

Hunting, Fishing & Recreation Open House



Opening Remarks

- Welcome and thanks for coming!
- Special thanks to our sponsors listed on the program and to all of those who put this event together.
- CGNRAC membership and charter:
 - Major units required to participate w/ a voting representative.
 - All eligible populations covered- Soldiers, DA Civilians and Retirees.
- The Program:
 - Training remains Fort Benning's #1 priority
 - Support Soldiers first but all eligible hunters/fishermen equally
 - ***SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT... ZERO DEFICIENCIES IS THE STANDARD!***
- Violations and Trends
- Hunter Etiquette - THEFT
- Goals:
 - Improve deer herd health through responsible harvest/management
 - Constant pressure on feral hog population; kill coyotes when possible
 - Increase opportunities for hunters/fishermen
 - Review policies/procedures to make them less complicated
 - Address issues/concerns from sportsmen
- Endstate: a safe and successful hunting season for all of those who choose to participate.
- Again, thanks for attending!! Good luck on the raffle.



Outdoor Recreation

- **Equipment Checkout**
- **Recreational Shooting Complex**
 - **Firearm rentals and storage**
- **Adventure Programs**



2013-14 Deer Season Major Violations

Keep Hunting! 117 Citations

Weapons Violations = 54 Citations

Safety Violations = 34 Citations

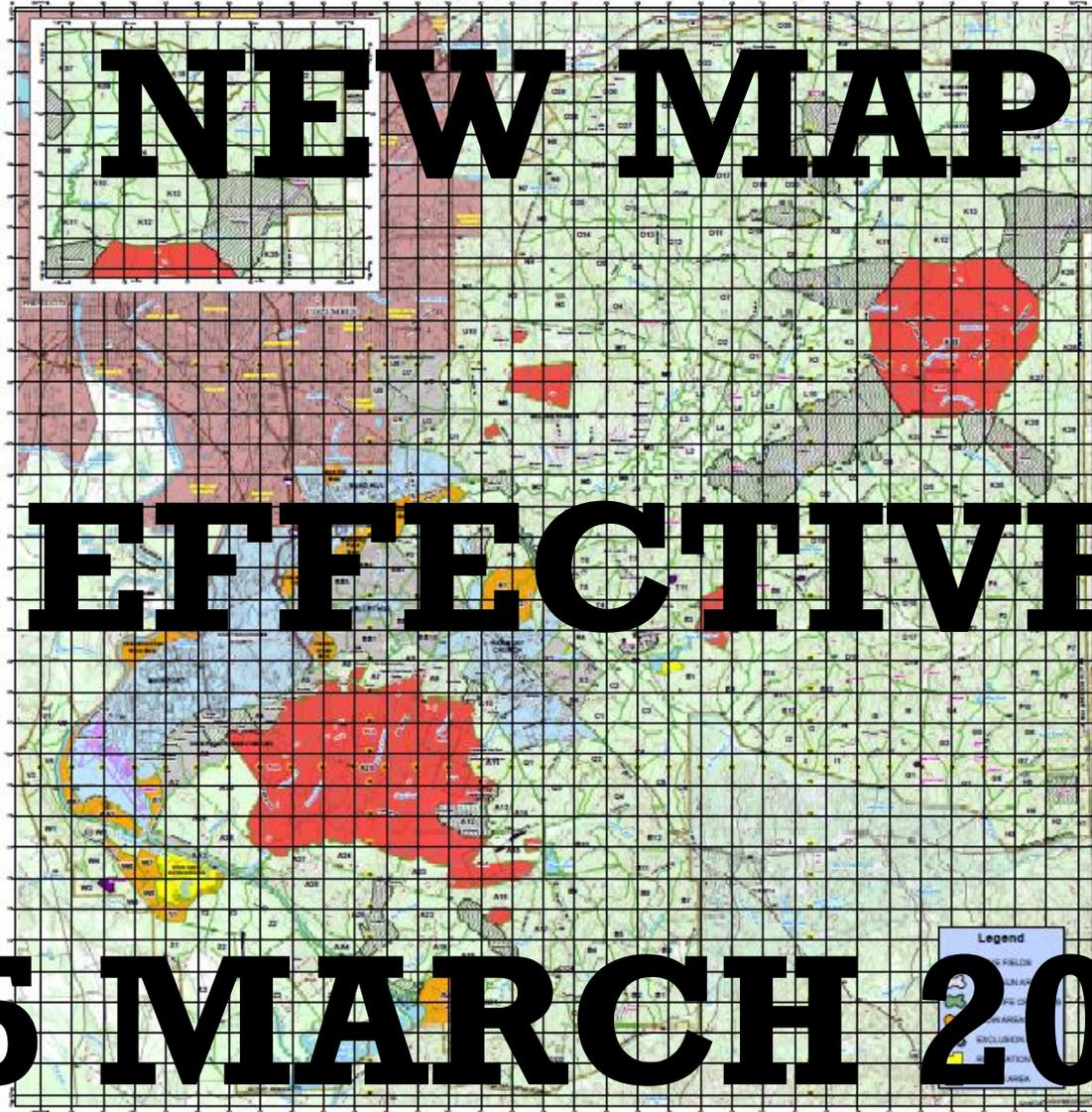
Transporting Loaded Weapon	17
Transporting Uncased Firearm	10
Failure to Register Firearm	10
Failure to Record Harvest	9
Failure to Separate Ammo	8
Bypassing Gate	7
Failure to check In	7
Failure to Wear Orange	7
Hunting With Unauthorized Weapon	7
Failure to Display Pass	4
Hunting Over Bait	4

