



Pepper Ranch Preserve Check Station

6315 Pepper Road
Immokalee, FL 34142
Phone: 239-657-1999

Conservation Collier Program Office

Collier County Parks and Recreation Department
3300 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Naples, FL 34116
E-mail: ConservationCollier@colliergov.net
Website: www.colliergov.net/conservationcollier
Phone: 239-252-2957



**PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE
QUALITY WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
HUNT PROGRAM**

FOR COLLIER COUNTY
RESIDENTS ONLY

2017 - 2018 Brochure



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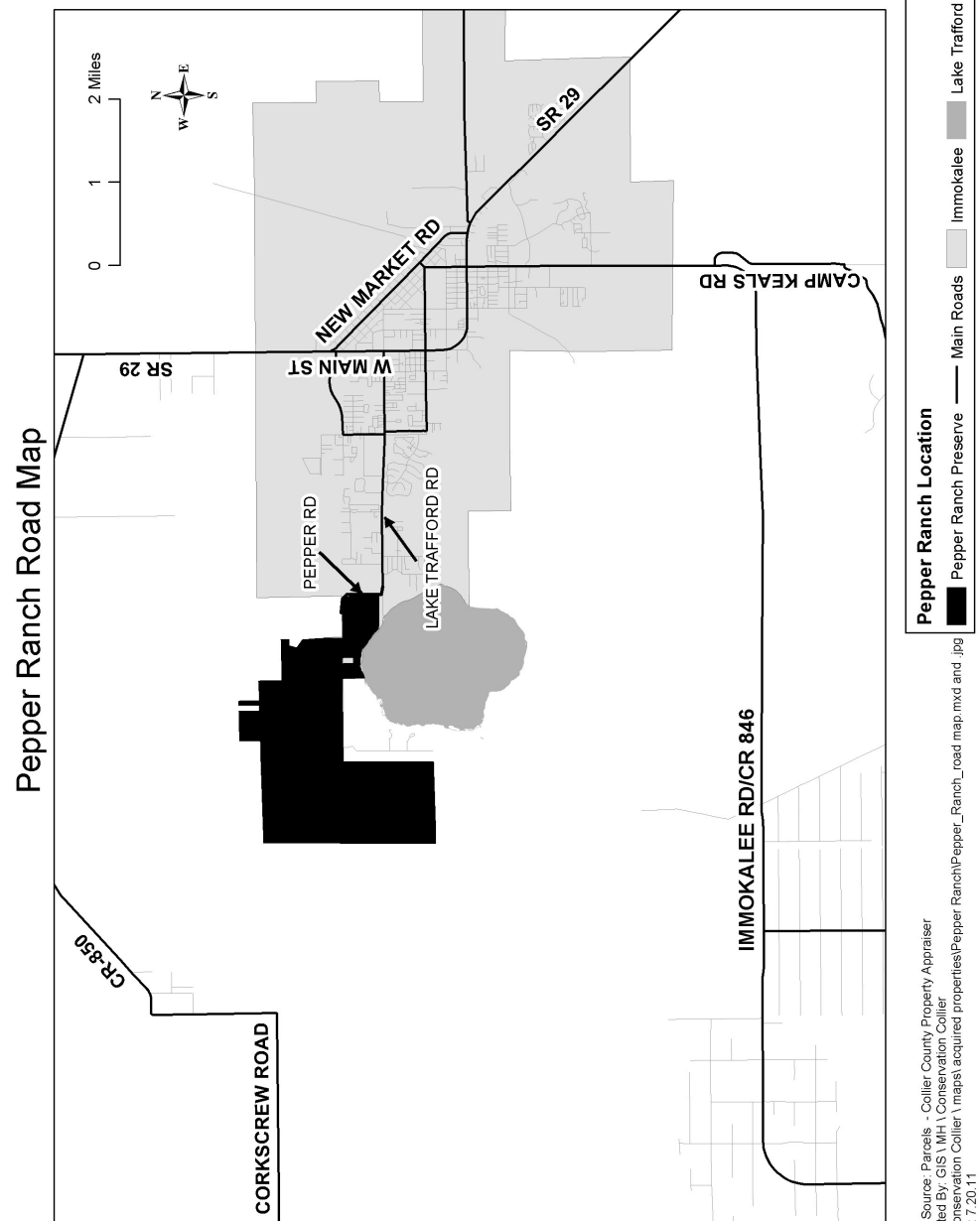


PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE 2017-2018 QUALITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT HUNT PROGRAM

PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE QUOTA HUNT
PERMITS ARE OPEN TO COLLIER COUNTY
RESIDENTS ONLY.

