

# AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM PUBLIC RECREATION AREA REGULATION SUMMARY 2019-2020 SEASON

*This publication is a guide to the rules and regulations for the use of the Public Recreation Area at Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR); however, the APAFR Operating Instruction (supplement to AFI 32-7064) is the final authority on public recreation regulations. Visit [www.avonparkafr.net](http://www.avonparkafr.net) for a copy of the APAFR Operating Instruction or stop by the Outdoor Recreation office if you have any questions. APAFR strives to ensure the information in this publication is accurate, but assumes no liability for substantive or typographical differences between this publication and the APAFR Operating Instruction. In such cases, the APAFR Operating Instruction will be taken as correct.*

*The State of Florida owns and has jurisdiction over resident fish and wildlife throughout the state, including APAFR. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), established by Article IV, Section 9 of the Florida State Constitution, is the governmental body responsible for the conservation of resident fish and wildlife. FWC establishes rules, regulations and season dates governing the taking of resident fish and wildlife species. The Florida Wildlife Code, Division Number 68A of the Florida Administrative Code applies. Visit [www.flrules.org](http://www.flrules.org) for more information.*

*Access to this installation for hunting, fishing, trapping, and non-consumptive recreational use as indicated in the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670a (a)(3)(A)) is contingent upon public safety, mission requirements, and the ability of the natural ecosystem to sustain these activities.*

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY.**

*Failure to comply will result in a warning or suspension of recreation privileges.*

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### **SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

<b>Section C:</b>	para C8.1, para C8.4
<b>Section F:</b>	para F1
<b>Section G:</b>	para G6, para G23
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<b>Section L:</b>	para L3, para L10, para L12
<b>Section M:</b>	all section regulations
<b>Section N:</b>	para N1, para N5, para N6
<b>Section O:</b>	all section regulations

## **A. PRA Permit Requirements**

*Refer to Section 6.3 in OI*

A1. All individuals 18 years of age or older (on or before 01 September of the permitted hunting year) are required to purchase a Permit to access Avon Park Air Force Range.

A1.1. Permit types and allowances are described in Section Q.

A2. All persons 16 years or older must carry some form of current photographic identification while on the installation.

A3. Proof of completion of a state-certified Hunter Education Course is required for all Hunt Permit Holders (regardless of age or affiliation), and their Guests or dependents ages 16 or older, hunting in the PRA.

A4. Purchase of any permit certifies that the individual named on the permit has signed a Release of Liability and a statement that he/she understands and will abide by the regulations outlined in the Operating Instruction. The Air Force is not responsible for the personal property of Permit Holders.

A5. All Permit Holders (Hunt, Companion, Annual Recreation, Guest, One Day, Weekend, etc.) must receive an annual safety briefing prior to receiving a Permit.

A6. A valid Florida hunting license with appropriate stamps, resident senior citizen certificate, or resident disabled person certificate, is required for PRA Hunt Permit Holders, unless the Permit Holder is a Florida resident on active military duty not currently stationed in Florida while home on leave with orders for 30 days or less.

A7. All children under the age of 18 must have a signed and notarized parental consent form on file, unless they are under direct control of a Permit Holder who is his/her legal guardian.

A8. All persons under the age of 18 must ride in the vehicle with a Permit Holder.

A9. All permits are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

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## **B. PRA Access Procedures**

*Refer to Section 8.5 in OI*

B1. PRA Permit Holders must enter and exit the installation only at the designated access points when open to the public. Designated access points are the Main Gate, Frostproof Gate (when open) and the Kissimmee River boat ramp (see para. B2).

B1.1. Each Permit Holder must have a current Permit, vehicle decal, and valid photo ID ready for the gate guard at the time of entry. Gate guards have the authority to refuse entry to any individuals who cannot present proper identification and permit documentation. A vehicle decal alone is not sufficient proof of a Permit Holder's eligibility for range access. See para. C3 for instructions for Permit Holders without a current vehicle decal at time of entry.

B2. Permit Holders may utilize the Kissimmee River boat ramp and access the Avon Park AFR via the boat ramp, provided the Permit Holder is already signed in at either the Outdoor Recreation Office, Building 600, or the Frostproof Gate (when open). Once on the river, Permit Holders are not required to sign in again. However, Permit Holders must be signed out and off property, along with their tow vehicle, by the posted closing time for Management Units 10 and 10A. Only Permit Holders who follow these procedures may access Air Force property from the Kissimmee River boat ramp.

B2.1. Mooring boats is prohibited outside of the designated boundaries of Kissimmee River Campground and Fort Kissimmee Cemetery. Mooring is only permitted to Permit Holders following access procedures outlined in para B2.

B3. Upon entering the installation, users must proceed directly to the PRA sign-in station at Building 600 or the PRA

sign-in station at Frostproof Gate.

B4. The following sign-in procedures must be observed by all Permit Holders.

B4.1. Check the status map (located at sign-in locations). This map identifies which Management Units are open to public access.

B4.2. Check the Forecast Sheet and read all recreational notes. Range schedule changes occur. It is the Permit Holder's responsibility to check the Management Unit status each day. Information kiosks are provided at the Outdoor Recreation Office and at Willingham, Morgan Hole, and Fort Kissimmee campgrounds.

B4.3. Annual and Companion Permit Holders must sign-in and sign-out each time they enter or leave the installation. This applies regardless of anticipated duration of your trip and may result in multiple sign-ins per day. Contact staff if there are any difficulties with the log book.

B4.4. Proceed to the PRA.

B4.5. Permit Holders who fail to sign in or out are subject to having their recreational privileges revoked.

B4.6. Upon leaving the installation for any reason, each Permit Holder must sign out on the logbook and sign in again if he/she returns.

B4.7. Access for recreational activities is always subject to limitations based on military mission and hunting schedule. As such, public access may be permitted Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, or as authorized by the Installation Commander.

B5. For planning purposes, a website ([www.avonparkafr.net/public-recreation-schedule.html](http://www.avonparkafr.net/public-recreation-schedule.html)), Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/APAFROutdoorRec>) and a telephone recording (863-452-4254, option 1), are updated weekly with public access information.

