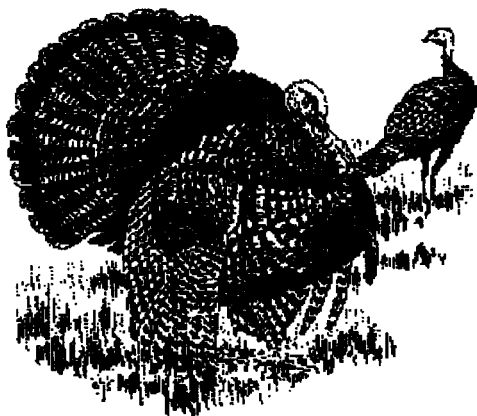


LAKE PANASOFFKEE

WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA

2001-2002
REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

www.state.fl.us/fwc/

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management Area. **To make it easier to learn about regulation changes on this area, regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** For the exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure and the quota hunt application forms should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities.

For information pertaining to hunting on private lands and trapping, consult the current Florida Hunting Handbook. This publication is available from any Commission office as well as county tax collectors and their subagents.

PERMIT, STAMP AND LICENSE INFORMATION:

Persons utilizing the wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, stamps and permits. Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older, and residents who have obtained a no-cost license through a certification of total and permanent disability by the Armed Forces or Veterans Administration or a certification of total disability by the Social Security Administration, may be exempt from most permit, stamp and license requirements on this area. Hunters under age 16 and Florida residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida and home on leave with orders in possession, are exempt from most permit, stamp and license requirements on this area.

Hunting License, Trapping License, Fishing License and Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Wildlife Management Area, Wild Turkey and State Waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, their subagents, Internet or by telephone.

Unless exempted, all hunters on this wildlife management area must have the following in their possession and display them upon request of any Commission employee:

1. Hunting License: Information on the categories and costs of hunting licenses is available in the Florida Hunting Handbook.
2. Wildlife Management Area Permit: This \$25 permit is required to hunt on this area, except during special-opportunity hunts.
3. Special-Opportunity Archery Permit: A \$100 special-opportunity permit is required to hunt on this area during the special-opportunity archery season; there are no exemptions. There are 20 special-opportunity permits available by application for each hunt. Special-opportunity permit applications are available from regional offices of the Commission on or about May 1. To apply, obtain a special-opportunity permit application and follow the printed instructions.
4. Special-Opportunity Hog-Still and Hog-Dog Permit: A \$75 special-opportunity permit is required to hunt on this area during the special-opportunity hog-still and hog-dog seasons; there are no exemptions. There are 30 special-opportunity permits available by application for each hunt. Special-opportunity permit applications are available from regional offices of the Commission on or about May 1. To apply, obtain a special-opportunity permit application and follow the printed instructions.
5. Special-Opportunity Turkey Permit: A \$100 special- opportunity

permit is required to hunt on this area during the special-opportunity turkey season; there are no exemptions. There are 10 special-opportunity permits available by application for each hunt. Special-opportunity turkey permit applications are available from regional offices of the Commission on or about November 26.

Transfer of permits: Special-opportunity hunt permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only to another exempt person. The sale or purchase of any special-opportunity hunt permit is prohibited.

6. A daily hunt permit is required to hunt during the small game season. There are 30 daily hunt permits available on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station each day.

7. Archery Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the archery hunt prior to November 10.

8. Wild Turkey Permit: This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.

9. State Waterfowl Permit: This \$3 permit is required while hunting ducks.

10. Federal Duck Stamp: Any hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp while hunting ducks. This \$15 stamp is available at post offices. Visit www.duckstamp.com for additional information regarding alternate methods and locations for purchasing of duck stamps.

11. Migratory Bird Permit: This free permit is required when hunting migratory game birds.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer--1 antlered deer per special-opportunity hunt permit.
2. Wild hog--No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey--1 gobbler or bearded turkey per special-opportunity turkey permit.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit--Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria--No bag limits.
6. Migratory game birds--See Migratory Game Bird Hunting regulations pamphlet.

GENERAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations which follow, all general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically excepted for this wildlife management area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in the manner set forth herein.

1. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "RESTRICTED" for protection of threatened or endangered species or environmentally sensitive areas.
2. No person shall cut or destroy any tree or remove any tree, shrub or protected plant (as listed in F.S. 581.185) from any wildlife management area without written permission from the landowner or primary land manager.
3. Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
4. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any

way litter in the wildlife management area.

5. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.

6. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. During the special-opportunity spring turkey hunts, shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

7. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands or for any individual or group of individuals to build a warming fire or campfire and leave same unextinguished (Chapter 590, Florida Statutes).

