

Avon Park Air Force Range



Wildlife Management Area Regulation Summary 2023 - 2024



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*Lt. Col. Michael S. Ryan, USAF
Installation Commander*

Welcome to the Avon Park Air Force Range



This publication is designed to provide the public with a summary of the rules and regulations pertaining to hunting and recreational use on the Public and Military Recreation Areas at the Avon Park Air Force Range and is by nature not comprehensive. The information in this publication refers to the comprehensive copy of the Operating Instructions (OI), which is available for viewing during regular office hours at the Outdoor Recreation Office, as well as on the official Outdoor Recreation Program website at: <https://avon.isportsman.net>

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY.

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

OUTDOOR RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Outdoor Recreation Office
29 South Boulevard, Avon Park AFR, FL 33825

✉: apafrooutdoorrec@gmail.com

🌐: <https://avon.isportsman.net>

📘: <http://facebook.com/APAFROOutdoorRec>

Office Hours: Thursday – Monday, 08:00 – 16:00

☎: (863) 452-4254

📞: (863) 449-7913

📞: (863) 449-0138

The Office is CLOSED Tuesdays & Wednesdays



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Rescue Ops (Emergency Line): (863) 452-4117 or 911

Rescue Ops (Non-Emergency): (863) 452-4225

FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline: (888) 404-3922

Gate Troubles (After Hours): (863) 449-0138

OUTDOOR RECREATION STAFF

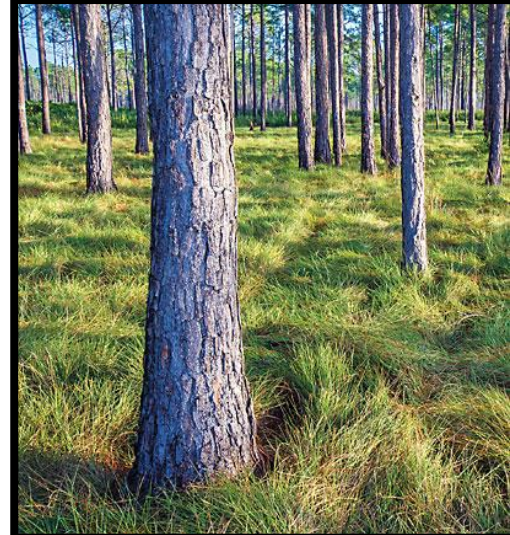
Patrick Blake: Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator

Brenda Reynolds: Administrative Professional

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Always know where you are at Avon Park Air Force Range. Download the AVENZA MAPS app and scan the QR codes below for real-time navigation while on the Range.



Section 1: Permits

A. Permit Requirements

- 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.
- A2. An appropriate photo ID card identifying the status of the bearer shall be presented upon pick-up of any Permit from the Outdoor Recreation Office. All persons 16 years or older shall carry some form of current photographic identification while on the installation.
- A3. 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 these regulations. The U.S. Air Force is not responsible for the personal property of Permit Holders.
- A3.1. By accepting any Avon Park AFR Permit, Permit Holders give consent to have their vehicles searched while on the installation. If a vehicle is towed or impounded, Permit Holders are liable to reimburse the towing agent on behalf of the vehicle owner/operator.
- A4. All Permit Holders shall receive an Annual Safety Briefing prior to receiving a Permit.
- A5. All children under the age of 18, wherein the Permit Holder is not their legal guardian, shall have a properly completed Parental Consent Form on file before the Permit Holder can bring the underage child as a Guest. Parental Consent Forms expire 31 August of each year.
- A6. All persons under the age of 18 must ride in the vehicle with a Permit Holder.
- A7. All Permits are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

A8. MRA Specific Permit Requirements

A8.1. MRA (Military Recreation Area) Permits are available for Active Duty and Retired Military personnel or 100% Disabled Veterans. A valid Military CAC Card or Military ID must be presented at the time of Permit pick-up.

A8.1.1. Current APCI personnel are also eligible for MRA Permits with proper identification indicating eligibility.

By Receipt of a Permit, the Permit Holder:

1. Agrees to read and abide by the regulations and restrictions contained in this instruction and/or any regulations issued under the authority of the Installation Commander.
2. Understands that the Avon Park Air Force Range is an active armament test range and, as such, users could encounter unexploded ordnance (UXO) and assumes the risk associated with engaging in outdoor recreation on the Public and Military Recreation Areas.
3. Agrees that engaging in outdoor recreation on the Avon Park Air Force Range is at their own risk and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America against any and all claims for loss, damage, or injury, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, sustained to their person or property or to the person or property of any minors under their care or control.
4. Recognizes that open portions of the Recreation Areas are subject to short-term or temporary closures in support of military test and training missions, and that viewing the Weekly Range Forecast prior to entering the Recreation Areas is mandatory.



B. Permit Types & Fees

Copies of regulations are available online at <https://avon.isportsman.net/regulations.aspx> and will be provided upon purchase of any annual or seasonal Permit. Permits are valid from 01 August until 31 July of the following year.

HUNT PERMITS

B1. PRA HUNT PERMITS

750 available

Allows the Permit Holder to hunt (including participation in Limited Entry Dog Hunts), fish, camp, or engage in any allowed recreational activity. Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders may bring in up to three (3) children under the age of 18 free of charge; only one (1) child may carry a firearm while hunting in this manner. Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders may bring in one (1) Hunt Guest as stated in para B7.

PRA ANNUAL HUNT PERMIT

\$425

(Early Bird Pricing)

\$525

(Regular Pricing)

PRA COMPANION HUNT PERMIT

\$250

(Early Bird Pricing)

\$350

(Regular Pricing)

Requires validation - contact Outdoor Recreation staff to unlock

B2. PRA MILITARY-DISCOUNTED HUNT PERMITS

Available to eligible Active Duty and Retired Military personnel and their spouses or significant others. These Permits allow Permit Holders all activities as outlined in para B1. **All Permits shown below require validation; contact Outdoor Recreation staff to unlock.**

PRA ACTIVE DUTY HUNT PERMIT

\$170

PRA RETIRED MILITARY HUNT PERMIT

\$300

PRA MILITARY COMPANION HUNT PERMIT

\$75

B3. MRA HUNT PERMITS

150 available

See para A8.1. and A8.1.1. for eligibility. These Permits allow Permit Holders all activities as outlined in para B1. **All Permits below require validation; contact Outdoor Recreation staff to unlock.**

MRA ANNUAL HUNT PERMIT

\$30

MRA COMPANION HUNT PERMIT

\$10

B4. PURPLE HEART HUNT PERMITS

Available to Purple Heart Recipients and their spouses or significant others. These Permits allow Permit Holders all activities outlined in para B1., but allow access to both Public and Military Recreation Areas. **All Permits below require validation; contact Outdoor Recreation staff to unlock.**



PURPLE HEART HUNT PERMIT

FREE

PURPLE HEART COMPANION HUNT PERMIT

\$85

B5. LIMITED ENTRY DOG HUNT PERMITS (PRA ONLY)

120 available

Allows the Permit Holder to participate in **four (4) weekends** of deer dog hunts and **five (5) weekends** of hog dog hunts in the specified PRA Dog Hunt Units.

