



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

June 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **Action on Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Subject 391-4-2**

Enclosed for your review and favorable consideration are the proposed amendments to Subject 391-4-2 pertaining to hunting on public lands. Specifically these amendments include explicit prohibition of the use of drones to locate wildlife and feral hogs on department managed/owned lands, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for wildlife management areas, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Ravines Natural Area in Talbot County.

These proposals were presented for discussion at the April meeting prior to public notice for comment. Comments received on these proposed regulations from the public were generally supportive and are summarized on pages 5-6. All public comments received during the commenting period can be found here: [Public comments May 2026](#). We plan to make a brief presentation at the DNR Board meeting on June 23, 2026, and will request Board adoption at that time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need more information about any of the proposals in advance of our meeting. Thank you.

CH/klj

Attachments



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **Proposed Rules – Economic Impact**

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that in the formation and adoption of any rules which will have an economic impact on the businesses in the State, attempts be made to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses. These rules apply to businesses that are independently owned and operated, are not dominant in the field and employ 100 employees or less. The Wildlife Resources Division has determined that the proposed changes will have no negative economic impact on small businesses.

CH/klj

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **NOTICE AND SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in the Game and Fish Code (Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Secs. 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12, and 27-3-24), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend Department of Natural Resources rules governing the hunting of game animals, game birds, and feral hogs. The proposed rules (copy attached hereto), if adopted, will amend Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations.

SYNOPSIS AND MAIN FEATURES

The purpose of hunting regulations is to manage Georgia's game birds and game animals according to sound principles of wildlife management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable natural resources. Changes to the existing rules clarify issues related to hunting on WMAs, specifically to prohibit the use of drones to locate game and hogs, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for WMAs, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Natural Area.

This notice and synopsis of the proposed rule, together with an exact copy of proposed rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of all these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division web page (www.gohuntgeorgia.com). Please contact Marissa Mooneyham at (706) 557-3350 or marissa.mooneyham@dnr.ga.gov to request a copy.

The public may submit comments on these proposed amendments electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (706-557-3350) or by submitting written statements, before close of business on May 31, 2026. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Dr. Tina Johannsen at:

Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Game Management Section
2067 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

The Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received on June 23, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. F.D. Roosevelt State Park, 2970 Georgia Highway 190, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

CH/klj

Attachment: Proposed Amendments

**Public Participation Plan for
Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2
(Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas)**

Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, are being considered. These amendments clarify issues related to hunting on WMAs – prohibit the use of drones to locate game and hogs, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for WMAs, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Natural Area in Talbot County. Public input is an important component of the decision-making process. The plan for receiving and considering public input includes publicly noticing the proposed amendments and the acceptance and consideration of written, verbal, and electronic comments.

WRD staff will brief the Board of Natural Resources on the proposed amendments in draft form. The proposed amendments will be publicly noticed as required under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), O.C.G.A. §50-13-4, will be forwarded to legislative counsel, and mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to submit written comments to WRD by mail or electronically. Following the public notice, the Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received at its meeting on June 23, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. F.D. Roosevelt State Park, 2970 Georgia Highway 190, Pine Mountain, GA 31822.

**Schedule for Public Participation for
Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2**

Description of Action	Action Date
Present proposed amendments to Board's Wildlife Resources' Committee	04/28/2026
APA notice distributed, posted on website and provided to legislative counsel	04/30/2026
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed amendments	05/31/2026
Final approval of amendments by Board of Natural Resources	06/23/2026

Public Comment Summary

No requests for a public hearing were received. In response to the public notice, 40 emails, no phone calls, and no letters were received.

General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas - 391-4-2-.60

Prohibit use of drones for locating game and feral hogs	#
Support/Oppose	10/9
Consider allowing use of drones to recover downed game	4
Consider removing most/all existing restrictions on take of feral hogs and/or coyotes	6

Big Game Regulations on WMAs - 391-4-2-.66

Prohibit deer archery and dog training during small game quota hunts	#
Support/Oppose	4/0

Small Game Regulations on WMAs - 391-4-2-.67

Quail season opening date	#
Support/Oppose	4/0
Restrictions on take of coyotes and feral hogs	
Support/Oppose	4/5

Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired WMAs - 391-4-2-.72

Upatoi Ravines Natural Area – Talbot Co.	#
Support/Oppose	4/2
Request for additional deer archery opportunity	1

SUBJECT	PROPOSAL	CURRENT REGULATION	NEW OR AMENDED LANGUAGE	JUSTIFICATION
391-4-2-.60	General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Use of drones	Explicitly prohibit the use of drones to pursue game or hogs	Not addressed	Unmanned aircraft systems may not be used to pursue wildlife or feral hogs on public lands	House-keeping change - O.C.G.A. 27-3-12 prohibits the use of "electronic communications equipment" to pursue "any wild animal, game bird, or game animal". This excludes feral hogs. Interest in locating hogs via drones has increased dramatically, and recent state legislation allows pursuit of hogs on private land with drones.
391-4-2-.66	Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Quota hunts	Prohibit deer archery and dog training during drawn quota hunts for quail and rabbits	Not addressed	During small game quota hunts, hunting big game and training dogs is prohibited	House-keeping change - Archery deer hunting and some dog training activities are generally compatible with and therefore allowed during small game seasons. However, during quota quail and rabbit hunts, the volume of hunting parties with dogs increases the potential for conflicts with other users, who have ample alternative days to hunt. This change is also consistent with the existing prohibition on hunting other species during deer/bear quota hunts.
391-4-2-.67	Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Quail hunting	Clarify quail season opening date	Not addressed	Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.	House-keeping change - recently the statewide quail opener was moved to the 2nd Saturday in November from "the Saturday closest to November 11". Not opening sooner on WMAs will help maintain the timing and quality of existing quota hunts and available general hunts.

SUBJECT	PROPOSAL	CURRENT REGULATION	NEW OR AMENDED LANGUAGE	JUSTIFICATION
Incidental take of coyotes and hogs	Clarify restrictions on taking coyotes and hogs at night and with centerfire rifles	Sections 7 - 13 outline hunting for groups that include hogs and/or coyotes.	Coyotes but not hogs can be taken at night when hunting raccoons, possum, foxes, or bobcats.	House-keeping change - removes redundancy in Sections (7) and (10) to clarify that hunting hogs at night is prohibited and predators including coyotes may only be taken with a rifle at night if said rifle is not centerfire.
391-4-2-.72	Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas			
Upatoi Ravines Natural Area - Talbot Co.	Set hunting seasons and bag limits for new public land	Not addressed.	Deer, turkey, and small game hunting.	This 9,000 acre property was recently acquired to protect rare plant communities and critical riparian areas along Upatoi Creek. Regulations are proposed for big and small game on the area.

(STRIKETHROUGH VERSION)

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

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Rule 391-4-2-.60. General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to place bait or any wildlife food on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to consume or use alcoholic beverages on any WMA except in houses or at campsites on these areas; provided, however, that this provision does not apply to national forest lands.
- (3) The use of paintballs, paintball guns and related activities is prohibited on WMAs except on WMAs located on national forest lands.
- (4) Dogs entering WMAs must be kept on a leash or otherwise confined except when hunting or while training dogs during designated seasons and on designated areas. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs and any damage the dogs may do to wildlife not being legally hunted.
- (5) Except for Public Fishing Areas, fishing on WMAs is allowed in accordance with statewide seasons and limits, unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station.
- (6) U.S. Forest Service regulations shall apply on all WMAs located on National Forest lands.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to unreasonably disturb or annoy others through abrasive, insulting or threatening words or actions, or physically harm or threaten any other person, or disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement official or act in a manner resulting in a breach of the peace.
- (8) Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, horse riding, canoeing, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. The department may close specific sites as needed for management purposes by posting at the site.
- (9) It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to close or restrict access to roads, trails or other access features using motor vehicles, signage, or other methods. Roads, trails and other access features may be closed at the discretion of the department.
- (10) It is unlawful to shoot from a motor vehicle except that disabled hunters on a designated handicapped access road or hunters who have been issued a department Special Use Permit as specified in said permit may shoot from a vehicle provided such vehicle is stationary and not under power.
- (11) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in designated camping areas except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126.

(12) O.C.G.A. § 27-3-1.1 prohibits loaded long guns being carried in a motor vehicle on WMAs except for provisions stated in (10) above. Handguns may be loaded only as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126. A firearm shall be considered loaded if a shell is in the chamber or magazine except that muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded only if a cap is on the nipple or powder is present on the frizzen pan. Crossbows must be un-cocked while being transported in a vehicle on a WMA.

