

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-13.004
Agenda Item 8.C.
November 16, 2016**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-13.004

RULE TITLE: Hunting Regulations for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits and Private Lands Deer Management Permits

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise regulations pertaining to the season length, and daily and seasonal big limit for wild turkey during the spring season in Holmes County. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources.

SUMMARY: Due to the continued success of the turkey population in Holmes County following restoration activities in the early 2000's, the proposed rule amendment would re-establish statewide regulations for the spring season in Holmes County. Specifically, the proposed amendment would extend the regular spring season to a full 37-day season and increase the daily and seasonal bag limit to two. The resulting spring season length and bag limits would be consistent with those for the rest of the counties in the state. Fall turkey season would continue to be closed in Holmes County.

Additionally, the proposed rule amendment would provide non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization, or clarification of an existing rule.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-13.004 Hunting Regulations for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits and Private Lands Deer Management Permits.

The hunting regulations for non-migratory game shall be as follows unless otherwise amended by the Commission, provided that regulations for hunting on wildlife management areas shall be as established by specific rule.

(1) Bag and possession limits:

(a) No change.

(b) Turkey: daily bag, 2; spring season bag, 2 ~~(except in Holmes County where the bag shall be 1)~~; all fall seasons combined bag, 2; possession limit, 2.

(c) through (d) No change.

(2) No change.

(3) Open seasons:

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) Turkey:

1. No change.

2. Spring season (gobblers or bearded turkeys only):

a. Opening on the first Saturday of March and closing 36 days thereafter south of State Road 70. Opening on the third Saturday of March and closing 36 days thereafter north of State Road 70 ~~except in Holmes County where the season will open on the third Saturday of March and close 15 days thereafter.~~

b. No change.

(d) through (i) No change.

(4) through (5) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 5-19-80, 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 7-1-83, 7-1-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-13.04, Amended 6-1-86, 5-10-87, 6-8-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-1-93, 3-1-94, 7-1-94, 7-1-96, 10-28-97, 4-27-98, 12-28-98, Formerly 39-13.004, Amended 7-1-01, 5-13-02, 10-16-

02, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-08, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 7-26-12, 7-1-13, 6-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-2-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17.