Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority: 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-11-10, 50-11-96, 50-11-105, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-520, 50-11-530, 50-11-854, 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210

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Subject: Seasons, Limits, Methods of Take and Special Use Restrictions on Wildlife Management Areas; Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons

History: 4141

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

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- 01/11/2011 Received by Lt. Gov & Speaker 05/11/2011

H 01/12/2011 Referred to Committee

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S 03/22/2011 Resolution Introduced to Approve 722

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Document No. 4141

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-11-10, 50-11-96, 50-11-105, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-520, 50-11-530, 50-11-854, 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons

123-53. Bear Hunting Rules and Seasons

**Synopsis:**

These regulations amend Chapter 123-40 Wildlife Management Area Regulations, Chapter 123-51 Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons and Chapter 123-53 Bear Hunting Rules and Seasons in order to set seasons, bag limits and methods of hunting and taking of wildlife on existing and additional Wildlife Management Areas and to remove Chapter 123-53 regulations now in statute.

The Notice of Drafting for this regulation was published on July 23, 2010 in the South Carolina State Register Volume 34, Issue No. 7.

**Instructions:**

Amend Regulations 123-40 and 123-51 to establish changes and include additional WMAs. On Regulation 123-51, delete the current Hamilton Ridge WMA text and add it to Webb-Palachucola WMAs. Also, delete the text of Regulation 123-53.

Do not make any changes to the text in the current Code of Regulations if it is not addressed in the text or instructions of this regulation. Any text not discussed remains the same.

**Text:**

HUNTING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations.

1.1 The following regulations amend South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regulation Numbers 123-40, 123-51 and 123-53.

1.2. The regulations governing hunting including prescribed schedules and seasons, methods of hunting and taking wildlife, and bag limits for Wildlife Management Areas and special restrictions for use of WMA lands are as follows:

**(A) Game Zone 1**

**Chauga, Franklin L. Gravely, Caesar’s Head**

Archery Only Hunts Oct. 17 – Oct. 30, Total of 2 deer for all

For Deer on WMA Dec. 23 - Jan. 1. archery only hunts. 2 per day,

(No dogs) either-sex.

Glassy Mountain Archery Only Area – Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve

 Located on the southwest side of the South Pacolet River and west of the junction of the South Pacolet River and its’ main tributary creek as posted.

Archery Only Hunts Oct. 1 - Oct. 16, Total 2 deer, 2 per day,

For Deer (No Dogs) Oct. 31 - Jan. 1 either-sex.

Special Party Dog Oct. 24 - Oct. 30. 5 bears per party, no bears

Hunt For Bear Only 100 lbs. or less, no sow with

 cubs at her side. Groups

 hunting together are

 considered 1 party.

Parties of 25 or less must register with SCDNR, 311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson, SC 29631 by September 1. All harvested bear must be reported to the Clemson Wildlife Office @ 864-654-1671 within 24 hours of harvest.

Hogs and Coyotes

On each WMA property, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during the open season for any game. No hog hunting with dogs during the still gun and primitive weapons hunts for deer or bear or during turkey season. Hog hunters must use small game weapons during small game-only season.

**(B) Game Zone 2**

Hogs and Coyotes: On WMA lands in Game Zone 2, hogs and coyotes may be taken during the open season for any game. No hog or coyote hunting with dogs during still gun and primitive weapons hunts for deer or during turkey season. Only small game weapons allowed during the small game-only seasons.

**Keowee WMA**

Hogs and Coyotes: On Keowee WMA property, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during the open season for any game. No hog hunting with dogs during the still gun and primitive weapons hunts for deer or during turkey season. Hog hunters must use small game weapons during small game-only season.

**Fants Grove WMA**

Archery Only Oct. 15 - Dec. 22. Total of 3 deer, 2 per day,

(No dogs) either-sex. Not to include

more than 1 buck.

