

**AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE  
PUBLIC RECREATION AREA HUNTING REGULATIONS  
FOR THE 2011-2012 SEASON**

**1. General Hunting Regulations**

a. All persons shall comply with state and federal fish and game license laws. Although Florida Wildlife Management Area Stamps are not needed, all other licenses and stamps are required and must be displayed on request to any Outdoor Recreation personnel or to any state or federal law-enforcement officer. A list of all the 2011 - 2012 hunting fees can be found on the Avon Park Outdoor Recreation web site: [www.avonparkafr.net](http://www.avonparkafr.net).

b. Hunt/Recreational Permits are valid from September 10, 2011 to the Hunter's Safety Briefing the following year. There may be weekends when the entire installation is closed to hunting/recreation due to military activity.

c. All Hunt Permit Holders must be at least 18 years old on September 1 of the permitted hunting year, sign a Release of Liability and Regulation Acknowledgment, pay the hunting fee, and attend a Safety Briefing.

d. Proof of completion of a state-certified Hunter Education Course (any state) is required for all Permit Holders, their hunting guests, dependent and non-dependent children (age 16 or older) hunting in the PRA.

e. An Individual Hunt/Recreational Permit Holder (\$325) may hunt, fish, camp, or engage in any permitted recreational activity and bring one underage child (under 18 years old), dependent or non-dependent, to hunt as well as up to four adult guests to engage in any permissible recreational activities. The adult guest cannot hunt but they may accompany the Permit Holder in the field. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area. After the opening weekends of each season and the first two weekends of Spring Turkey Season, the Individual Hunt Permit Holder can bring one adult hunting guest along with one underage hunting child. The appropriate guest permit (hunting or recreational) is required for each guest 18 years old and older. All non-dependent underage children (under 18 years old) must have a signed parental consent form to hunt or recreate with the Permit Holder. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area.

f. A Family Hunt/Recreational Permit Holder (\$350) may hunt, fish, camp, or engage in any permitted recreational activity and may bring his spouse and a total of no more than five (5) underage children (under 18 years old), dependent and non-dependent, as well as up to four adult guests to engage in any permissible recreational activities. The spouse and adult guests cannot hunt but may accompany the Permit Holder in the field. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area. No more than two underage children may carry a firearm while hunting with the Family Permit Holder. After the opening weekends of each season and the first two weekends of Spring Turkey Season, the Family Hunt Permit Holder may bring one adult hunting guest. The Family Hunt Permit Holder is allowed to bring a maximum of two additional hunters (two underage children or one underage child and one adult guest). The appropriate guest permit (hunting or recreational) is required for each guest 18 years old and older. All non-dependent underage children (under 18 years old) must have a signed parental consent form to hunt or recreate with the Permit Holder. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area.

g. A Family/Spouse Hunt/Recreational Permit Holder (\$500) may hunt, fish, camp, or engage in any permitted recreational activity and may bring his spouse and a total of no more than five (5) underage children (under 18 years old), dependent and non-dependent as well as up to four adult guests to engage in any permissible recreational activities. The adult guests cannot hunt, but they may accompany the Family/Spouse Hunt Permit Holder in the field. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Family/Spouse Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area. The spouse is allowed to hunt and no more than two underage children can hunt with each Family/Spouse Hunt Permit Holder. After the opening weekends of each season and the first two weekends of Spring Turkey Season, the Family/Spouse Hunt Permit Holder can bring an adult hunting guest. The Family/Spouse Hunt Permit Holder is allowed to bring a maximum of two

additional hunters (two underage children or one underage child and one adult guest). The appropriate guest permit (hunting or recreational) is required for each guest 18 years old and older. All non-dependent underage children (under 18 years old) must have a signed parental consent form to hunt or recreate with the Permit Holder. They must wear the required blaze orange when accompanying the Hunt Permit Holder in any hunting area.

h. An individual Quail/Small-Game/Recreational Permit Holder (\$225) is allowed all the activities as an Individual Hunt/Recreational Permit Holder but can only hunt during the stated small game season.

i. A Family Quail/Small-Game/Recreational Permit Holder (\$250) is allowed all the activities as an Family Hunt/Recreational Permit Holder but can only hunt during the stated small game season.

