



Pepper Ranch Preserve



Regulations Summary and Access Map

June 1, 2026- May 31, 2027

Quality Wildlife Management Hunt Program

***Residency Requirements:** Quota Holders and Applicants Required to be Residents of Collier County*
Address: 6315 Pepper Road, Immokalee, FL 34142

Email: PepperRanchHunts@Collier.gov
Phone: (M-F) 239-252-2960, Hunt Weekends: 239-657-1999
Website: www.PepperRanchHunts.com

This document was created to provide members of the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting activities on the Conservation Collier Pepper Ranch Preserve. **Regulations that are new or differ from the previous year are shown in bold print throughout this document.** For more information, please visit the Pepper Ranch Hunt Program Webpage located at www.PepperRanchHunts.com. Each Hunter is personally responsible for knowing and adhering to all laws and rules pertaining to this hunt program and the Pepper Ranch Preserve.

Hunt Program Goals: The Pepper Ranch Preserve Quality Wildlife Management Hunt Program provides recreational hunting opportunities to the community consistent with the wildlife management goals of the property through the implementation of limited quota hunts throughout the year.

How to Apply: All hunters interested in entering the quota draw lottery for the 2026-2027 season must submit an application between June 1st, 2026 at 12:00am and June 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm. Applications can be submitted electronically at www.PepperRanchHunts.com. The application is free to apply. Hunters may only submit one application per individual- submission of multiple applications per individual will disqualify that individual from the lottery. Hunters that have been awarded a quota will be notified via email by Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 via email at the PepperRanchHunts@Collier.gov address. An email will be sent to all applicants by Friday, July 11th to confirm that hunters who have been selected for a quota have been notified. All hunters who apply are required to be Collier County residents. Guest hunters are not required to be Collier County residents.

Preference Points: Hunters accrue one preference point for each annual application submitted per species indicated in their application (deer, turkey, hog). Hunters that draw a quota and take part in a hunt for a species return to zero accrued preference points for that species following the hunt. Hunters who do not draw a quota for a species, retain their accrued preference points. Quota hunt permits for each hunt type are no longer awarded based on total accrued preference points starting in 2024. Preference points for each species will correspond to the number of times that hunter’s name is entered into the random draw. (Ex: A hunter with 4 preference points for deer will have their name entered 4 times). Applicants who fail to apply during the annual application period for two consecutive years will forfeit all preference points for that quota hunt species. Applicants that skip a year applying will neither gain nor lose preference points.

Quota Purchase/Returned: All hunters awarded a quota are required to purchase or return their quota prior to the deadline listed in Table 1. Quotas not purchased or returned by the firm deadlines listed will automatically be released to the next hunter on the quota draw waiting list for purchase.

Table 1: 2026-2027 Public Hunt Season Schedule

Public Hunt	Scheduled Hunt Date	Quota Return/Purchase Deadline*	Check station open	Check station close
DEER	September 12-13, 2026	August 24, 2026	5:40 AM	8:30 PM
HOG1	October 17-18, 2026	September 28, 2026	6:00 AM	8:00 PM
HOG 2	November 21-22, 2026	November 2, 2026	5:15 AM	6:30 PM
TURKEY	March 6-7, 2027	February 15, 2027	5:30 AM	8:30 PM
HOG 3	April 10-11, 2027	March 22, 2027	5:30 AM	8:45 PM
HOG 4	May 8-9, 2027	April 19, 2027	5:15 AM	9:00 PM
HOG 5	June 12-13, 2027	May 24, 2027	5:00 AM	9:15 PM

***Awarded quotas not purchased or returned by the listed deadline will be released to the next hunter on the draw list.**

Hunters that have never participated in a Pepper Ranch Preserve hunt are required to view the pre-hunt orientation online [here](#).

DEER HUNT- September 12-13, 2026 4 quotas available

Game may be taken using a shotgun, muzzleloader, crossbow or bow with a DEER permit. Rimfire rifles and handguns may be used for small game only. Firearms using centerfire rifle and pistol cartridges are prohibited, except during FWC sponsored Youth Hunts. Non-toxic shot is required for take of migratory waterfowl in season.