8. No person shall release any wildlife on this wildlife management area.

9. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.

10. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.

11. Taking or attempting to take game with the aid of live decoys, traps, snares, nets, drugs, lights or recorded game calls is prohibited.

12. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED".

13. A special-opportunity hunt permit shall be required for every person entering the area during special-opportunity hunts, except that special-opportunity hunt permits shall be required for each group of two hunters during the special-opportunity hog-dog season.

14. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

15. Taking fox or fox squirrels is prohibited.

16. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

17. Deer and turkey may be dismembered in the field or camp, but each portion shall have a tag affixed to it identifying the name, address and hunting license number of the person who killed it; date and location at which it was taken; and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification.

18. During special-opportunity hunts, an individual may accompany a special-opportunity permittee provided that while hunting or scouting the individual shall not occupy a vehicle separate from the permittee, shall not possess a gun, and shall be in the immediate vicinity (25 feet or less) of the permittee. All other persons must possess a special-opportunity permit during special-opportunity hunts.

GUNS OR DOGS:

19. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

20. The use of dogs is prohibited except that dogs on leashes may be used to trail wounded game; bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used during the small game season; and up to three dogs per special-opportunity permit may be used during the special-opportunity hog-dog season.

21. Fully-automatic firearms, silencer-equipped firearms, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.

22. Guns are allowed only during periods in which their use for hunting is allowed.

23. No person shall have a gun in manual possession while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

24. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.

25. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited.

26. Loaded, capped or primed guns are prohibited at campsites and the hunt headquarters. The discharge of guns is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or the hunt headquarters.

27. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from rights-of-way of all paved roads is prohibited.

28. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is prohibited.

29. Authorized hunting equipment may be taken onto the area from 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each season and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of each season.

VEHICLES:

30. Operation of a vehicle on the area is prohibited during the period from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., unless camping at designated campsites during special-opportunity hunts or by permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

31. During periods when the area is closed to hunting, vehicular access is restricted to the main entrance road to the horse stable facility.

32. Individuals in possession of a special-opportunity permit shall have vehicular access to the area from sunrise to sunset on the Friday preceding the hunt.

33. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and may be parked only at designated parking areas. Horses may be ridden only on

designated trails.

34. The use of tracked vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles or all-terrain vehicles is prohibited. The use of horses is prohibited during the special-opportunity hunts.

35. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" by administrative action because of inclement weather, poor road conditions, construction, management activities or wildlife surveys.

36. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates or firelanes.

CAMPING:

37. Camping is permitted at designated campsites during hunting seasons and at other times by permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, (352) 796-7211

38. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers are prohibited. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials is prohibited.

39. Each camper shall assure that their campsite is clean at all times.

40. The alteration, defacing, moving, or tampering in any way with official markings of campsites is prohibited.

41. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

42. The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for each campsite shall be visibly affixed to the camping shelter.

43. Camping equipment may be taken onto the area from 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each season and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of each season.

HUNT HEADQUARTERS:

44. Hunters must enter and exit the area at the designated entrance and register at the hunt headquarters.

45. No deer, turkey or hog shall be dismembered until checked at the hunt headquarters.

46. Hunt headquarters hours are 5 a.m. through 9 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Savings Time and 5 a.m. through 8 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time. During the special-opportunity turkey season, hunt headquarters hours are 4:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the small game season, hunt headquarters hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SEARCH:

47. A wildlife officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat when he or she reasonably believes a violation has been committed.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY ARCHERY:

September 27 through 30, October 4 through 7 and 16 through 19, November 1 through 4 and 13 through 16, November 29 through December 2 and December 11 through 14 and January 3 through 6.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, archery permit, special-opportunity archery permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds).

Legal to Take--Deer with at least one antler having 4 or more points, antlerless deer (except spotted fawn) by antlerless permit only, wild hogs, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory game birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Special-Opportunity Archery Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY HOG-STILL:

February 1 through 3.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, special-opportunity hog-still permit.

Legal to Take--Wild hogs only.

Regulations Unique to the Special-Opportunity Hog-Still Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY HOG-DOG:

February 13 through 15.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, special-opportunity hog-dog permit.

Legal to Take--Wild hogs only.

Regulations Unique to the Special Opportunity Hog-Dog Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only one gun may be possessed per permit.
2. Dogs may be used, but only three dogs per quota hunt permit are allowed.
3. Each permit holder may be accompanied by an assistant. However, the assistant must possess all other licenses and permits.

SMALL GAME:

January 18 through 20 and 25 through 27.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, daily hunt permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds).

