

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need to make a reservation to camp in developed campgrounds on the National Forests in Alabama?

A. Camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis at all campgrounds except at Clear Creek and Corinth Recreation Areas located in the Bankhead National Forest. Visitors can make [reservations](#) or call 1-877-444-6777.

Q. What is dispersed recreation and what are some examples?

A. Dispersed recreation is activities that take place outside of developed camping or concessionaire-operated facilities, excluding motorized recreation. Hiking, bird watching, walking, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, mountain biking, primitive camping, hunting and horseback riding are examples of dispersed recreation.

Q. Are concealed firearms permitted on national forests land in Alabama?

A. Visitors are allowed to carry concealed firearms on National Forest **general forest areas, as long as they are in possession of a valid pistol permit** issued by a county sheriff.

If the National Forest general forest area is also a State wildlife Management Area (WMA), **state regulation generally prohibits all firearms** unless a scheduled hunt is in progress, and even then, there are limitations on the types of firearms that may be carried. The State Department of Natural Resources should be contacted for specific regulations pertaining to firearm possession in WMAs.

No weapons, concealed or otherwise, may be carried onto a Forest Service or any other federal administrative office or site.

No firearms may be discharged within a Forest Service developed recreation site.

Q. Are fireworks allowed on national forest land?

A. 36 CFR 261.14 (d) prohibits discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive on national forest land.

Q. Is it legal to pick blueberries on national forest land?

A. One should first obtain a forest products permit before engaging in such activities

Q. Where are the ATV/OHV trails?

A. ATV/OHV trails are located in the Bankhead and Talladega National Forests. The Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail is located in the Bankhead National Forest and the Kentuck ATV/OHV trail is located in the Talladega National Forest, Talladega District.

Q. Can I ride ATV/OHVs any where else on national forest land?

A. ATV/OHVs are allowed **ONLY** on the two designated trails. Those trails are located in the Bankhead National Forest (Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail) and Talladega National Forests, Talladega District (Kentuck ATV/OHVTrail).

NOTE: State licensed off-road-vehicles (ORV) are permitted on all national forest roads that are open for public travel. **Unlicensed ORVs 50 inches or less in width are permitted ONLY on designated trails.** If your ORV/OHV is not registered and licensed by a state, you cannot ride on open roads used by the general public.

Q. How can I tell if my motorized bike is legal to ride on public roads?

A. You may contact the Probate Office in the county where you live.

Q. Are mountain bikes allowed in the National Forests in Alabama?

A. Mountain bikes are allowed on the Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail in the Bankhead National Forest; Kentuck ORV Trail in the Talladega National Forest, Talladega District; Pleasant Hill Mountain Bike Trail in the Tuskegee National Forest; Lake Howard Mountain Bike Trail in the Talladega National Forest, Talladega District; and Owl Creek Non-Motorized-Use Trail in the Bankhead National Forest.

NOTE: Mountain bike riding is also permitted on all national forest roads, in the general forest area and on horse trails. Mountain bikes are **prohibited** in **Wilderness Areas** and on **all hiking** trails.

Q. Is horseback riding allowed in the national forest?

A. Horseback riding is allowed in Alabama's four national forests on designated trails and open Forest Roads.

Q. Where can I purchase maps for the National Forests in Alabama?

A. Information about maps are located on our website in the Maps & Brochures section or by calling the National Forests in Alabama Supervisor's Office at 334-832-4470 Monday through Friday during office hours (7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.) or any one of the six Ranger Districts. You may also purchase maps via mail (send a check or Money Order) or by telephone using an approved credit card.

Q. Are dogs allowed in the forest?

A. Pets must always be restrained or on a leash while in developed recreation sites. Pets are not allowed in swimming areas. Saddle or pack animals are allowed only in authorized areas.

Q. When does hunting season start AND do you need a permit for hunting?

A. Season dates vary depending on what you are wanting to hunt. Visit webpage for specific dates [Outdoor Alabama](#)

Yes, you are required by law to have an Alabama Hunting License if you are age 16-65 Alabama resident and a non-resident. If you are exempt, you must provide proof of residency and age. Military non-residents stationed in Alabama, will need a license to hunt and are allowed to purchase a resident license. There are licenses available to physically disabled residents and disabled veterans. These special licenses can be obtained at your local Probate Office or [Online](#).

Q. When are you allowed to hunt feral swine?

A. It is legal to hunt feral hogs year round with a valid state hunting license. However, per the

USDA NF in Alabama Order Number 08-01-S0-17-01, hunting feral hogs is **prohibited** at night between sunset and sunrise, pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50 (a) and (b), and for protection of public health and safety, the following acts are hereby prohibited throughout the **National Forests in Alabama**.

Q. Are there limits when you are hunting feral swine?

A. There are no bag limits on feral swine, and hunting is limited to daylight hours only with firearms.

Q. Do hunters have a designated area for camping?

A. **Hunters** in state wildlife management areas must camp in designated hunter's camps. **Non-hunters** may camp in the general forest and wilderness.

Q. Is a permit needed to camp on national forest land?

A. A camping permit is needed for a group of 12 or more in primitive areas. A permit is also required for large groups consisting of 75 or more individuals.

Q. What permits are needed and the rules on primitive camping off hiking trails and during hunting season in the Conecuh National Forest?

A. All spaces are first come, first served basis. Primitive camping is permitted at least 200 feet from the Conecuh Trail, outside of deer gun season (generally February through mid-November). During deer gun season, written permission from the District Office is needed to camp outside of Open Pond Campground. This permission ensures adequate coordination with scheduled deer hunts on Blue Spring Wildlife Management Area. **Permits are NOT needed for camping outside of hunting season.**

Q. What are the hours, permits needed, and rules for the Bankhead and Conecuh Shooting Ranges?

A. They are open all year, sunrise to sunset. Users must hold a valid Alabama hunting license and non-residents may purchase a non-resident Alabama Wildlife Management Area license online.

Q. What are the open dates and camping fees at Open Pond Recreation Area?

A. Opened year round and camping fees range from \$8-\$16 per night and \$3 per vehicle for day-use only.

Q. Can you have wedding ceremonies at Open Pond Recreation Area, if so who do we contact to set it up?

A. You will need a Special Use Permit. You can contact a Special Use Permit Coordinator at the District Office for more information.

Q. How does one get fire line qualified with the Forest Service?

A. Take the basic fire line classes: S-190, S-130 and L – 180 and pass the arduous pack test, which consists of walking 3 miles with 45lbs of weight on your back. These classes can be taken online, but the field exercise has to be completed by a qualified instructor.

The most preferred way to get the training is to attend an NWCG fire class offered in which the field exercise is a part of the course. For more information, go to visit [NWCG Online training](#).

Q. Can you get a permit to cut down trees and use them for firewood?

A. You can only use the permit for dead and down trees. To obtain a permit, contact the District Ranger Office of interest.