

AVON PARK

AIR FORCE RANGE

OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATION SUMMARY

2024 – 2025

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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 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 herein is derived from 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/regulations.aspx>

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY.

OUTDOOR RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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

✉ : apafroudoorrec@gmail.com
 🌐 : <https://avon.isportsman.net>
 📘 : <http://facebook.com/APAFROutdoorRec>

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

Main Office: (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

OUTDOOR RECREATION STAFF

Patrick Blake: Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator
 Edwin Ney: Office Manager / Ranger
 Candice Grubbs: Office Assistant / Ranger



Table of Contents

Welcome to the Avon Park Air Force Range	1
Outdoor Recreation Contact Information	1
<hr/>	
Section 1: Permits	3
A. Permit Requirements	3
B. Permit Types & Fees	4
C. Obtaining a Permit	6
<hr/>	
Section 2: Access	7
D. Access Procedures	7
E. Vehicle Use	8
<hr/>	
Section 3: Recreation	9
F. General Regulations	9
G. Camping Regulations	11
H. Fishing Regulations	12
<hr/>	
Section 4: Hunting	13
I. General Hunting Regulations	13
J. Youth Events	14
K. Permissible Firearms & Weapons	14
L. General Use of Dogs	16
M. Limited Entry Dog Hunts	17
<hr/>	
Section 5: Season Dates	18
N. Season Information	18
<hr/>	
Section 6: Violations	20
O. Violation Procedures	20
P. Schedule of Violations	20

*Information added or updated from the previous version of this publication will be **highlighted in yellow** for ease of reading. However, ALL information herein is pertinent to all Permit Holders at Avon Park Air Force 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 **July** 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

All Permits listed below are valid from 01 August until 31 July of the following year, unless otherwise specified in the description.

HUNTING PERMITS		
B1. PUBLIC RECREATION AREA (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)
<i>Requires validation – contact Outdoor Recreation staff to unlock</i>		
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 DISCOUNT		\$170
PRA RETIRED MILITARY DISCOUNT		\$300
PRA MILITARY COMPANION HUNT PERMIT		\$75
B3. MILITARY RECREATION AREA (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 the PRA and MRA (when open). 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 HUNTS (PRA ONLY)		120 available
Allows the Permit Holder to participate in the scheduled deer & hog dog hunts in the Dog Hunt Units (see Section 4-M. & Section 5).		
DOG HUNT ENDORSEMENT		FREE
<i>Current PRA Annual Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit required</i>		
DOG HUNT ONLY PERMIT		\$350
<i>Valid only for scheduled Limited Entry Dog Hunts; this Permit does not allow Hunt Guests</i>		

RECREATION (NON-HUNTING) PERMITS

B6. PRA RECREATION PERMITS

300 available

Allows the Permit Holder to fish, camp, 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 fish ponds and Tomlin Hammock Lake, and Willingham, Morgan Hole and Fort Kissimmee Campgrounds, during the duration of Archery, Muzzleloader and General Gun seasons, **unless being escorted by a PRA Hunt Permit Holder as mentioned.**

ANNUAL RECREATION PERMIT **\$50**

WEEKEND RECREATION PERMIT **\$25**

Available when Annual Recreation Permits are sold out, subject to PRA Hunt Guest restrictions as outlined in para B7.

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 Guest Permits shall NOT be purchased by a Hunt or Companion Hunt Permit Holder on behalf of his/her Guest.

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 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

The Permits listed above are sold **per individual**. Every individual wishing to purchase a Permit (of any type) must create his/her own iSportsman account and purchase his/her own Permit(s).

NO ONE SHALL PURCHASE A PERMIT OF ANY KIND ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL.

Any Permit(s) purchased incorrectly or on behalf of another individual will be considered a donation to the Outdoor Recreation Program and no Permit will be issued (see para A7).

C. Obtaining a Permit

C1. All individuals eligible for a Permit at Avon Park Air Force Range, as stated in Section 1-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.