Legal to Take--Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria, migratory game birds in season, bobcat, mink and otter.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply, and the possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

SPECIAL-OPPORTUNITY TURKEY:

March 21 through 24, April 2 through 5 and 18 through 21.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wild turkey permit, special-opportunity turkey permit.

Legal to Take--Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to the Special-Opportunity Turkey Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply, only shotguns may be used.

TRAPPING:

Trapping is prohibited.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species which coincide with the special-opportunity archery and small game seasons.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit.

Legal to Take--See Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Game Birds--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and the use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted throughout the year.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and statewide fishing regulations shall apply, and the possession of guns is permitted only during periods when hunting is allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Florida Statute 267.13 prohibits digging in or otherwise defacing Indian mounds, collecting artifacts or disturbing archaeological and historic sites on state-owned lands.

2. Defacing, molesting or destroying signs or other property on or about this management area is punishable by law.

3. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.

4. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (904) 758-0525 {(800) 955-8771 (TDD)}.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

Please do not drive vehicles from sunrise to 9 a.m. during the special-opportunity hunts.

Please do not discharge firearms at anything other than legal game while in a wildlife management area. Target practice and random discharge of firearms have become increasing threats to the quality of the hunting experience.

Since you have the privilege to use this wildlife management area, go the extra mile to exercise great caution and care while hunting, fishing, sightseeing or using the area in any way--leave the area better than you found it. Hunters, wildlife, the environment and conservation in general can only benefit.

Your conduct on this area may determine your future use of the area.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE TRASH OUT WITH YOU.

The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay \$2,447,718 or 39 percent of the cost of the program.



Your purchase
of hunting equipment
supports
Wildlife Restoration

**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License
by Phone...**

Use Your Credit Card and

**Call 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356) OR
1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356)**

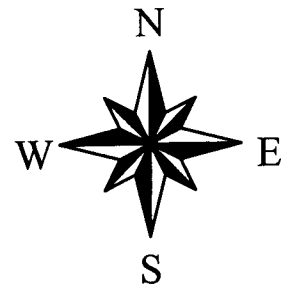
**(NOTE: There is a vendor
fee of \$3.95 per license.)**

LAKE PANASOFFKEE

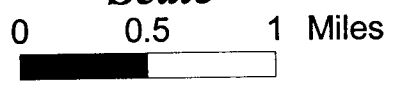
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(8,676 acres)
Sumter County