Pepper Ranch Preserve 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 multiple, controlled recreational and educational uses consistent with this purpose.

The Pepper Ranch Preserve Quality Wildlife Management Hunt Program allows Collier County to use a public recreational hunt opportunity as a way to gain biological data in order to make sound wildlife management decisions.



- Vehicles must be operated in a safe manner for the condition of the vehicle trails.
- Maximum speed limit is 20 mph.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS

Equal Opportunity and Access requests must come through the Conservation Collier Office:
239-252-2957.

CHECK STATION

- Hunters must enter and exit (check in and out) at the Check Station only.
- Hunters may enter one and one half hour before sunrise for all hunts.
- During hunts, the preserve closes one hour after sunset. Anyone exiting later than one hour after sunset may lose hunt privileges.
- All game must be checked in by staff at the Check Station.
- Check Station phone number: 239-657-1999

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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Quota hunt permit sales will be determined using a preference point random draw system.
- Quota hunt permit applications will be available on-line June 30, 2017:
www.colliergov.net/conservationcollier
- Applications can be dropped off, e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to:

**Pepper Ranch Preserve Hunt Program
Conservation Collier
3300 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Naples, FL 34116
E-mail: MelissaHennig@colliergov.net
Fax: 239-252-6720**

- Applications will be accepted starting Friday, June 30, 2017.
- Any application received after 4:30 P.M. on Friday, August 4, 2017, will be processed after the random draw.
- Random draw selection for the 2017-2018 Hunt Season will take place on Monday, August 7, 2017.
- No group applications will be accepted. Permit applications may only be submitted individually.
- Submission of more than one permit application per individual will disqualify that individual from all random draws.

- Notification Letters will be mailed to drawn hunters by Friday, August 11, 2017. Notification Letters will include instructions and details concerning payment, date of selection, etc.
- Drawn hunters have until Friday, September 1, 2017, at 5:00 P.M. to provide payment for hunt(s) or forfeit their hunt position(s). Forfeited positions will be offered to the next hunter on the random draw list.

EARLY SUBMISSIONS HAVE NO PREFERENCE OVER LATER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RANDOM DRAW SYSTEM.

QUOTA HUNT PREFERENCE POINTS

To allow an increased opportunity for applicants to receive quota hunt permits for Pepper Ranch hunts, Collier County will now be issuing all quota hunt permits based on a preference point system. Applicants included in the random drawing will be able to increase their odds of selection each year they fail to be drawn for a quota hunt permit.

Quota hunt permits for each hunt type shall be selected by random drawing from the applications submitted during each annual application period based on the highest number of accumulated preference points. All applicants not issued a quota hunt permit, shall receive one preference point annually for that specific quota hunt type. Preference points shall accumulate by quota hunt type. Applicants who are issued a quota hunt permit in the random drawing will lose all preference points for that hunt type and will have zero preference points next year for that hunt type. Accumulated preference points for other hunt types will be retained.

PUBLIC ACCESS and VEHICLES

- Vehicle access is prohibited on any portion of the Preserve posted as “No Unauthorized Vehicles”. Exceptions may be made for FWC certified mobility-impaired hunters with SUV Permits.
- 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 with Special Use Vehicle (SUV) Permits.
- Vehicles may only park along-side roads that are designated for vehicles. Exceptions may be made for FWC certified mobility-impaired hunters with SUV Permits.
- 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, or tracked vehicles is prohibited. Exceptions will be made for FWC certified mobility-impaired hunters with SUV Permits.

FIREARMS

- Discharging firearms within the Archery Only portion of Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited.
- Rifles and handguns using centerfire cartridges may not be discharged at Pepper Ranch Preserve, except during FWC sponsored Youth Hunts.
- 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 a 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. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded when the cap (or primer) is absent and the hammer is in the 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.

