



# GENERAL POLICIES

1/2024

All users of the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) must abide by all University of Florida (UF) and OSBS policies while visiting the facility. The policies, procedures, and fees of OSBS are subject to change without prior notice. All visitors are responsible for observing any and all updates to UF and OSBS policies. Current OSBS policies can be found at <https://ordway-swisher.ufl.edu/policies.htm>. Violation of UF or OSBS policies may result in termination of projects and activities on the Station and may result in restrictions or prohibition of future use of the facility.

## PRE-STATION USE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Contact OSBS regarding use.** Perspective users of OSBS should contact the Assistant Director (352.294.3690) or (tasleek@ufl.edu) to discuss their interest in using OSBS before submitting any applications.
2. **Use Applications.** An appropriate application (Research, Education, or Special-Use) must be completed and approved prior to activity on the Station. Online applications may be completed through the OSBS Project Portal found on this website (ordway-swisher.ufl.edu). All relevant permits (institutional, state, federal) provided before a project can be reviewed for use of the Station and its resources. Once a use application is approved, a project use permit ID will be assigned by Station administrators.

## STATION USE:

4. **Access to Station.** Access to the Station is permitted with an approved use permit or prior arrangement with administrators.
5. **Entrance Gates.** The Station has two main entrance gates for visitors to use for entering and exiting the Station. The gates are automated and require an assigned access code to open. Unique access codes are assigned to each project or class upon project approval. The codes are removed once use has been completed.
  - a. North Entrance: 693 SR 26, Melrose, FL
  - b. West Entrance: 590 N SR 21, Hawthorne, FL
6. **Visitor Registration.** Visitors are required to sign-in and out at the check kiosks located at the entrance gates each day the Station is visited using the QR code provided there. The following information is required: Date, Full Name, # in party, Time in, Time out, Purpose of visit, Location(s) visiting (use Management Unit or Area ID). **Project Permit IDs should be entered in the "Purpose of Visit" column.**
7. **Project Keys.** In cases when non-lodging facility keys are needed by a station visitor, the Assistant Director will provide a key agreement form to be completed by the user before keys are provided. Keys checked out shall not be given or loaned to other individuals. All keys provided must be returned to Assistant Director.
8. **Station Speed Limit.** The speed limit throughout the Station is 15 MPH.
9. **Trash & Recycling.** General trash generated by visitors and recycling materials such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, paper, and cardboard may be deposited in designated containers at Bldg 2201 located at the Conservation Center.
10. **Off-road Vehicle Use.** Vehicles are not permitted to leave designated roads without explicit permission by Station administrators. To reduce impact to ground cover vegetation and soil erosion, vehicles should turn around at road or firebreak intersections instead of turning around in management units.
11. **Collecting and Capturing of Species.** Capturing and collecting of species on the Station is prohibited without an approved OSBS project use permit.
12. **Hunting and Fishing.** Hunting and fishing are prohibited on the Station. Violation of this policy may result in arrest by law enforcement representatives.
13. **Use of Firearms.** Firearms are prohibited on the Station except by permission of administrators.
14. **Domestic Animals.** Domestic animals (dogs, etc.) are not permitted on the Station, unless they are part of an approved research project or are service animals. Please notify the Station administrators if you have a special need.



15. **Prescribed Fires.** When a prescribed burn is being conducted at the Station, access to the burn area and bordering roads are closed to access. Once a burn has been conducted, the burn area is closed to access for 7 days post fire to let the area settle for safety reasons. The surrounding roads may be utilized once the burn is completed.
16. **Fire Breaks.** Fire breaks are not accessible to vehicles. Foot traffic is permitted.
17. **Cultural Artifacts.** Removal of any Native American or homesteader artifacts (e.g., arrowheads, pottery, etc.) is prohibited.
18. **Biosecurity Measures.** Biosecurity is defined as practical steps that can be taken to minimize the spread of unwanted organisms. The Station will follow the following guidelines for biosecurity:
  1. **Introduction of species.** The introduction or use of species not found on OSBS is prohibited without an approved OSBS permit.
  2. **Aquatic flora/fauna.** Aquatic flora/fauna must be removed from nets before they are moved between waters.
  3. **Use of Aquatic Sampling Equipment.** All aquatic sampling equipment (nets, dredges, etc.) shall be cleaned with a 5% bleach solution between use in other lakes/ponds/streams.
  4. **Use of Boats.** To reduce introduction of exotic species into the lakes and ponds, outside canoes and boats are prohibited from being used unless an individual receives written permission from Station administrators. The Station has boats and canoes that are available for use. A minimum of 2 flotation devices must be present in a boat when being used.
19. **Use Locations.** Only use locations approved under the appropriate OSBS project permit may be used for the designated activities.

#### **USE OF STATION EQUIPMENT:**

22. **Station Vehicles.** Designated Station vehicles may be available for use on an available basis and are subject to the Station's fee schedule. They may not to be driven unless permission has been obtained from administrators. When using state vehicles, users must complete a vehicle use agreement form as well as fill out the mileage log stored in each vehicle.
23. **Station Boats.** Canoes, Jon boats, and V hull boats are available for use on an available basis and may be subject to the Station's fee schedule.
24. **Other Station Equipment.** Permission must be obtained from administrators before borrowing any equipment. Any equipment loaned for use may be subject to the Station's fee schedule.
25. **Use of Bldg 2202 Facilities.** Visitors wanting to use the classroom/kitchen/camping facilities at Bldg. 2202 (Butler Bldg.) must complete/sign the Use Instructions Form. The form is provided by the Office Manager upon request to use the facility.
26. **Onsite Lodging.** The Station has lodging facilities that can be rented by Station users. Please visit the Station's website to review lodging use fees, policies and requirements ([ordway-swisher.ufl.edu](http://ordway-swisher.ufl.edu)).