4 miles to Wildwood

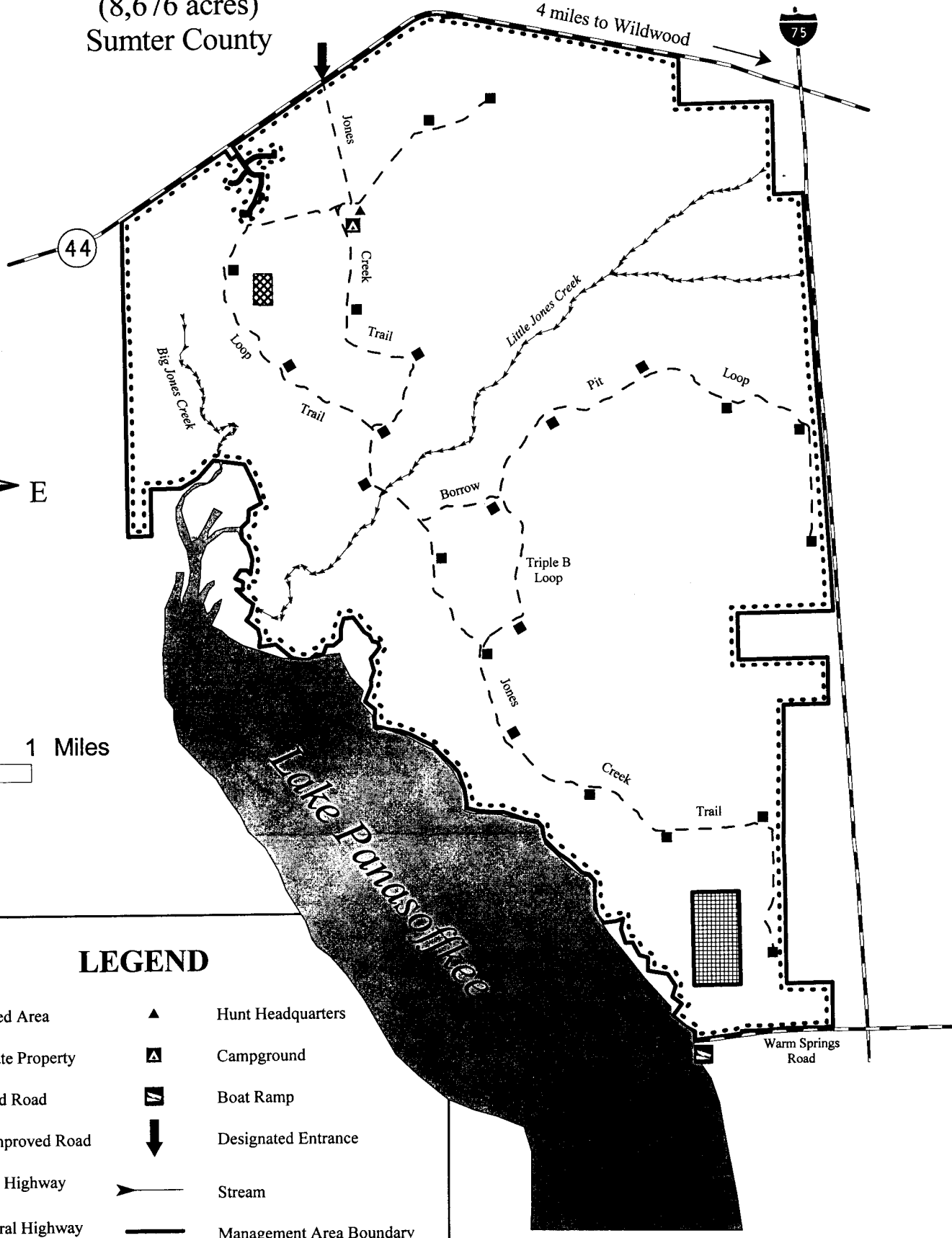


Scale



LEGEND

	Closed Area		Hunt Headquarters
	Private Property		Campground
	Paved Road		Boat Ramp
	Unimproved Road		Designated Entrance
	State Highway		Stream
	Federal Highway		Management Area Boundary
	Parking Area		



LAKE PANASOFFKEE

About the Property

The Lake Panasoffkee Project encompasses 9,911 acres along the eastern shore of Lake Panasoffkee. It was acquired between 1990 and 1997 to preserve Lake Panasoffkee's vast floodplain forest. The land also preserves pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes, and oak scrub forest.

The floodplain forest protects our water resources by cleansing rain runoff before it enters the lake or seeps into the ground, and by naturally holding back stormwaters that could cause damaging floods. Along the shoreline, pickerelweed, cattails, grasses and sedges emerge from the water. Carolina willow are the first floodplain trees to branch over the marsh. As the land rises, majestic elms, red maple and red bay trees dominate. Small springs bubble up from the ground. Laurel oak and magnolia trees grow on small islands of dry land. Little Jones and Big Jones Creeks meander through the forest. As the land continues to rise, pines and scrub oaks of upland sandhills replace the wetland forest trees.

Lake Panasoffkee is undergoing a comprehensive restoration effort to enhance both the water quality of the lake and recreational opportunities. See General Precautions at the end of this guide.

Limited Access Areas

The Lake Panasoffkee tract is closed to the general public during hunts.

Access and Parking

The ranch-style entranceway is located on the south side of SR-44 two miles west of I-75.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset except during hunts.

Restrooms and Water

There are portable toilets in the camping areas. Restrooms will soon be constructed adjacent to the pavilion. Potable water is not available.

Volunteering

- Volunteers are needed to serve as campground hosts. Call 1-800-423-1476, extension 4470 if you are interested.
- The Friends of Hanover, Inc. conducts volunteer activities to assist District management. For information contact (352) 753-2289 or pasoaalex@aol.com.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Eight miles of shared trails are open for bicycling.
- Riders must stay on marked trails.
- Always wear a helmet when riding or skating. Florida law requires children under 16 to wear a helmet.

Boating and Paddling

- Big Jones and Little Jones Creeks, and Shady Brook are beautiful areas to explore by small boat when water levels are up. Access is from Lake Panasoffkee.
- Coleman Landing boat ramp is maintained by Sumter County. The lake is accessible only during high water. Access may be closed due to lake restoration operations.
- The outlet channel to Lake Panasoffkee is generally not navigable except when water is high.

Camping

- Separate areas are available for equestrian and group camping.

- All camping is primitive.
- Campgrounds are equipped with fire rings, grills and picnic tables.
- Non-potable well water is available at the equestrian campground.
- Maximum occupancy is 40 campers.
- Eight horse stalls with water are free to campers on a first come, first served basis.
- Permit required to camp.
- Vehicles are allowed into campgrounds with a valid camping permit.

