

CROOM

**WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA
AND STATE FOREST**

**2001-2002
REGULATIONS SUMMARY
AND AREA MAP**



**A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
WITH LACOOCHEE STATE FOREST
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
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 Croom 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.** Area users still should familiarize themselves with all regulations for the area. 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.

3. Quota Hunt Permit: A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt during the first nine days of the general gun season. There are 400 regular quota hunt permits available. A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt during the muzzleloading gun season. There are 400 special quota hunt permits available by application. Regular and special quota hunt applications are available from county tax collectors, their subagents or regional offices of the Commission on or about June 1. To apply for a permit, obtain a regular or special quota hunt application and follow the printed instructions.

A no-cost spring turkey quota permit is required to hunt during the spring turkey hunts. There are 10 spring turkey quota permits available by application for each hunt. There are no exemptions. Spring turkey quota permit applications are available on or about December 26.

Transfer of Permits: Quota hunt and antlerless deer permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only to another exempt person. The sale or purchase of any quota hunt permit or antlerless deer permit is prohibited.

4. Muzzleloading Gun Permit: This \$5 permit is required when hunting

during the muzzleloading gun season.

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

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

7. 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.

8. Fishing License (if fishing on the area)--Information on the categories and cost of fishing licenses is available in the Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

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

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer--Daily limit 2, possession limit 4.

2. Wild Hog -- No bag or size limit.

3. Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit--Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.

4. Turkey--1 gobbler or bearded turkey per spring turkey quota hunt permit.

5. Opossum, raccoon, skunk, coyote and armadillo--No bag limit.

6. Bobcat, mink and otter--Possession limit 1 unless in possession of a Trapping License.

7. 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. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area.

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. Cutting or damaging fences is prohibited.

5. Fires other than campfires are prohibited. 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).

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

7. Non-migratory game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions under individual seasons).

8. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area. Portions of the carcass may be removed immediately prior to cooking.

9. No person shall release any wildlife on this wildlife management area.
10. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.
11. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.
12. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.
13. Taking gopher tortoise is prohibited.
14. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.
15. The use of live decoys, traps, snares, nets or recorded game calls is prohibited.
16. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat while under power is prohibited.
17. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
18. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs is prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED."
19. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "RESTRICTED" for protection of threatened or endangered species or environmentally sensitive areas.

20. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material above the waistline as an outer garment. This is not required when hunting during an archery-only season.

21. Deer 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; the date and location at which it was taken; and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification.

GUNS OR DOGS:

22. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.
23. Guns are allowed only during periods in which their use for hunting is allowed.
24. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited.
25. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
26. Dogs are prohibited in areas posted as "CLOSED TO PETS."
27. No person shall possess any dog during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited unless they are not normally used for hunting and are kept restrained.
28. No person shall have any gun in manual possession while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
29. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
30. The discharge of guns is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or check station area.
31. The possession of any firearm containing shells or cartridges or any capped or primed muzzleloading gun is prohibited on any campsite or check station area.
32. Hunting equipment may be taken into the area at 8 a.m. one day prior to the opening of muzzleloading gun, general gun and spring turkey seasons and must be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the end of the muzzleloading gun, small game and spring turkey seasons.
33. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurved bows), crossbows (during general gun and small game hunts only) or birds of prey may be used.
34. For hunting deer, muzzleloading guns firing a single bullet must be at least .40 caliber; those firing two or more balls must be 20 gauge or larger.
35. Fully-automatic firearms, silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.
36. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is prohibited.
37. The possession of guns is prohibited on the Withlacoochee State Park Trail. Hunters may use designated crossings to transport guns across the State Park Trail.

VEHICLES:

38. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates, trails or firelanes.
39. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads in that portion of the area lying outside the Croom Motorcycle Area. All other roads in the area are closed to vehicle use. Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) may be operated off road in the Croom Motorcycle Area with a permit from Florida Division of Forestry. Horses may be ridden only on designated horse trails or named or numbered roads. Horses are prohibited during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons.
40. During the muzzleloading gun, general gun and small game seasons, motorcycles are prohibited on that portion of the area lying outside the Croom Motorcycle Area.
41. Vehicles used outside the Croom Motorcycle Area must be properly

licensed under Chapter 320, Florida Statutes or otherwise legal to operate on public roads. Commission off-road vehicle permits are not valid on this area.

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

CAMPING:

43. Camping is permitted only at designated campsites (see map). Camping is regulated by the Division of Forestry and a fee is required at all sites other than those designated as hiking or canoe camps. For information call the Withlacoochee Forestry Center, Brooksville (352) 754-6896.

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

45. Camping at the East Hunt Camp and Twin Ponds campsites is restricted to licensed hunters and their families during the general gun season.