Hunting in Closed Area	3
Hunting in Exclusion Area	3
Failure to Use Safety Strap	3
Concealed Weapon	2
Exceeding bag Limit	2
Hunting Out of Season	2
Hunting in Impact Area	2
Driving on Wildlife Opening	1
Failure to Comply with AHCT Requirements	1
Illegal use of light	1
Shooting After Legal Hours	1

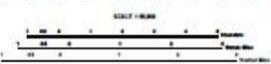
NEW MAP

EFFECTIVE

15 MARCH 2014



SYMBOLIZATION	SYMBOLIZATION
Private Road	Public Road
Water	Water
...	...



BOUNDARY	BOUNDARY
...	...

Legend
...

ALL HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN MUST READ UNDERSTAND AND COMPLY WITH RULE REGULATIONS 2014 15 MAR 14

ALL TRAINING AREAS WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL HUNTING AND FISHING BY ORDER OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND WILL BE POSTED AS SPECIFIED IN RULE REGULATIONS 2014



Fishing

- *Post permit required everywhere except river.*
- DO NOT transfer fish!
- Twilight Pond restocked - closed until Spring 2016.
 - Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, catfish
- Kings, Weems & Hedley's
 - Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie
- Victory
 - Primarily catfish
- Beaver Ponds and Creeks
- River

Dove Hunts

- Georgia Opens 6 Sep @ 1200 Eastern ST
- Alabama Opens 6 Sep @ 1200 Central ST
- If season and training area are open, HUNT!
- Except P1 Dove Field where all hunts will be managed – 1st hunt 6 Sep 1200 – 1830. Gates will open @ 1130.

Mandatory Deer Check Station

- Georgia – 18 & 19 October
– 8 & 9 November

Conservation Branch
Building 5883

- Alabama – 22 & 23 November

Uchee Creek
Entrance

- Post Wide – 28 Nov – 30 Nov

Conservation
Branch
Building 5883

- Check Stations are **MANDATORY**

- **SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN COMPLIANCE**

******Failure to check deer will result in 45 Day
Suspension******

Hunter Zero Days

- ◉ THANK YOU DFMWR!!!!
- ◉ COURSEN RANGE – NEW RSC
- ◉ 20 September 0800-1200
- ◉ 11 October 0900-1200
- ◉ Bring Firearms, Ammo, Eye and Ear Pro!

Cantonment Archery

- Must Attend Brief before Eligible to Qualify
- Brief
 - Dates:
 - 22 August & 5 September
 - Location: McGinnis-Wickam Hall Rm# E101
 - Time: 1800-1900 (Doors Open 1730)
- Qualification
 - Dates:
 - 23 August & 6 September
 - Location: Uchee Creek Archery Range
 - Time: 0800-1100

CAH Requirements

- Authorized individuals Ch 3-2 b. (1-12) of MCoE Regulation 200-3. ***NO GUEST HUNTERS***
- **MUST** present Access Pass and Post Permit
- **MUST** attend Brief before Qualification
- **MUST** bring and use own safety harness, bow and broadheads (practice mechanicals O.K.)
- **MUST** demonstrate proficiency with bow by placing 2 of 3 arrows in 8" target at 30 yards
- **ONLY** one attempt to qualify at each session
- **ONLY** *two total attempts per hunter*

MWR Women's Hunting Clinic

- ◉ Ladies who want to learn about hunting?
- ◉ Date:
 - **24 September**
 - **Location:** Recreational Shooting Complex
 - **Time:** 1700
- ◉ Come learn, among other women, the basics of safe hunting, different techniques & popular products used to hunt.

Disabled Hunting

- Opportunities Available
- Volunteers Needed
- Ch. 3-4c. (7)

Major Changes to MCoE 200-3

- Ch. 3-2, a. - Hunter education requirements modified to more closely align with Georgia state requirements and increase opportunities for youth hunters.
- Ch. 3-4, d. (8) - Language modified to manage all of Fort Benning under Quality Deer Management principles as voted on by CGNRAC on 23 APR 14 .
- Ch. 4-2, e. - Language added to restrict hunting and vehicular traffic on railroad tracks and their right of ways.

Major Changes to MCoE 200-3

- Ch. 6-2, b. - Language added to modify restrictions on youth hunters, 12-15 years of age, who have not completed the hunter education requirement.
- Ch. 10-1, a.-c. - Mandatory deer check station days changed for 2014-15 deer season.
- Table 10-1 - Season dates and bag limits updated for 2014-15 seasons.

QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT (QDM)



QDM is NOT.....

- ◉about the needs of the hunter.
- ◉about antlers.
- ◉about Trophy Management.
- ◉about punishing hunters.
- ◉about unrealistic expectations.

QDM is.....

-about the needs of the deer.
-about the quality of the herd.
-about achieving balance.
-about sustainability.
-about biologically sound management.
-about the quality of the hunt.
-about increased safety, ethics, & moral character.

QDM PRO CONS

PROS

CONS

Balanced sex ratios

Cannot harvest "Any Bucks"

Depressed breeding opportunities for immature and inferior bucks

More selective trigger management

More defined and intense rut

Penalties for accidental or intentional harvest of illegal bucks

Healthier and more sustainable population of deer

Limited opportunities for youth/new hunters to harvest immature bucks

Increased opportunities to harvest mature bucks

Forced change of attitudes and perceptions for those who oppose

What drove the decision?

○ Hunter opinion

- 92% of hunters want QDM on Benning
- Just over 50% of survey respondents wanted half or entire post QDM. 42% same as 2013. 8% less/none.
- 71% of hunters opposed establishing a one (1) buck limit.
- 55% of hunters opposed reducing doe limits with only 3% supporting a two (2) doe limit

○ Biology

- Unsustainable harvest clearly visible on the horizon in non-QDM areas.
- Unbalanced sex ratios limiting herd health.

○ Policy

- Standard/enforceable policy across the installation.
- QDM Working Group and CGNRAC collaboration to develop best possible solution.

Unsustainable Harvest Approaching

- 2009-2013 BUCK and DOE harvest in non-QDM areas INCREASED OVER 50%.
- 2009 = 179 bucks 4 pts or smaller harvested on 141.6K acres of Traditional Deer Management acreage.
- 2013 = 210 bucks 4 pts or smaller (+17%) harvested on 96.7K acres (-32%) of Traditional Deer Management acreage.
- BLUF: TREND HAS TO STOP FOR POPULATION TO REMAIN SUSTAINABLE IN THE FUTURE!

COA's Considered

- **No Action – No expansion of 2013 QDM Area**
 - Not biologically sustainable in non-QDM areas without reduced limits (1 buck & 2 doe) and complicated/unenforceable policies which vary depending on where you are hunting on Post.
- **QDM North of 27/280**
 - 1 buck/2 doe limit necessary in remaining non-QDM areas to mitigate unsustainable harvest. Again, complicated and unenforceable.
- **QDM Post wide with youth exceptions**
 - “Any buck” available for youth hunters during entire season
 - “Any buck” available for youth hunters during youth season
 - “Any buck” available for youth hunters on specific days

FINAL QDM COA

(CGNRAC Representatives voted, 10 yea to 1 nay, to expand QDM based on this COA)

- QDM POST WIDE for all hunters 16 years of age and older. State “Any Buck” tags not valid, on Post, but can be used to tag QDM buck. *All bucks harvested MUST have at least four (4) points, one inch (1”) or longer on at least one side of their antlers.*
- Limited exceptions for youth hunters.
 - Can harvest their one (1) “Any Buck”
 - During each state’s respective youth hunting season and on mandatory deer check stations dates for the respective states.
 - *Georgia – 11-19 October, 8-9 November*
 - *Alabama – 14-17 November, 22-23 November*
 - *Post Wide - 28-30 November*



ID'ing Immature Bucks

- Avoiding the mistake

- Optics



- Trigger Management

- Clearly identify target before pulling the trigger
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T!**



ID'ing Immature Bucks

● The “Lone Deer”

- Your red flag should go up immediately!
- If you can't see antlers, odds are it is a yearling buck!
 - Most commonly seen deer while hunting
 - Recently displaced
 - Trying to establish a home range
 - Often oblivious to surroundings
 - **Highly susceptible to harvest**

● Low light conditions set you up for failure!

● QDM is often about restraint and NOT pulling the trigger

ID'ing QDM vs. Non QDM Bucks

TO SHOOT OR NOT TO SHOOT
THAT IS THE QUESTION?

**NEVER A GOOD IDEA TO TAKE THESE SHOTS
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF VIOLATION AND SUSPENSION**



ID'ing Immature Bucks

TO SHOOT OR NOT TO SHOOT
THAT IS THE QUESTION?

DON'T SHOOT



**LET THE FAWNS WALK
- ONE PROBABLY A
BUCK. WHICH ONE?**

ID'ing Immature Bucks

TO SHOOT OR NOT TO SHOOT
THAT IS THE QUESTION?



ID'ing QDM vs. Non QDM Bucks

TO SHOOT OR NOT TO SHOOT
THAT IS THE QUESTION?



THANK YOU!!

Academy Sports
Archery Connection
Big Dog Running Company
Big Game Taxidermy
Buckmaster's American Deer Foundation
Daffin's Meat Processing
Georgia Trappers Association
Huddle House
Huntin' and Hookin'
Luke's Pub
Dell Computers
Seminole Deer Processing
Sport's Clips
Tires First
Treebark Taxidermy
W.C. Bradley