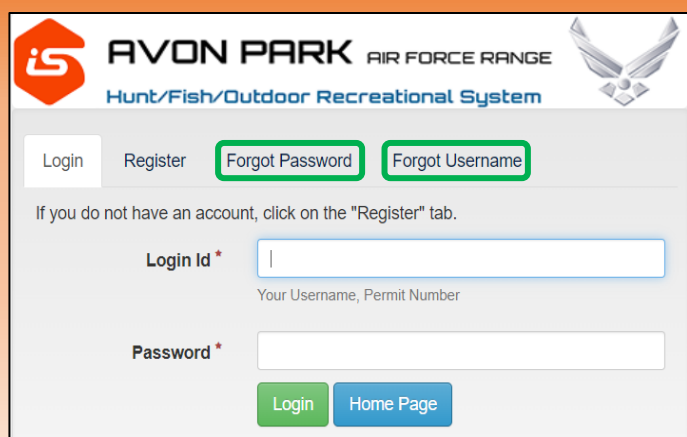
C1.2.4. **DO NOT** create a duplicate iSportsman account. If you have trouble accessing your account, contact the Outdoor Recreation Office for assistance. Individuals creating duplicate or multiple iSportsman accounts may be subject to suspension of recreation privileges.

C1.3. Click the “My Safety Briefs” tab on the account homepage. **Watch the UXO safety briefing video.**

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.

C2. Permits will only be available for purchase Mondays through Thursdays each week to allow time for processing for the upcoming weekend. Permits will only be available for pickup when Outdoor Recreation is open for public access, unless prior arrangements have been made with staff.



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 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. **The Weekend Recreation Schedule will be adjusted in response to canceled military activities within 24 hours, subject to availability of staff and/or volunteers.**

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 identification of the vehicle by installation staff in the case of emergencies. Vehicle Passes are **NOT** the equivalent of 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 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.

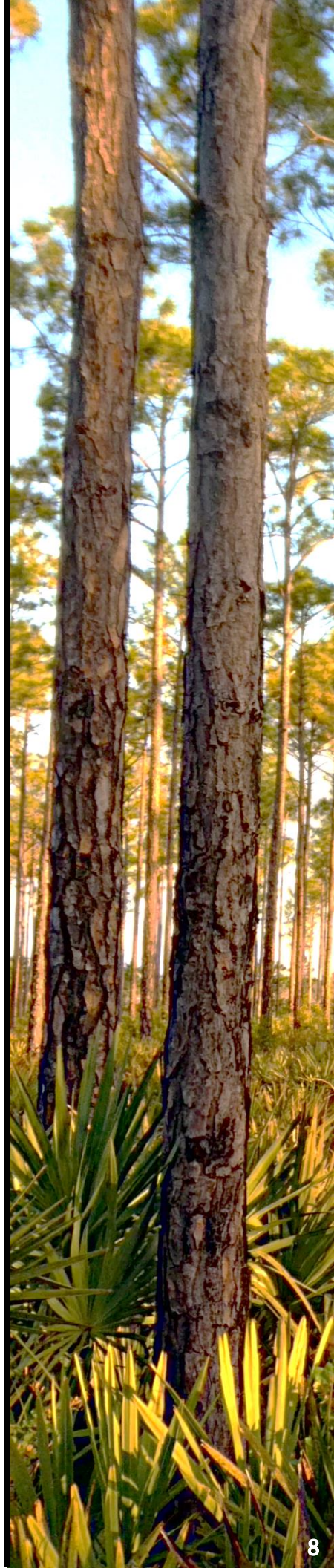
E9.3. Mopeds, motorcycles, electric bicycles (e-bikes), and pedal-assist bicycles, are prohibited.

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 trail; 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 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 from 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.

G9.3. MRA Permit Holders may occupy a camper or tent at Austin Hammock Campground for a maximum of fourteen (14) consecutive days, subject to accessibility.

CAMPER STORAGE FEES

PRA CAMPER STORAGE (WILLINGHAM & MORGAN HOLE CAMPGROUNDS ONLY)

SEASONAL CAMPER STORAGE

Available for General Gun, Small Game & Spring Turkey Seasons

\$150 per camper/trailer
per hunt season



ALL SEASON CAMPER STORAGE

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

\$300 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

\$150 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

VISIT
MyFWC.COM
FOR FISHING
BAG LIMITS



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 area stocked and fed to gain size prior to the Youth Fishing Derby.

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. Airboats shall not access Lake Arbuckle from Avon Park AFR property.

Section 4: Hunting

I. General Hunting Regulations

I1. All harvested game shall be checked at the Outdoor Recreation Office (Building 600). If self-checked after hours, Permit Holders checking game will be responsible for making all biological measurements as indicated on the self-check 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.

I2. Field dressing of harvested game is strictly prohibited.