## **2. Access Procedures (Sign-in and Sign-out)**

a. The Avon Park Air Force Range has been an active military training complex since 1941. To ensure safety, certain portions of the installation are permanently closed and other areas are temporarily closed to public access. The Public Recreation Area is divided into 18 Management Units. Access is allowed only in open Management Units. The following procedures must be observed by all Permit Holders and their guests:

(1) All users must first sign-in at the Outdoor Recreation Office or sign-in at the Frostproof Gate (if it is open) using their assigned permit number.

(2) All users must then:

(a) Check the status map located at all sign-in locations. This map identifies which Management Units are open.

(b) Check the Forecast Sheet and read all recreational notes. The Forecast Sheet gives the estimated opening and closing times of each Management Unit and is intended to help the Permit Holders plan their weekend. Recreational notes provide important information such as prescribed burns, timber sales, road closures, etc. Since schedule changes may occur, it is the Permit Holder's responsibility to check the Management Unit status each day. Information kiosks are provided at the Outdoor Recreation Office and Willingham and Morgan Hole Campgrounds.

b. All Permit Holders must sign-in and sign-out each time they enter or leave the installation. If for some reason you fail to sign out, call the office immediately at (863) 452-4254 and let them know that you have left the installation.

c. All users should complete a Weekend Report Form and leave it at the Outdoor Recreation Office at the end of their stay.

d. All users may enter and exit the installation only at the Main Gate and the Frostproof Gate, when these gates are open to the public. Boaters using the Kissimmee River boat ramp must initially sign in at the Outdoor Recreation Office or the Frostproof Gate. Permit Holders may exit and reenter the installation via the boat ramp at the Kissimmee River. They may also park their boat along the river bank when Management Units 10 or 10A are open.

## **3. Guest Fees and Procedures**

a. No adult hunting guests are allowed the opening weekends of each season and the first two weekends of Spring Gobbler Season. An adult Guest Hunt Permit costs \$30.00, and a non-hunting adult permit costs \$15.00. There is no charge for underage children (under 18 years old). Permits will be issued for the named guest(s) and must be purchased by the Hunt Permit Holder and signed by the guest at the time of purchase. The permit is valid for the entire hunt weekend. Hunt Permit Holders may purchase Guest Hunt Permits for several weekends at one time; however, should these permits not be used, the money will not be refunded.

The Permit Holder is liable for the actions of all their guest(s) during the time that the individual(s) is/are on the installation. Failure to properly escort/supervise any guest(s) may result in the suspension of recreation privileges for the Permit Holder.

b. If a guest permit is not purchased in advance, the Hunt Permit Holder and their guest must enter the installation through the Main Gate and proceed directly to Building 600, the Outdoor Recreation Office, to purchase the guest permit.

#### **4. Use of Vehicles, Decals, and Passes**

a. Each Hunt Permit Holder will be issued a Vehicle Decal. This decal is to be applied to the inside of the driver's side of the windshield. If the vehicle bearing the Vehicle Decal is sold or transferred to another individual, the Vehicle Decal must be removed before the vehicle leaves the Permit Holder's possession. If a second vehicle is frequently used for recreation, an additional Vehicle Decal may be purchased for a fee of \$10.00.

b. If a Permit Holder or Guest Hunt Permit Holder wishes to bring a vehicle on the installation that does not have a Vehicle Decal, they must enter at the main gate and proceed directly to the Outdoor Recreation Office to obtain a Temporary Vehicle Pass. A Temporary Vehicles Pass costs \$2.00. A vehicle may not enter the Public Recreation Area without a Vehicle Decal or Temporary Vehicle Pass.

c. Any vehicle entering the installation must have a current license plate, proof of insurance, meet federal/state laws and safety requirements, and be operated by a licensed driver.

d. Vehicles must be operated only on improved and unimproved roads as designated on the Public Recreation Map. The only exception is that during Quail/Small-Game Season, vehicles will be allowed to drive off improved and unimproved roads in designated areas if they are hunting quail with bird dogs. These designated areas will be posted at the Outdoor Recreation Office and at all check stations.

e. No airboats, ATVs, or motorized cycles of any type are allowed except under special circumstances as designated by the Installation Commander. Only rubber-tired vehicles are permitted.

f. Vehicles may not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct traffic flow on any roads or fire lanes.

g. The use of vehicles is prohibited in the Public Recreation Area between 10:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. except on Frostproof, Smith, Old Bravo, Kissimmee Roads, during verifiable emergencies or during designated special hunts.

h. During Archery and Spring Turkey Seasons, in Management unit 10A, vehicular traffic is prohibited between one-half hour before sunrise to one and one-half hours past sunrise on Marsh Trail from Kissimmee Road to Tank Trail.

i. No person shall ride upon any vehicle in any manner not designated or intended for the use of passengers. Persons may ride in the bed of a pickup truck, but they must be seated on the bed or in fixed seats, with no portion of their bodies overhanging the vehicle sides or rear.

j. The speed limit on the installation is 35 mph on paved roads and 25 mph on unimproved roads, unless posted otherwise.