DOG HUNT ENDORSEMENT

FREE

Current PRA Annual Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit required

DOG HUNT ONLY PERMIT

\$350

Valid only for scheduled Limited Entry Dog Hunts; this Permit does not allow Hunt Guests

NON-HUNT RECREATION PERMITS

300 available

B6. RECREATION PERMITS

Allows the Permit Holder to fish, camp, hike, or engage in any allowed recreational activity, with the exception of taking wildlife. However, a Recreation Permit Holder may ride in a vehicle with a Hunt Permit Holder. Recreation Permit Holders may bring in up to three (3) children under the age of 18 free of charge. Recreation Permit Holders may not bring in Hunt Guests at any time. Recreation is restricted to the Kissimmee River boat ramp, the Van Eeghan fishponds and Tomlin Hammock Lake, and Willingham, Morgan Hole and Fort Kissimmee Campgrounds, during the duration of Archery, Muzzleloader and General Gun hunting seasons.

PRA ANNUAL RECREATION PERMIT

\$50

This Permit takes the place of the PRA Companion Non-Hunt Permit

PRA WEEKEND RECREATION PERMIT

\$25

Only available after General Gun season ends; must be purchased Mondays - Thursdays; valid until picked up

GUEST PERMITS

B7. HUNT GUEST PERMITS

Allows the Permit Holder to hunt, fish, camp, or engage in any allowed recreational activity, while under the direct supervision of a current Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holder. Direct supervision is herein defined as being within visual or voice range (electronic communication is acceptable if hunting in the same Management Unit). Failure to properly escort and supervise any Hunt Guest will result in the suspension of privileges of the Hunt Guest and the host Permit Holder.

Hunt Guests Permits shall **NOT** be purchased by a Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holder on behalf of his/her Guest. Hunt Guest Permits are available for purchase Mondays - Thursdays; see below for exceptions.

PRA HUNT GUEST PERMIT

\$75

- Unavailable opening weekends of each hunt season & the first four (4) weekends of Spring Turkey season Hunt Guests must share a vehicle with their host Hunt Permit Holder
- Hunt Guest Permits are valid for one (1) weekend per purchase, up to a maximum of three (3) weekends during a single permit year
- Hunt Guest Permits are valid until picked up, except on opening weekends as outlined above

MRA HUNT GUEST PERMIT

\$10

- MRA Hunt Guest Permits are valid for one (1) week from the date of purchase, up to a maximum of fifteen (15) weeks during a single permit year
- MRA Hunt Guest Permits are valid until picked up



ATTENTION

Current PRA and/or MRA Hunt Permit and/or Companion Hunt Permit Holders SHALL NOT purchase Hunt Guest Permits on behalf of their Hunt Guests. The Hunt Guest shall create his/her own iSportsman account and purchase his/her own Hunt Guest Permit.

Beginning in the 2023 - 2024 permit year, Hunt Guest Permits purchased incorrectly by the host Permit Holder will be considered as a donation to the Outdoor Recreation Program and no Hunt Guest Permit will be issued.

C. Obtaining a Permit

C1. All individuals eligible for a Permit at Avon Park Air Force Range, as stated in Section I-A, shall purchase a Permit using the following steps:

C1.1. Log on to <https://avon.isportsman.net>.

C1.2. Click on the "Log In" tab. Sign in using your Login ID and password; if creating an iSportsman account for the first time, click on the "Register" tab.

C1.2.1. To register an account for the first time, enter all required information. All iSportsman account information shall match that on the individual's current Driver's License. Falsified account information may result in suspension of recreation privileges.

C1.2.2. It is the responsibility of the individual to verify his/her account information when setting up an account or renewing a Permit. All individuals shall update their iSportsman account information annually, especially the contact and vehicle information.

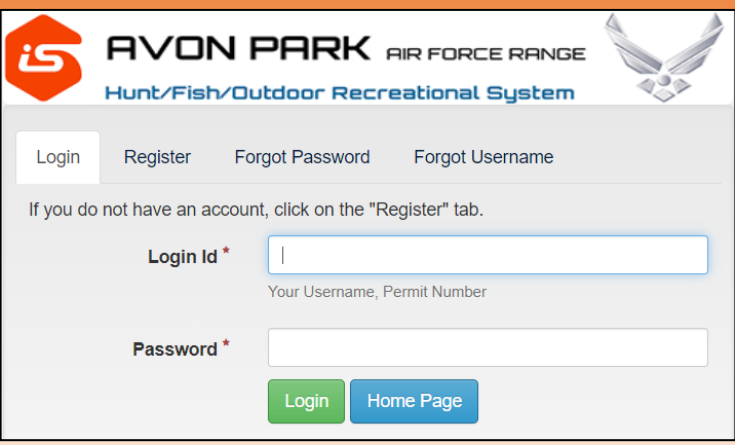
C1.2.3. A valid email address is required and is the only way to recover a forgotten Login ID or password online. A forgotten Login ID can also be recovered, or a forgotten password reset, by calling the Outdoor Recreation Office during posted business hours.

C1.2.4. **DO NOT** create a duplicate iSportsman account. If you have trouble accessing your account, contact the Outdoor Recreation Office for assistance. Individuals creating duplicate or multiple iSportsman accounts may be subject to suspension of recreation privileges.

C1.3. Click the "My Safety Briefs" tab on the account homepage. Watch the two briefing videos and pass the short quizzes.

C1.4. Click the "Acquire Permits" button to purchase the desired Permit(s).

