

PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE QUALITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT HUNT PROGRAM

This land was acquired by Collier County under the Conservation Collier Program. The purpose of Conservation Collier is to acquire, protect, restore and manage environmentally sensitive lands within Collier County for the benefit of present and future generations. Additionally, Conservation Collier's goal is to allow controlled multiple recreational and educational uses consistent with this purpose.

The Pepper Ranch Preserve Quality Wildlife Management Hunt Program will allow Collier County to use a public recreational hunt opportunity, that is open to Collier County residents only, as a way to gain biological data in order to make sound wildlife management decisions.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations which follow, all laws and regulations of the State of Florida relating to wildlife shall apply. Pepper Ranch Preserve regulations are more restrictive than the state regulations. Hunting or the taking of wildlife shall be allowed only during the State open seasons and Preserve scheduled hunt weekends, and only in the manner set forth herein.

EACH HUNTER IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF AND ADHERING TO ALL LAWS AND RULES PERTAINING TO THIS HUNT PROGRAM AND PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE.

1. Any person entering Pepper Ranch Preserve during the prescribed hunts, other than archery hunts, shall wear at least 500 square inches of dayglo-flourescent orange material above the waistline as an outer garment. A head covering of the same material is also required.
2. During hunt weekends, access to Pepper Ranch Preserve is restricted to hunters with a valid quota hunt permit for the designated hunt.
3. The use of feeders, baiting, or the possession of baiting materials of any kind is prohibited.
4. There are quiet times during the Big Game season. Walking around or driving during this time is prohibited. A Quiet Time Schedule is distributed at Orientation and is posted at the Check Station on the board with the buck quota.
5. A turkey harvest quota will be established for each Spring Turkey Hunt weekend. Unfilled turkey quotas are not carried over to future hunts. If the turkey quota is filled on the first day of the hunt weekend, only feral hogs and small game may be taken the second day. The turkey quota will be posted at the Check Station.

6. All harvested animals shall be field dressed and kept whole until after check-in at the check station.

7. Hunting is prohibited in areas posted "No Hunting."

8. STATE REGULATIONS REGARDING BUFFER ZONE DISTANCES APPLY.

9. No visitor shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made, or cultural resource.

10. Tampering with or destruction of equipment, improvements, and water control structures is prohibited.

11. Cutting or damaging fences is prohibited.

12. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.

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

14. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat which is under power is prohibited, until power and movement from that power, has ceased.

15. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

16. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.

17. A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer, Government security officer, or local law enforcement officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with the law.

18. No plants, or their parts, or any animals shall be introduced, liberated, planted, or placed in any part of Pepper Ranch Preserve by visitors.

19. It is unlawful to leave garbage or litter in Pepper Ranch Preserve.

20. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages anywhere in Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited.

21. All injuries sustained at Pepper Ranch Preserve must be reported to check station staff.

DOGS

- Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
- For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CHILDREN

- Children under the age of 18 cannot possess a permit and, if present, are required to be accompanied by a permitted adult. (Only one child may accompany a permitted adult.)

- Children under the age of 18 may not be in possession of firearms unless they have completed a Hunter's Education Course and are in the presence and under the supervision of an adult. F.S. 790.22 and 784.05.

FIREARMS

- Taking wildlife with firearms other than muzzleloaders and shotguns within Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited.
- Discharging firearms within the southern portion of Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited. See Map.
- The hunt permit holder will be responsible for knowing state and federal laws regarding the permitted firearm for each season. Only designated firearms may be used for designated hunts.
- All firearms must be unloaded and made safe prior to entering your vehicle. No side arms shall be exposed or worn around the Check Station.
- Ammunition must be physically separated from the guns in order for the gun to be considered unloaded. No loaded guns will be permitted at the Check Station or in any vehicle while in Pepper Ranch Preserve. Muzzleloading guns are considered unloaded when the cap (or primer) is absent and the hammer is in closed position.

