

STATE FOREST USE PERMIT

Group Guidelines

- All groups using the Withlacoochee State Forest need to obtain a State Forest Use Permit from the Florida Forest Service.
- Group activities include forest road/trail rides, trail hiking, equestrian riding, bike riding, orienteering, etc.
- A group consists of 6 or more people or vehicles.
- Permits may be free of charge and may be obtained by calling the Withlacoochee Visitor Center at 352-797-4140.
- Permits may be requested up to six months in advance with a minimum two week notice.
- Written documentation is required and must be received within 72 hours of the event to cancel a permit.
- A copy of the permit must be placed on the dashboard(s) of all vehicles associated with the group activity.
- All Florida Forest Service and Wildlife Management Rules and Regulations apply.
- Please clean area thoroughly prior to departure.
- Ground fires are permitted in designated areas and in the fire rings provided.
- **REGISTERED CAMPERS ONLY** are allowed to use bath houses located inside campgrounds.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

Day Use Areas

When staging or parking in one of the Day Use Areas of the forest, the Day Use Fee of **\$2 per person will be applicable.**

Annual Day Use Entrance Passes may be purchased for **\$45 online at www.FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com**
Pass allows entry for up to 6 passengers per vehicle in any Florida State Forest and is valid for one year.

Overflow Parking

- Campsites allow for 2 vehicles in addition to 1 camper unit and up to 3 tents.
- All other vehicles must park in the designated overflow parking areas if available. The Park Ranger or Host will be able to guide you to the overflow parking area.

For maps, brochures and more detailed information about these and other recreational opportunities contact the Visitor Center or visit [Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](http://FloridaDepartmentofAgriculture&ConsumerServices.com)



Florida Forest Service is not authorized to assist and/or tow disabled or immobile vehicles.

In case of emergency, call our 24-hour Dispatch Office at (352) 797-4100 or dial 911.

**FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
KNOW BEFORE
YOU GO**

Withlacoochee State Forest



Florida Forest Service management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the FFS for information and location of burn areas, (352) 797-4100.

Withlacoochee Visitor Center
15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601
Phone: (352) 797-4140 Fax: (352) 797-4108
www.FDACS.gov

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

DAMAGE TO PUBLIC LANDS

According to Florida Statute 375.314:

Damage to public lands-

- (1) Whoever damages public lands by the use of a motor vehicle is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.775.082 or s.775.085 or by restitution.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, damage shall include, but is not limited to, injury to or destruction of trees, flora, sand dunes or other environmentally sensitive land, roads, trails, drainage systems or natural water courses or sources, wildlife resources, fences or gates, crops or cultivated land.
- (3) Any person who operates a motor vehicle on lands owned by the state or its agency shall be civilly liable for the actual damage to the lands by reason of his or her wrongful act, which damages may be recovered by suit and, when collected, shall go to the state or its agency to be used to restore or replace the damaged property.

NOTE: A misdemeanor of the second degree is punishable by a definite term of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days and/or a fine not exceeding \$500 per individual.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Per Florida Statute 375.314 (2):

OFF-ROADING STRICTLY PROHIBITED within the Withlacoochee State Forest

There are no specified 4x4 trails within the Withlacoochee State Forest. Only registered, licensed street legal vehicles may be driven on Open Named and Numbered forest roads as designated on the approved Wildlife Management Area maps or area brochures.

Use caution and do not assume that any unmarked roads are "Open Roads".

ATV or OHV traffic is restricted to the Croom Motorcycle Area (CMA) only. Trails for ATV or OHV Traffic are located and permitted ONLY in the **Croom Motorcycle Area**, a 2,600 acre area for use by off-highway motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. Restrictions may apply. CMA Fees are \$15 (Single Day Permit) & \$80 (Annual Permit). Call the Visitor Center or CMA Gatehouse at 352-797-5759 for more information.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION & POSSESSION

Per Florida Statute 589.011 and Florida Administrative Code 5I-4.005(1)(j):

Alcoholic Beverage possession and consumption is prohibited in the Withlacoochee State Forest unless otherwise posted.

CAMPING INFORMATION

Citrus County/Citrus Tract

Holder Mine	27 electric
Mutual Mine	13 non-electric
Tillis Hill	37 electric

Hernando County/Croom Tract

Croom Motorcycle Area

Buttgenbach Mine	51 electric
Silver Lake Recreation Complex	
Silver Lake	23 electric
Cypress Glen	34 electric
Crooked River	26 non-electric (tents only)

Sumter County/Croom Tract

Hog Island	20 non-electric
River Junction	20 non-electric

Group Camping Areas

Hog Island Youth Group Area
Mutual Mine Youth Group Area
Crooked River Youth Group Area
Colonel Robins Group Area

For Reservations

Visit our reservation website at:

FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com

Via telephone at: **877-879-3859**

For our hearing impaired visitors, you may call the TDD line at **800-373-3851**.

Primitive Camp Zones are located along the hiking trails. These zones are marked by yellow bands. These zones are hike in/hike out only.

Leashed pets are allowed in campgrounds and day use areas on state forest lands, except Croom Motorcycle Area including Buttgenbach Campground (CMA) and McKethan Lake Day Use Area.

Camping Fees

Electric Campsites	\$25
Discounted Rate**	\$15
Non-electric Campsites	\$15
Discounted Rate**	\$10
Mutual Mine/Bear Head Hammock	\$15/\$10
Primitive Camp Zones-Hiking/Canoe	Hike-in