



Feral Hog Hunts

Flatwoods Bike Park at Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Hog-Dog Hunt:

There will be two separate three-day night-time hog-dog hunts on the Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve. There will be **20 permits** available for each hunt period. This is a hog-dog hunt only. Please read and obey all "Rules" below.

Hunt Information:

Release and Waiver of Liability

Each person who has a permit to hunt the area, including minors and assistants, must complete a release and waiver of liability form. Forms must be completed for each participant and minor prior to entering the gate and will be collected during entry (form for minors must be signed by a parent or legal guardian).

Hunters Beware

Some of the hogs on the area have pseudorabies, leptospirosis or swine brucellosis. Brucellosis is a serious disease in humans. Inquire with the check-station operator for further information prior to the start of your hunt.

Rules:

Permits

1. Each hunter must have in his/her possession a valid District hunt permit before entering the area. There will be no exceptions.
2. Permits will be validated on a daily basis.
3. Loan or transfer of a permit is allowed. No walk-in permits will be issued.

Access

1. For daytime hunts, area gates will be open from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset each day of the hunt period. For night hunts, area gates will be open from one hour after sunset until 2 a.m. each day of the hunt period. Any person who is in the area after closing may have his/her permit revoked and may not be allowed to participate in any future hunts.
2. Hunters will be restricted to the hunt area as illustrated on the attached map.
3. Hunters will not be allowed to fish the area.
4. Vehicles will be allowed only on roads as designated on the hunt map during hunt days. There will be no exceptions. Vehicles may be operated off-road for the purpose of retrieving harvested wild hogs with authorization from a District employee, check station staff or law enforcement officer.
5. Airboats, tracked vehicles, horses, motorcycles and ATVs are prohibited.
6. Roads, gates or fire lines may not be obstructed by any parked vehicle.
7. Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "restricted" for protection of endangered species on environmentally sensitive lands.
8. Wet-weather barriers may be installed on roads during inclement weather. Open and/or closed roads will be posted daily at the check station.
9. Vehicular access to the area by non-hunting individuals will not be permitted.
10. Hunters are allowed only two vehicles per hunt party.
11. Persons entering the area illegally may be charged with trespassing.

Hunt Rules

1. All hunters entering the area must have in their possession a valid Florida driver license or a form of photographic identification and a District permit (40D-9.170, F.A.C.).
2. All participants must wear 500 square inches of hunter orange as an outer garment above the waist. This applies for both day and night hunts.
3. Individuals younger than 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times while taking hogs. Two children between the ages of 6–16 may accompany the permitted hunter during the hunt. Children shall not be left unattended and are not classified as assistants.
4. Upon request, hunters shall produce hunt permits and a form of identification to any District or law enforcement personnel while in the area.
5. Any person who is apprehended/detained by a law enforcement officer for any assumed violation of federal, state or area rule or regulation will be escorted from the area and barred from participating in this and future hunts. Any individual asked to leave the area who denies this request will be charged with trespassing.
6. Each person who has a permit to hunt the area, including children and assistants, must complete a release and waiver of liability form. The release form for minors must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Forms must be filled out for each participant and minor prior to entering the gate and will be collected during entry.
7. All state and federal laws and regulations relating to wildlife or freshwater aquatic life apply while in the area.
8. Hunters are legal to take hogs only; no size restriction or possession limit.
9. The taking of any wildlife other than wild hogs is prohibited.
10. Hunting, trapping or the possession of dogs in closed areas is prohibited.
11. No person, except District employees, may place or distribute any grain or other food for wildlife.
12. No wood products may be cut or transported from the area. The removal or cutting of live or dead trees, or other plants or shrubs or other native materials is prohibited.
13. The use of traps, live decoys, snares and nets is prohibited.
14. Hunters shall respect all fencing, structures and infrastructures and keep all gates closed.
15. Hunters shall respect all posted hunt safety zones and avoid shooting toward hunt boundary.
16. Individuals may not leave garbage or refuse in the area.
17. No person may be under the influence or in possession of alcohol or drugs while in the area. Only medications prescribed by a licensed doctor will be permitted.
18. The District reserves the right to cancel the hunt at any time.
19. Any person violating any hunt rules is subject to being escorted from the area and may be denied future access.
20. No more than two assistants and two approved children will be permitted with each hunter during the hunts.
21. All hides and entrails will be disposed of at the designated site posted at the check station.
22. THIS IS A HOG-DOG HUNT ONLY. No still hunting will be allowed during the hunt period.
23. There will be no scout days.
24. Permit holders, assistants, and their dogs will be restricted to the hunt area as illustrated on the provided District property maps. In the event that the District utilizes zones for larger properties, participants, assistants and dogs will be restricted to those designated areas for a specific event.
25. Live hogs may not be removed from District lands. Participants encountered leaving District hunts with live feral hogs will be removed for the District's hog hunt participant list and will be considered for being banned from future feral hog population management events.
26. The District requires all feral hogs removed during District hunts to be concealed as the participants or their assistants leave the property. Once removed from District lands, we request that the deceased feral hogs are concealed until the feral hog arrives at its final destination. Public perception of the opportunities provided by the District during feral hog population management events will ultimately determine the District's ability to continue to provide opportunities.

Check Station

1. All persons participating in the wild hog management hunts must check in at the check station before entering the area and check out at the check station prior to leaving the area.
2. All wild hogs must be checked at the check station before removal from the area. Wild hogs may be field dressed prior to checking; however, the head and evidence of sex must remain attached until the wild hog is checked.
3. The transport of any live hog is prohibited.
4. All vehicles are subject to search while in the area or at the check station.

Dogs

1. Dogs of any size or breed may be used during the hog dog hunts. No more than three dogs per District quota permit may be used to take wild hogs. All other dogs must be physically restrained.
2. Measures should be taken to safeguard dogs from harm through their participation in hunts. Hunters are to dispatch hogs in the most humane method possible.
3. Individuals allowed entry are responsible for their own actions and the actions of their dogs.
4. **Hunters, while hunting, are required to have their dogs wear collars that identify their owner's name and address.**

Firearms

1. The possession and use of all firearms must be in accordance with provisions of Chapter 379 and 790 of the Florida Statutes.
2. Shooting hours for wild hogs are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.
3. The taking of wild hogs by gun or knife is only allowed on hogs that are bayed at the time of being dispatched.
4. Firearms will be restricted to one center-fire handgun under the control and use of only the designated hunt permit holder. Only the permitted hunter can dispatch hogs with a centered-fire handgun.

Camping

1. Camping is prohibited.
2. Fires are prohibited.

LOWER HILLSBOROUGH WILDERNESS PRESERVE