- Discharging firearms at anything other than legal game while in Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited. Target practice and random discharging of firearms is a threat to the safety and quality of the Pepper Ranch Preserve hunt program.

- Persons in possession of a valid concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.

TREE STANDS

- No permanent stands or stands that will damage vegetation will be permitted.
- Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
- Temporary tree stands must be removed at the end of each hunt weekend.
- No hunting is allowed within 100 feet of mapped trails, which includes sitting in vehicles or blinds. Trails are not to be used as shooting lanes.

PUBLIC ACCESS and VEHICLES

- Public access is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "Restricted."
- Any vehicle entering Pepper Ranch Preserve must have a current license tag, meet federal and state

safety requirements, and be operated by a licensed driver with appropriate insurance.

- Entry and exit is permitted through the designated entrances only.
- All gates must be returned to the state in which they were found once a vehicle or pedestrian has passed.
- Vehicles may be operated only on roads designated for vehicles. Trails can be closed at any time. Exceptions may be made for FWC Certified Mobility-Impaired Hunters.
- Vehicles may only park in designated parking areas. Exceptions may be made for FWC Certified Mobility-Impaired Hunters.
- Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates, or fire lanes.
- The use of all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies, tracked vehicles, or vessels is prohibited. Exceptions will be made for FWC Certified Mobility-Impaired Hunters.
- With prior authorization of staff, hunters may drive on fire breaks for game removal only.
- The presence of a 'closed' sign restricts access to foot traffic only. Exceptions may be made for FWC Certified Mobility-Impaired Hunters.

- Vehicles must be operated in a safe manner for the condition of the vehicle trails.

- Maximum speed limit is 20 mph.

CHECK STATION

- Hunters must check in and out at the Check Station. Repeat violators may lose hunt privileges.
- Hunters may enter at 5:00 a.m. for all hunts.
- During hunts, the preserve closes at 9:00 p.m. Anyone exiting after 9:00 p.m. may lose hunt privileges.
- All game must be checked in by staff at the Check Station.
- EMERGENCY NOTICES OR REGULATION CHANGES WILL BE POSTED AT THE CHECK STATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARTICIPANT TO BE AWARE OF AND OBEY THESE CHANGES.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS

- Equal Opportunity and Access requests must come through the Collier County Conservation Collier Office, 239-252-8767. Requests will be reviewed by the appropriate Collier County official, and notification will be given in a timely manner.

SALES

- Permit sales will be determined using a Random Draw system.

*Do not send duplicate applications in an attempt to increase your odds for the Random Draw, or you may be excluded from entering future Random Draws

- Permits are non-transferable from person to person or to a different date.
- Application fees are non-refundable.
- If you wish to send your application and application fee, they must be postmarked no later than July 3, 2010. EARLY SUBMISSIONS HAVE NO PREFERENCE OVER LATER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RANDOM DRAW SYSTEM.

PERMITTING & LICENSE INFORMATION

APPROPRIATE LICENSES AND PERMITS REQUIRED.

- All hunters are required to attend a scheduled orientation before receiving hunt permits.
- All hunters are required to provide proof of Collier County residency.
- If you do not fulfill these requirements, you will not be permitted to hunt and any fees processed may not be refunded.

HUNTING LICENSE

A State of Florida hunting license may be purchased from the Collier County Tax Collector's Office or from their sub-agents. Information on the categories and costs of hunting licenses is available in the Florida Hunting Handbook.

A STATE OF FLORIDA WMA (WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA) STAMP IS NOT REQUIRED AT PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE.

QUOTA HUNT PERMIT

- There will be **11** quota hunt permits issued for each scheduled Muzzleloading Gun Hunt, Hog and Small Game Hunt, and Hog ONLY Hunt– 8 permits for the northern portion of the ranch and 3 ARCHERY ONLY permits for the southern portion of the ranch. Hunters should specify preference for Firearm or Archery hunt if entering the Random Draw for both types of hunts during the same weekend.
- Applications will be available on-line beginning June 19, 2010. 252-8767 www.collegov.net

APPLICATION FEE – non-refundable

Fee is paid once annually and allows hunters to enter random draws for all scheduled hunts.