B6. If you hear three blasts from an air horn, cease all other activities and return to your vehicle immediately. Updated information will be posted at the information kiosks at Building 600 and the campgrounds.

B6.1. Permit Holders shall park their vehicles on the same side of the road as the Management Unit they are entering.

B7. If someone needs to contact a Permit Holder in case of an emergency, they may call the Outdoor Recreation Office at (863) 452-4254. They must have the following information available: permit number, type of vehicle, tag number and campground being used.

B8. If any kind of medical emergency occurs while on range, Permit Holders should call Rescue Ops at (863) 452-4117, and then notify Outdoor Recreation immediately. In all cases, Rescue Ops can respond faster than calling 911.

B9. For any non-medical emergency issues, call the Outdoor Recreation Office at (863) 452-4254 during posted office hours. For issues after hours, call Rescue Ops at the non-emergency phone number: (863) 452-4225.

B10. On a closing night, Permit Holders must exit the range before the designated exit time regardless of their activities at that time. This includes (but is not limited to) fishing, hiking, pursuing wounded game, or in the event of a vehicle breakdown.

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<b>C. PRA Vehicle Use</b> <i>Refer to Section 8.6 in OI</i>
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C1. Each annual Permit Holder will be issued a vehicle permit in the form of a decal. This decal is to be permanently affixed to the outside driver's side windshield of the Permit Holder's vehicle. The Permit Holder will be held accountable

for the actions of all individuals operating or riding in a vehicle bearing his/her vehicle decal. If the vehicle bearing the vehicle decal is sold or transferred to another individual, the decal must be removed before the vehicle leaves the Permit Holder's possession, and the decal (whole or in pieces) returned to the Outdoor Recreation Office. An administrative fee will be charged for the replacement of the vehicle decal. Maximum number of decals per Permit Holder is two.

C2. The loan or transfer of a vehicle decal is prohibited.

C3. If a Permit Holder wishes to bring a vehicle on the installation that does not have the vehicle decal, he/she must enter through the Main Gate and proceed directly to the Outdoor Recreation Office to obtain a temporary vehicle pass. To obtain a temporary vehicle pass, all Permit Holders must produce a driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. In the event the Outdoor Recreation Office is closed, the vehicle will be denied entry. Vehicles will not enter the Public Recreation Area without a vehicle decal or temporary vehicle pass.

C4. Annual Permit Holders are responsible for removing and destroying all vehicle decals at the end of the season. The vehicle decal is the property of the U.S. Air Force until it is destroyed.

C5. By accepting any APAFR Permit and Vehicle Decal/Temporary Vehicle Pass, Permit Holders are giving consent to have their vehicles searched while on the installation. If a vehicle is towed or impounded, Permit Holders agree to reimburse the towing agent on behalf of the vehicle owner/operator.

C6. All state and federal laws must be obeyed while on the installation. Obey all posted speed limits. If not posted the speed limits are: 35 mph for paved roads and 25 mph for unimproved roads.

C7. Military, Air Force contractor, and official AF Program vehicles always have the right-of-way.

C8. Vehicles must be operated only on roads designated on the official Public Recreation Area map. If a Permit Holder is caught without permission on an unnamed road, he/she will be subject to suspension.

C8.1. Exception: small game hunters may drive firebreaks range-wide after January 19 until the end of Small Game Season (see Section N) without first obtaining permission from the Outdoor Recreation Office. Vehicles need to be parked clear of the firebreak (refer to para C13.).

C8.2. Permit Holders are allowed to drive on existing firebreaks to retrieve downed game only after receiving verbal authorization from Outdoor Recreation staff.

C8.3. After receiving authorization from the Outdoor Recreation Office, Permit Holders with FWC-issued Special Use Vehicle Permit Certificates may be driven down firebreaks and unmarked trails to be dropped off and/or picked up. Vehicles cannot be parked off-road on firebreaks or unmarked trails; they must be returned to and parked on named roads as designated on the official PRA map.

C8.4. O-Q Range Road is off-limits when the red flag indicating an active training exercise is flying. This flag is located at the entrance to O-Q Road at Kissimmee Road. Both O-Q Road and O-Q Range Road are CLOSED when Management Unit 13 is CLOSED.

C9. Driving around any type of barricade is strictly prohibited.

C10. The use of tracked vehicles, motorized cycles, golf carts, ATVs, LSVs, UTVs, rail buggies, dirt bikes, and airboats is prohibited. Only rubber-tired vehicles, not previously listed are permitted. This prohibition includes all ATVs, LSVs, UTVs, and/or rail buggies, which may otherwise be considered street legal.

C11. A Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle, or boat, in accordance with the law. No person shall refuse or obstruct such inspection by any authorized officer of the state.

C12. Bicycle use is authorized on all designated roads, as well as along all unmarked fence lines and firebreaks.

C12.1. Riders must wear a highly visible outer garment during the day, and an outer garment containing retro-reflective material at night.

C12.2. Riders must wear a properly fastened, approved (e.g., Consumer Product Safety Commission, ANSI, Snell Memorial Foundation or host nation equivalent) bicycle helmet.

C12.3. All bicycles must be equipped with a white headlight.

C13. No person shall park any vehicle in a manner which obstructs a road, gate, bridge or firebreak.

C14. The use of vehicles is prohibited in the Public Recreation Area between 10:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m., except on Frostproof, Smith, Old Bravo, and Kissimmee Roads (or during verifiable emergencies, or after having received prior approval by the Outdoor Recreation Program).

C15. No person shall ride upon any vehicle in any manner not designated or intended for the use of passengers.

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## **D. Annual Recreation Permits**

*Refer to Section 8.3 in OI*

D1. Only Hunt Permit Holders and their Companions and Guest(s) are allowed access to the Public Recreation Area during posted Muzzleloader and General Gun Seasons (see Section N); Annual Recreation Permit Holders can access the PRA at all other times, as allowed by regulation and described in Section B.

D2. An Annual Recreation Permit allows the Permit Holder to use any open PRA Management Unit for all forms of outdoor recreation, except for hunting or any other activities excluded in this instruction.