Equestrian Use

- 18 miles of shared-use trails are marked for horseback riding.
- Trails are marked with white diamonds.
- Riders must stay on marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding is allowed on marked trails. Permit required.
- Proof of current negative Coggins test must be carried by each rider.

Fishing and Frogging

- Fishing is available at Little Jones Creek and two borrow pits on the eastern side of the property. Access is from Jones Creek Trail and Borrow Pit Trail, respectively.
- Lake Panasoffkee is inaccessible from the property due to thick marsh vegetation.
- Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for specific license requirements.

Hiking

Hikers are welcome on 18 miles of shared-use trails.

Hunting

- Special opportunity hunts are conducted for archery, hog-still, hog-dog, and turkey. There is also a small game season.
- For information and permits contact the FWC at (352) 732-1225, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD), or www.state.fl.us/fwcl.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.
- Hunters may enter the property by vehicle as specified in the Hunt Regulations Summary.

Nature Appreciation

- Turkeys, wild hogs, white-tailed deer and armadillos frequent trailside areas.
- Ponds and creeks are excellent for viewing turtles, frogs, sunfish and wading birds.
- Meadowlarks, sparrows and hawks can be seen in the pastures.

Picnicking

A large pavilion with picnic tables and grills is located in the day use area.

Greenway and Trail Links

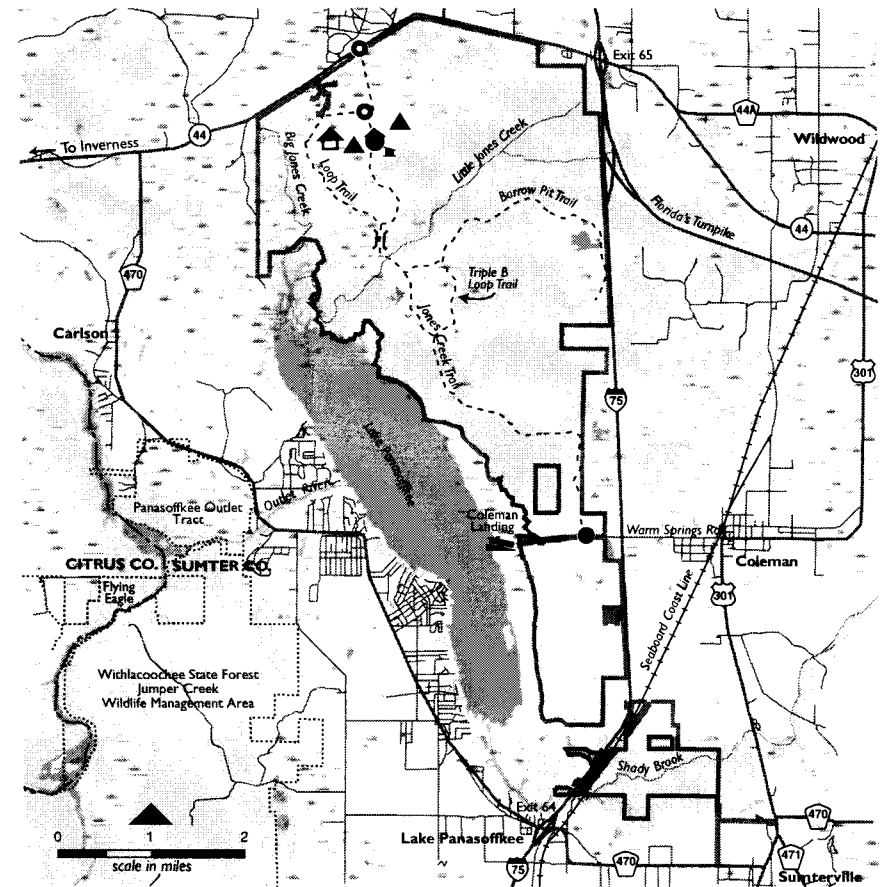
Conservation lands that are contiguous or nearby include Flying Eagle, Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area, Panasoffkee Outlet, Half-Moon Wildlife Management Area and Gum Slough.

For More Information

Contact the District's Land Resources Department at 1-800-423-1476 or (352) 796-7211, extension 4470.

General Precautions

- Check the FWC Regulations Summary in advance for hunt dates.
- See General Precautions at the end of this guide.



Lake Panasoffkee

Legend

	highway, major roads		walkthrough
	minor roads		access point & parking
	unimproved road, or trail		county boat ramp
	property boundary (SWFWMD)		group camping
	other public lands		equestrian camping
	county line		bridge
	river, stream		railroad
	lake, pond		field office
	forested		pavilion
	wetlands/swamps		disabled access toilet

SUMTER CO.

General Location

Available Trails

-
-
-
-

See text for trail information