46. Camping is permitted at Twin Ponds campsite during the muzzleloading gun, small game, fox, raccoon and bobcat seasons. East Hunt Camp is closed during these seasons.

CHECK STATION:

47. During the muzzleloading gun, general gun and spring turkey seasons, all game taken shall be checked at the check station prior to removal from the area.

SEARCH:

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

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

October 26 through 28.

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

Legal to Take--Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, antlerless deer, (except spotted fawn) by antlerless deer permit only, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, armadillo and migratory game birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt--In addition to these regulations, all general wildlife management area regulations shall apply.

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed.

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

3. Horses are prohibited.

4. Motorcycles and ATVs are prohibited on that portion of the area lying outside the motorcycle area.

5. The possession or use of firearms is prohibited in the designated motorcycle area (see map).

GENERAL GUN:

November 10 through December 2.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during the first nine days), state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds).

Legal to Take--Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, antlerless deer (except spotted fawn) by antlerless deer permit only, wild hog, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, armadillo and migratory game birds in season. Bobcat, mink and otter after November 30.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Hunt--In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply:

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

2. Horses are prohibited on the area.

3. Motorcycles and ATVs are prohibited on that portion of the area lying outside of the motorcycle area (see map).

4. The possession or use of firearms is prohibited in the designated motorcycle area (see map). Hunting with bow and arrow is permitted in the motorcycle area.

SMALL GAME:

December 3 through March 3.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area 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, opossum, raccoon, coyote, armadillo, skunk and migratory game birds in season; bobcat, otter and mink through March 1.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt--In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
2. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs is prohibited except that dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used to hunt in the portion of the area south of Tucker Hill-Croom Road, bounded on the east by Croom-Rital Road to its junction with Interstate 75 and then bounded by I-75.
3. Motorcycles and ATVs are prohibited on that portion of the area lying outside of the Croom Motorcycle Area.
4. Hunters are requested to report their small game harvest on Daily Hunt Report Cards or to the wildlife field office in Brooksville (352) 754-6720.
5. The possession or use of firearms is prohibited in that section of the area known as the motorcycle area (see map). Hunting with bow and arrow is permitted in the motorcycle area.

FOX, RACCOON AND BOBCAT:

December 15 through March 11.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license and wildlife management area permit.

Regulations Unique to the Fox, Raccoon and Bobcat Hunt--In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply:

1. Fox, raccoon and bobcat may be pursued with dogs only from 5 p.m. each Thursday until sunrise the following Sunday in that portion of the area south of Tucker Hill-Croom graded road, bounded on the east by the Croom-Rital road to its junction with I-75 and then bounded by said I-75.
2. The possession of guns is prohibited by persons hunting fox, bobcat and raccoon with dogs in the designated areas.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 19 through 21, April 2 through 4 and April 16 through 18.

Permits, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wild management area permit, spring turkey quota permit, wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take--Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Hunt--All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply, and shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

Mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during open seasons established for these species by the Commission which coincide with the muzzleloading gun, general gun and small game seasons.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during the first nine days of general gun season), special quota hunt permit (if hunting during the muzzleloading gun season), 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--See Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet. In addition to these regulations, all wildlife management area regulations contained in this pamphlet 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 for frogging).

Legal to Take--See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging--In addition to the Freshwater Fishing Regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY REGULATIONS:

1. Construction of permanent or semipermanent structures on state forests is prohibited
2. A valid firewood permit is required from the Division of Forestry before firewood may be removed from the area.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND STATE FORESTS ARE NOT JUST FOR HUNTING AND FISHING!

They have been purchased for preservation to benefit all of Florida's residents and you don't have to hunt or fish to enjoy them! The same habitat management practices that provide hunting and fishing opportunities also create opportunities for wildlife viewing. These areas provide a range of opportunities, from scenic driving routes to rugged hiking adventures. See the natural Florida that we have protected through acquisition and careful management.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (863) 648-3203 {(800) 955-8771 (TDD)}.

3. A marked footpath called the Florida Trail traverses the area.

4. Division of Forestry management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the Division of Forestry for information and location of burn areas, (352) 754-6720.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

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. Please unload guns before crossing the State Trail or entering vehicles, campsites or check station areas. All persons hunting small game are requested to wear blaze-orange headgear and/or vests.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE TRASH OUT WITH YOU.

In recent years, unauthorized and uncontrolled fires have caused severe damage to area wildlife and wildlife habitats. Controlled fires are beneficial only when they are of the proper size and location and when area conditions are suitable. UNCONTROLLED FIRES DO NOT BENEFIT WILDLIFE. Please use caution with campfires, smoking materials and vehicles to prevent damage to wildlife habitats. Hunters are requested to report wildfires to the Division of Forestry or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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.