Permits Required: All hunters taking part in a Deer Hunt are required to have purchased a State of Florida hunting license, State of Florida deer permit, and a Collier County Deer Permit must be purchased by the quota awardee. Hunters harvesting migratory birds in season are required to have a migratory bird permit. If harvesting legal waterfowl, a Florida waterfowl permit, and Federal duck stamp is required. A State of Florida Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Stamp is not required at Pepper Ranch Preserve. A hunting license is not required for harvest of wild hog only. State licenses and permits can be purchased at www.gooutdoorsflorida.com or in person at any Collier County Tax Collector's Office. Quota holders are required to purchase a non-refundable Collier County Deer Permit to participate in this hunt prior to the purchase deadline listed in Table 1 through www.collierparks.com or in person at the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL 34109. Instructions for permit purchase will be emailed to applicants in their quota permit award notification email. The deer harvest quota is one buck per quota hunt permit per hunt weekend. If a hunter fulfills his/her quota, he/she may only take wild hog or legal small game for the remainder of the weekend. Quota permits are non-transferable.

Collier County Deer Permit Fee: \$80.00

All fees are non-refundable

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer having at least one antler with three or more points (each point being 1 inch or more in length) OR a main beam of 10 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, coyote and migratory birds in season.

Clothing: 500 square inches of hunter orange material above the waistline as an outer garment, except when hunting legal waterfowl from a stationary position.

Harvest Reporting: Hunters are required to log and report any deer harvested on Pepper Ranch Preserve with the check station attendant *and* through the FWC Harvest Reporting System: <https://myfwc.com/hunting/deer/harvest-report/>

HOG HUNTS 4 quotas available per hunt weekend

HOG 1: October 17-18, 2026 | HOG 2: November 21-22, 2026 | HOG 3: April 10-11, 2027 | HOG 4: May 8-9, 2027 | HOG 5: June 12-13, 2027

Game may be taken using a shotgun, muzzleloader, crossbow, or bow with a HOG permit. Rimfire rifles and handguns may be used for small game only. Firearms using centerfire rifle and pistol cartridges are prohibited, except during FWC sponsored Youth Hunts. Non-toxic shot is required for take of migratory waterfowl in season.

Permits Required: Hunters taking part in a Hog Hunt at Pepper Ranch are not required to have purchased a State of Florida hunting license for harvest of wild hog only. For all other legal game, a hunting license and appropriate State and County permits are required. A State of Florida Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Stamp is not required at Pepper Ranch Preserve. Hunters harvesting migratory birds in season are required to have a migratory bird permit. If harvesting legal waterfowl, a Florida waterfowl permit, and Federal duck stamp is required. The hunter awarded the quota permit is required to purchase a non-refundable Collier County Hog Permit to participate in this hunt prior to the purchase deadline listed in Table 1 through www.collierparks.com or in person at the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL 34109. Instructions for permit purchase will be emailed to applicants in their quota permit award notification email. There is no harvest limit or size restrictions on wild hog. Quota permits are non-transferable.

Collier County Hog Permit Fee: \$55.00 All fees are non-refundable

Legal to hunt: wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, coyote, and migratory birds in season.

Clothing: 500 square inches of hunter orange material above the waistline as an outer garment, except when hunting legal waterfowl from a stationary position.

TURKEY HUNT- March 14-15, 2027- 4 available quotas

Game may be taken using a shotgun, bow, or crossbow. Rimfire rifles and handguns may be used for small game only. Firearms using centerfire rifle and pistol cartridges are prohibited, except during FWC sponsored Youth Hunts.

Permits Required: All hunters taking part in a Turkey Hunt at Pepper Ranch are required to have purchased a State of Florida hunting license, State of Florida turkey permit, and the quota awardee is required to have purchased a Collier County turkey permit. A State of Florida Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Stamp is not required at Pepper Ranch Preserve. State licenses and permits can be purchased at www.gooutdoorsflorida.com or in person at any Collier County Tax Collector’s Office. Quota holders are required to purchase a non-refundable Collier County Turkey Permit to participate in this hunt prior to the purchase deadline listed in Table 1 through www.collierparks.com or in person at the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL 34109. Instructions for permit purchase will be emailed to applicants in their quota permit award notification email. The turkey harvest quota is 1 gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit per weekend. If a hunter fulfills his/her quota, he/she may only take wild hog or legal small game for the remainder of the weekend. Quota permits are non-transferable.

Collier County Turkey Permit Fee: \$105.00

All fees are non-refundable

Legal to Hunt: Gobbler or Bearded turkey, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, and coyote.

