MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT NUMBER W11 3444(I)

TO: The Honorable Eric Clark
Secretary of State
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
AND
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at a meeting in Utica, Mississippi on April 11, 2006, under authority of Section 25-43-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following wildlife management area regulations for the 2006-07 hunting year. This was done under authority of Sections 49-5-13 and 49-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W10 3444 is hereby amended, and the following 2006-07 wildlife management area hunting regulations are adopted.

2006-2007 Regulations for
Choctaw Wildlife Management Area

Choctaw and Winston Counties

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
DEER			For deer hunting regulations see DEER DATA COLLECTION, LEGAL BUCKS, DEER WEIGHT LIMIT, and DOG RESTRICTIONS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Archery	Sep. 30	Nov. 17	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Youth	Nov. 11	Nov. 17	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Nov. 18	Dec. 1	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2	Dec. 15	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
Gun	Dec. 24	Jan. 17	Legal bucks only.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 18	Jan. 31	Antlerless deer and legal bucks.
YOUTH TURKEY	Mar. 8	Mar. 14	
TURKEY	Mar. 15	May 1	

YOUTH SQUIRREL	Oct. 7	Oct. 13	
SQUIRREL	Oct. 14	Feb. 28	
RACCOON	Jul. 1	Sep. 30	Friday nights only.
RACCOON, OPOSSUM, & BOBCAT	Oct. 1	Feb. 28	
TRAPPING	Nov. 1	Feb. 28	
RABBIT	Oct. 14	Feb. 28	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHOCTAW WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
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WMA USER PERMIT: All persons participating in hunting, fishing, or trapping on this wildlife management area, 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 the daily visitor use permit and any required license.

CLOSED AREA: Area with boundary marked with white paint around Choctaw Lake and Campground is designated as NO SHOOTING/NO HUNTING AREA and will be strictly enforced.

PERMIT STATIONS: All visitors must obtain a DAILY VISITOR USE PERMIT card from a self-service permit station. Parts A and B of this permit must be legibly filled out before using the WMA. Part A of the permit must be deposited in the return box at a permit station before using the WMA. Part B must be displayed on the dash of the vehicle so that the name, address, and date are visible from outside the vehicle. Permits are invalid if not properly dated or if date has been changed. Before leaving the WMA, visitors must complete the reverse side of Part B of the permit and deposit it in the return box at a permit station. It is the responsibility of the Area Manager and other Agency personnel to have permit cards completed.

DEER DATA COLLECTION: All deer harvested must be checked at Area Headquarters on Webster Road 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 four or more antler points AND an inside spread of 12 inches or more. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

DEER WEIGHT LIMIT: All antlerless deer must weigh a minimum of 65 pounds live weight to be legal for harvest. The average live weight of an adult doe on this WMA is 90 pounds. Any harvested antlerless deer less than 65 pounds live weight is an illegal deer.

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

LEGAL WEAPONS: Only centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, primitive weapons, and centerfire handguns may be used for deer hunting. Legal weapons for small game hunting (excluding waterfowl) during daylight hours are shotguns using #2 shot or smaller and rifles or handguns no larger than .22 rimfire magnum. When hunting with a handgun, no other gun may be in possession. Only archery equipment and shotguns with #2 shot or smaller may be used for turkey hunting.

OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLES/ATVs: Off-road vehicle use will be governed by U. S. Forest Service regulations. For additional information, contact the Forest Service at (662) 285-3264.

HORSES: Hunting from horseback is allowed according to U. S. Forest Service regulations. For additional information contact the Forest Service at(662) 285-3264.

CAMPING: Camping allowed in designated areas only (see map). In addition to the regular daily visitor use permit, campers must fill out the front side of another daily visitor use permit from a self-service permit station and display it so the name and address are visible from the outside of the camping unit. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days. Camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. All camping equipment and garbage must be removed before final departure.

BEARS: Black bears may occur on this WMA. They are federally protected as a threatened subspecies. Hunting or disturbing bears is prohibited. Please report any bear sightings on your daily visitor use permit.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. For additional information, contact the Forest Service at (662) 285-3264.

Anyone wishing to comment on the above proposed action may do so in writing to the Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, P. O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205, no later than May 11, 2006.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
William C. Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director