



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Proposed Deer Hunting Zones and Season Changes Update

October 30, 2009

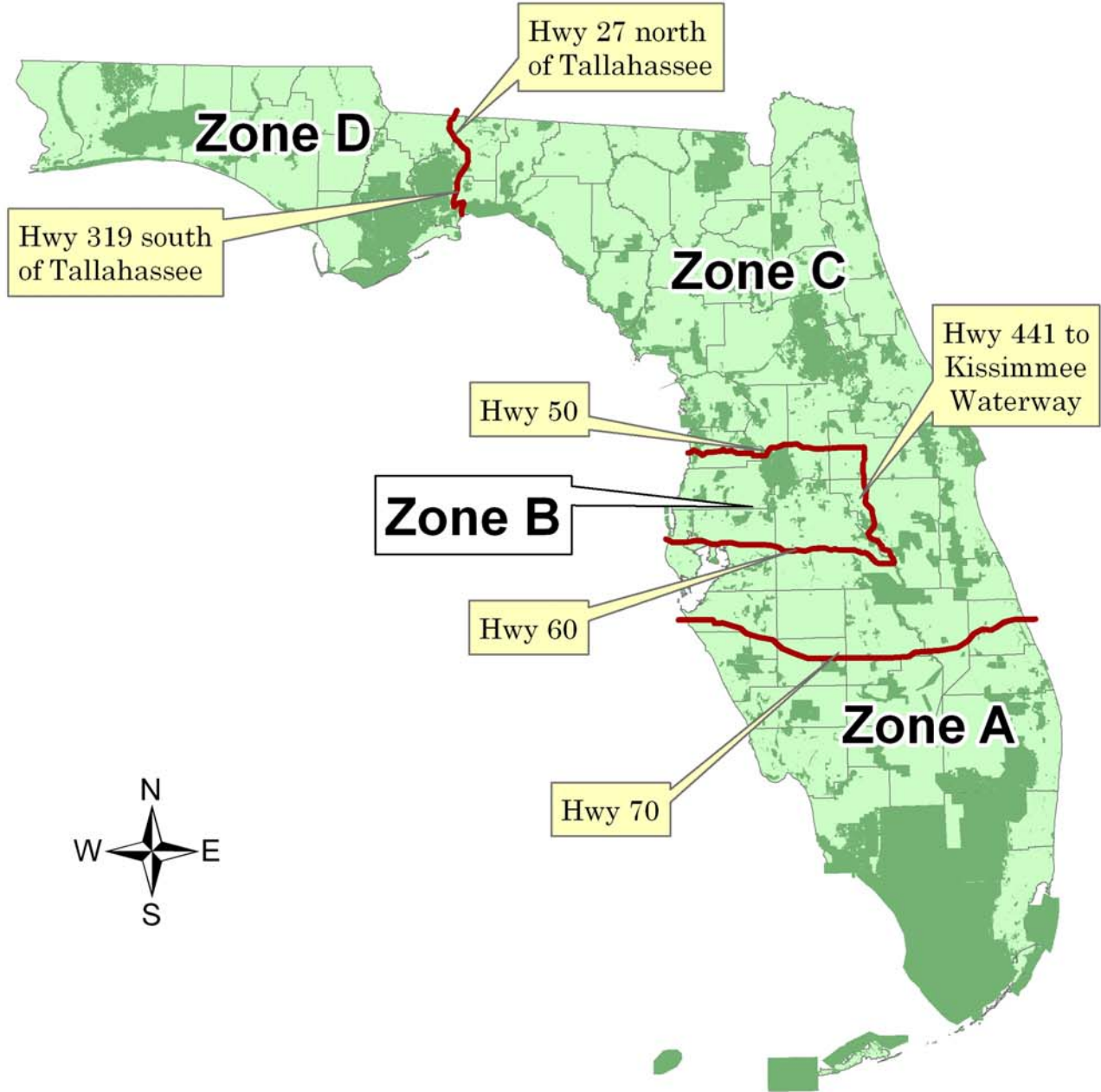
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is proposing changes to white-tailed deer hunting zones and seasons. The purpose is to better align season dates with the times of peak deer activity associated with the breeding season (the “rut”) and to increase hunter satisfaction.

A draft of possible deer hunting zones and season dates was advertised beginning in April 2009. Six public meetings were conducted around the state in May and June to share information regarding the possible changes and to gather public input. Public input was also received via an online survey. A total of 855 comment cards were submitted regarding possible changes to deer hunting zones and seasons. These comments were considered by the FWC and resulted in several recommended changes to the proposal presented at the May and June public meetings and posted on the internet.

In September 2009, a revised draft of deer hunting zones and season dates was presented at the Commission meeting, at two public meetings and online. Comments were gathered during the public meetings and via an online survey. These comments resulted in a two changes. The antlerless deer season was adjusted later by one day for Zones B and D and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Area, which would be bisected by the new Zone B, is proposed to have Zone B seasons beginning with the 2010-2011 hunting season.

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Proposed Zones



Current and possible deer season dates by zone. These dates are based on the 20010-2011 season. Any changes approved by the Commission would not apply until the 2010-2011 hunting season. Public hunting areas will be considered for realignment with zonal changes during the next rule cycle and changes would not apply until the 2011-2012 hunting season.

Season	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	
Current Season Date Range	South Zone: Sept 11 – Jan 9	Central Zone: Sept 25 – Jan 23	Central Zone: Sept 25 – Jan 23	NW Zone: Oct 16 – Feb 27	
Possible new season dates	Archery	July 31 – Aug 29 (30 Days)	Oct 16 – Nov 14 (30 days)	Sept 18 – Oct 17 ^C (30 days)	Oct 23 – Nov 24 (33 days)
	Crossbow	Aug 30 – Sept 3 (5 days)	Nov 15 – Nov 19 (5 days)	Oct 18 – Oct 22 (5 days)	Nov 29 – Dec 3 (5 days)
	Muzzleloading Gun	Sept 4 – Sept 17 (14 days)	Nov 20 – Dec 3 ^B (14 days)	Oct 23 – Nov 5 (14 days)	Dec 4 – Dec 10 and Feb 21 – Feb 27 (14 days)
	General Gun	Sept 18 – Oct 17 and Nov 20 – Jan 2 ^A (72 – 79 days)	Dec 4 – Feb 20 (79 days)	Nov 6 – Jan 23 (79 days)	Nov 25 – Nov 28 ^D and Dec 11 – Feb 20 (76 days)
	Antlerless Deer	Nov 20 – 26	Dec 26 – Jan 1	Nov 20 – 26	Dec 26 – Jan 1
	Deer-dog Training	Aug 14 – Sept 2	Oct 30 – Nov 18	Oct 2 – Oct 21	Oct 30 – Nov 18
Current Season Length	116 days	116 days	116 days	123 days	
Proposed Total Season Length	121 – 128 days	128 days	128 days	128 days	
Conception Dates	July 22 – September 16	December – February	September 11 – December 10	January 11 – February 22	

^A The second phase of general gun in Zone A would always begin on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and end on the first Sunday in January.

^B Muzzleloading gun would always begin the Saturday before Thanksgiving in Zone B.

^C The archery season would always begin on the 3rd Saturday in September in Zone C.

^D The first phase of general gun in Zone D would always begin on Thanksgiving Day.