

Part 203 Chapter 5 Firearms and Hunting.

Rule 5.1 General.

(a) It shall be unlawful to possess any firearm, air rifle, BB gun or primitive weapon in a public park within the Reservoir Project Area, except as otherwise specifically permitted by applicable state law.

(b) Hunting dates and bag limits are as determined by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) for the Hills Unit for private land, except during the permit-only archery hunts below spillway and in Parcels M & N on the Northshore when the limit is one buck and two does per permit. The definition of a legal buck for the special permit hunt is having EITHER a 15-inch inside spread OR an 18-inch main beam.

(c) It shall be unlawful to discharge any pistol, handgun, shotgun with buckshot, centerfire or rimfire rifles (including .22) within the Reservoir Project Area. Shotguns with slugs may be used in areas designated below. Muzzle loaders with black powder may be used in areas designated below. Breach loaders and other smokeless primitive weapons are not allowed.

(d) Target practice is not allowed.

(e) Activities in the area known as the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, north of Highway 43 in Madison County, are exempt from these regulations. Regulations for Pearl River Wildlife Management Area are set forth in 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 2, Rule 1.1 and 1.19.

(f) Nothing contained herein shall conflict with the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and such rules shall control in the event of conflict.

(g) All hunters must comply with MDWFP licensure requirements and when applicable, the District's hunting permit and special permit requirements.

(h) Food plots may be constructed only by the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. Rye Grass is not allowed.

(i) Supplemental feeding of wildlife is prohibited.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.2 Areas closed to hunting.

(a) Hunting is not allowed within the Reservoir Project Area surrounding Pelahatchie Bay – the area bounded by Spillway Road, Highway 25, Holly Bush Road, Highway 471 and Northshore Causeway except Parcels M and N as provided below.

(b) Hunting is not allowed within one quarter (1/4) mile of any of the District's park or campground area boundary.

(c) Hunting is not allowed in the areas known as the undeveloped portion of Lost Rabbit and that portion of the Reservoir Project Area along and on both sides of Old Rice Road adjacent to Twin Harbor and Haley Creek Subdivisions.

(d) Hunting is not allowed in Main Harbor, Sportsman Marina, Sunset Marina (aka Safe Harbor Marina), England Harbor, Jackson Yacht Club Harbor or Bridgepoint Marina.

(e) Areas leased for hunting are closed to hunting by the public. Leasing of lands for the purpose of hunting shall conform to Sec. 51-9-122 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended.

(f) Brown's Landing (aka Expedition Point)

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.3 Areas open to hunting and type of hunting.

(a) Found Rabbit and Catfish Landing shall be open to hunting for turkey, small game, deer and hogs (See Rule 5.4).

(b) The area north of Arbor Landing and south of Highway 43 in Rankin County and all of the Project Area North of Highway 43, shall be open to turkey, deer, hogs and small game hunting (see Rule 5.4).

(c) The waters of the Reservoir north of a line between Arbor Landing and Twin Harbor shall be open to waterfowl hunting with non-toxic shot.

(d) The area bounded by Highways 471 and 25 and Pelahatchie Creek and the area east of Highway 25 in Rankin County shall be open to only archery hunting for deer, turkey and hogs.

(e) The area below the Main Dam and the Spillway shall be open to only archery hunting for deer, turkey and hogs by special permit only. The Spillway area shall be open for squirrel and small game hunting as specified in Rule 5.4 and 5.9 of these regulations. Parking is only allowed below the Main Dam and Spillway area and shall be limited to the paved parking areas near the Spillway, including the Madison County Spillway parking area and Mule Jail Trail parking area. For Rankin County, parking is allowed in the soccer field area behind the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District Shop and Reservoir Police Department and in the Spillway parking lot.

(f) Parcels M & N on the northshore shall be open to ~~only~~ archery hunting only for deer and turkey hunting by special permit only.

(g) Special permits in (f) and (g) above will be obtained through a public draw system where winners are randomly chosen. The public draw system shall be conducted in accordance with procedures and shall be subject to rules, restrictions and fees adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors of the District.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.4 Types of firearms allowed.

- (a) Deer or Hogs:
 - (i) Archery Equipment: Longbows, recurves, compounds and crossbows.
 - (ii) Primitive Firearms: Only muzzle loading weapons using black powder or black powder substitute shall be allowed.
 - (iii) Shotguns with slugs only.
- (b) Turkey: Archery equipment and shotguns with #2 shot or smaller.
- (c) Small Game: Shotguns using #4 shot or smaller.
- (d) Waterfowl: Shotguns using non-toxic shot.

Rule 5.5 Types of firearms not allowed.

- (a) Centerfire or rimfire rifles (including .22 caliber), air rifles, gas powered rifles or CO₂ powered rifles.
- (b) Shotguns with buckshot.
- (c) Handguns.
- (d) Breach loaders and other smokeless “primitive” weapons.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.6 All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

- (a) ATVs were not allowed within the Reservoir Project Areas except as provided herein.
- (b) ATVs may be used to retrieve a harvested deer or hog.
- (c) ATVs may be used for access to hunting areas by a person of over 70 years of age or handicapped as defined by the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration.