Hogs and Coyotes: On Fants Grove WMA, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during the open season for any game. No hog hunting with dogs during the still gun and primitive weapons hunts for deer or during turkey season. Hog hunters must use small game weapons during small game-only season.

**(C) Crackerneck WMA** **and Ecological Reserve**

All individuals must sign in and out at main gate. Quality Deer Management Area – antlered deer must have at least 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch antler spread. Scouting seasons (no weapons), will be Saturdays only during September and March. The gate opens at 6:00am and closes at 8:00pm. On deer hunt days, gates will open as follows: Oct., 4:30am-8:30pm; Nov. - Dec., 4:30am-7:30pm. For special hog hunts in Jan. and Feb., gate will be open from 5:30am-7:00pm. Hog hunters are required to wear either a hat, coat or vest of international orange. Hogs may NOT be taken from Crackerneck alive and hogs must be shown at check station gate. No more that 4 bay or catch dogs per party. On Saturday night raccoon hunts, raccoon hunters must cease hunting by midnight and exit the gate by 1:00am. On Friday night raccoon hunts, raccoon hunters must cease hunting by 1 hour before official sunrise and exit the gate by official sunrise. All reptiles and amphibians are protected. No turtles, snakes, frogs, toads, salamanders etc. can be captured, removed, killed or harassed.

**(G) Francis Marion National Forest**

During still gun hunts for deer there shall be no hunting or shooting Total of 4 deer for all gun and

from, on or across any road open to vehicle traffic. No buckshot muzzleloader hunts on the

on still gun hunts. During deer hunts when dogs are used buckshot Francis Marion.

only is permitted. On either-sex deer hunts with dogs, all deer must

be checked in by one hour after legal sunset. On all still gun and

muzzleloader either-sex hunts for all units, all does must be tagged

with an individual antlerless deer tag except when harvested on county-wide

either-sex days. Individual antlerless deer tags are valid on days not

designated as either-sex on or after Oct. 1 for still hunting only.

Tibwin Special Use Area (in Wambaw) is closed to hunting except for

Special hunts. On youth deer hunts, only youths 17 and younger may

carry a gun and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older.

**Hellhole WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 1 - 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Sept. 15 - 30. Hogs no limit.

Dog Hunts 1st Sat. in Dec. 2 deer per day, buck only.

(Shotguns only, no still Hogs no limit.

gun hunting) 1st Sat. in Nov. 2 deer per day, either sex.

 Hogs no limit.

On the either-sex deer hunt with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at Hellhole

Check Station, Bonneau Ferry entrance or M&B Alvin Community Mart.

**Waterhorn WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 1 - 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Sept. 15 - 30. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts 1st & 2nd Fri. & Sat. in Oct. 2 deer per day, buck only.

 2nd and last Fri. & Sat. in Nov. Hogs no limit.

 1st full week in Dec. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1. Hogs no limit.

**Wambaw WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 1 - 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Sept. 15 - 30. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts Oct. 1-Jan. 1 2 deer per day.

 except during scheduled dog Hogs no limit.

 drive hunts.

Dog Hunts Fri. in Sept. before the last 2 deer per day, buck only.

(Shotguns only) Sat. Northampton dog hunt & Hogs no limit.

 Wed. & Thurs. before the 3rd Sat.

 in Nov. & 2nd Sat. in Oct. &

 2 hunting days after Dec. 25.

 2nd Sat in Dec. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Hogs no limit.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at Awendaw

check station on Hwy 17 or Honey Hill Lookout Tower, P&C Grocery, or Kangaroo in Jamestown.

**Northampton WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 1 - 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Sept. 15-30. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts Oct. 1- Jan. 1 2 deer per day.

 except during scheduled dog Hogs no limit.

 drive hunts.

Dog Hunts Last Sat. in Sept. & 2 deer per day, buck only.

(Shotguns only) Wed. & Thurs. before the 2nd Hogs no limit.