I3. 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.).

I4. 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 **noncompliant with these regulations**.

I5. No tree stands or ground blinds are allowed within 100 feet of a white banded tree.

I6. No hunting activity or equipment is allowed within 100 feet of an impact area.

I7. 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.

I8. Tree stand placement is first come, first served. The earlier placement of trail cameras or flagging tape does not reserve a hunting spot.

I9. 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 while a tree stand is in use.



I10. A short tether shall be maintained between the tree and the Permit Holder with no slack while in the seated position.

I11. 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.

I12. 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.

I13. Permit Holders using ladder stands shall maintain three (3) points of contact with the ladder 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.

I14. Permit Holders shall inspect their tree stand(s) and Fall Arrest System(s) prior to climbing the stand.



I15. 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.

I16. 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).

I17. 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.

I18. MRA Specific General Hunting Instructions

I18.1. The MRA has permanent tree stands available for public use. These public stands will 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 Program Manager. 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 (as defined in K1.1.), 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 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 Dog Regulations

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 vaccination 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 shall be removed from the installation if requested by the Outdoor Recreation Office or Law Enforcement.

L5.1. Dogs may not be left unattended, or stored in a camper or at a campsite, for more than six (6) consecutive hours. Dogs must accompany the owner every time the owner leaves the installation.

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 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. 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 **and/or Management Unit 4** for the effective permit year during this time (see **Section 4-M and Section 5**).

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 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. Permit Holders may hunt waterfowl and snipe in Arbuckle Marsh in Management Unit 14.



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 the designated Dog Units (see map below). 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. Management Unit 4 is authorized for still hunting and Small Game hunting with dogs during the overlap with General Gun Season.

M2. Up to 120 slots are available for participation in the 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), 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.

M6. The gates located on Tick Island and Orange Hammock Roads will be closed and locked for the duration of the scheduled Limited Entry Dog Hunts to prevent dogs entering South Conventional Range. Outdoor Recreation staff shall be notified immediately should any dogs enter into restricted areas.