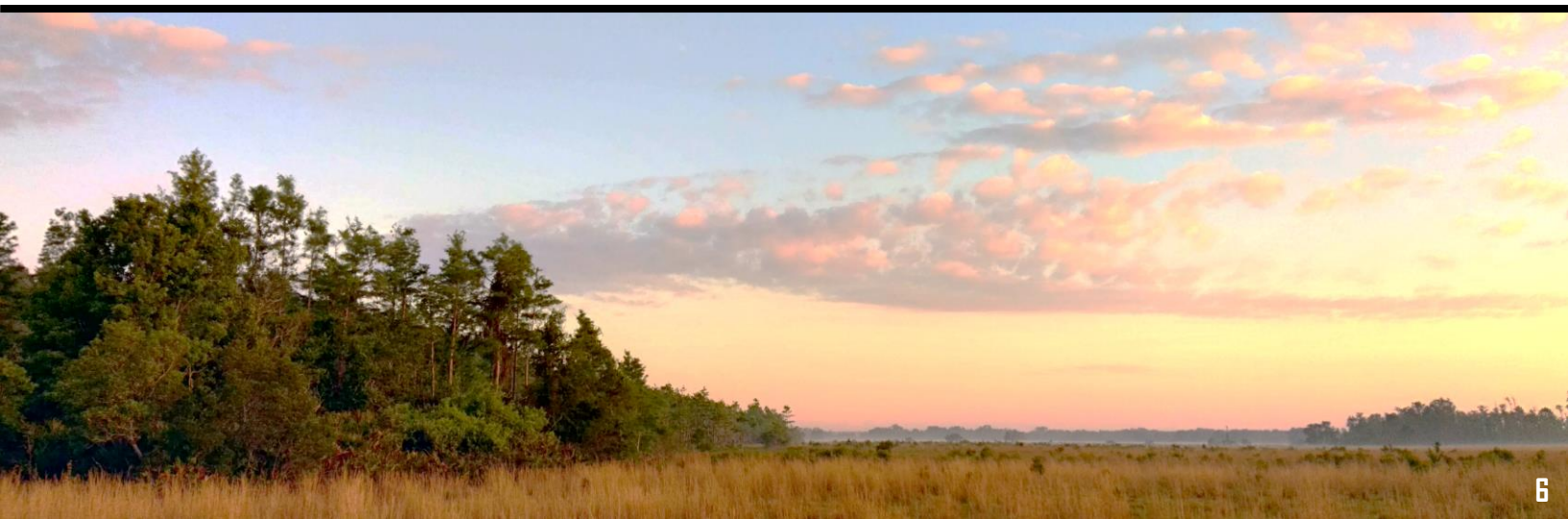
C1.4.1. Companion Hunt Permits, Military-discounted Permits, MRA Permits, and Purple Heart Permits require a validation to be available for purchase. Contact the Outdoor Recreation Office by phone or [email](#) to request a validation be placed on your account.



If you are having trouble accessing your iSportsman account, or have forgotten your username or password

DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT

Click "Forgot Password," "Forgot Username" or contact Outdoor Recreation staff for assistance



Section 2: Access

D. Access Procedures

- D1. Permit Holders shall enter and exit the installation only at the designated access points when open to the public. The designated access point is the Gate 2 (600 Gate).
- D2. Upon entering the installation, Permit Holders must proceed directly to the sign-in station at Building 600.
- D3. The following sign-in procedures must be observed:
- D3.1. Permit Holders shall sign in/out using the logbook located at Building 600 or online via <https://avon.isportsman.net>.
 - D3.2. Staff has the authority to refuse entry to any individual who cannot present proper identification and Permit documentation. A Vehicle Pass alone does not grant access to U.S. Air Force property.
 - D3.3 Permit Holders shall review the Management Unit Board at the sign-in station. This Board identifies which Management Units and Campgrounds are open for public access, as well as any Management Units and/or Campgrounds closed by administrative action. **This Board is the only official open/closure listing and should be reviewed upon every entry.**
 - D3.4 As updates to the military range schedules can occur within 24hrs, it is the Permit Holder's responsibility to check the Management Unit status each day. This can be done at the time of sign-in, or by reviewing the schedule at the information kiosks at Willingham, Morgan Hole and Austin Hammock Campgrounds.
- D4. Permit Holders who fail to sign in or out are subject to having their recreational privileges revoked.
- D5. All Permit Holders shall be signed out and off the installation by the posted gate closure time on a closing night, regardless of their activities at that time. Repeated tardiness may be subject to suspension of recreational privileges.
- D6. Access for recreational activities is always subject to limitations based on the military mission and hunting season. As such, public access **may or may not be permitted at any time** or as authorized by the Installation Commander.

D7. PRA Specific Access Procedures

D7.1. PRA Permit Holders may launch and land boats at the Kissimmee River boat ramp only after being signed in at the Outdoor Recreation Office. Mooring boats is prohibited outside of the designated boundaries of the Fort Kissimmee Campground and the Fort Kissimmee Cemetery.

D8. MRA Specific Access Procedures

D8.1. MRA Permit Holders shall sign in during the week or on weekends, via <https://avon.isportsman.net> or at the sign-in logbook at Austin Hammock Campground, when entering or exiting the installation.

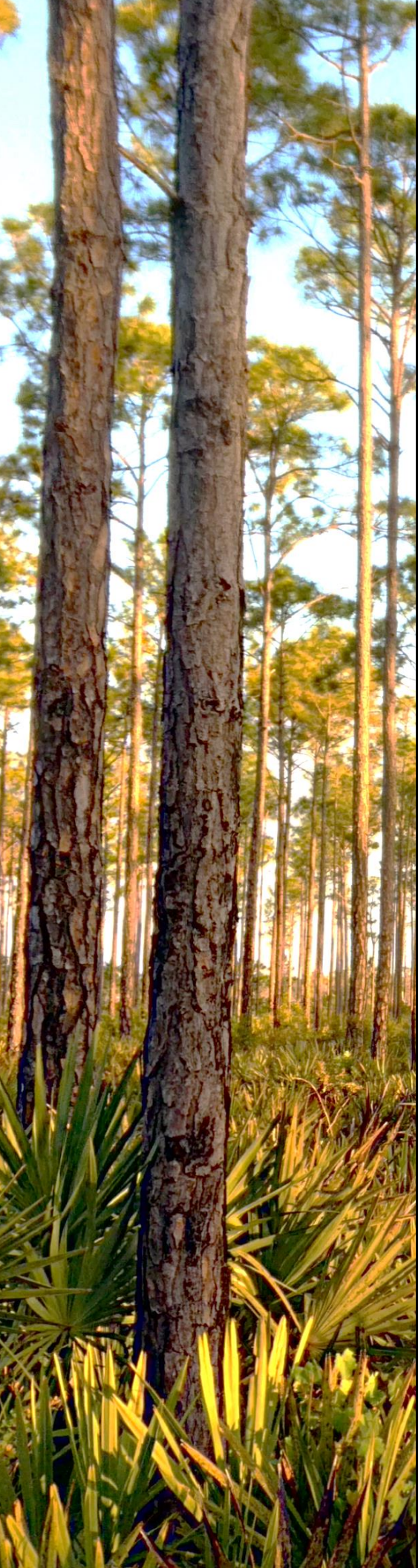
D8.2. Management Unit 14 shall be utilized by both PRA and MRA Permit Holders. Unit 14 is considered part of the Public Recreation Area and as such will follow the PRA hunting regulations and season dates.