D3. Annual Recreation Permits are valid from July 01 to June 30.

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## **E. Weekend & One-Day Permits**

*Refer to Section 8.4 in OI*

E1. Weekend Permits are valid for the weekend purchased and must be returned to the Outdoor Recreation Office no later than the time the installation closes for that weekend. Weekend Permit Holders must access the installation as described in Section B, except for signing the logbook as described in para B4.3. Anyone under the age of 18 must ride with a Permit Holder.

E2. One-Day Permits are valid for the day purchased and must be returned to the Outdoor Recreation Office before the office closed for that day. One-Day Permit Holders must access the installation as described in Section B, except for signing the logbook as described in para B4.3. Anyone under the age of 18 must ride with a Permit Holder.

E3. Weekend and One Day Permits may be purchased year-round, except during Muzzleloader and General Gun Seasons, at the Outdoor Recreation Office during normal office hours. Permits are non-refundable.

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## **F. PRA Guest Permits**

*Refer to Section 8.2 in OI*

F1. Each Permit Holder (host) is allowed a maximum of one Hunt Guest per weekend while hunting. Additionally, one Non-Hunt Guest may accompany the hunting party, but they are restricted from carrying firearms or taking wildlife. An additional fee will apply for each adult Guest.

F1.1. Guests are not permitted the first weekend of each hunt season and the first four weekends of Spring Turkey Season.

F1.2. An individual Hunt Guest is allowed to hunt a maximum of three weekends during a single permit year (Sep 01 - Aug 31).

F1.3. An individual Non-Hunt Guest is not limited on the number of permits that can be purchased in a single permit year.

F2. All Permit Holders are responsible for their Guest(s) whenever they are on the installation, and the Guest must be under the direct control of the Permit Holder. **Direct control** is herein defined as being within visual or voice range (radios are acceptable if hunting in the same Management Unit). The Permit Holder is liable for all the actions of their Guest(s) and of any children under the age of 18 while on the installation. Failure to properly escort and supervise any Guest(s) will result in the suspension of all privileges for the Permit Holder.

F2.1. Both the Hunt Permit Holder (host) and the Guest must be present at the time of purchase. Permit Holders must enter through the Main Gate to purchase a Guest Permit.

F2.2. Guest Permits must be returned to the Outdoor Recreation staff at Building 600, upon the Guest(s) leaving the Avon Park Air Force Range. If staff is unavailable, the Guest Permit will be placed in the gray box in front of the Outdoor Recreation Office upon leaving.

F2.3. All Guest(s) and Permit Holder must enter and exit the Avon Park AFR together and must share a street-legal vehicle while using the Public Recreation Area. Guest vehicles must be stored at the Outdoor Recreation Office for the duration of the Guest(s)' visit to the installation.

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## **G. General Regulations**

*Refer to Section 11.5 in OI*

G1. The possession of remote-controlled aircraft or drones is strictly prohibited.

G2. The possession of fireworks is strictly prohibited. Nothing may leave the ground.

G3. The use or possession of metal detectors is strictly prohibited.

G4. Digging and/or all forms of ground disturbance are strictly prohibited.

G5. Permit Holders shall enter Management Units no earlier than two hours before sunrise and exit no later than two hours after sunset, except with special permission from the Outdoor Recreation Office.

G6. Spotlighting or the use of artificial light is **prohibited**.

G7. Consumption of alcohol will be limited to campgrounds only. Public intoxication is prohibited. The proper transportation of alcohol, while entering or exiting the range, will follow Florida state statutes. Good order and discipline must be maintained at all times while on Avon Park Air Force Range.

G8. No ordnance or any other military material shall be tampered with, handled, or removed from the installation. Areas where suspected unexploded ordnance is found must be vacated immediately, and the location reported to Outdoor Recreation Program personnel.

G9. The disturbance or removal of any man-made or cultural materials (such as shell middens or other archaeologically / historically significant materials or sites) is prohibited. Permit Holders must notify the Outdoor Recreation Office (Building 600) after encountering artifacts. Historical and archaeological resources on the Avon Park Air Force Range are

protected under federal law and it is a crime to remove or disturb them from their original location.

G10. No person shall cut or destroy any tree, or remove any tree, shrub, or protected plant. Planting of trees, shrubs or other vegetation is prohibited unless authorized by the installation commander.

G11. Live trees or standing dead trees shall not be cut. Dead and downed wood may be cut and collected as firewood and used only at Avon Park AFR. Firewood may be brought on base but must be burned or removed from the property upon departure.

G12. Driving a metal object into any tree or the use of a tree in which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.

G13. Destroying, damaging, altering, or vandalizing any sign, building, fence, or other man-made structure, is prohibited.

G14. Littering is prohibited. Dumpsters at campgrounds are for trash accumulated while camping. They shall not be utilized for any household trash, tires, propane bottles, live coals, or ashes. The discharge of contaminants or human wastes is prohibited.

G15. The polluting of any waterway (stream, creek, river, or pond) by dumping oil, acids, poisons, detergents or other pollutants is prohibited. The placing of any trees, limbs, weir, concrete, or other debris in any waterway (stream, creek, river, or pond) is prohibited.

G16. Gates found in a condition other than that of which the gate was left by staff may subsequently be locked without notice.

G17. Hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation is prohibited on any portion of the installation posted as closed to those activities.

G18. People, dogs, vehicles, and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by U.S. Air Force administrative action.

G19. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft, or boat which is under power is prohibited, until operation and/or movement from that power source, has ceased.

G20. No person shall release or introduce any wildlife, freshwater fish or any other organism.

G21. All fires are prohibited, except as stated in para H2.

G22. Unethical behavior will result in the loss of recreational privileges.

G23. Permit Holders shall be barred from the installation for posting, publishing, or distributing any information or photos deemed sensitive to the military mission to any websites, forums, or social media platforms. This includes, but is not limited to, information regarding military training operations, photos of military activities, personnel, or equipment, and/or names of individuals involved in military training operations.

G24. Horses are prohibited.