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

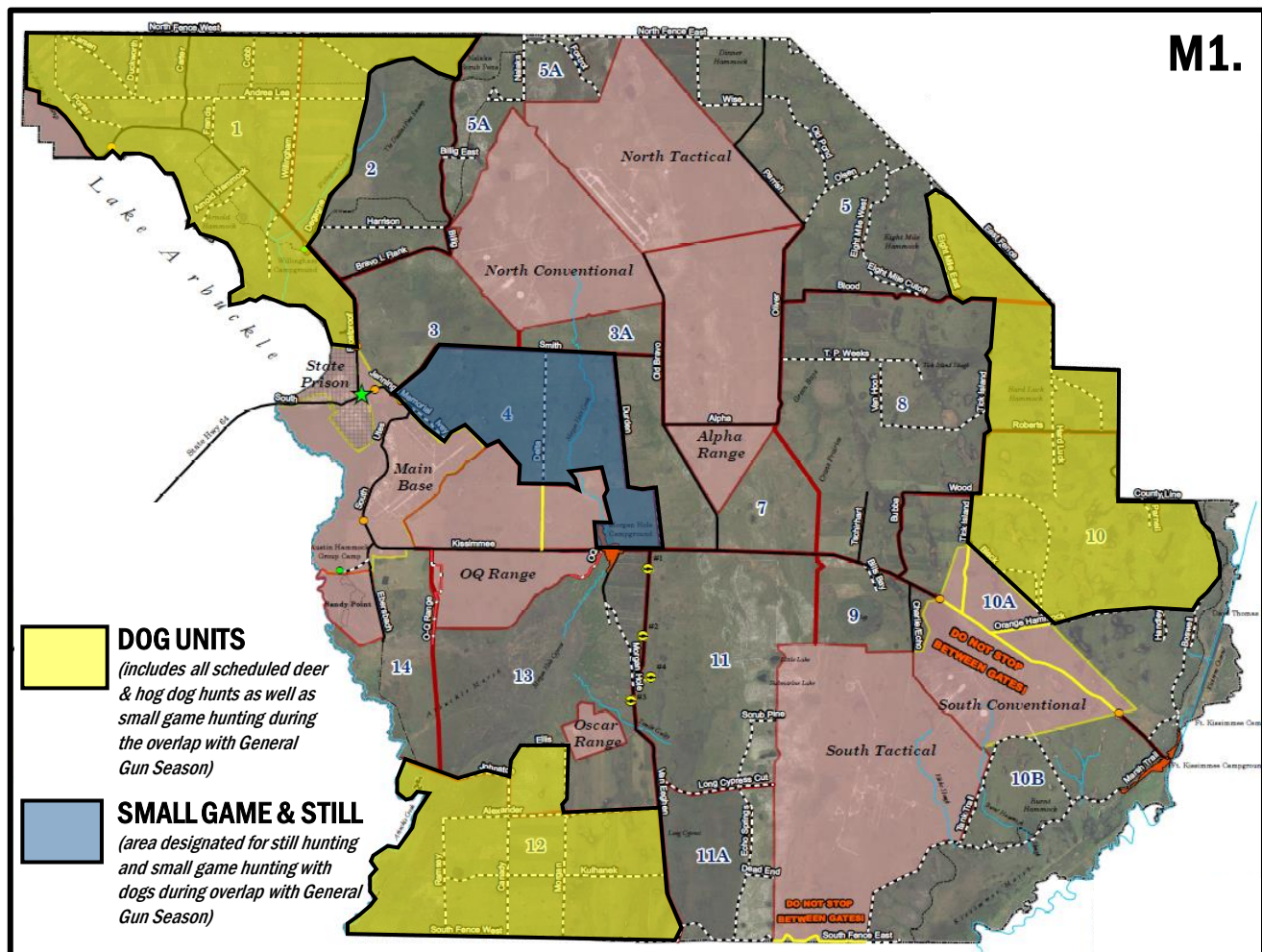
ATTENTION

The designated Dog Units as shown shall be utilized by

**REGISTERED LIMITED
ENTRY DOG HUNTERS**

SMALL GAME HUNTERS

during the scheduled Limited
Entry Dog Hunts and the
overlap with General Gun
Season, as applicable



Section 5: Season Dates

SEASON	DATES / HARVEST LIMITS	GATE TIMES
Archery	14 Sep – 13 Oct 2024 Limit 50 does	05:30 – 19:30
Muzzleloader	19 – 27 Oct 2024	05:30 – 19:30
General Gun	02 Nov 2024 – 19 Jan 2025 or 150 bucks harvested (PRA only) whichever comes first	05:00 – 19:00
Fall Turkey (MRA only)	02 Nov – 29 Dec 2024	05:00 – 19:00
Limited Entry Deer Dog Hunts (PRA only)	09 Nov 2024 – 19 Jan 2025 or 150 bucks harvested, whichever comes first Dog Units only	05:00 – 19:00
Limited Entry Hog Dog Hunts (PRA only)	04 Jan – 09 Feb 2025 Dog Units only	05:30 – 18:00
Small Game	09 Nov 2024 – 02 Mar 2025 Dog Units, Management Unit 4, Arbuckle & Kissimmee Marshes during Gen Gun (PRA only)	05:00 – 19:00 05:30 – 18:00 (Jan 2025)
Youth Spring Turkey Hunt	08 – 09 Mar 2025	05:00 – 19:00
Spring Turkey	15 Mar – 20 Apr 2025	05:30 – 19:30

SCHEDULED RANGE CLOSURES & SPECIAL EVENTS

OFFICE CLOSURE – THANKSGIVING DAY Range will be open for recreation only; no staff available; no Permit pick up	Nov 28, 2024
RANGE CLOSURE – CHRISTMAS DAY Office & Range will be closed; no staff available; no Permit pick up	Dec 25, 2024
SPECIAL EVENT – YOUTH GATOR HUNT PRA will be open to selected participants ONLY	Jan 25 - 26, 2025
SPECIAL EVENT – WILD GAME DINNER PRA will be closed; all staff/volunteers will be working the event	Feb 22, 2025
SPECIAL EVENT – REDUCED GATE HOURS Gates 2 & 3 will only be opened between 07:00 – 11:00 & again 16:00 – 20:00	May 03 – Jul 28, 2025

N. Season Information

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

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

N3. PRA Specific Season Information 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 L12.1. and L13.2.

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.



The Outdoor Recreation Program has published its Recreation Area maps on **AVENZA MAPS**. Permit Holders can now download a **FREE** copy of the PRA and/or MRA map directly to their iPhone or Android device. When downloaded for offline use, Permit Holders can get real-time navigation with or without cellular service.