E. Vehicle Use

E1. Each annual Permit Holder will be issued a Vehicle Pass in addition to his/her Permit. This Pass is to be permanently affixed to the outside driver's side windshield of the Permit Holder's vehicle to indicate that he/she is an Outdoor Recreation Permit Holder. The Vehicle Pass allows for easy



D3.3.



identification of the vehicle by installation staff in the case of emergencies. Vehicle Passes are **NOT** the equivalent to a Permit for access. The Permit Holder will be held accountable for the actions of all individuals operating or riding in a vehicle bearing his/her Vehicle Pass.

E2. If the vehicle bearing a Vehicle Pass is sold or transferred to another individual, the Pass shall be removed before the vehicle leaves the Permit Holder's possession and returned (whole or in pieces) to the Outdoor Recreation Office.

E3. Permit Holders shall park their vehicles on the same side of the road as the Management Unit they are entering.

E4. Should Permit Holders hear three (3) blasts from an air horn while on the installation, they shall cease all other activities and return to their vehicles immediately. Updated information will be posted at the information kiosks at Building 600, Morgan Hole, Willingham, and Austin Hammock Campgrounds.

E5. Military, Air Force contractor and official AF Program vehicles always have the right-of-way.

E6. Driving around or moving any type of barricade is strictly prohibited.

E7. The use of tracked vehicles, motorized cycles, golf carts, ATVs, LSVs, UTVs, rail buggies, and/or dirt bikes, is prohibited. Only rubber-tired vehicles not previously listed are allowed. This prohibition includes all ATVs, LSVs, UTVs, and/or rail buggies, which may otherwise be considered street legal.

E8. 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.

E9. Bicycle use is authorized on all designated roads, as well as along all unmarked fence lines and firebreaks.

E9.1. Riders must wear a highly visible outer garment during the day and an outer garment during the day and an outer garment containing retro-reflective material at night.

E9.2. Riders must wear a properly fastened, approved (e.g. Consumer Product Safety Commission, ANSI, Snell Memorial Foundation, or host nation equivalent) bicycle helmet.

E9.3. Mopeds, motorcycles and electric bicycles are prohibited.

E10. No person shall park any vehicle in a manner which obstructs a road, gate, bridge, or firebreak.

E11. No person shall ride upon any vehicle in a manner not designated or intended for the use of passengers.

E12. PRA Specific Vehicle Use Instructions

E12.1. The use of vehicles is prohibited in the Public Recreation Area between 22:00 and 04:30, except on Frostproof, Smith, Old Bravo, and Kissimmee Roads (or during verifiable emergencies, or after having received prior approval by the Outdoor Recreation Office).

E12.2. Vehicles must be operated only on roads designated on the current year Public Recreation Area map. If a Permit Holder is caught without permission on a road not designated on the current year PRA map, he/she will be subject to suspension. Exceptions include:

E12.2.1. Exception 1: Permit Holders may drive on existing firebreaks to retrieve downed game only after receiving verbal authorization from Outdoor Recreation staff.

E12.2.2. Exception 2: After receiving verbal authorization from the Outdoor Recreation Office, Permit Holders with FWC-issued Special Use Vehicle Certificates may be driven down firebreaks or unmarked trails to be dropped off and/or picked up from his/her declared hunting location. Vehicles shall not be parked off-road on firebreaks or

unmarked trails to be dropped off and/or picked up from his/her declared hunting location. Vehicles shall not be parked off-road on firebreaks or unmarked trails; vehicles shall be returned to and parked on named roads as designated on the current year PRA map.

E12.2.3. Exception 3: PRA Hunt Permit Holders may drive firebreaks range-wide after General Gun Season until the end of Small Game Season (see Section 5) without first obtaining permission from the Outdoor Recreation Office.

E13. MRA Specific Vehicle Use Instructions

E13.1. Vehicles must be operated only on roads and parked only in areas as designated on the current year's Military Recreation Area map.

Section 3: Recreation

Avon Park Air Force Range is a designated Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). All Avon Park AFR hunting and fishing season dates are set within Federal and State frameworks established annually. **All applicable Federal and State wildlife regulations apply.** For exact wording of the State wildlife laws and regulations, see FWC's Florida Statute and Administrative Code which is on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries (flrules.org).



F. General Regulations

- F1. The possession of remote-controlled aircraft or drones is strictly prohibited.
- F2. The possession of fireworks is strictly prohibited. Nothing shall leave the ground.
- F3. The use or possession of metal detectors is strictly prohibited.
- F4. Digging and/or all forms of ground disturbance are strictly prohibited.
- F5. Horses are prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander or designee.
- F6. Spotlighting is prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander or designee.
- F7. Consumption of alcohol will be limited to Campgrounds only. State laws regarding transportation and consumption of alcohol apply.
- F8. No ordnance or any other military material shall be tampered with, handled or removed from the installation. Areas where suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO) is found must be vacated immediately and the location reported to Outdoor Recreation Program personnel.
- F9. No one shall tamper with or remove any equipment, supplies or materials not placed by the individual or without written permission of the owner of the equipment.
- F10. Only dead and downed wood may be cut and collected as firewood and used only at Avon Park Air Force Range. Firewood brought onto the installation shall be burned or removed from the property upon departure.
- F11. Gates found in a condition other than that of which the gate was left by staff may subsequently be locked without notice.
- F12. Hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation is prohibited on any portion of the installation posted as closed to those activities.
- F13. People, dogs, vehicles, and other recreational equipment, are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by U.S. Air Force administrative action.



F14. All fires are prohibited, except as stated in para G1.

F15. Unethical behavior will result in loss of recreational privileges.

F16. 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 operations.

F17. 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.

F18. Taking or possessing any snakes, including venomous snakes, is prohibited.

WARNING

It is a Federal crime, under 18 U.S.C. §795, to photograph or sketch any military installation without first obtaining authorization from the Installation Commander. Furthermore, it is a Federal crime, under 18 U.S.C. §797, to reproduce, publish, sell, or give away, any photograph, picture or graphic representation of a defense installation without the authorization of the Installation Commander.

G. Camping Regulations

G1. Fires are permitted only in the Campgrounds. No fires shall be left unattended until fully extinguished (cold). Fires shall be contained while burning. Fire bans shall be observed when in effect.