 Sat. in Oct. & Fri. before the

 4th Sat. in Nov. & 3rd hunting day

 after Dec. 25.

 2nd Sat. in Dec. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Hogs no limit.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at P&C

Grocery, Kangaroo in Jamestown, Awendaw check station on Hwy 17, or Honey Hill Lookout

Tower.

**Santee WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 1 - 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Sept. 15 - 30. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts Oct. 1- Jan. 1 2 deer per day.

except during scheduled dog Hogs no limit.

drive hunts.

Dog Drive Hunts 2nd Fri. & Sat. in Sept. 2 deer per day, buck only.

(Shotguns only) Wed. & Thurs. before the 4th Hogs no limit.

 Sat. in Oct. & 1st Fri. in Dec.

 1st Sat. in Nov. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

 Hogs no limit.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at Bonneau

Ferry Entrance, M & B Alvin Community Mart, or Hellhole check station.

**(I) Santee Cooper WMA**

Data cards required for hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving Santee Cooper WMA. Hunters limited to two (2) deer/tree stands which must contain a label with the hunter’s name and address. No stands may be placed on Santee Cooper WMA prior to Sept. 15.

**(Z) Donnelley WMA**

Deer

All hunters must sign in and out at the check station. Hunting in designated areas only. Scouting season for archery only on the day before season opens. Hogs can be taken during all deer hunts.

Archery Oct. 1 - Oct. 5, Total 4 deer either-sex,

(no dogs) Nov. 1 - Nov. 5, except no more than 1 buck

Dec. 1 - Dec. 5. with a minimum 4 points on one

side or a minimum 12-inch

antler spread except antlerless only during special antlerless only hunts. Hogs-no limit.

Still Gun Hunts No open season except for 3 deer either-sex except

hunters selected by computer no more that 1 buck with a

drawing or designated special Minimum 4 points on one side

 antlerless only hunts. or a minimum 12-inch antler

spread except antlerless only during special antlerless only hunts.

**(YY) Botany Bay Plantation WMA**

Raccoons and Opossum Jan. 2 – Mar. 1 (Wed. - Fri. only) Game Zone 6 bag limits.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

General

2.14 On WMA lands, hunting armadillos, coyotes and hogs at night is prohibited.

3.4 On WMAs , all firearms transported in vehicles must be unloaded and secured in a weapons case, or in the trunk of a vehicle or in a locked toolbox. On the Francis Marion Hunt Unit during deer hunts with dogs, loaded shotguns may be transported in vehicles. Any shotgun, centerfire rifle or rimfire rifle or pistol with a shell in the chamber or magazine or muzzleloader with a cap on the nipple or flintlock with powder in the flash pan is considered loaded.

10.11 Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to hunting access and fishing one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal waterfowl season , except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. All hunters must enter and leave the Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area through the designated public landing on secondary road 260 and complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to legal sunset (including the special youth hunt). Hunters may not enter the area prior to 3:00 a.m. on hunt days. No airboats are allowed for hunting or fishing and no hunting from secondary road 260.

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons

AREA DATES LIMIT Other Restrictions

Webb- Palachucola- April 1 - May 1 2 All hunters must pick

Hamilton Ridge WMAs up and return data cards at kiosk and display hangtags on vehicles.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

This amendment of Regulations 123-40, 123-51 and 123-53 will result in increased public hunting opportunities which should generate additional State revenue through license sales. In addition, the local economy should benefit from sales of hunting supplies, food and overnight accommodations. Sales taxes on these items will also directly benefit government.

**Statement of Rationale:**

Rationale for the formulation of these regulations is based on over 60 years of experience by SCDNR in establishing public hunting areas. New areas are evaluated on location, size, current wildlife presence, access and recreation use potential. Contractual agreements with the landowners provide guidelines for the use and management of the property. Wildlife Management Area agreements are on file with the Wildlife Management Section of the Department of Natural Resources, Room 267, Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia.