

Game Farm Rule Proposal Final Rule – June 17, 2009



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement

Photo: Whitetail deer on private game farm.

Game Farm Rule Proposal 2009



Background:

- This rule addresses the establishment and operation of game farms in Florida.
- Draft language was initially presented at the April 2009 Commission Meeting in Tallahassee.
- If this rule is approved by the Commission, staff would recommend legislation to repeal the pertinent parts of s. 379.302, F.S.



Photo: Greater Kudu

The initial draft language was presented at the April 2009 Commission meeting in Tallahassee.

The rule would incorporate substantive portions of s. 379.302, F.S., as well as incorporating current captive wildlife housing, husbandry and transportation standards, and clarifying the requirements for the establishment and operation of a game farm in Florida. If this rule is approved by the Commission, staff would recommend that we seek legislation to repeal those pertinent parts of s. 379.302 of the statutes.

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Rule Summary:

- Incorporates substantive portions of s. 379.302, F.S.
- Provides clear language pertaining to the establishment and operation of a game farm.
- Incorporates current captive wildlife standards.
- Provides clarification regarding requirements for housing, transportation, record keeping and selling/transferring of game.



To provide a recap of the summary presented at the April Commission Meeting, this rule incorporates the substantive portions of 379.302, F.S., and:

- Provides clear language regarding the establishment and operation of game farms.
- Provides exemptions to the permitting requirement.
- Incorporates current captive wildlife standards.
- Provides clarification on the requirements for the housing, transportation, selling/transferring of game and record keeping requirements.

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Results of April Commission Meeting:

- Concept and draft language approved at the April 2009 Commission Meeting.
- Staff directed to obtain additional input on the 640 acre requirement.



Photo: Ringneck pheasant

The draft rule language was approved at the April Commission Meeting with direction from the Commission for law enforcement staff to obtain additional input from the public and biological staff regarding the 640 acre requirement.

Game farm regulations currently require a game farm not to exceed an area of 640 acres. The questions raised at the April Commission Meeting were:

- Is this acreage requirement sufficient?
- Should there be a maximum acreage requirement?
- What should the maximum acreage requirement be?

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Action taken:

- Posted survey and rule language on FWC website;
- Notification of all game farm and hunt preserve owners and other interested parties via mass mailing;
- News Release soliciting survey participation; and
- Consulted biological staff.



Since the April meeting, staff has posted a survey at various locations on our website; solicited survey participation through a statewide News Release; and notified all game farm and hunt preserve owners and other interested parties by way of a mass mailing.

Approximately, 770 post cards were mailed out soliciting participation in the survey. The link to the survey was posted at the following sites on our website in an effort to solicit additional interest and public participation. These sites include:

- http://www.myfwc.com/CONTACT/Contact_Rules_Proposed_GameFarm.htm. (The survey link was posted along with the background information and draft rule language).

- http://myfwc.com/CONTACT/Contact_TellUs.htm, and

- http://myfwc.com/License/LicPermit_CaptiveOtherPermits.htm#game.

In addition, we consulted FWC biological staff to get input on the pros or cons of maintaining the 640 acre requirement.

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Results:

- *Note: This slide intentionally left blank. Synopsis of survey and additional input will be provided after the May 20th survey/comment deadline.*



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(Updated information to be provided after May 20, 2009.)

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- *Note: This slide intentionally left blank. It will be used to explain changes to rule language based on additional public and staff input, if any.*



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(Updated information to be provided after May 20, 2009.)

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Recommended Action

- Approve Rule 68A-12.011; Regulations Governing the Establishment and Operation of Game Farms, as advertised.
- Proceed with filing rule for adoption



Staff recommends approval of Rule 68A-12.011 Regulations Governing the Establishment and Operations of Game Farms, as advertised.

Proceed with filing rule for adoption.

The following slides are considered back up material and are not anticipated to be a part of the actual presentation to the Commission.



Game Farm Draft Rule 2009

Definitions:

- **Game farm** – An area or establishment where game is produced by artificial propagation.
- **Artificially propagated game** – Game that is hatched or born and raised in captivity. The term “artificially propagated” is synonymous with the term “**pen raised.**”
- **Game** – Game mammals and game birds.
- **Game mammals** – Deer, gray squirrel, rabbits, and non-native species generally considered game such as elk, antelope and buffalo.
- **Game birds** – Wild turkey, quail, rails, snipe, woodcock, ducks, geese, brant, dove, coot, gallinule, and non-native species generally considered game such as pheasant, chukar partridge, and coturnix quail.



The purpose of this slide is to provide background information on the definitions pertaining to game and game farms.