G2. Campground quiet hours are 23:00 – 04:30. People and/or their dogs creating excessive noise or exhibiting other behaviors that disturb other campers shall be removed from the installation. Generators may be used 24-hours a day in designated areas.

G3. No camping will be allowed within 25 feet of a picnic pavilion, pump, latrine, or shower facility.

G4. No camping, vehicles or trailers will be allowed within 25 feet of a body of water in any Campground.

G5. All trash shall be properly disposed of in the dumpsters provided at Building 600. The dumpsters are for trash generated at the Campgrounds. Dumpsters shall not be utilized for the disposal of any hazardous waste.

G6. Emptying grey water and septic tanks from campers into the porta-potties is prohibited.

G7. Vehicles may not be stored in any Campground. A single tent, camper and/or trailer may be stored (see paras G8.2. and G9.2.), but any storage of fuel or other flammable liquid is prohibited with the exception of butane or propane in certified tanks up to a maximum of 40lbs per trailer/camper.

G8. PRA Specific Camping Instructions

G8.1. Willingham, Morgan Hole and Fort Kissimmee Campgrounds are the only designated campgrounds for PRA Permit Holders. Campground boundaries are delineated on the PRA map and marked with signs in the field. Camping spots are first come, first served; reserving spots is prohibited.



G8.2. All campers and camping equipment must be removed from the Range when recreation closes each weekend, with the following exceptions: PRA Permit Holders may store a **single tent, camper and/or a single trailer** in Willingham and Morgan Hole Campgrounds for the duration of General Gun, Small Game and Spring Turkey Seasons, for an additional fee per camper/trailer per hunt season. Campers shall be brought in no more than one (1) week before the start of a hunt season and removed no later than one (1) week after the hunt season ends, or as authorized by the Installation Commander.

G9. MRA Specific Camping Instructions

G9.1. Austin Hammock Campground is the only designated campground for MRA Permit Holders. Campground boundaries are delineated on the MRA map and marked with signs in the field.

G9.2. MRA Hunt Permit Holders may store a **single tent, camper and/or a single trailer** at Austin Hammock Campground for an additional fee per camper/trailer. Campers shall be brought in no more than one (1) week before the start of Muzzleloader Season and removed no later than one (1) week after Spring Turkey Season ends, or as authorized by the Installation Commander.

CAMPER STORAGE FEES

PRA CAMPER STORAGE (WILLINGHAM & MORGAN HOLE CAMPGROUNDS ONLY)

SEASONAL CAMPER STORAGE

Available for General Gun, Small Game & Spring Turkey Seasons

\$100 per camper/trailer
per hunt season



ALL SEASON CAMPER STORAGE

Allows camper storage for all three hunt seasons for a single price

\$275 per camper/trailer

SEASONAL TENT STORAGE

Available for General Gun, Small Game & Spring Turkey Seasons

\$50 per hunt season



MRA CAMPER STORAGE (AUSTIN HAMMOCK CAMPGROUND ONLY)

MRA CAMPER STORAGE

\$100 per camper/trailer



MRA TENT STORAGE

\$50



H. Fishing Regulations

H1. Motorized vessels are prohibited in any marsh on Avon Park Air Force Range at any time, unless otherwise authorized by the Installation Commander or designee. Motorless vessels are allowed in marshes only during Migratory Bird Season.

H2. Aggressive alligators shall be reported to Outdoor Recreation staff.

H3. Trotlines and brush hooks are prohibited.

H4. PRA Specific Fishing Instructions

H4.1. PRA Permit Holders may fish any body of water that is accessible in an open PRA Management Unit.

H4.2. Boats are restricted to a maximum engine size of ten (10) horsepower on Tomlin Hammock Lake. Gas or electric trolling motors may be used.



H4.3. Airboats may be trailered across Avon Park Air Force Range to the Kissimmee River boat ramp. Airboats shall only be launched at the Kissimmee River boat ramp.

H4.4. Daily and possession bag limits will follow FWC regulations. Exception: catfish are catch and release only between 15 April and 15 June 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.

VISIT MyFWC.COM

FOR STATE-WIDE
FISHING BAG
LIMITS



H5. MRA Specific Fishing Instructions

H5.1. MRA Permit Holders may fish the Rim Canal, Arbuckle Creek behind Management Units C.E. and Austin Hammock and the Lake Arbuckle boat ramp adjacent to the Main Gate during the allotted period for their Permit type.

H5.2. Individuals interested in utilizing the Lake Arbuckle boat ramp that meet the criteria outlined in para A8.1. and A8.1.1. that do not have an MRA Permit, shall obtain a boat ramp placard. APCI spouses, dependents and retired APCI personnel are also eligible. All current MRA Permit Holders are exempt from the Lake Arbuckle boat ramp placard requirement.

H5.3. Airboats shall not access Lake Arbuckle from Avon Park Air Force Range property.

H5.4. No more than one (1) vessel or two (2) kayaks shall be permitted per person at the Lake Arbuckle boat ramp.

Section 4: Hunting

I. General Hunting Regulations

11. All harvested game shall be self-checked in at the Outdoor Recreation Office (Building 600). Permit Holders checking game will be responsible for making all biological measurements as indicated on the self-checks forms available. Permit Holders are also responsible for extracting a jawbone on all white-tailed deer harvested. For those wishing to have their harvested deer mounted, jawbones must be returned to the Outdoor Recreation Office before 30 April of the permit year.

12. Field dressing of harvested game is strictly prohibited.

13. Hunting equipment is prohibited except seven (7) days prior to the opening of Archery Season until seven (7) days following the close of any hunt season. All traces that hunting equipment was present shall also be removed (i.e. flagging tape, markers, etc.).

14. Tree stands and ground blinds are limited to three (3) per person and shall be in good working condition to provide a safe environment from which to hunt. All stands/blinds shall be labeled with the owner's Permit number at eye level so that the owner may be contacted by staff if necessary. All tree stands are subject to random checks and shall be confiscated by Outdoor Recreation if deemed unlabeled.

15. No tree stands or ground blinds are allowed within 100 feet of a white banded tree.

16. No hunting activity or equipment is allowed within 100 feet of an impact area.

17. 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.

18. Tree stand placement is first come, first served. The earlier placement of trail cameras or flagging tape does not reserve a hunting spot.

19. A Fall Arrest System/Full Body Harness is required. The Fall Arrest System or Full Body Harness shall be worn and properly attached to a tree at all times while a tree stand is in use.

110. A short tether shall be maintained between the tree and the Permit Holder with no slack while in the seated position.



111. A haul line shall be used to raise/lower equipment. Firearms shall be unloaded and pointed away from the Permit Holder while being hauled up a tree stand.