Applicants who fail to apply during the annual application period for two consecutive years will forfeit all preference points for that quota hunt type. Applicants that skip a year will neither gain nor lose their preference points.

PERMITTING & LICENSE INFORMATION

- Hunters with a deer hunt quota permit are required to have a State of Florida hunting license and a State of Florida deer permit.
- Hunters with a turkey hunt quota permit are required to have a State of Florida hunting license and a State of Florida turkey permit.
- Hunters with a hog hunt quota permit are NOT REQUIRED to have a State of Florida hunting license.
- Hunters that have never attended a Pepper Ranch Hunter Orientation will be required to attend a hunter orientation before receiving their 2017 - 2018 permit.
- All drawn hunters are required to provide proof of Collier County residency. Guest hunters do not have to be Collier County residents.
- Anyone not meeting these requirements will not be permitted to hunt, and any fees processed will not be refunded.

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 FWC Florida Hunting Handbook.

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

QUOTA HUNT PERMIT

- Deer quota hunt permits and turkey quota hunt permits are non-transferable.
- Hunters within the northern portion of the ranch are required to hunt within designated zones assigned by random draw process for each hunt weekend.
- There will be **10** hog quota hunt permits issued for each scheduled hog hunt weekend – 8 permits for the northern portion of the ranch and 2 permits for the archery ONLY portion of the ranch.
- There will be **4** deer quota hunt permits issued for the scheduled “DEER” hunt. Permits will be for the northern portion of the ranch.
- There will be **4** turkey quota hunt permits issued for the scheduled “TURKEY” hunt. Permits will be for the northern portion of the ranch.
- If a hunter has not called or checked in at the Check Station by 9:00 A.M. the morning of a hunt, that hunter is a “no-show hunter”.
- Hunters with a valid quota hunt permit for the designated hunt may switch their hunt zone for an open hunt zone that has been vacated by either a “no-show hunter” or a hunter with a valid quota hunt permit that has left for the day, on a first-come, first served basis with the approval of Check Station staff.

TREE STANDS and GAME CAMERAS

- 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.
- Hunters shall inform Conservation Collier staff of game camera locations and durations.
- Temporary tree stands and game cameras must be removed at the end of the hunt season. Any tree stands or cameras not removed by July 1, 2018 become the property of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.
- 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.
- A prescribed fire program may begin within the preserve this hunt season. If you would like advanced notice of prescribed fire locations, please contact Conservation Collier staff.

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

15. Cutting or damaging fences is prohibited.

16. 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.

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

18. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle which is under power is prohibited

19. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

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

21. An FWC Law Enforcement Officer, Government security officer, or local law enforcement officer may search any camp or vehicle, in accordance with the law.

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

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

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

25. All injuries sustained at Pepper Ranch Preserve must be reported to Check Station staff.

- As a courtesy, if a hunter is unable to attend one or more hunt days during a hunt weekend, the hunter should inform the Check Station attendant as soon as possible.

GUESTS

A hunter possessing a valid quota hunt permit may be accompanied by one hunting guest.

- Guests must have all required Florida licenses and permits.
- A guest permit, available at the check station, must be completed, signed by the guest, and carried by the guest in the field.
- A new guest permit must be completed for each guest hunter that participates in each hunt.
- A quota permit holder may only bring one additional person to hunt with them at a time.
- The quota permit holder and their guest must share the same vehicle and must enter and exit the area together.
- The guest permit holder may hunt only when the quota permit holder is present on the preserve.
- The quota permit holder and the guest must hunt in the same zone; however, they are not required to hunt together once inside the zone unless one of them is a minor.
- The quota permit holder and the guest must share a single bag limit, and the quota permit holder is responsible for making sure that the shared bag limit is not exceeded.

MINORS

- Minors under the age of 16 possessing a valid quota hunt permit must be accompanied by a parent/guardian over the age of 21.
- Minors under the age of 16 may not be in possession of firearms unless they have completed an FWC Hunter's Education Course and are in the presence and under the supervision of an adult. (F.S. 790.22 and 784.05).

DOGS

Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game only.

