

Cedar Creek and Uchee Creek Special Opportunity Areas Hunt Guidelines/Rules

Successful applicants may be accompanied by one hunting guest and both must remain on their assigned hunt unit. Each hunting unit is clearly defined on the Special Opportunity Area (SOA) map and delineated with signage on the ground.

Access to the SOAs for limited quota permitted hunters will be at the primary gate entrances depicted on the map.

Kiosks will be located at a central location on the SOA for hunters to check in daily and to provide information to the users. Hunter participation, harvest data, and observational data will be collected from the hunters at the primary informational kiosk. Educational posters will be displayed and data sheets will be provided at the kiosk.

Deer Limited Quota Draw Hunts-

Each deer hunt will begin at noon on day one and end at noon on day four of the hunt. On the 2nd and 3rd hunt day, permitted hunters may enter the SOA on their assigned hunt dates 1 ½ hour prior to legal sunrise and must exit the SOA by 1 ½ hour after legal sunset.

Traveling to and from assigned hunt units is only permitted between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to minimize disturbances to other SOA hunters.

SOA participants will be allowed to use archery equipment for archery hunts, primitive weapons for primitive weapons hunts and either archery, primitive weapons or centerfire weapons for gun hunts. In technical words, specifically, hunters and hunting guests may utilize the legal arms and ammunition as specified under legal arms and ammunition in 220-2-.02(2) and archery in 220-2.03 for the scheduled SOA hunts as depicted in 220-2-.56.

SOA Deer Harvest Restrictions-

Antlered bucks- to be legal for harvest, antlered bucks must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- At least one main beam shall be 20 inches or longer (approximately three times the length of the deer's ear).
- Inside antler spread shall be at least 16 inches wide (approximately outside the tips of the deer's ears).

Each hunter and hunting guest is allowed one antlered buck per hunter per 4 day hunt.

Harvest of antlerless deer is strongly encouraged. Each hunter and hunting guest may take two antlerless deer per hunter per 4 day hunt, in addition to their antlered buck. If a hunter or hunting guest fails to harvest an antlered buck, that hunter and hunting guest may take three antlerless deer per hunter per 4 day hunt.

Hunters and hunting guests are required to record the following data for each deer harvested at the primary informational kiosk:

1. Date of harvest
2. Sex of deer harvested
3. Either live or field-dressed weight of the deer (Scales will be provided)
4. Lactation status (milk present) of the does (yes or no)
5. Antler measurements for antlered bucks as specified at kiosk
6. One lower jawbone from each deer harvested. (In the event a buck is taken to the taxidermist, the jawbone may be mailed to the assigned biologist)
7. A photo of each deer taken prior to leaving the SOA. Photos can be emailed to the assigned biologist, Justin Gilchrist, Justin.Gilchrist@dcnr.alabama.gov (Cedar Creek) or Richard Tharp, Richard.Tharp@dcnr.alabama.gov (Uchee Creek)
8. Submit completed observation information form for each hunt in kiosk lock box
9. All hunters and hunting guests must adhere to the mandatory reporting requirements of Gamecheck.

Turkey Limited Quota Draw Hunts-

The limited quota permit holder and guest is permitted to scout, with no weapons in possession and only in assigned hunt units, the day prior to the assigned scheduled hunt. Each hunt day, permitted hunters and their hunting guest may enter the SOA and hunt their assigned units 1 ½ hour prior to legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset and must exit the SOA by 1 ½ hour after legal sunset.

SOA Turkey Harvest Restrictions-

Each hunter and hunting guest is allowed to harvest one gobbler per hunter per 2 day hunt. Hunters are required to record the following data for each turkey harvested on forms provided at SOA kiosk:

1. Date of harvest
2. Weight
3. Spur length
4. Beard length (to 1/8")
5. A photo of each turkey taken prior to leaving the SOA. Photos can be emailed to the assigned biologist, Justin Gilchrist, Justin.Gilchrist@dcnr.alabama.gov (Cedar Creek) or Richard Tharp, Richard.Tharp@dcnr.alabama.gov (Uchee Creek).
6. Submit completed observation information form for each hunt in kiosk lock box
7. All hunters and hunting guests must adhere to the mandatory reporting requirements of Gamecheck.

SOA General Violations/Restrictions -

- Any violation of SOA rules and regulations (220-2-.55) or any other regulation or law while hunting on Cedar Creek or Uchee Creek SOA will result in that individual losing their eligibility for future SOA hunts.
- Failure to notify WFF personnel of cancellation within 7 days of the hunter's assigned hunt dates at Cedar Creek or Uchee Creek SOA will result in that individual losing their eligibility for future SOA hunts.
- Hunters shall only hunt and/or scout in their assigned unit(s).