Harvest Reporting: Hunters are required to log and report any turkey harvested on Pepper Ranch Preserve through the FWC Harvest Reporting System: <https://myfwc.com/hunting/deer/harvest-report/>

Table 2: Game Bag and Possession Limits

Target Species	Bag Limit per Quota Permit
Deer	1 buck per quota hunt permit *antler restrictions apply
Hog	No Limit
Turkey	1 gobbler or bearded turkey per quota hunt permit
Coyote, Raccoon, Opossum	No Limit
Gray Squirrel, Rabbit	Daily Bag Limit: 12 Possession Limit: 24

Guest Hunters: A hunter possessing a valid quota hunt permit may be accompanied by one hunting guest and one minor per check station check-in. Guest hunters are not required to be Collier County residents. A new guest sign-in must be completed for each guest hunter that participates in a hunt. The quota permit holder and their guest must share the same vehicle and must enter and exit the area together. A guest hunter may only hunt when the quota permit holder is present on the preserve. The quota permit holder and guest must hunt in the same zone; however, they are not required to hunt together once inside the zone unless one of them is a minor. The quota permit holder and the guest must share a single bag limit and the quota permit holder is responsible for making sure that the shared bag limit is not exceeded. **Minors:** Minors under the age of 16 possessing a valid quota hunt permit must be accompanied by a parent/guardian over the age of 21 that has a hunting license and has completed a Hunter Safety Education Certificate Course.

Scouting: Pepper Ranch Preserve is open to the public November- June on non-hunt Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 7am-4:30pm. Hunters are welcome to visit the preserve during publicly open hours throughout the season to scout for an upcoming hunt. The official scout day for each hunt is the Friday prior to the awarded hunt from 7am-5pm. Those scouting or visiting the preserve when open are required to sign in at the visitor center to receive a gate code to access the property. **Those planning to scout when the preserve is not open must request a temporary access code (via email to PepperRanchHunts@collier.gov or call 239-252-2961) at least one week before the official scout day.**

Check Station: Phone 239-657-1999 The check station for Pepper Ranch Preserve is located at 6315 Pepper Rd, Immokalee, FL. It is within the historic hunt lodge visitor center located at this address. Bathrooms and showers are available at the check station. Hunters are required to check in and out of the check station any time they are entering or leaving the preserve during the hunt. As a courtesy, if a hunter is unable to attend one or more hunt days during a hunt weekend, the hunter should inform the check station attendant as soon as possible. Hunters are required to check all harvested animals with the check station attendant. Harvested animals may be field dressed but are required to be kept whole with evidence of sex attached until after check-in at the check station. Any remains

discarded during field dressing should be placed out of sight from roads and trails and away from trailheads and parking areas. All injuries sustained at Pepper Ranch Preserve must be reported to check station staff.

Check Station Hours: 1.5 hours before sunrise for all hog and deer hunts to 1 hour after sunset. **2 hours before sunrise for turkey hunt to 1 hour after sunset.** Hunters may not enter the preserve prior to the check station opening. All hunters are required to sign in with the check station attendant and must check out prior to 1 hour after sunset. If a late harvest prevents this, hunters are required to notify the check station by phone. Hunters are required to call the check station attendant at 239-657-1999 to notify of planned arrival if initial check in is after 2:00pm. **Hunters will not be permitted to enter the preserve prior to the check station opening, no exceptions.**

Shooting Hours: Shooting hours during Deer and Hog hunts are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Shooting hours during Turkey hunts are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Hunt Zones: Hunters awarded a quota permit for a hunt are assigned a hunt zone 1-4 for all deer, hog and turkey hunts. Hunters are required to hunt within their designated zone for the duration of the hunt and may not enter another zone unless re-assigned by the check station attendant. If a hunter has not contacted the check station or checked in by 9:00am the morning of a hunt, that hunter is a “no-show hunter”. They may still hunt at any time during the hunt weekend, but they forfeit their hunt zone for the day and must take the remaining available zone assigned by the check station attendant. Hunters with a valid quota hunt permit for the designated hunt may switch their hunt zone for an open hunt zone that has been vacated for the same day on a first-come, first served basis with approval of the check station attendant. Hunters interested in having their zone assignment re-assigned can call the check station at 239-657-1999 or ask the attendant in person. Zone re-assignments authorized by the check station attendant are only valid for 1 day of the hunt. Hunt Zone assignments revert to the originally awarded zones on the second day of the hunt unless otherwise authorized by the check station attendant.

Camping: Camping is available to hunters for the Friday or Saturday night of their assigned hunt. Instructions will be provided in the quota permit award email for how to reserve a space. Campsites fees are not included in the quota fee. Campsites are tent camping only and hold up to six guests. Showers and bathrooms are available at the campsite.

Firearms: All firearms must be unloaded and made safe prior to entering a vehicle. Ammunition must be physically separated from the firearms in order to be considered unloaded. No loaded firearms will be permitted at the Check Station or in any vehicle while in Pepper Ranch Preserve. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded when the cap (or primer) is absent, and the hammer is in the closed position. Discharging firearms at anything other than legal game while in Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited.