112. Permit Holders shall ensure they have a Fall Rescue, Relief and Recovery Plan in case of emergency. Prolonged suspension from a harness can be fatal.

113. Permit Holders using ladder stands shall maintain three (3) points of contact with the ladder stand at all times. Permit Holders using climber stands shall have a connector strap and be connected to the tree at all times. Permit Holders using hang-on stands shall secure the tether at eye level or above. Proper procedures to utilize hang-on stands (accessing the platform from above) shall be observed.

114. Permit Holders shall inspect their tree stand(s) and Fall Arrest System(s) prior to climbing the stand.

115. Game shall be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset, except during Spring Turkey Season. Legal hunting hours for Spring Turkey Season are one half-hour before sunrise until 13:00.

116. A group of three (3) or more people on foot shall not concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up, game, except during Small Game Season after General Gun Season ends (see Section 5).

117. All personal possessions shall be removed from the installation at the end of each weekend, unless otherwise specified. The U.S. Air Force is not liable for the loss or vandalism of any items or equipment brought onto the installation. Unauthorized items left behind will be confiscated.

118. MRA Specific General Hunting Instructions

118.1. The MRA has permanent tree stands available for public use. These public stands shall be marked with orange paint. Public stands are first come, first served.

J. Youth Events

J1. All Youth Hunt Events (Deer, Alligator, Spring Turkey) are open to the dependents and/or non-dependents (grandchildren, nieces/nephews, etc.) of current Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders.

J2. Participants of Youth Hunt Events are required to register as per instructions from the Outdoor Recreation Office. All non-dependents require a signed and notarized Parental Consent Form.

J2.1. Participants of the Youth Deer and Spring Turkey Hunt Events shall be 15 years of age or younger at the time of the Youth Hunt.

J2.2. Participants of the Youth Alligator Hunt shall be between the ages of 12 and 15 at the time of the Youth Hunt.

J3. Participants of the Youth Fishing Derby are required to register with the Outdoor Recreation Office on the day of the Derby, or as instructed. Participants shall be 15 years of age or younger.

K. Permissible Weapons and Firearms

K1. Permissible weapons and firearms shall follow State statutes, with the following exceptions:

K1.1. During Archery Season, only archery equipment may be brought onto the installation. Longbows, crossbows and recurve bows shall have a minimum draw weight of 30lbs. Arrows used to take deer, turkey or hogs shall be equipped with broadheads having a minimum width of seven-eighths inches. Pistols of any kind are prohibited. A pistol is hereby defined as a firearm designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand, having a barrel length of nine (9) inches or less, and having a magazine inserted into the grip, or in the case of revolvers, cartridges inserted into the cylinder.

K1.2. During General Gun and Small Game Season, only shotguns, archery equipment (including crossbows), muzzleloading firearms, rim-fire rifles (maximum velocity of 1,300fps), and pistols, are allowed.

K1.3. During Spring Turkey Season, shotguns using Number 2 or smaller diameter are allowed, as well as archery equipment and crossbows as stated in para K1.1. Hunting hours end at 13:00.

K1.4. During Limited Entry Dog Hunts, permissible firearms will follow General Gun Season (para K1.2.), unless otherwise stated by the Program Manager.

K2. Centerfire rifles and fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

K3. Only Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders, underage children under direct control of a Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holder and Hunt Guests of Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holders, shall possess firearms or archery equipment during the appropriate season. The possession of any type of firearm or archery equipment by any individual outside the posted hunting season is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the Installation Commander.

K4. No person shall carry a concealed weapon (even with a permit) while on Avon Park Air Force Range property.

K5. All firearms, including crossbows, shall be unloaded, completely empty of ammunition, while at the Outdoor Recreation Office or any Campground.

K6. When transporting all firearms, including crossbows, in a vehicle, the firearm(s) must not have a projectile in the chamber or cylinder, or have a loaded projectile container (such as a clip or magazine) inserted into the weapon.

K7. A firearm, regardless of any caliber or draw weight, shall not be fired from a moving vehicle or from inside the cab of a stationary vehicle.

K8. A firearm shall not be discharged across or into any boundary lines of any impact area or area closed to public access, or from or across any roadway designated on the Public or Military Recreation Area maps, and/or within fifty (50) feet of Kissimmee Road.

K9. The discharge of firearms or the use of archery equipment is prohibited within 200 yards of the marked boundary of any designated public campsite.

K10. Target practice is prohibited throughout the installation.

K11. The firing ranges on this installation are not open to any Permit Holders.

K12. Pre-charged pneumatic air guns are prohibited.

K13. MRA Specific Permissible Weapons and Firearms Instructions

K13.1. Management Unit L.H. Thomas is designated as archery equipment only, as outlined in para K1.1. All other firearms are prohibited in this Management Unit year-round.

L. General Use of Dogs

L1. All dogs brought onto U.S. Air Force property shall wear a collar bearing the name and contact information of the owner.

L2. Permit Holders are responsible for maintaining up-to-date rabies vaccinations for their dog(s) from a certified veterinarian or pet clinic. Permit Holders shall produce, upon request, proof of vaccination in the form of a signed vaccination certificate from a veterinarian or pet clinic; purchase receipts and/or self-administered vaccinations will not be accepted as proof of vaccination.

L3. Dogs shall be under physical restraint at all times, including dogs used for tracking wounded game, except when authorized for the use of taking game. Permit Holders shall obtain authorization from the Outdoor Recreation Office before using dogs to track wounded game.



L4. All Permit Holders who have lost dogs shall report this information to the Outdoor Recreation Office immediately. Permit Holders shall make every effort to locate lost dogs before leaving the installation.

L5. Dogs are allowed in all Campgrounds. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to control his/her dog(s) at all times. Dogs creating disturbance shall be removed from the installation if requested by the Outdoor Recreation Office or Law Enforcement.

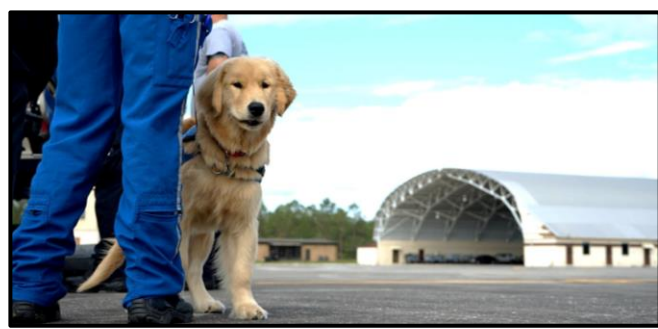
L6. In all cases, Permit Holders are responsible for all actions of their dog(s).