(13) Suppressed firearms may be used for hunting on WMAs.

(14) Buckshot may be used to hunt deer and bear when hunting seasons for those species are open on a WMA, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, and during such seasons, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken incidentally.

(15) The use of centerfire rifles to hunt at night is prohibited on WMAs, state parks, voluntary public access areas, and federal lands unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.73.

(16) The use of unmanned aircraft systems as defined in O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4 to hunt wildlife, wild animals, or feral hogs on lands owned or managed by the department is prohibited.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12.

Rule 391-4-2-.66. Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Two (2) deer may be killed during any one bonus deer hunt.

However, on bonus hunts when antler restrictions are in effect, no more than one (1) of the two (2) deer allowed may be an antlered buck.

(2) On bonus deer hunts, hunters should not record deer on the harvest record nor enter it in the Georgia Game Check harvest reporting system, but deliver the deer on the date of kill to the Wildlife Resources Division check station on the area where department personnel will provide a single-use tag. On all other deer hunts, the hunter's deer harvest record must be completed and the harvest must be reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(3) All deer hunts are either sex unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(4) A hunter shall harvest no more than 1 gobbler per season on any single wildlife management area, department-managed property, the Oconee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas or the

Chattahoochee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(5) Turkeys harvested on WMAs must be recorded on the hunter's harvest record and reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(6) The head and hide of all bears killed during open seasons must be presented at the check station on same date as killed on hunt dates when the check station is staffed. If the check station is unstaffed, the hunter shall report the harvest pursuant to 391-4-2-.03.

(7) Sign in is required for all big game hunts unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(8) Man-drives are prohibited during deer hunts. A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving three (3) or more hunters using a coordinated effort to drive animals from cover to another hunter for the purpose of shooting.

(9) During any quail or rabbit quota hunt, big game hunting and dog training are prohibited unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 27-1-4.

Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) During small game hunts, hunters may hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70 and:

(a) The daily bag limit on fox squirrels is 1 per hunter.

(b) The daily bag limit on bobwhite quail is 3 per hunter, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(c) During a quota hunt for any species, only drawn hunters and their party members may hunt.

(d) Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.

(2) Sign-in is not required for small game hunting (including migratory birds) unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(3) Small game and furbearer hunting are not allowed during big game quota hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(4) Small game hunters hunting on dates concurrent with deer and bear primitive weapons or firearm hunts must wear fluorescent orange or pink as specified in Rule 391-4-2-.04, except for dove hunters hunting on managed dove fields, furbearer hunters hunting at night, and waterfowl hunters hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments or other water bodies.

- (5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except that on the last Saturday of the season, hunters may shoot until sunset.
- (7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates. Coyotes ~~and feral hogs~~ may be taken at night, with small game weapons, while hunting raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat. Centerfire weapons may not be used for hunting at night on WMAs.
- (8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified.
- (9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open small game and big game dates unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (10) Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during all hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season. ~~Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during small game season with any weapon legal for small game except that centerfire rifles may not be used, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.~~
- (11) Special coyote season:
- (a) May 16-May 31 on department managed WMAs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Not open on State Parks, Voluntary Public Access Areas, or federal lands unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (b) Hunters may use any weapon legal for small or big game unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (c) Hunters and any person accompanying a hunter afield shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment above the waistline.
- (d) Night hunting is prohibited.
- (e) Feral hogs may not be taken unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(f) Dogs may not be used to hunt hogs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Where allowed, hunting dogs must be marked with the hunter's name and a valid telephone number.

(g) Hogs must be killed immediately upon capture.

(12) Unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, small game may be taken on WMAs by permitted falconers at any time during the state falconry season pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-15 except during any quota big game or small game hunts for which the falconer has not been drawn.

(13) Centerfire rifles may be used for fox and bobcat during daylight hours from December 1 through the last day of February only if a non-quota big game season is open on the area, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-24.

Rule 391-4-2-.72. Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Rules 391-4-2-.60 through 391-4-2-.68 apply to the wildlife management areas (WMA), herein, except as otherwise prescribed by the department.

