

Hunting and Trapping Regulations for Wild Hogs in Alachua County

Barton Wilder

Wild hogs are a serious problem in Florida and hunting is permitted on both private property and public land. However, there are several key differences between the rules that govern the hunting on private property and public land.

Hunting on Private Property

Wild hogs are not native to Florida, and therefore can be hunted year round with no bag limit on the amount taken. Wild hogs are considered to be livestock and as a result a hunting license from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is not required to hunt wild hogs on private property. In addition, hunters no longer need a permit from the FWC to hunt wild hogs at night on private property.

Hunting on Public Land

Hunting in national and state forests is regulated by the FWC as wildlife management areas (WMAs). Water management district property can also be part of WMAs. To hunt in a WMA a valid FWC management area permit is required. Each WMA sets its own hunting season and regulations. Wild hogs can be hunted in season in all WMAs in Alachua County except for the Orange Creek Small Game Hunting Area. Dog hunting of wild hogs is not permitted in any of the WMAs in Alachua County. Wild hogs cannot be transported offsite alive. Hunting wild hogs at night is prohibited in all WMAs in Alachua County. There are no bag limits on wild hogs in the WMAs in Florida. A list of all the WMAs in Florida with their hunting regulations can be found here:

<http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures#wma>.

Trapping Regulations

The FWC classifies wild hogs as livestock therefore there is no limit to the amount that can be trapped on private property. Trapping of wild hogs on WMAs is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the FWC. Wild hogs trapped on private property may not be released onto public land. The transportation of wild hogs is regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Trappers must be registered as a Feral Swine Dealer to transport wild hog's offsite. A feral swine dealer permit is not required if the wild hogs will are not transported offsite. Wild hogs can only be transported to a slaughter site, game reserve, or an approved feral swine holding facility.

Table 1 Wild hog hunting regulations for WMAs in Alachua County

	Private property	Wildlife Management Areas
Open season	Yes	No
Hunting License	No	No (WMA permit is required)
Bag limit	None	None
Night hunting	Yes	No

If you have any questions about hunting or trapping wild hogs, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission North Central Office at 386-758-0525.