SHOOTING HOURS

- Shooting hours during "HOG" and "DEER" hunts are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- Shooting hours during "TURKEY" hunts are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

MANDATORY HUNTER ORIENTATION

Hunters that have never attended a Pepper Ranch Hunter Orientation will be required to attend the following orientation to be held at Pepper Ranch Preserve; 6315 Pepper Road; Immokalee, FL 34142:

Saturday, October 7, 2017; 9:00 A.M.– 9:30 A.M.

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

7. Male deer (buck) must have a minimum of 3 points on one antler to be harvested. (A point is defined as antler growth off the main beam that is at least 1" in length.)

8. The deer harvest quota for 2017 is one buck per hunter per hunt weekend. If a hunter fills his/her deer quota, he/she may only take wild hogs or other legal small game during the remainder of the weekend.

9. All deer harvested are required to have one jawbone extracted for aging.

10. Transport of deer or parts of deer off property requires a copy of the harvest sheet signed by staff. It is the hunter's responsibility to acquire a copy of the harvest sheet from staff. See FWC Hunting Handbook for state rules on dismemberment.

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

12. STATE REGULATIONS REGARDING BUFFER ZONE DISTANCES APPLY.

13. No visitor shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made, or cultural resource, except for palm fronds.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to the regulations that 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. Hunters who violate these regulations will be subject to penalties as determined by the Facilities Management Department Director and/or the State of Florida. Hunting or the taking of wildlife shall be allowed only during preserve scheduled hunt weekends and only in the manner set forth herein.

EACH HUNTER IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING 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, except during archery and turkey hunts, shall wear at least 500 square inches of hunter orange material above the waistline as an outer garment.
2. During hunt weekends, access to Pepper Ranch Preserve is restricted to hunters with a valid quota hunt permit and their guests.
3. The use of feeders, baiting, or the possession of baiting materials of any kind is prohibited, except during Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) sponsored Youth Hog Hunts.
4. One hunter, one guest, and one minor allowed per valid quota hunt permit.
5. The turkey harvest quota is one gobbler per hunter per weekend. If a hunter fills his/her turkey quota, he/she may only take wild hogs or other legal small game during the remainder of the weekend.

PERMIT FEE

All fees are non-refundable.

PERMIT FEE – non-refundable

Permit fee is paid per hunt.

“HOG”.....	\$55.00
“DEER”.....	\$80.00
“TURKEY”.....	\$105.00
FWC Youth Hunt*.....	\$75.00

* Youth Hunt Fee includes all meals and campsite accommodations for 1 child and 1 guardian during youth hunt weekend.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Deer 1 buck per quota hunt permit

Turkey..... 1 gobbler per quota hunt permit

Wild Hog..... No Limit

Coyote, Raccoon, Opossum,
Skunk, Nutria, Beaver..... No Limit

Gray Squirrel,
Rabbit, Daily Bag Limit – 12
Possession Limit – 24

HUNT SCHEDULE

HOG HUNTS

November 18 - 19, 2017..... HOG 1*

January 13 - 14, 2018..... HOG 2*

June 2 – 3, 2018..... HOG 3

- Game may be taken using a Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Bow, or Crossbow with a “HOG” permit within firearm zones of the ranch.
- Game may be taken using a bow or crossbow with a “HOG” permit within the Archery Only zone of the ranch
- Legal game: wild hog, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, nutria, beaver and coyote.

* Gray squirrel may be taken by Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Bow or Crossbow during HOG 1 and HOG 2.

DEER HUNT

October 14 - 15, 2017..... DEER

- Game may be taken using a shotgun, muzzleloader, bow or crossbow with a “DEER” permit
- Legal game: deer, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, nutria, beaver and coyote.

TURKEY HUNT

March 10-11, 2018 TURKEY

- Game may be taken using shotgun, bow, or crossbow
- Legal game: turkey, wild hog, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, nutria, beaver and coyote.

FWC YOUTH HUNTS*

December 8, 9 and 10, 2017.....Youth Hog Hunt

February 23, 24 and 25, 2018.....Youth Turkey Hunt

* A Pepper Ranch Hunt Program Application is not required for Youth Hunts. Youth Hunts are administered through FWC. Please call (239) 252-2957 for Youth Hunt application information.

SCOUTING

Pepper Ranch Preserve will be open for scouting on every non-hunt and non-holiday Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.