L7. No person shall knowingly or negligently allow any dog(s) to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife using dogs is prohibited.

L8. The training of hunting dogs is prohibited, except during hunting seasons where dogs are already allowed.

L9. The use of dogs to take or pursue game during Spring Turkey Season is prohibited.

L10. No dogs shall run loose between sunset and sunrise, unless authorized by the Installation Commander.



L11. PRA Specific General Dog Use Instructions

L11.1. Dogs used to pursue game during Small Game Season and Migratory Bird Season are limited to no more than five (5) bird dogs and/or retrievers per Permit Holder.

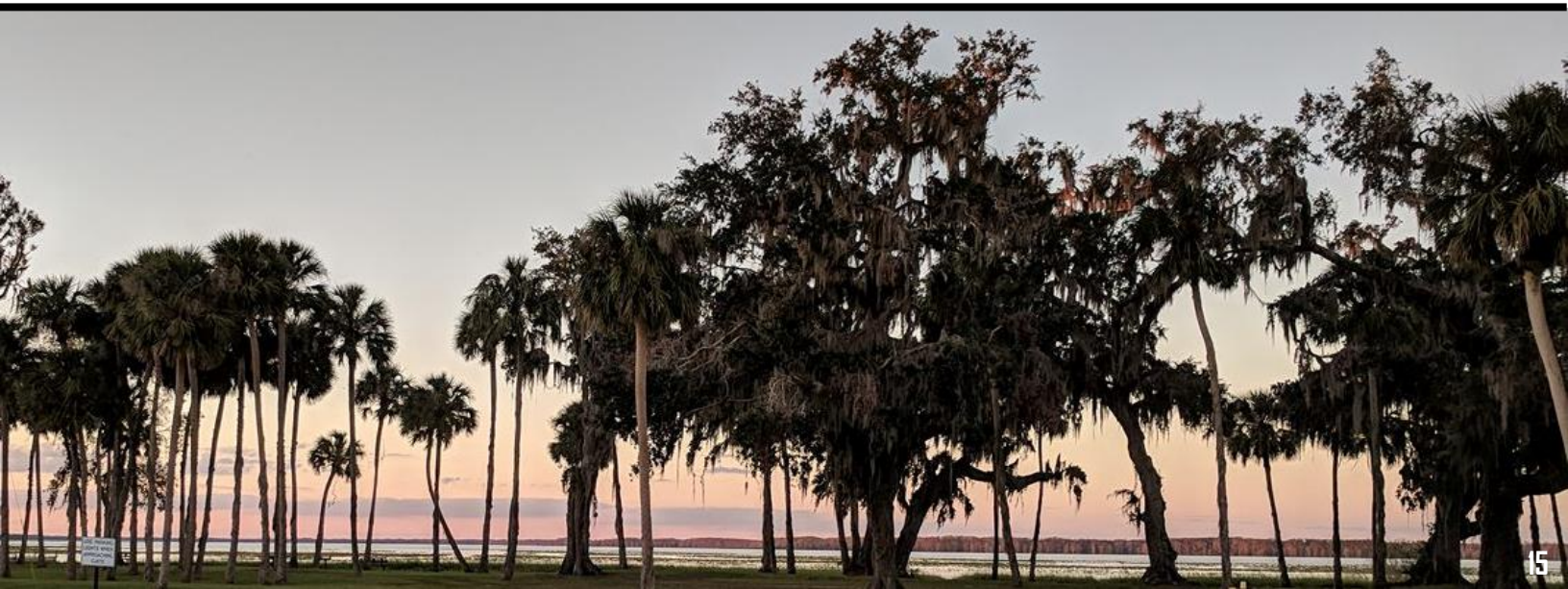
L11.2. PRA Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders may hunt waterfowl and snipe with dogs in Kissimmee Marsh in Management Unit 10A and Arbuckle Marsh in Management Units 13 and 14 during the overlap with General Gun Season. **All other Small Game hunters shall utilize the designated Dog Units for the effective permit year during the overlap with General Gun Season.**

L12. MRA Specific General Dog Use Instructions

L12.1. The use of dogs to take or pursue white-tailed deer and wild hogs is prohibited at all times on the Military Recreation Area.

L12.2. The use of dogs to take or pursue legal game during Small Game Season and Migratory Bird Season is permitted only after receiving verbal authorization from the Outdoor Recreation Office. MRA Hunt Permit Holders are limited to no more than five (5) bird dogs and/or retrievers.

L12.3. MRA Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders may hunt waterfowl and snipe with dogs in Arbuckle Marsh in Management Unit 14 during the overlap with General Gun Season.



M. Limited Entry Dog Hunts (PRA Only)

M1. Limited Entry Dog Hunts are authorized by the Installation Commander during which dogs may be used for the pursuit and take of white-tailed deer and wild hog in two of the three designated Dog Units (see map below). If either of the chosen Dog Units is closed due to mission activity, the third Dog Unit will be used as an alternate. Designated Dog Units will be placed on an annual rotation to avoid overhunting. During the scheduled dog hunt weekends, only participants in the dog hunts and Small Game hunters shall hunt in the designated Dog Units. All other Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders may hunt in the remaining open PRA Management Units.

M2. Up to 120 slots are available for participation in Limited Entry Dog Hunts. This total shall be made up of a combination of PRA Hunt and Companion Hunt Permit Holders who register for a Dog Hunt Endorsement and Dog Hunt Only Permit Holders. If less than sixty (60) Permit Holders are registered (in any combination), then the area may be reduced for the following permit year.

M3. All Permit Holders participating in the Limited Entry Dog Hunts shall complete a special briefing prior to registering for a Dog Hunt Endorsement or purchasing a Dog Hunt Only Permit.

M4. All dogs will be accounted for before the hunt, to include verification of rabies vaccination paperwork, GPS and behavioral correction collars and a total count of dogs. Spot checks by staff or FWC Law Enforcement may occur.

M5. All wild hogs captured during a Limited Entry Dog Hunt, if permitted, shall be harvested. No hogs shall be released.

