HUNTING FERAL SWINE

Black Warrior WMA

The Black Warrior Wildlife Management Area is divided into two zones, A and B. Seasons vary and only one zone is open at a time to feral swine hunting during deer season. During all other seasons, hunt dates cover both zones. Firearms and bows are not allowed on the WMA during the closed season (Handguns are allowed with a concealed pistol permit). Check the hunting regulations and WMA map permit for dates.

Safety Zones

Areas around campgrounds, facilities and administrative sites are marked with blue boundary paint and are off limits to hunting. Safety zones are designated to provide for public safety.

Travel Corridors

Please be courteous and respectful to other forest users. Discharging of firearms is not allowed on, across or down any Forest Service road, road right-of-way or trail.

Habitat

Feral swine are habitat generalists. They require food, water and bedding areas. Feral swine often are found in creek bottoms and in flood plains, and they often bed down in thickets and on finger ridges.

Feral swine pose a great threat to native habitats and wildlife in Alabama and throughout the Southeast. Swine were brought to North America by settlers as a food source. In the last hundred years, swine were released into the wild and soon became feral.

PARTNERS INVOLVED

Feral Swine control is a joint effort of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service and the Alabama Wildlife Federation. This publication is possible through partnership efforts.

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Maps are available for purchase at the district office or at **www.fs.usda.gov/alabama.**

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Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are at the root of a growing problem facing land managers in the Bankhead National Forest and private landowners in Alabama. Feral swine damage crops and property by rooting and wallowing. The U.S. Forest Service and the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division are encouraging hunters to help with managing increasing populations by harvesting feral hogs when permissible opportunities arise.

Hunting is allowed in most areas of the Bankhead National Forest (BNF). Regulations for hunting feral swine are different in the BNF compared to the Black Warrior Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Within the Bankhead National Forest, it is legal to hunt feral hogs year round with a valid state hunting license. However, within the Black Warrior WMA, hunters may take feral swine during any open hunting season with a permit, legal firearms and ammunition for that season. There is also a special feral swine season for the Black Warrior WMA. Trapping of feral hogs is currently not allowed in the Bankhead National Forest or within the wildlife management area. Hunters should check the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on-line version of hunting regulations located at www.outdooralabama.com.

Bankhead National Forest

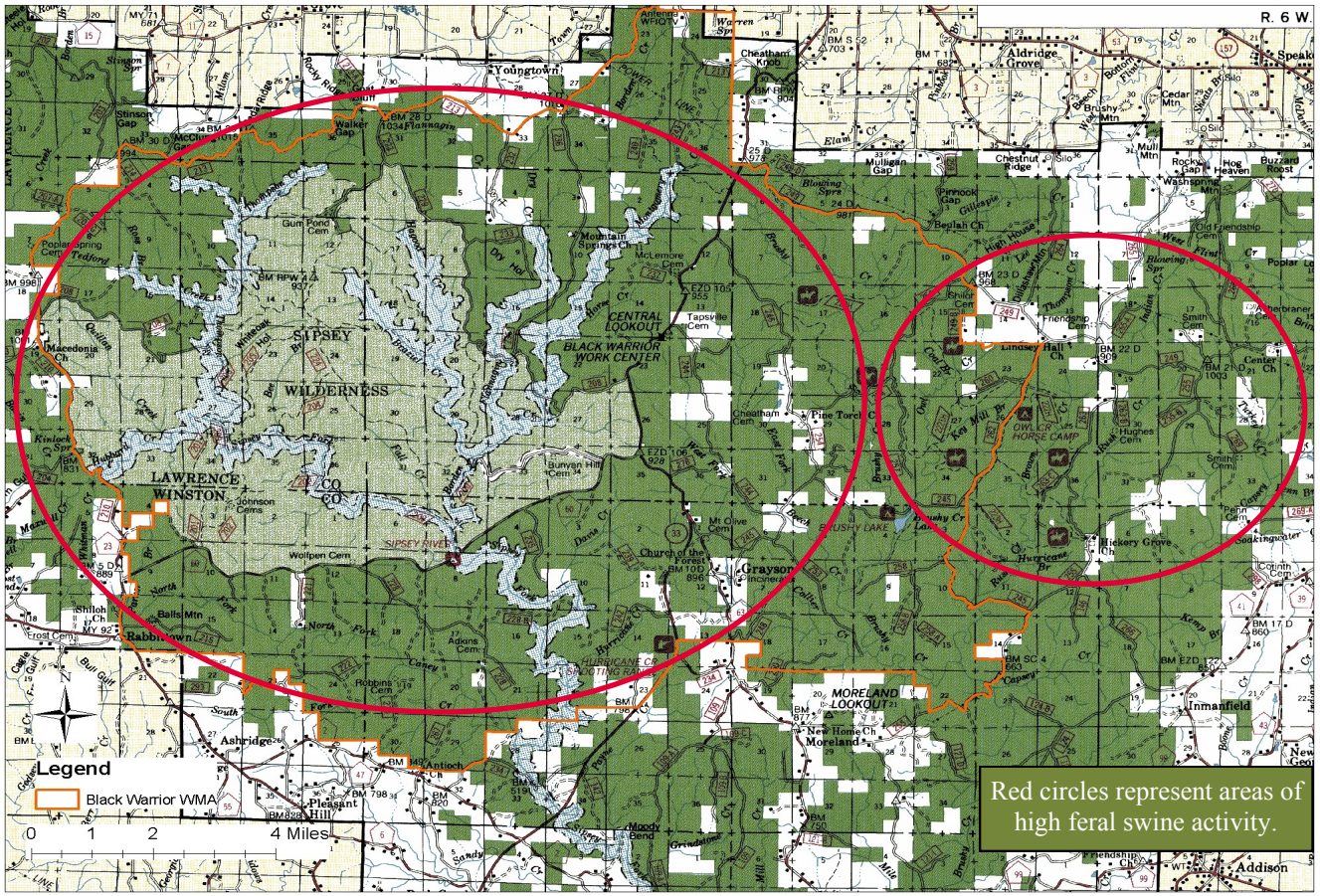
It is always open season for hunting feral swine on the Bankhead National Forest, except within the boundaries of Wildlife Management Area (WMA).. Rifles and handguns of any caliber may be used. Shotguns10 gauge or smaller (buckshot, slugs or round ball), Muzzleloader and black powder handguns, longbow, compound bows, and crossbows are allowed. All Alabama state game laws must be followed. There are no bag limits on feral swine, and hunting is limited to daylight hours only with firearms.

Feral Swine Control

Trapping has proven to be a successful and effective means of removing feral swine from unwanted areas. At times it can be very difficult, but also effective with a well thought out plan and persistence. If you come across traps in the forest, leave them as they are and give the traps plenty of distance. Human scents near the traps can deter feral swine from using them.

Traps are an important component of the Bankhead National Forest's Feral Swine Control Program. Open-top, corral-style hog traps are used because this type allows non-targeted species to escape.

Using soured corn as an attractant also helps reduce the chance that other wild animal species are trapped. The size of the trap is also important to resource management. Traps left open to allow swine to become accustomed to the trap before it is set, helps ensure that large groups (sounders) of swine are caught.

A. Corral style hog trap
B. Fresh mud rub on tree
C. Mud rub and scrape on tree
D. Hog wallow in the Sipsey Wilderness Area

AREAS OF HIGH FERAL SWINE ACTIVITY