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## **H. Camping Regulations**

*Refer to Section 12.1 in OI*

H1. Willingham, Morgan Hole, and Fort Kissimmee Campgrounds are the only designated campgrounds for PRA Permit Holders. Campground boundaries are delineated on the map and marked with signs in the field.

H2. No campfires shall be left unattended. All fires will be contained in stoves, grills, fireplaces, or fire rings. All fires

must be extinguished (cold) before being left unattended. Fire bans must be observed when in effect.

H3. Generators are only allowed in Willingham Campground west of Frostproof Road, Morgan Hole Campground north of Kissimmee Road, and Fort Kissimmee Campground north of the boat landing.

H4. Campground quiet hours are 11:00 PM - 4:30 AM. People and/or their dogs creating excessive noise or exhibiting other behaviors that disturb other campers shall be removed from the installation. Generators can be used 24-hours a day as indicated in para H3.

H5. No camping will be allowed within 25 feet of a picnic pavilion, pump, latrine, or shower facility.

H6. No camping, vehicles or trailers will be allowed within 15 feet of the main bank of Morgan Hole Creek in Morgan Hole Campground, or Kissimmee River in Fort Kissimmee Campground.

H7. All campers and camping equipment must be removed from the range when recreation closes for the weekend, unless otherwise stated (see para H9).

H8. Emptying grey water and septic tanks into the porta-potties is prohibited.

H9. Hunt Permit Holders will be allowed to store campers in Morgan Hole and Willingham campgrounds during General Gun, Small Game and/or Spring Turkey Seasons, for an additional fee per hunt season. Campers shall be brought in no more than one week before the start of a hunt season and removed no later than one week after the hunt season ends.

H10. Vehicles and trailers may not be stored in campgrounds. Trailers are defined as any trailer not being used as sleeping quarters.

H11. Campers shall not be stored at Fort Kissimmee Campground.

H12. All access procedures apply. See Section B.

H13. Camping spots are first come, first served. Reserving spots ahead of time is prohibited. Anyone fighting over a camping spot shall have their camping privileges revoked immediately.

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## **I. Fishing Regulations**

*Refer to Section 12.3 in OI*

I1. All persons must comply with state regulations.

I2. Permit Holders may fish any body of water that is accessible in an open PRA Management Unit, as well as Lake Arbuckle (but not from the fishing pier at the Main Gate) and the Kissimmee River, during the allocated period for their particular permit.

I3. Boats are restricted to a maximum engine size of ten horsepower on Tomlin Hammock Lake. Gas or electric trolling motors shall be used.

I4. No boats, airboats, kayaks, or canoes, are allowed in any marsh on Avon Park Air Force Range.

I5. Airboats shall not access the Kissimmee River from Avon Park Air Force Range.

I6. Feeding alligators is prohibited. Aggressive alligators must be reported to Outdoor Recreation staff.

I7. Daily and possession bag limits will follow Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulations.



I8. Catfish are catch and release only between **April 15** until June 15 annually at Van Eeghan Ponds 1, 2, 3 and Tomlin Hammock Lake. These fish are stocked and fed to gain size prior to the Youth Fishing Derby.

I9. Freshwater game fish may be taken only by hook and line, or rod and reel.

I10. Trotlines and brush hooks are prohibited.

I11. Hunt Permit Holders can access the Kissimmee River through Avon Park Air Force to harvest alligators, if they have a state alligator tag for Pool B. All regular PRA access procedures apply (see Section B).

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## **J. Hiking Regulations**

*Refer to Section 12.2. in OI*

J1. There are 16.5 miles of maintained hiking and nature trails available: Lake Arbuckle Nature Trail with Boardwalk and Lake Arbuckle National Recreation Hiking Trail (16 miles).

J2. Hiking is not permitted during any hunt season, but is allowed after 1:00 PM during Spring Turkey Season.

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## **K. General Hunting Regulations**

*Refer to Section 11.6 in OI*

K1. All harvested animals must be checked in at the Outdoor Recreation Office (Building 600) with a Park Ranger. If no one is available at Building 600, fill out a weekend report form (available at the sign-in station) indicating the game that was harvested, where it was harvested, and your permit number. All game harvested must be checked through Building 600 with either of these two alternatives.

K1.1. All game harvested must be checked in at the Outdoor Recreation Office, prior to being skinned or dismembered. Field dressing of harvested game is strictly prohibited.

K2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer, **or turkey that is not on the ground**, is prohibited. Species legal to hunt are listed under each season (see Section N).

K3. Evidence of sex identification must remain attached to all deer and turkey at all times, and the entire head must remain with the carcass or meat of the deer or turkey while in camp or in transit when exiting the installation. All meat from harvested game that is not attached to the carcass must have a tag attached to it that lists the name, license number, and permit number of the hunter who killed the animal and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification. Tags attached to the carcass by Outdoor Recreation personnel must remain intact on the carcass while in camp or in transit when exiting the installation.

K4. The transportation of live wild game is prohibited.

K5. Hunting outside of the posted shooting hours is prohibited.

K6. Hunt Permit Holders and their Guest(s) must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material above the waist as an outer garment when in any hunt area during Muzzleloader, General Gun, and/or Small Game Seasons, except for those hunting waterfowl in Morgan Hole Creek, Kissimmee Marsh, or Arbuckle Marsh. Persons within the passenger compartment of a vehicle are not required to wear the fluorescent orange material unless they exit the vehicle.

K7. Tree stands or blinds are limited to three per person and must be in good working condition to provide a safe environment from which to hunt. All stands/blinds will be labeled with a name and either a) phone number or b) permit number, so that the owner may be contacted by staff. All tree stands are subject to random inspection. Unlabeled or unsafe tree stands will be confiscated by Outdoor Recreation upon detection.

K7.1. Permanent tree stands are not permitted in the Public Recreation Area. All tree stands erected during the season must be removed from the installation no later than two weeks after the close of General Gun Season or they become property of the Outdoor Recreation Program. Ground blinds must be removed from the installation no later than two weeks after the close of Spring Turkey Season. Tree stands shall not be erected until after the annual hunt safety brief. Tree stands found outside hunting season will be confiscated by Outdoor Recreation staff.