#### **5. Hunting**

a. Hunting seasons change annually. Most dates may be found in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Hunting Handbook. It is the responsibility of the hunter to know hunting-season dates and legal hunting hours.

(1) Tentative 2011–2012 hunting season dates for the Avon Park Air Force Range Public Recreation Area. These dates are subjected to change due to military missions or updated biological information.

Archery Season	17 September 2011	-	16 October 2011
Muzzleloading Gun Season	22 October 2011	-	31 October 2011
General Gun Season (deer)	05 November 2011	-	05 December 2011
General Gun Season (hog)	05 November 2011	-	26 December 2011
Quail/Small-Game Season	30 December 2011	-	04 March 2012
Special Antlerless Deer/Hog Hunt	06 January 2012	-	22 January 2012
Raccoon Season (night hunting)	27 January 2012	-	20 February 2012
Youth Spring Turkey Hunt	10 March 2012	-	11 March 2012
Spring Turkey Season	17 March 2012	-	22 April 2012

(2) Experimental Duck Seasons are not in effect at Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR).

b. Only bearded turkeys may be taken during Archery Season and Spring Turkey Season.

c. Antlered deer taken during Archery, Muzzleloading, and General Gun Seasons must have a minimum of three (3) points on one side. No antlered deer may be taken in the PRA (Public Recreation Area) after 5 December 2011 unless posted otherwise.

d. Antlerless deer may only be taken during Archery Season or as specifically posted.

e. Hogs may be taken without restriction to size and bag limits during Archery Season, Muzzleloading Gun Season, General Gun Season, or during authorized Special Hog Hunts.

f. Hunters usually may enter the installation at noon on Thursdays and must exit by 8:00 p.m. Monday during each weekend hunting period. For special circumstances, these hours may be extended.

g. All personal possessions must be removed from the installation at the end of each weekend. The Air Force is not liable for the loss or vandalism of any items or equipment brought onto the installation. Items left are subject to being confiscated.

h. Actual hunting will be permitted on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday when state and federal seasons permit and at other times as designated by the Installation Commander.

i. ALL harvested animals must be checked at the Outdoor Recreation Office and must not be skinned, gutted or dismembered until they are checked.

j. Evidence of sex must remain attached to all deer and turkey at all times, and the entire head must remain with the carcass or meat of deer or turkey while in camp or in transit when exiting the installation. All meat from harvested game that is not attached to the carcass, must have a label attached to it that lists the name, license number, and permit number of the hunter who killed the animal. It must be possible to easily trace the meat to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification. Tags attached to the carcass by check-station personnel must remain intact on the carcass while in camp or in transit.

k. Unless otherwise, during Muzzleloading, General Gun, Quail/Small-Game Season or Special Hunts, all hunters or individuals accompanying hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of daylight orange material as an outer garment when in any hunting area. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline. This rule does not apply to hunting waterfowl in Kissimmee Marsh, Arbuckle Marsh, Morgan Hole Creek or when sitting in a vehicle.

l. All firearms must be completely empty of all ammunition while at the Outdoor Recreation Office, at any campsite, in or on any vehicle while moving on any designated road, or within 50 feet of Kissimmee Road. The only exception is that muzzleloaders can be loaded but must not have a priming cap.

m. The discharge of firearms or the use of archery gear is prohibited within 200 yards of the marked boundary of any public campsite. However, muzzleloading firearms may be cleared in the muzzleloading pits located at Willingham and Morgan Hole Campgrounds. Target practice is prohibited.

n. Firearms may not be discharged while on or across any road designated on the Public Recreation Area map.

o. All tree stands erected during the hunting season must be removed from the installation no later than one week after the close of Spring Turkey Season. Tree stands for the 2011-2012 hunting season may not be erected until the installation opens to the public the week prior to Labor Day weekend of 2011.