(2) For the wildlife management areas herein, the department is authorized to prescribe hunt types, weapons restrictions, bag limits, antler restrictions, and any other special limitations, and to annually publish the same.

(3) Upatoi Ravines Natural Area

(a) Antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum of 4 antler points 1 inch or longer on one side of the antlers or a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen (15) inches.

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment from the second Saturday in September through the last date of the statewide primitive weapons season.

(c) Firearms hunting for deer of either sex shall be limited to a quota of 75 hunters for each hunt:

(i) for 3 days beginning on the third Friday in November; and

(ii) for 3 days beginning on the second Friday in December.

(4) Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons except that hunting bobcat, fox, fox squirrels, and quail is prohibited.

(5) Turkey hunting shall be limited to a quota of 5 hunters for each hunt:

(a) for 7 days beginning on the third Saturday of April; and

(b) for 7 days beginning on the first Saturday of May.

(6) Special regulations:

(1) No May coyote season.

(2) Horses and all-terrain vehicles may not be used.

(3) Camping is prohibited.

Cochrans Creek WMA

~~(a) Deer may be hunted during the following dates as prescribed by the department:~~

~~1. From the 2nd Saturday in September through 29 days thereafter.~~

~~2. From the 1st Thursday after October 20 through 4 days thereafter.~~

~~3. From the 1st Wednesday after October 31 through 4 days thereafter.~~

~~4. From the 1st Thursday after Thanksgiving through 3 days thereafter.~~

~~5. From the 1st Monday after December 5 through the 2nd Sunday in January.~~

~~(b) Small game may be hunted during state small game seasons except during firearms deer hunts.~~

~~(c) Turkey may be hunted from the 1st Saturday after April 2 through May 15.~~

(4) Featherfield WMA

~~(a) Deer may be hunted during the state deer seasons using archery only.~~

~~(b) Dove may be hunted the first, second, and third Saturdays in September and thereafter any day during the state dove seasons.~~

~~(c) Small game, except bobwhite quail, may be hunted during state small game seasons.~~

~~(d) Turkey may be hunted during the first two Saturdays and Sundays after April 2.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

(EXACT COPY)

**RULES
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**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
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- (4) Dogs entering WMAs must be kept on a leash or otherwise confined except when hunting or while training dogs during designated seasons and on designated areas. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs and any damage the dogs may do to wildlife not being legally hunted.
- (5) Except for Public Fishing Areas, fishing on WMAs is allowed in accordance with statewide seasons and limits, unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station.
- (6) U.S. Forest Service regulations shall apply on all WMAs located on National Forest lands.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to unreasonably disturb or annoy others through abrasive, insulting or threatening words or actions, or physically harm or threaten any other person, or disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement official or act in a manner resulting in a breach of the peace.
- (8) Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, horse riding, canoeing, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. The department may close specific sites as needed for management purposes by posting at the site.
- (9) It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to close or restrict access to roads, trails or other access features using motor vehicles, signage, or other methods. Roads, trails and other access features may be closed at the discretion of the department.
- (10) It is unlawful to shoot from a motor vehicle except that disabled hunters on a designated handicapped access road or hunters who have been issued a department Special Use Permit as specified in said permit may shoot from a vehicle provided such vehicle is stationary and not under power.
- (11) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in designated camping areas except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126.

(12) O.C.G.A. § 27-3-1.1 prohibits loaded long guns being carried in a motor vehicle on WMAs except for provisions stated in (10) above. Handguns may be loaded only as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126. A firearm shall be considered loaded if a shell is in the chamber or magazine except that muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded only if a cap is on the nipple or powder is present on the frizzen pan. Crossbows must be un-cocked while being transported in a vehicle on a WMA.

(13) Suppressed firearms may be used for hunting on WMAs.

(14) Buckshot may be used to hunt deer and bear when hunting seasons for those species are open on a WMA, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, and during such seasons, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken incidentally.

(15) The use of centerfire rifles to hunt at night is prohibited on WMAs, state parks, voluntary public access areas, and federal lands unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.73.

(16) The use of unmanned aircraft systems as defined in O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4 to hunt wildlife, wild animals, or feral hogs on lands owned or managed by the department is prohibited.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12.