K7.2. No tree stands or ground blinds are permitted within 100 feet of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker tree. These trees are marked with white, yellow or orange painted bands.

K7.3. No tree stands will be placed within 200 feet of an impact area or property boundary.

K7.4. In the case of conflict between Permit Holders concerning tree stand or ground blind placement, if a resolution cannot be reached, all parties will be moved to different Management Units.

K7.5. Tree stand placement is first come, first served. The earlier placement of trail cameras does not reserve a hunting spot. Reserving of spots is prohibited.

K8. No person shall place, expose or distribute any grain or other food or mineral for wildlife. No person shall harvest wildlife on any land or waters upon which grain or other food has been deposited.

K9. 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. Recorded calls and sounds shall be used to hunt furbearers, wild hog, and crows only.

K9.1. The use of artificial lights for pursuing or taking game is prohibited unless specified during special hunts.

K10. Game shall be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset, except during Spring Turkey Season.

K11. All personal possessions must be removed from the installation at the end of each weekend, unless otherwise specified (see para H9 and K7.1).

K12. A group of three or more people on foot cannot concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up game.

K13. All Youth Hunt events (Deer Hunt, Gator Hunt, Spring Turkey Hunt) are open to dependents and/or non-dependents (grandchildren, nieces/nephews, etc.) of current Hunt Permit Holders. Participants must be between the ages of 12-16 to qualify.

K13.1. Participants of the Youth Deer Hunt and the Youth Alligator Hunt are required to register as per instructions from the Outdoor Recreation Office. All participants will be chosen by lottery. Non-dependents of Hunt Permit Holders require a signed and notarized Parental Consent Form.

K13.2. Participants of the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt are required to register ahead of time with the Outdoor Recreation Office before the posted dates of the Hunt. Non-dependents of Hunt Permit Holders require a signed and notarized Parental Consent Form.

K13.3. Participants of the Youth Fishing Derby are required to register with the Outdoor Recreation Office on the day of the Derby. Participants cannot be older than 16 years of age; however, there is no minimum age to qualify.

K14. Limited entry quota hog hunts shall be held 24 January 2020 to 23 February 2020 and as designated by the

installation commander. Subject to change due to military missions. Participation in these limited entry hog hunts will be chosen by lottery. The use of dogs shall be authorized as designated by the installation commander; all regulations for dog use apply (see Section M and Section O). Permissible firearms and authorized Management Units for limited entry hunts are at the discretion of the installation commander. Limited entry quota deer hunts may also be authorized by the installation commander during General Gun Season. Detailed information will be posted by Outdoor Recreation staff when limited entry hunts are scheduled.

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## **L. Permissible Firearms & Weapons**

*Refer to Section 9 in OI*

L1. During Archery Season, only archery equipment may be brought onto the installation. Crossbows are ONLY allowed during Archery season with a qualifying FWC Disabled Person Crossbow Permit. Long bows, crossbows and recurve bows, must have a minimum draw weight of 35lbs. Arrows used to take deer, turkey or hogs must be equipped with broadheads having a minimum width of 7/8 inches. Pistols of any kind are not permitted.

L2. During Muzzleloader Season, the following are permitted: muzzleloading firearms (weapons firing single bullets must be .30 caliber or larger; weapons firing two or more balls must be 20 gauge or larger).

L3. During General Gun and Small Game Seasons, the following are permitted: shotguns, archery equipment including crossbows, muzzleloading firearms as stated in para L2., rim-fire rifles (maximum velocity 1300 fps), and pistols. **A pistol is hereby defined as a firearm designed to be held and fired by use of a single hand, having a barrel length of 9 inches or less, and having a magazine inserted into the grip, or in the case of revolvers, cartridges inserted into the cylinder.**

L4. During Migratory Bird Season, the following firearms are permitted: shotguns (not larger than 10-gauge) plugged to a three-shell capacity, including a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun. The total capacity must not exceed three shells. Bows and crossbows may also be used.

L5. During Spring Turkey Season, the following firearms are permitted: shotguns using Number 2 or smaller diameter shot. Archery equipment and crossbows may also be used. Hunting ends at 1300 hours.

L6. During limited entry quota hunts, firearms, if permitted, will be designated by the installation commander (see para K14).

L7. Center-fire rifles and fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

L8. Only Hunt Permit Holders, underage children under direct control of a Hunt Permit Holder, and Guests of Hunt Permit Holders, shall possess firearms or archery equipment during the appropriate seasons. The possession of any type of firearm or archery equipment by any individual outside of the posted hunting season is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the commander. This includes Permit Holders with concealed carry permits.

L9. All firearms, including crossbows, must be unloaded, completely empty of ammunition, while at the Outdoor Recreation Office, any campground, or within a moving vehicle. Firearms can be loaded once the Public Recreation Area has been reached and movement of the vehicle has ceased. Firearms can only be discharged in accordance with para L10, para L11., and para L12. **A loaded firearm is hereby defined as a firearm with any ammunition in the chamber or magazine, a muzzleloader with a firing cap in place, a nocked arrow on a bow, or a nocked bolt on a crossbow.**

**L10. A firearm, regardless of any caliber or draw weight, may not be fired from a vehicle. Firearms may not be discharged from or across any roadway designated on the Public Recreation Area map and/or within 50 feet of Kissimmee Road.**

L11. The discharge of a firearm outside of periods open to hunting or in areas closed to hunting is prohibited.

**L12. Bows may be equipped with aiming devices with electronic computational capabilities or light projection (i.e. laser)**

features during Archery Season.

L13. The discharge of firearms (including pellet/BB guns) or the use of archery gear is prohibited within 200 yards of the marked boundary of any designated public campsite.

L14. Target practice is prohibited throughout the installation. However, muzzleloading guns may be cleared in the pits located at Willingham and Morgan Hole Campgrounds.

L15. Firing ranges on this installation are not open to any Permit Holders.