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YOUR
PURCHASE
SUPPORTS



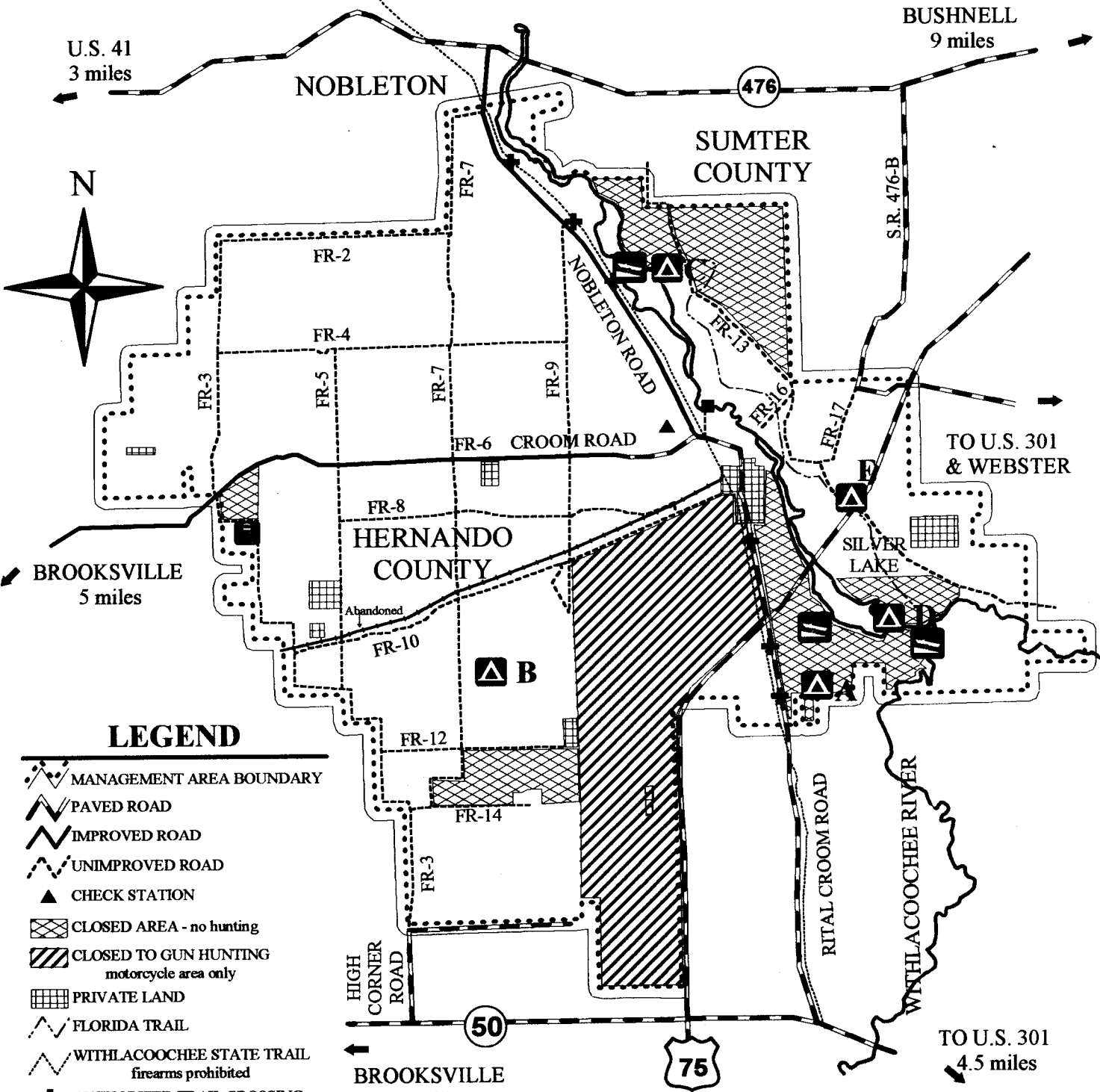
**Order Your Hunting and Fishing License
by Phone...**

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.)**

CROOM WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (20,555 acres) Hernando and Sumter counties



LEGEND

- MANAGEMENT AREA BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROAD
- IMPROVED ROAD
- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- CHECK STATION
- CLOSED AREA - no hunting
- CLOSED TO GUN HUNTING
motorcycle area only
- PRIVATE LAND
- FLORIDA TRAIL
- WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL
firearms prohibited
- AUTHORIZED TRAIL CROSSING
- RAILROAD
- PUBLIC FISHING AREA
- PUBLIC BOAT RAMP
- FIRE TOWER
- CAMPSITE

CAMPSITES

- A. SILVER LAKE
- B. TWIN PONDS HUNT CAMP
- C. HOG ISLAND
- D. RIVER JUNCTION
- E. EAST HUNT CAMP