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(2) On bonus deer hunts, hunters should not record deer on the harvest record nor enter it in the Georgia Game Check harvest reporting system, but deliver the deer on the date of kill to the Wildlife Resources Division check station on the area where department personnel will provide a single-use tag. On all other deer hunts, the hunter's deer harvest record must be completed and the harvest must be reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(3) All deer hunts are either sex unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(4) A hunter shall harvest no more than 1 gobbler per season on any single wildlife management area, department-managed property, the Oconee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas or the

Chattahoochee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(5) Turkeys harvested on WMAs must be recorded on the hunter's harvest record and reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(6) The head and hide of all bears killed during open seasons must be presented at the check station on same date as killed on hunt dates when the check station is staffed. If the check station is unstaffed, the hunter shall report the harvest pursuant to 391-4-2-.03.

(7) Sign in is required for all big game hunts unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(8) Man-drives are prohibited during deer hunts. A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving three (3) or more hunters using a coordinated effort to drive animals from cover to another hunter for the purpose of shooting.

(9) During any quail or rabbit quota hunt, big game hunting and dog training are prohibited unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 27-1-4.

Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) During small game hunts, hunters may hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70 and:

(a) The daily bag limit on fox squirrels is 1 per hunter.

(b) The daily bag limit on bobwhite quail is 3 per hunter, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(c) During a quota hunt for any species, only drawn hunters and their party members may hunt.

(d) Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.

(2) Sign-in is not required for small game hunting (including migratory birds) unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(3) Small game and furbearer hunting are not allowed during big game quota hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(4) Small game hunters hunting on dates concurrent with deer and bear primitive weapons or firearm hunts must wear fluorescent orange or pink as specified in Rule 391-4-2-.04, except for dove hunters hunting on managed dove fields, furbearer hunters hunting at night, and waterfowl hunters hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments or other water bodies.

- (5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except that on the last Saturday of the season, hunters may shoot until sunset.
- (7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates. Coyotes may be taken at night, with small game weapons, while hunting raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat. Centerfire weapons may not be used for hunting at night on WMAs.
- (8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified.
- (9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open small game and big game dates unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (10) Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during all hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season.
- (11) Special coyote season:
- (a) May 16-May 31 on department managed WMAs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Not open on State Parks, Voluntary Public Access Areas, or federal lands unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (b) Hunters may use any weapon legal for small or big game unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (c) Hunters and any person accompanying a hunter afield shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment above the waistline.
- (d) Night hunting is prohibited.
- (e) Feral hogs may not be taken unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (f) Dogs may not be used to hunt hogs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Where allowed, hunting dogs must be marked with the hunter's name and a valid telephone number.
- (g) Hogs must be killed immediately upon capture.

(12) Unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, small game may be taken on WMAs by permitted falconers at any time during the state falconry season pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-15 except during any quota big game or small game hunts for which the falconer has not been drawn.

(13) Centerfire rifles may be used for fox and bobcat during daylight hours from December 1 through the last day of February only if a non-quota big game season is open on the area, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-24.

Rule 391-4-2-.72. Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Rules 391-4-2-.60 through 391-4-2-.68 apply to the wildlife management areas (WMA), herein, except as otherwise prescribed by the department.

(2) For the wildlife management areas herein, the department is authorized to prescribe hunt types, weapons restrictions, bag limits, antler restrictions, and any other special limitations, and to annually publish the same.

(3) Upatoi Ravines Natural Area

(a) Antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum of 4 antler points 1 inch or longer on one side of the antlers or a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen (15) inches.

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment from the second Saturday in September through the last date of the statewide primitive weapons season.

(c) Firearms hunting for deer of either sex shall be limited to a quota of 75 hunters for each hunt:

(i) for 3 days beginning on the third Friday in November; and

(ii) for 3 days beginning on the second Friday in December.

(4) Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons except that hunting bobcat, fox, fox squirrels, and quail is prohibited.

(5) Turkey hunting shall be limited to a quota of 5 hunters for each hunt:

(a) for 7 days beginning on the third Saturday of April; and

(b) for 7 days beginning on the first Saturday of May.

(6) Special regulations:

(1) No May coyote season.

(2) Horses and all-terrain vehicles may not be used.

(3) Camping is prohibited.

Hunting Regulations

Subject 391-4-2

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.