L16. The take of wildlife or freshwater fish with a gun between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise is prohibited. The Installation Commander may approve limited entry night hunts to take wild hog, raccoon, or non-protected mammals during non-daylight hours. The dates of these limited entry night hunts and equipment permitted will be posted at the Outdoor Recreation Office.

L17. No one shall be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while in possession of a gun or bow.

L18. No person shall take or assist in taking wildlife using a method that involves remote control aiming and discharging of a gun when that person is not physically present at the location of that gun.

L19. No person shall carry a concealed weapon (even with a permit) while on Avon Park AFR property.

L20. Air guns, including pre-charged pneumatic air guns, are prohibited.

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## **M. General Use of Dogs**

*Refer to Section 10 in OI*

M1. All dogs brought onto AF property must wear a collar bearing the name, telephone number, and address of the owner.

M2. All dogs must be under physical restraint at all times, except when they are being used by Hunt Permit Holders to pursue game during Small Game season and limited entry quota hunts.

M3. All dogs over six months of age must have a current rabies vaccination and have the vaccination tag attached to the collar. Prior to bringing the dogs onto the installation, rabies vaccination paperwork from a pet clinic or veterinarian for each dog must be submitted to the Outdoor Recreation Office. Self-administered rabies vaccination paperwork previously submitted to the Outdoor Recreation Office prior to January 01, 2018 will be honored until the expiration date.

M4. All Permit Holders who have lost dogs must report this information to the Outdoor Recreation Office before leaving the installation. Permit Holders must make every effort possible to locate lost dogs before leaving the installation.

M5. Dogs are allowed in all campgrounds. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to control his/her dogs at all times. Dogs creating disturbances in campgrounds must be removed from the installation if requested by the Outdoor Recreation Program or Law Enforcement employees.

M6. In all cases, Permit Holders are responsible for all actions of their dogs.

M7. The taking or pursuing of game mammals with dogs is prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander for limited entry quota hunts.

M8. No person shall knowingly or negligently allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of such wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.

M9. No dogs shall be free-roaming, except when they are being used by Hunt Permit Holders to pursue legal game during

Small Game Season and limited entry quota hunts.

M10. Dogs used to pursue game during Small Game and Migratory Bird Seasons are limited to bird dogs and retrievers.

M11. The number of dogs in the possession of a Hunt Permit Holder during Small Game Season is limited to 4 dogs.

M12. Dogs on leashes may be used for tracking wounded game during any hunt season in any Management Unit (see para M7). Before tracking wounded game, the Permit Holder must first obtain authorization from the Outdoor Recreation Office.

M13. Permit Holders may hunt waterfowl or snipe with dogs in Kissimmee Marsh and Arbuckle Marsh during the appropriate seasons. All dog use regulations apply.

M14. The training of hunting dogs is prohibited.

## N. Hunt Season Dates

*Refer to Attachment 2 in OI*

These dates are **subject to change** due to military missions or updated biological information.

SEASON	DETAILS	START DATE	END DATE
Archery Season	Still-hunt only; see N2	14 September 2019	13 October 2019
Muzzleloader Season	Still-hunt only; see N3	19 October 2019	28 October 2019
General Gun Season	Still-hunt only; see N4 and Section O	02 November 2019	19 January 2020
Small Game Season	Designated units, walk-in only; see N6	09 November 2019	19 January 2020
	Range-wide; see N6	24 January 2020	01 March 2020
Limited Entry Quota Hog Hunt (w/ dogs)	See N5	24 January 2020	23 February 2020
Youth Spring Turkey Hunt	See N8	14 March 2020	15 March 2020
Spring Turkey Season	See N8	21 March 2020	26 April 2020

Migratory game bird seasons, bag limits and methods of taking can be obtained in two separate FWC brochures titled (2019-2020) *Migratory Bird Regulations for Dove, Snipe, Woodcock, Rail, Moorhen, Crow and Early Waterfowl Seasons* (available in mid-September) and (2019-2020) *Migratory Game Bird Regulations for Waterfowl and Coot Seasons* (available in mid-October). Please reference “myfwc.com/duck”

### N1. Bag Limits

- a. Deer – Daily bag limit of 2; Possession limit of 4; Annual bag limit of 5 of which, no more than 2 shall be antlerless. See FWC <https://myfwc.com/hunting/regulations/faqs/> for further information.
- b. Wild Hog – No size or bag limit
- c. Turkey – Daily limit of 1, season & possession limit of 2
- d. Quail – Daily limit of 12, possession limit of 24
- e. Eastern Grey Squirrel – Daily limit of 12, possession limit of 24
- f. Rabbit – Daily limit of 12, possession limit of 24
- g. Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, skunk and nutria – No bag limits

## **N2. Archery Season**

a. Legal to take: Antlered deer with at least 1 antler having 3 or more points (each point 1 inch or more in length) or a main beam length of 10 inches or more. Antlerless deer (which includes does and bucks with antlers less than 5 inches in length, but not spotted fawn). Bearded turkey, wild hog, coyote, eastern grey squirrel, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, skunk.

## **N3. Muzzleloader Season**

a. Legal to take: Antlered deer with at least 1 antler having 3 or more points (each point 1 inch or more in length) or a main beam length of 10 inches or more. Wild hog, coyote, eastern grey squirrel, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, skunk.

## **N4. General Gun Season**

a. Legal to take: Antlered deer with at least 1 antler having 3 or more points (each point 1 inch or more in length) or a main beam length of 10 inches or more. Wild hog, coyote, eastern grey squirrel, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, skunk. Migratory birds within Federal season dates.

## **N5. Limited Entry Quota Hog Hunt (see Section O)**

- a. Legal to take: Wild hog
- b. Any hog caught with dogs must be harvested. Mutilating and releasing hogs is strictly prohibited.
- c. Wild hogs will only be taken from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset.
- d. Rabies vaccinations, GPS and behavioral correction collars will be required for all dogs
- e. Authorized Management Units, permissible firearms, and lottery participants will be posted by Outdoor Recreation.