Vehicles: Any vehicle entering Pepper Ranch Preserve must have a current license tag, meet federal and state safety requirements, and be operated by a licensed driver with appropriate insurance. Entry and exit are permitted through the designated entrance gates only. All cattle gates must be returned to the state in which they were found once a vehicle or pedestrian has passed. Vehicles may be operated only on roads designated for vehicles and may only park alongside roads that are designated for vehicles. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates, or fire lanes. Trails can be closed at any time. The use of all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies, or tracked vehicles is prohibited outside of FWC sponsored Youth Hunts. Vehicle Trails marked on the map as seasonally flooded should be avoided in times of high water and mud. Check Station staff are unable to remove stuck vehicles. Vehicles must be operated in a safe manner for the condition of the vehicle trails- the maximum speed limit is 18mph. Exceptions may be made for FWC certified mobility-impaired hunters with Special Use Vehicle (SUV) Permits.

Equal Opportunity and Access: Equal Opportunity and Access requests must come through the Conservation Collier Office prior to a hunt: 239-252-2961.

General Regulations:

In addition to the regulations that follow, all laws and regulations of the State of Florida relating to wildlife shall apply. Pepper Ranch Preserve regulations are more restrictive than the state regulations. Hunting or the taking of wildlife shall be allowed only during preserve scheduled hunt weekends and in accordance with hunt regulations.

1. During hunts, access to Pepper Ranch Preserve is restricted to hunters with a valid quota hunt permit and their guests.
2. Hunting is prohibited in areas posted “No Hunting”.
3. State regulations regarding buffer zones apply.
4. Hunters are not permitted to shoot into the Safety Zone shown on the map.

5. No visitor shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made, or cultural resource, except for palm fronds.
6. Tampering with or the destruction of equipment, improvements, signage, or public access features is prohibited and will result in the loss of hunting privileges at the Ranch.
7. Cutting or damaging fences is prohibited. Please report any incidents that occur.
8. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of bait, live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
9. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
10. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game only. Dogs are not permitted while scouting.
11. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle which is under power is prohibited.
12. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
13. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass, or woodlands.
14. An FWC Law Enforcement Officer, government security officer, or local law enforcement officer may search any camp or vehicle, in accordance with the law.
15. No plants, or their parts, or any animals shall be introduced, liberated, planted, or placed in any part of Pepper Ranch Preserve by visitors.
16. It is unlawful to leave garbage or litter in Pepper Ranch Preserve.
17. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages anywhere in Pepper Ranch Preserve is prohibited.
18. No permanent tree stands or stands that will damage vegetation will be permitted. Driving a metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Hunters shall inform Conservation Collier staff of game camera locations and durations. Temporary tree stands and game cameras must be removed at the end of the hunt season. Any tree stands or cameras not removed by June 1, 2027 become the property of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.
19. Conservation Collier staff carry out prescribed burns throughout the year. Collier County is not responsible for damage to tree stands or cameras left on the property.
20. Emergency notices or regulations changes will be posted at the check station. It is the responsibility of each participant to be aware of and obey these changes.

YOUTH HUNT PROGRAM

Collier County will be offering two Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) sponsored youth hunts at Pepper Ranch Preserve during the 2026-2027 hunting season. Upcoming season dates are listed in Table 3. A Pepper Ranch Hunt Program Application is not required for youth hunts. Youth hunters are required to complete a hunter safety certification prior to participating.

To register for an upcoming youth hunt, visit https://outreach.myfwc.com/events/event_list.asp?show=&group=&start=12/21/2012&end=&view=&cid=4484 after September 15th, 2026 to apply. Prior to participating in a hunt, youth hunters must complete a hunter safety course and marksmanship test. Cost: \$75 includes all meals and campsite accommodations for 1 youth and 1 guardian during the hunt weekend.

Table 3: 2026-2027 Youth Hunt Season Schedule:

Youth Hunt	Scheduled Hunt Dates	Available Spaces	Qualifying Youth Age
Youth Deer	December 11-13, 2026	5	12-17
Youth Small Game/Hog	January 15-17, 2027	5	12-17
Youth Turkey	February 26-28, 2027	5	12-15

Conservation Collier Program
 2800 Horseshoe Dr. N. Naples, FL 34104
 E-mail: PepperRanchHunts@Collier.gov
 Website: www.PepperRanchHunts.com
 Phone: **239-252-2960** (M-F)
 239-657-1999 (Hunt Weekends)