## **6. Permissible Firearms and Weapons**

a. Only archery equipment may be brought onto the installation during Archery Season. Crossbows are allowed with a FWC disabled person crossbow permit.

b. During Muzzleloading Season, the following are allowed: archery equipment including crossbows and muzzleloading firearms.

c. During General Gun Season, the following are allowed: shotguns, archery equipment including crossbows, muzzleloading firearms, rim-fire rifles (maximum velocity 1200 fps), and pistols with barrels less than nine (9) inches in length. BB guns and pellet guns are allowed but cannot be used for the taking of game species.

d. During Quail/Small-Game Season, the following are allowed: shotguns, archery equipment including crossbows, muzzleloading firearms, rim-fire rifles (maximum velocity 1200 fps), and pistols with barrels less than nine (9) inches in length. BB guns and pellet guns are allowed but cannot be used for the taking of game species.

e. During Spring Turkey Season, the following are allowed: shotguns (modern and muzzleloading) only, archery equipment including crossbows. Shot size larger than #2 diameter is prohibited on the installation during this time.

## **7. Use of Dogs**

a. Dogs, including pets, are allowed in all campgrounds. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to secure their dogs at all times. Dogs creating disturbances in campgrounds must be removed from the installation if requested by the Outdoor Recreation Program or law enforcement employees.

b. All dogs must wear a collar bearing the name, telephone number, and address of the owner. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination and have the rabies vaccination tag attached to their collar.

c. No dogs may run loose between sunset and sunrise.

d. No dogs may be free-roaming except when they are used by permitted hunters to pursue game during General Gun and Quail/Small-Game Seasons.

e. Hunting dogs may be used during any season to track wounded game in any management unit, but they must always be kept on a leash. Dogs need not be left in camp, but they must be safely secured in a truck during the hunt. Before tracking wounded game in non-dog areas, the hunter must first contact the Outdoor Recreation Office.

f. During the 2011 - 2012 General Gun Season, hunting in Management Units 9-13 is restricted to hunters using dogs. No still-hunting or the use of tree stands is allowed in the dog-hunting area. (Exception - when

hunting waterfowl or snipe in Kissimmee Marsh, Arbuckle Marsh or Morgan Hole Creek during the General Gun Season. Waterfowl and snipe hunters may hunt with or without dogs in these marshes regardless of which Management Units are designated as dog-hunting units.)

g. All hunters who have lost dogs must report this information to the Outdoor Recreation Office in Building 600 before leaving the installation. Hunters must make every effort possible to locate lost dogs before leaving the installation.

h. Hunters finding lost dogs must take them to the Outdoor Recreation Office to be placed in a pen. Outdoor Recreation personnel must be notified that the dog is there. Dogs not claimed within 24 hours or dogs without appropriate tags will be turned over to the Polk County Animal Control.

i. Areas closed to dogs will be open to hunting small game with dogs during the Quail/Small-Game Season, unless posted otherwise. Dogs may also be used to hunt hogs during Special Hunts as designated by the Installation Commander.

j. The training of hunting dogs is prohibited at all times.

## **8. General Regulations**

a. Transportation of live wild game is prohibited.

b. All animals are protected and may not be harassed, injured, killed, or removed from the installation, except as specifically authorized by APAFR regulations.

c. Plants, animals, or historic or cultural artifacts shall not be taken or collected. No plants or animals of any sort shall be brought on and left on the installation.

d. Members of the public may not use or install game feeders, or bait in any manner.

e. Live or standing dead trees may not be cut. Only dead wood and live wood on the ground may be cut and collected for firewood while camping.

f. Driving metal into any tree is prohibited.

g. Destroying, damaging, or vandalizing any infra structure (portable toilets, showers, tables, etc.) is prohibited.

h. All closed gates must be kept closed. If you open a gate, you must close it. Gates found open may subsequently be locked without notice.

i. Littering is prohibited. Dumpsters at campgrounds are for trash accumulated while camping. They shall not be utilized for any household trash, tires, propane bottles, live coals or ashes. The discharge of contaminants or human wastes is prohibited.

j. Willingham, Morgan Hole, and Fort Kissimmee are the only designated campgrounds for general public use. Campground boundaries are shown on the map.

k. No campfires may be left unattended at any time. Fire bans must be observed when in force.

l. Generators are allowed in Willingham Campground west of Frostproof Road, Morgan Hole Campground north of Kissimmee Road, and Kissimmee Campground north of the boat landing. Generators are restricted from all other camping areas. Generators may be used where allowed 24-hours-a-day.

m. People and/or their dogs creating excessive noise or behavior that disturbs other recreationists will be removed from the installation and may have their recreation/hunting privileges revoked by the Installation Commander.