## **N6. Small Game Season**

- a. Legal to take: quail, eastern grey squirrel, rabbits, coyotes, raccoon, opossum and snipe (check season dates).
- b. Hogs may be harvested, but the use of dogs to pursue and take hogs is prohibited, except if a limited entry quota hunt is authorized by the Installation Commander.
- c. Units will be designated for walk-in only small game hunting during General Gun Season. After January 19, small game hunting is authorized range-wide; the driving of firebreaks will be authorized at this time.
- d. Rabbit dogs are prohibited.
- e. GPS and correction collars are not required for bird dogs.

## **N7. Migratory Birds**

- a. Dove, duck and snipe can be harvested when the Federal and State season dates overlap with APAFR General Gun and Small Game Seasons.
- b. Early dove and duck seasons are not in effect at Avon Park Air Force Range.
- c. To harvest any game including ducks on the Kissimmee River, the individual must have an APAFR Hunt Permit.

## **N8. Spring Turkey Season**

- a. Legal to take: Gobblers and bearded turkey only.
- b. The hunting of bearded turkeys is permitted from one half-hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
- c. The take of wild hog is prohibited during spring turkey season.

*For firearm regulations for each season, refer to Section L. Permissible Firearms & Weapons*

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## **O. Limited Entry Quota Hunts**

*Refer to Section 11.7 in OI*

O1. Limited entry quota hog hunts are authorized by the installation commander during which dogs may be used for the pursuit and take of wild hog. These limited entry quota hunts are scheduled from January 24, 2020 through February 23, 2020. Additional opportunities for limited entry night hunts will be made available during summer months at the discretion of the installation commander. Limited entry quota deer hunts may also be authorized by the installation commander during General Gun Season.

O2. Outdoor Recreation staff will identify Management Units in advance of the limited entry quota hunt. Units will be selected based on biological resources management needs and mission essential criteria, and final selection is at the discretion of the installation commander. All limited entry quota hunts are subject to cancellation due to conflicts with the military mission (see para K14).

O2.1. For limited entry quota hog hunts, Management Units will be identified two weeks in advance of the date.

O2.2. For limited entry quota deer hunts, Management Units will be identified four weeks in advance of the date.

O3. A lottery will be used to determine groups selected for limited entry quota hunts.

O3.1. Hunt groups will designate a leader who will compile a list of all individuals in their party and submit one application for the hunt. Group applications will be emailed to [apafroudoorrec@gmail.com](mailto:apafroudoorrec@gmail.com). Only complete applications will be considered. Groups will be drawn and selected together.

O3.1.1. A group may comprise no more than 15 individuals; all group members must be current PRA Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holders in good standing to qualify.

O3.1.2. An individual member of one group cannot be a member of a second group. Each individual only gets one chance in the lottery.

O3.1.3. Guests and Non-Hunt Companions are not eligible for draw in the lottery. Underage dependents and non-dependents are covered by an associated Hunt Permit Holder and do not count towards the total number of group members.

O3.2. All rabies vaccination paperwork must be submitted for every dog with the group application to be considered for the lottery draw.

O3.3. In the case that a limited entry quota hunt is cancelled due to military missions, the selected groups will be granted a hunt on the next available weekend.

O3.4. Once a group is selected for a limited entry quota hunt, that group will not be re-selected until all other participant groups have been selected.

O3.4.1. If a selected group is unable to attend the hunt they are selected for, another group will be chosen in their place and the original group will be re-entered in the lottery. Advance notice of this type of absence must be made to Outdoor Recreation staff no less than one week before the date of the hunt to be re-entered into the lottery.

O4. Each group may have no more than 30 dogs in their possession, regardless of the number of individuals within that group.

O4.1. A group may not have more dogs on the day of the hunt than they pre-registered with their application, even if it is under the 30-dog limit.

O4.2. All dogs used during the limited entry hog or deer hunts must be equipped with both GPS and behavior correction collars.

O5. A limit of one group will be drawn for every 1,500 acres of available habitat within the selected Management Units, not to exceed five groups.

O6. All selected individuals will be present for an in-briefing the morning of the limited entry quota hunt. All dogs will be accounted for before the hunt, to include verification of rabies vaccination paperwork, GPS collars, behavioral correction collars, and a total count of dogs. At the conclusion of the hunt, all selected individuals will be present for an

out-briefing to verify all dogs are accounted for and transported off the installation, unless prior arrangements for early departure have been made with Outdoor Recreation staff.

O6.1. In the event that a group member cannot be present for the in-briefing, that individual forfeits his/her opportunity to participate in the quota hunt for which he/she was selected. The individual will be re-entered in the lottery with his/her group as per para O3.4.

O7. Selected Management Units will be inspected prior to the limited entry quota hunt to note conditions of the range, infrastructure, and biological resources. These conditions will be reviewed during the in-briefing (see para O6) and expectations will be clearly addressed. A post-hunt inspection will verify that all infrastructure and resources were left in good standing.

O8. All wild hogs captured during the limited entry quota hunt will be harvested. No hogs will be released.

O9. All roads and trails authorized for use during the hunt will be identified during the in-briefing, to include any firebreaks available for vehicle use. The closest campground to the selected Management Units for each limited entry quota hunt will be authorized for use by the selected hunting groups. All dogs and equipment must be stored in the designated campground.

O10. Selected individuals and/or groups are not permitted outside of the Management Units, or to utilize roads, trails, and/or firebreaks, not designated for the limited entry quota hunt in question, for hunting purposes. The pursuit and take of game other than wild hogs by use of dogs during a limited entry quota hog hunt is prohibited. The pursuit and take of game other than white-tailed deer by use of dogs during a limited entry quota deer hunt is prohibited.

O11. All other regulations apply to limited entry quota hunts.

O12. The continuation of these limited entry quota hunt opportunities is contingent on success as measured by zero violations of these and all other regulations.

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## **P. Non-Game Wildlife Regulations**

*Refer to Section 13 in OI*

P1. No wildlife or freshwater fish or their nests, eggs, young, homes or dens shall be taken, transported, stored, served, bought, sold, or possessed in any manner or quantity at any time except as specifically permitted by these rules. Nor shall anyone take, poison, store, buy, sell, possess any wildlife or freshwater fish, except as specifically permitted by this document.

