

# PUBLIC USE REGULATIONS

## Dawson Forest City of Atlanta Tract

### ACCESS

- 1 Street-legal vehicles are allowed on open roads.
- 2 Speed limit is 25 mph on all roads with this Tract.
- 3 ATV use is NOT allowed.
- 4 Motorized vehicles are NOT allowed off the road.
- 5 Motorized vehicles are NOT allowed on roads behind closed gates.
- 6 Motorized vehicles are NOT allowed on the power line right-of-ways.
- 7 Horses and bicycles are allowed on designated trails ONLY.
- 8 Chain-link fencing surrounds two areas within the Forest. Admittance is NOT allowed in these areas. One is located near the trailhead and the other is near Beaverpond Rd.
- 9 The entire Tract is CLOSED to all vehicles, horse, foot, and other traffic each year the first week in August. Exact dates will be posted prior to closure period.

### TRAILS

- 1 Horses and bicycles are restricted to designated trails as shown on the map posted on the bulletin board and marked with paint on trees along the trails. Citations will be issued and/or permits revoked for riding in non-designated areas. Horses and bicycles should not be ridden along roadsides unless it is marked as a designated trail. Be particularly aware of environmentally sensitive areas (streams, etc).
- 2 Payment of a trail-user fee is required for adult horseback and bicycle riders (age 16 and older).
- 3 Do NOT ride in, camp in, drive in, tether in, or otherwise damage wildlife plantings. Horses and vehicles should not be in these areas by state regulation.
- 4 Please respect other recreational users, such as hunters and fishermen. Horseback and bicycle trail use is NOT allowed before 10 am during turkey hunting season (from the last Saturday in March through May 15<sup>th</sup>). Horseback and bicycle trail use is NOT allowed before 10 am during archery deer seasons (mid-September through late October). Horseback and bicycle trail use is NOT allowed during any firearms or primitive weapons deer seasons. Refer to the bulletin board or wildlife regulations booklet for dates on Dawson Forest W.M.A.
- 5 Trail users must park their vehicles at the trailhead location. It is accessed by Dawson Forest Road and is just inside the main gate on and around the concrete pads. Please clean up all campsites and parking areas before leaving. Litter, hay, and manure will prevent others from using these areas.
- 6 Tether horses between trees -- do not tie them to trees. Do NOT nail or use other metal fasteners on trees.
- 7 Sponsors of organized trail events must contact the Georgia Forestry Commission or DNR Wildlife Resources Division to obtain a legal agreement and List of Conditions for organized rides prior to utilizing Dawson Forest. Those participating in organized rides must also possess a trail use permit.
- 8 The entire City of Atlanta tract is closed to all uses each year the first week in August. Actual dates will be posted prior to closing.
- 9 State regulations prevent the possession of firearms (unless person holds a Georgia Firearms License) and consumption of alcohol while using trails on wildlife management areas. Private vending is NOT allowed on the Forest.
- 10 A USDA Equine Anemia Laboratory Test Report indicating a negative Coggins Test within the last year must be in possession for each horse. Horses without proof of a negative Coggins Test are NOT allowed on Dawson Forest.

11 Hikers are welcome to use the trails. Trail permits are not required when hiking.

## Hunting and Fishing

1 Hunting and fishing regulations are published each year by the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division and made available at local sporting goods stores and at the DNR office located three miles west of Gainesville on highway 53. The "Regulation Booklet" will list general regulations and other special regulations pertaining to the Dawson Forest City of Atlanta Tract under the "Dawson Forest WMA" section.

## Camping

- 1 Primitive camping is allowed on the Forest during times it is open.
- 2 Littering is not allowed. There is no recreational maintenance staff to clean up after campers. Therefore, you must haul your trash out. Do not leave trash barrels in the Forest. It will be considered littering if trash barrels are left at campsites.
- 3 Do not damage trees and shrubs. Only dead wood near campsites should be used in campfires.
- 4 Camping is limited to fourteen consecutive days.

## Rock Hounding and Gold-Panning

The Georgia Forestry Commission has been empowered by formal agreement with the City of Atlanta to manage these lands for their total value using sound management principles. In keeping with this Agreement, the Commission is cooperating with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division in allowing limited public access and recreational use of these lands. The following guidelines have been established by the Forestry Commission and Wildlife Resources Division regarding recreational gold panning and rock hounding within the City of Atlanta owned lands in Dawson and Paulding Counties:

- 1 Recreational panning for gold in streambeds is prohibited after January 1, 2011.
- 2 Collecting soil from streambed is also prohibited.
- 3 Special permission is not required to take a handful of rocks from the surface of the Forest lands, as long as the specimens are for personal use, non-commercial gain, and significant surface disturbance does not occur.
- 4 Digging underneath the surface with shovels or any type of mechanical equipment is NOT allowed.
- 5 Metal detectors and other types of electronic detection equipment are NOT allowed.
- 6 While there is no objection to the taking of local rock types exposed on the surface for educational and recreational purposes, mineral specimens that have commercial value shall not be collected.
- 7 The Georgia Forestry Commission, Wildlife Resources Division and the City of Atlanta are allowing the above recreational activities as privileges granted to members of the public that choose to pursue rock hounding as hobbies. By granting these privileges, the City has no intention to waive or release any rights held by the City in ownership of the lands and minerals within the Dawson Forest.

## Other

- 1 Dogs must be on a leash when not actively participating in legal hunting activities.
- 2 State regulations restrict the use of alcoholic beverages on Wildlife Management Areas. They must not be consumed on trails, in vehicles and while participating in other activities on the Forest.
- 3 Hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and nature study are all approved and encouraged uses of this Forest by the Georgia Forestry Commission, DNR, and City of Atlanta; as long as none of the above listed regulations are violated.
- 4 Contact the Georgia Forestry Commission for information on education opportunities within the Forest. Call the Dawson Forest Manager at 706-265-3707.