n. No camping is allowed within 25 feet of a picnic pavilion, water pump, portable toilet or shower facility.

o. Hunting while intoxicated or possession of open alcoholic beverage containers in a moving vehicle is prohibited. Public intoxication in general is prohibited. Good order and discipline must be maintained at all times while on Installation. Failure to comply with this policy will result in suspension or barment.

p. By accepting an APAFR Hunt Permit and Vehicle Decal/Temporary Vehicle Pass, users are giving consent to search their vehicles while on the Installation. If a vehicle is towed or impounded, users agree to reimburse the towing agent on behalf of the vehicle owner/operator.

q. All persons 16 years or older must carry some form of current photographic identification while on the installation.

r. No ordnance or any other military material shall be tampered with, handled, or removed from the installation. Sightings of such objects are to be reported to the Outdoor Recreation Office.

s. Hunting or the possession of firearms or archery equipment while in Sandy Point Wildlife Refuge (west of Ebersbach Grade) is prohibited.

t. Horses are allowed only in Management Units 1 and 2 during non-hunting periods and during the Quail/Small-Game Season. They may be used only on designated roads and trails in these units. An up-to-date Coggins test is required in order to bring horses on to the Installation. Camping with and feeding horses is allowed only at the Willingham Campground.

u. Spot-lighting is allowed from sunset until two hours after sunset. No firearms, archery equipment or hunting dogs are allowed while shot-lighting.

## **9. Special Fishing Regulations**

a. There is a daily bag limit of five bass for Tomlin Hammock Lake.

b. There is a daily bag limit of ten catfish at all ponds.

c. All persons shall comply with state and federal fishing laws.

d. Boats are restricted to a maximum engine size of ten horsepower on Tomlin Hammock Lake, Submarine Lake, and Little Lake. Gas or electric trolling motors may be used.

## **10. Violations**

a. A written report will be filed on any individual apprehended/detained by law enforcement or Outdoor Recreation Program personnel for violation of any federal, state, or installation law or regulation. A report on all violations will be made to the Installation Commander, who will decide whether or not to suspend the recreation privileges of the individual for a period ranging from 1 to 15 years. The individual will be informed of this decision by mail. Violation of some regulations may result in individuals being immediately escorted from the installation. Vehicle decals or passes will be removed, permits confiscated and the individuals directed not to reenter the installation until further notice.

b. Archeological and historical resources on Avon Park Air Force Range are protected under federal law, and it is a crime to remove or disturb them from their original location. Removal of protected materials is punishable by a fine of \$10,000.00 and/or one year in federal prison for the first offense: punishment is a fine of

\$100,000.00 and/or five years in a federal prison for the second and other subsequent offenses. Additionally, any equipment and vehicles used in the removal of archaeological materials will be confiscated.

## **11. General Information**

a. To get general recreation information and the status of the range for an upcoming weekend, call (863) 452-4254 after 9:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings. You may also check the web site at [www.avonparkafr.net](http://www.avonparkafr.net).

b. If someone needs to contact you in case of an emergency, have them call the Outdoor Recreation Office at (863) 452-4254 with your hunt permit number, type of vehicle, tag number, and campground you will be using.

c. If any kind of emergency occurs, call the APAFR Rescue Operations Office at (863) 452-4117. The telephone at Morgan Hole Campground may be used to call the Outdoor Recreation Office or the Rescue Operations Office.

d. These regulations are subject to change at any time. Special exceptions may be requested, but they must be approved by the Installation Commander.

## **12. Handicapped Access**

Hunters who possess a state Special Use Vehicle Permit (SUV) or an Alternative Mobility Permit (AMP) shall be allowed to be driven into selected areas for hunting, dropped-off and picked-up at a later time. At no time, shall the access vehicle be allowed to be parked off of any designated road.

## **13. Commander's Comments**

The mission of Avon Park Air Force Range is to provide the Department of Defense with a realistic air-to-ground training facility. Any other use of the facility, to include hunting and recreation, is on a non-interference basis. The hunting program is a self-revenue-generating operation. The fees hunters pay directly support the cost of operations and the expenses incurred. The Outdoor Recreation Program is not for profit.

Good order and discipline are essential to all military operations; therefore, adherence to the posted rules and taking direction from Air Force employees/agents, as well as state and federal officials, is paramount. Avon Park Air Force Range is an active military training site and, as such, a potentially dangerous environment. Failure to comply with the rules puts not only your privilege to access this facility at risk but that of others as well.