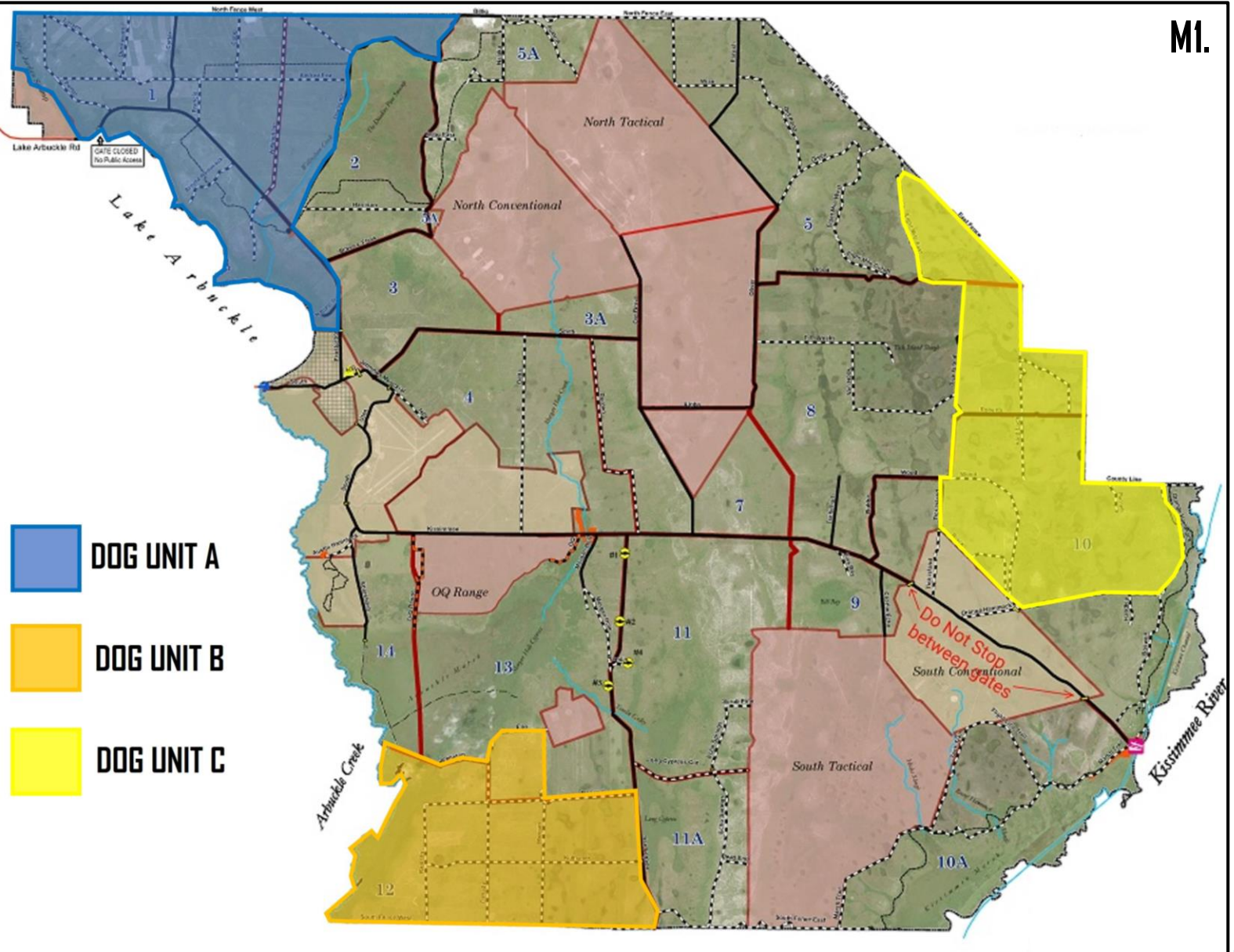
2023 - 2024
DESIGNATED DOG UNITS

DOG UNIT A
DOG UNIT B

DOG UNIT C WILL BE USED AS AN ALTERNATE IF NEEDED

SEE **PARA M1** FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING ALTERNATES

SEE **SECTION 5** FOR SCHEDULED DOG HUNT DATES



Section 5: Season Dates

SEASON	DATES / HARVEST LIMITS	EXPECTED ENTRY TIMES
Archery	16 Sep - 20 Oct 2023 Limit 50 does	05:30 - 19:30
Muzzleloader	21 Oct - 03 Nov 2023	05:30 - 19:00
General Gun	04 Nov - 21 Jan 2024 or 150 bucks harvested (PRA only) whichever comes first	05:00 - 19:00
Fall Turkey (MRA only)	04 Nov - 31 Dec 2023	05:00 - 19:00
Limited Entry Deer Dog Hunts (PRA only)	11 Nov - 03 Dec 2023 Dog Units A & B only	05:00 - 19:00
Limited Entry Hog Dog Hunts (PRA only)	18 - 26 Nov 2023 & 06 - 21 Jan 2024 Dog Units A & B only	05:00 - 19:00 05:30 - 18:30 (Jan 2024)
Small Game	11 Nov 2023 - 03 Mar 2024 Dog Units A & B during Gen Gun (PRA only)	05:00 - 20:30 05:30 - 18:30 (Jan 2024)
Youth Spring Turkey Hunt	09 - 10 Mar 2024	05:00 - 19:00
Spring Turkey	16 Mar - 21 Apr 2024	05:30 - 20:00

N. Season Dates

N1. Any hunt season may end early once the harvest quotas have been met for that season/species.

N2. Migratory Bird Season shall follow the season dates as published at <https://myfwc.com/regulations/hunting/birds/> for Zone C.

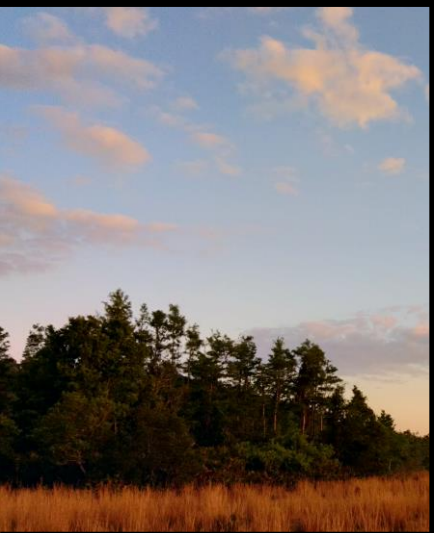
N3. PRA Specific Season Dates Instructions

N3.1. As the buck harvest limit approaches, restrictions on legal game may be increased to four (4) points on one side in an effort to extend the hunt season for as long as possible. The Outdoor Recreation Office will advise all PRA Hunt Permit Holders one (1) week prior to increasing restrictions on legal bucks.

N3.2. Migratory Bird Season is prohibited during the overlap with Archery and Muzzleloader Seasons.

N3.3. Snipe Season shall run concurrent with Small Game Season, except as stated in paras L11.2. and L12.3.

N3.4. During Small Game Season, the use of dogs to pursue or take wild hogs, rabbits and coyotes is prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander.



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Outdoor Recreation Program
Avon Park Air Force Range