Download the free Avenza Maps app through the Apple iStore or Google Play Store. Then scan the QR Code(s) below to get the map(s) for the Recreation Area you use most.



MILITARY REC AREA



PUBLIC REC AREA



Section 6: Violations

0. Violation Procedures

01. The Schedule of Violations (below) does not include every possible offense and is not comprehensive. Violations not included in this Schedule will be included in the official Violation Report, along with a recommendation of penalties. The penalties listed here are suggestions; in all cases, the actual penalty is at the complete discretion of the Installation Commander.

02. When a violation occurs, the following procedures will be enacted:

02.1. Upon notice of a violation, the Program Manager will inform the affected Permit Holder(s) of the regulation(s) violated and the suggested penalty, based on the Violation Schedule. The penalty will be enforced at the time of notification. iSportsman privileges will also be suspended during the penalty period.

02.2. An official Violation Report will be drafted and filed with the Installation Commander for review. A memorandum will be sent to the affected Permit Holder(s) to the email address on file through iSportsman. This will initiate the review process.

02.3. The affected Permit Holder(s) may appeal the penalties in writing to the Installation Commander once the review process has begun.

02.4. The enacted penalties will be enforced until either amended by the Installation Commander or the penalty period expires, whichever comes first.

P. SCHEDULE OF VIOLATIONS

P1. Trespassing (use of, or to facilitate the use of, the installation without appropriate Permit or authorization)	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	2 – 5 years
P2. Failure to sign in/out of a Recreation Area	First offense	Warning
	Two or more offenses	1 month – 1 year
P3. Failure to exit installation by posted time on closing night	First offense	Warning
	Two or more offenses	3 – 6 months
P4. Failure to display and/or present Permit, Vehicle Decal, licenses, or identification upon request	First offense	3 months
	Two or more offenses	1 – 2 years
P5. Allowing Hunt Guest(s) onto the installation without personal escort or without appropriate Guest Permit	First offense	6 months
	Two or more offenses	1 – 3 years
P6. Entering a permanently closed area, impact area, or area posted as “Closed to Public Access” by administrative action	Immediate suspension Referral to Commander	
P7. Entering and/or sustained activity within a closed Management Unit	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	3 – 5 years
P8. Driving off designated roads, or driving on a closed road, without authorization	First offense	3 months
	Two or more offenses	6 months – 1 year

P9. Driving or hunting while intoxicated	First offense	3 years
	Two or more offenses	5 years
P10. Possession of open alcohol container(s) while operating a vehicle	First offense	3 years
	Two or more offenses	5 years
P11. Possession of open alcohol container(s) outside of a campground	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	3 – 5 years
P12. Storing tent(s) and/or camper(s) without proper Storage Permit(s) or beyond the effective date of Storage Permit(s)	First offense	Warning
	Two or more offenses	3 months – 1 year
P13. Tampering with, handling or removing ordnance, or parts thereof	Immediate suspension Referral to Commander	
P14. Willingly checking game with close to 10-inch main beam	First offense	Warning
	Two or more offenses	1 week – 1 month
P15. Willingly checking game with less than 9-inch main beam	First offense	1 week
	Two or more offenses	6 months – 1 year
P16. Failure to check game or avoiding check station	First offense	6 months
	Two or more offenses	1 – 2 years
P17. Poaching	First offense	2 years
	Two or more offenses	5 years
P18. Taking game out of season	First offense	3 months
	Two or more offenses	1 – 2 years
P19. Baiting of game	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	2 – 3 years
P20. Possession of a loaded firearm in a restricted area (see P6.)	Immediate suspension Referral to Commander	
P21. Possession of a firearm out of season, or during a closed season	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	3 – 5 years
P22. Possession of a loaded firearm in a campground, at the Outdoor Recreation Office, or inside the cab of a moving vehicle	First offense	1 year
	Two or more offenses	3 – 5 years
P23. Hunting with dogs outside a designated Dog Hunt area, or hunting without dogs within a designated Dog Hunt area	First offense	3 months
	Two or more offenses	6 months – 1 year
P24. Placing of tree stands/ground blinds out of season	First offense	1 month
	Two or more offenses	3 months – 1 year
P25. Threatening an Air Force employee, APCI employee, FWC Law Enforcement Officer, or APAFR Permit Holder	Immediate suspension Referral to Commander; subject to barment from Installation	

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Outdoor Recreation Program
Avon Park Air Force Range