck stamp): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the federal duck stamp. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 and 16 years of age or older must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license, except the Hunter Safety Monitoring exemption allows anyone to purchase a hunting license and hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter, 21 years of age or older. Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, at MyFWC.com/license or by telephone at 888-466-6356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp. 

Quota Permit Information:

- Muzzleloading Gun (Church Lake Unit) – 280, no-cost, quota permits.
- General Gun (Church Lake Unit) – 250, no-cost, quota permits.
- General Gun (Stoll – Church Lake Unit) – 250, no-cost, quota permits.
- Youth Turkey (Lake Delancy Unit) – 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
- Spring Turkey (Hopkins Prairie Unit), 100 (Lake Delancy Unit), 15 (Church Lake Unit) and 220 (Pipeline Unit), no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 4 hunts.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic application for quota and special-opportunity permits through the Commission’s Recreational License Issuance Services (RLIS). Workbooks listing hunts, application periods, deadlines and instructions are available at county tax collector’s offices, FLCC offices or MyFWC.com. Quota application periods typically occur throughout the year beginning April 1; please refer to the hunting handbook or MyFWC.com for specific dates. Workbooks will be available about 2 weeks prior to each application period.

Guest hunters: For each non-transferable archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, wild hog, spring turkey and multi-season quota permit until permit is exhausted, the Commission’s RLIS, a quota permit holder may issue a guest permit. Guest hunters may not be issued during youth turkey hunts. A guest hunter must possess a completed guest permit while hunting except the following persons may be a guest hunter without a guest permit: a youth under 16 years of age, a youth supervisor, a mentor license holder or a mentor license supervisor. A host may only bring 1 guest hunter at a time and may only use 1 guest permit per day. The following persons are not considered to be guest hunters: other quota permit holders, non-hunters and exempt hunters (on areas and during seasons that allow exemptions). The host must share the bag limit with the guest hunter and the host is responsible for violations that exceed the bag limit. The guest hunter and host must enter and exit the area together and must share a street-legal vehicle while hunting on the area. ATVs may be ridden independently. The guest hunter may hunt only while the host is on the area. Refer to the quota hunt worksheets for additional information.

Youth and mentor license holders. A youth hunter (less than 15 years of age) must be supervised by a person at least 16 years of age. A mentor license holder must be supervised by a licensed hunter at least 21 years of age. Unless exempt, only those supervisors with proper licenses and permits may hunt. If the supervisor is hunting during any hunt for which quota permits are issued, at least 1 person in the party must be in possession of a quota permit. During a hunt that allows exemptions, a non-exempt supervisor of a youth must have a quota permit to hunt. A non-hunting supervisor is allowed to accompany a youth or mentor license holder during any hunt.

Transfer of permits: Quota and permits are non-transferable. A positive form of identification is required when using a non-transferable permit, except for a youth under 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota permit or guest permit is prohibited.

General Area Regulations:

- All general laws and regulations relating to wildlife and fish shall apply unless specifically excepted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in accordance with the following regulations:
- Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 300 square inches of dayglow fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. These provisions are not required when hunting with a bow and arrow during archery season.
- Taking of spotted fowl, swimming deer or roosted turkey is prohibited.
- It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
- Driving a motorized vehicle or any equipment on the area is prohibited.
- No person shall cut, damage or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
- Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, artificial light, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
- The use of release, artificial or natural feed is prohibited.
- The use of and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
- Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to those activities.
- People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as “Closed to Public Access” by FWC administrative action.
- Taking or handling wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or heat, which is prohibited.
- No person shall bring or take into the area any wild animal, fish, plant, or natural object.
- The release of any animal is prohibited, without the written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Ocala Wildlife Management Area. Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print. Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s wildlife code, on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook and quota permit worksheets should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at MyFWC.com.