P2. No one shall wantonly or willfully waste wildlife.

P3. Intentionally placing, offering, or allowing the placement of, food or garbage in such a manner that it attracts bears, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and/or sandhill cranes, or in a manner that is likely to create or which does create, a public nuisance, is prohibited.

P4. State and federal laws protect native species of birds. Native birds shall not be taken or harassed, except as described in this instruction. Unprotected non-native bird species include House (English) Sparrows and European Starlings.

P5. Unprotected mammals include armadillos, Norway rats, black rats, and house mice.

P6. Frogs, except gopher frogs, may be taken day or night, year-round by hand, gigs, clubs, or hook and line. See Section B for access procedures and para C14 for prohibited driving hours.

P7. Taking cooters, box turtles and snapping turtles from the wild is prohibited. For all other freshwater turtles, take is limited to one turtle per person per day from the wild for noncommercial use. Freshwater turtles can only be taken by hand, dip net, minnow seine, or baited hook.



P8. Softshell turtles shall not be taken from May 01 through July 31.

P9. Taking or possessing gopher tortoises, or parts thereof, is prohibited. Harassment, including allowing dogs to dig burrows of gopher tortoises, is prohibited.

P10. Taking or possessing any snakes, including venomous snakes, is prohibited.

P11. Killing or attempting to kill or wound endangered or threatened species, or species of special concern, is prohibited. Capturing, harming, harassing, or possessing, any protected species or their nests, eggs, or parts thereof, is prohibited. Current listings of these species can be obtained at the Outdoor Recreation Office.

P12. All wildlife is protected and shall not be harassed, injured, killed, or removed from the installation, except as specifically authorized by these regulations.

## **Q. PRA Permit Types**

*Refer to Attachment 4 in OI*

### **ANNUAL HUNT & GUEST PERMITS**

#### **Individual PRA Hunt/Recreation Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

#### **Companion PRA Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Limit one (1) per PRA Hunt/Recreation Permit Holder; non-transferrable.

#### **Companion PRA Non-Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Limit one (1) per PRA Hunt/Recreation Permit Holder; non-transferrable.

#### **Purple Heart Hunt Permit (PRA and MRA)**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

DD-214 or Purple Heart Citation required to qualify.

#### **Active Duty Military PRA Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Military CAC or Military ID required

#### **Retired Military PRA Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Military ID required

#### **Military PRA Companion Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Limit one (1) per Active Duty/Retired Military Hunt Permit Holder; non-transferrable.

## **Military PRA Companion Non-Hunt Permit**

Refer to Section 8.1. in OI

Limit one (1) per Active Duty/Retired Military Hunt Permit Holder; non-transferrable.

## **Individual Hunt Guest Permit**

Refer to Section F in Regulation Summary; refer to Section 8.2. in OI

Limit one (1) per PRA Hunt/Recreation Permit Holder per weekend; non-transferrable.

Limit three (3) visits per hunt year.

Not valid opening weekends of Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, or Small Game Seasons; not valid first four (4) weekends of Spring Turkey Season

## **Individual Non-Hunt Guest Permit**

Refer to Section F in Regulation Summary; refer to Section 8.2 in OI

Limit one (1) per PRA Hunt/Recreation Permit Holder per weekend; non-transferrable.

Not valid open weekend of Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, or Small Game Seasons; not valid first four (4) weekends of Spring Turkey Season

## **R. Glossary of Terms**

*Refer to Florida Administrative Code 68A-1.004 for definitions not listed*

**Airboat** – any boat, sled, sea skiff or swamp boat pushed, pulled or propelled by airpower generated by a motor of more than 25 horsepower

**All-terrain vehicle (ATV)** – an engine-powered vehicle with wheels or tracks of less than a 60-inch wheelbase measured from the center of the forward wheel or hub to the center of the rearmost wheel or hub.

**Amphibians** – all members of the class *Amphibia* (for example frogs, toads, mudpuppies, newts and salamanders).

**Archaeological resources** - archaeological resources on the Range are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 (Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470 aa-mm) as amended. Removal of protected materials is punishable by a fine of \$10,000.00 and/or 1 year in federal prison for the first offence. A fine of \$100,000.00 and/or five years in federal prison are the punishments for the second and other subsequent offenses. Additionally, any equipment and vehicles used in the removal of archaeological materials shall be confiscated. Archaeological resources are defined in ARPA as “any material remains of past human life or activities that are of archaeological interest.”

**Bicycle** - a vehicle propelled solely by human power, having two tandem wheels, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear wheels. The term does not include such a vehicle with an electric or gas-powered motor, with a seat height of no more than 25 inches from the ground when the seat is adjusted to its highest position, or a scooter or similar device.

**Companion** - limited to include spouses, common law marriages, fiancés, fiancées, and significant others.

**Dependent** - individual less than 18 years of age on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the permit year accompanying an APAFR permit holder (host). This individual can be either a legally dependent child or a child with a signed parental-consent form.

**Firearm** - shotgun, rifle, pistol, revolver, gas gun, blow gun, bow, crossbow, or any other device mechanically propelling an arrow, spear, or other projectile.

**Guest** - individual that is 18 years or older on September 01 of the permit year accompanying an APAFR permit holder (host).

**Hunting** - the lawful pursuit, trapping, shooting, capture, collection, or killing of wildlife or the lawful attempt to pursue trap, shoot or capture, collect or kill wildlife.

**Legal game** – antlered deer, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, quail, rail, snipe, woodcock, duck, dove, geese, coot and common moorhen during open seasons established for each species by Rule 68A-13.003, 68A-13.004 or 68A-13.008, F.A.C., unless otherwise stipulated for a particular species in a regulation established for a specific wildlife management area, wildlife and environmental area, public small game hunting area or public use areas.

**Migratory game birds** – ducks, rails, coots, gallinules, Wilson’s snipe, woodcock and doves.

**Roadway** – that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.

**Take** – the term shall include taking, attempting to take, pursuing, hunting, molesting, capturing, or killing any wildlife or freshwater fish, or their nests or eggs by any means whether or not such actions result in obtaining possession of such wildlife or freshwater fish or their nests or eggs.