(d) Joy riding or mid riding is not allowed.

(e) ATVs shall not be allowed below the main dam, except with permission for game retrieval during special draw archery hunts.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.7 Other vehicles.

(a) All other vehicles, including but not limited to, trucks, jeeps, automobiles, vans, busses, dirt bikes or motorcycles shall be restricted to roads and areas marked as “open to vehicles”.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.8 Tree stands, camps and garbage.

Tree Stands and Blinds: It shall be illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. Destroying, defacing, cutting, driving nails or spikes into, or otherwise damaging any standing live tree, natural feature, or plant is prohibited. Portable stands (including tripods and ground blinds) may be used. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Portable stands may not be installed within the Reservoir Project Area prior to 7 days before deer season opens, nor left longer than 7 days after deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of.

Spikes, nails or other metal shall not be driven or screwed into trees of the Reservoir Project Area.

No permanent tree stands will be allowed.

Fall-Arrest Systems: While climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aides, or while hunting from a tree stand within the Reservoir Project Area, hunters shall use a fall-arrest system (full body harness) that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

No camps, camp houses, trailers or other temporary or permanent structures shall be allowed. Primitive (tent) camping is allowed.

Field dressing of deer and hogs is allowed at site of harvest. All garbage, animal carcasses, etc. shall be disposed of off of the Reservoir Project Area in accordance with Part 203 Chapter 6 of PRVWSD regulations and MDWFP regulations.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.9 Spillway and Small Game Squirrel Regulations.

(a) The following regulations are applicable to squirrel and/or small game

hunting below the Main Dam and the Spillway area only.

(b) Hunting for squirrel during the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks fall squirrel season shall be restricted below the Main Dam and Spillway area to only weekend hunts occurring during the month of February and shall occur on a daily basis during the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks spring squirrel season. Any and all Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks state licensing requirements and bag limits apply to squirrel hunts below the Main Dam and the Spillway area for both the fall and spring season.

(c) Spillway squirrel hunts are to be youth oriented. At least one child aged 15 and under must be a part of the party and must remain under direct supervision of a licensed or exempt adult, 21 years or older. Adults can carry firearms and shoot squirrels. Children under 15 must carry proof of satisfactorily completing an approved hunter safety course.

(d) During the weekend February season, legal shooting hours are from noon to 30 minutes after sunset on Friday, and 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset on Saturdays and Sunday. Spring season is open daily with legal shooting hours being 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

(e) No dogs allowed.

(f) Shotguns only, No. 4 size shot or smaller.

(g) All members of the hunting party must wear a fluorescent hunter orange vest, minimum of 500 square inches, while hunting. No exceptions.

(h) Hunting parties must check in before each hunt and must check out after each hunt, and return an information card upon check out. The check station will be the Reservoir Shop near the deer weighting station. Information will include names of each hunter, side of river chosen (Madison or Rankin), and harvest results. During hunt, the information card must remain on the dashboard of hunting party's vehicle while in the designated area. If a party leaves the hunting area for lunch, they must check out and check back in prior to hunting in the afternoon.

(i) Any small game legal during the February season (rabbit, raccoon, opossum, bobcat) may be harvested using state limits; however, only squirrel may be harvested during the spring season.

Rule 5.10 Definition of Areas.

(a) The undeveloped area of Lost Rabbit consists of District lands east of the Natchez Trace in Sections 11 and 14 of T7N, R2E Madison County, Mississippi.

(b) The undeveloped area of Catfish Landing consists of District lands west of the Natchez Trace in Sections 31 & 32 of T8N, R3E and Section 6, T7N, R3E. Madison County, Mississippi.

(c) The undeveloped area of Brown's Landing consists of District lands east of the Natchez Trace in Sections 22 & 27 of T8N, R3E, Madison County, Mississippi.

(d) The undeveloped areas along and on both sides of Old Rice Road adjacent to Twin Harbor and Haley Creek Subdivisions consisting of District lands west and north of the Natchez Trace in Section 1 & 11, T7N, R2E, Madison County, Mississippi.

(e) The undeveloped area of Found Rabbit consists of District lands east of the Natchez Trace in Section 12, T7N, R2E and Section 7, T7N, R3E, Madison County, Mississippi.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.11 Implied consent to search of vehicles.

(a) By bringing a vehicle on the Reservoir Project Area for the purpose of hunting the properties as defined herein, the driver has consented to search of the vehicle, entering, exiting or located in a hunting environment, for compliance with these regulations and the regulations of the MDWFP.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)

Rule 5.12 Penalty.

Each violation of this regulation shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) and/or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed fifteen (15) days, or both, such fine and imprisonment as determined by the Court.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 51-9-127* (Rev. 2000)