



Photos courtesy of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

Hunters take part in a Special Opportunity Area hunt at Cedar Creek in Dallas County, pictured above and below. The hunting grounds there cover 6,400 acres. The SOA will hold deer, small game and turkey hunts at designated times.

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and a companion will be given a 300- to 500-acre block of land all to themselves to hunt for those days,” Sykes explained. “We do not hunt every unit on each property each day. We rotate the areas to keep pressure to a minimum. These SOAs probably have much lower hunting pressure than most private hunting clubs in the state. A property like Portland Landing is not big enough to just open the gates and let everyone hunt when they want. We want this to really be a special area.”

The 400-acre Crow Creek property in Jackson County will offer deer and waterfowl hunting. For waterfowl hunts, the permit holder can invite up to four guests.

Like Portland Landing, Cedar Creek sits in Dallas County and covers 6,400 acres. Uchee Creek spreads across 4,435 acres of Russell County. These three SOAs will hold deer, small game and turkey hunts at designated times.

People can also hunt the Fred T. Stimpson and Upper State Sanctuary properties, both in Clark County. Stimpson covers 5,320 acres and Upper State Sanctuary includes 1,920 acres. Both will allow archery deer hunts for adults and youth gun deer hunts. They will also hold squirrel hunts. On squirrel hunts, a permit holder can bring up to five guests with at least one of them a youth. Stimpson also offers youth waterfowl hunts.

“We’ve had Fred T. Stimpson and Upper State Sanctuary areas for a long time, but they were not hunted by the general public,” Sykes recalls. “When we were trapping deer and turkey to relocate them in other parts of the state years ago, many of them came from that area. The SOA program has something for every sportsman in the state. We are looking at adding more hunting opportunities in the future.”

For more information on special hunting opportunities and hunt dates, see www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/special-opportunity-areas.