Application fee\$20.00

PERMIT FEES

Permit fees are paid per hunt.

Muzzleloading Gun \$50.00
(Muzzleloader, Bows, and Crossbows ONLY)
Legal to take hog, squirrel, quail, rabbit, snipe, coyote, and bobcat
(8 quota hunt permits issued for north portion)

Hog and Small Game Hunt \$50.00
(Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Bows, and Crossbows ONLY)
Legal to take hog, squirrel, quail, rabbit, snipe, coyote, and bobcat
(8 quota hunt permits issued for north portion)

Hog ONLY..... \$50.00
(Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Bows, and Crossbows ONLY)
Legal to take hog and coyote
(8 quota hunt permits issued for north portion)

Archery \$50.00
(Bows and Crossbows ONLY)
(3 quota hunt permits issued for south portion)

Turkey Hunt \$50.00
(Shotgun, Bows, and Crossbows ONLY)

Legal to take turkey, hog, squirrel, quail, rabbit, snipe, coyote, and bobcat

*(Number of quota hunt permits issued and harvest quota TBD)

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Hog, CoyoteNo Limit

Squirrel, Quail,See State Hunting Handbook 2010-2011
Rabbit, Snipe, Bobcat

- Applications will be available on-line on June 19, 2009.
- Applications and Application Fee will be accepted starting Friday, June 19, 2009.
- Applications and Application Fee will not be accepted after July 3, 2009. Any application post-marked after July 3, 2009, will be processed after the Random Draw.

Random Draw selection for the 2010-2011 Hunt Season will take place the week of August 2, 2010. Notification Letters will be mailed to drawn hunters by August 9, 2010. Drawn hunters will receive a notification letter that will include instructions and details concerning payment, date of selection, etc. Drawn hunters have until August 20, 2010, 5:00 P.M. to provide payment for hunt(s) or they will lose their hunt position, and it will be offered to the next hunter on the random draw list.

ORIENTATION (Mandatory) Saturday, August 21, 2010
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

There will be no orientations given on hunt weekends. Private orientation by appointment only.

MUZZLELOADING GUN

September 11-12, 2010.....Hunt 1- Muzzleloading Gun

OR

Hunt 1A - Archery

HOG AND SMALL GAME

October 9-10, 2010.....Hunt 2 – Hog and Small Game

OR

Hunt 2A - Archery

November 20-21, 2010.....Hunt 3 - Hog and Small Game

OR

Hunt 3A - Archery

December 11-12, 2010.....Hunt 4 - Hog and Small Game

OR

Hunt 4A - Archery

January 15-16, 2011..... Hunt 5 - Hog and Small Game

OR

Hunt 5A - Archery

February 12-13, 2011.....Hunt 6 - Hog and Small Game

OR

Hunt 6A - Archery

YOUTH HUNT

Fees, availability, and application procedure may be obtained from staff.

November 12, 13 and 14, 2010.....Youth Hunt

HOG ONLY

May 14-15, 2011.....Hunt 7 - Hog ONLY

OR

Hunt 7A - Archery

June 18-19, 2011.....Hunt 8 - Hog ONLY

OR

Hunt 8A - Archery

SPRING TURKEY HUNT

March 12-13, 2011..... Turkey 1

April 9-10, 2011 Turkey 2

*Number of turkey quota hunt permits issued and turkey harvest quota were unknown at the time this brochure

went to print. Both will be subject to turkey surveys. Spring Turkey Hunts will be replaced by Hog and Small Game if collected data shows that turkey population cannot sustain harvest. If only one Spring Turkey Hunt needs to be replaced by a Hog and Small Game, it will be Turkey Hunt 2.

- One turkey per permit
- Hunting begins at 5:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m.

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