DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.061 RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Southwest Region.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Southwest Region and conform to calendar year date changes. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Southwest Region as follows:

Everglades Headwaters WMA, Gulfstream Tract. – (new) – establish a new wildlife management area (395 acres) as the first tract of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Everglades Headwaters WMA; establish rules consistent with the Arbuckle WMA (regulations for Arbuckle WMA, including hunting seasons and quotas, will apply to the Gulfstream Tract) with the following open seasons: a 16-day archery season consisting of three 2-day weekend hunts (quota of 150, no exemptions) and ten days of weekday hunts (quota of 75 daily permits, no exemptions), a muzzleloading gun season consisting of two 2-day weekend muzzleloading gun hunts (quota of 150, no exemptions) and five days of weekday muzzleloading gun hunts (quota of 75 daily permits, no exemptions), a 4-day small game season, and two 3-day spring turkey season hunts (quota of 15, no exemptions); and public access will be provided at a parking area on Old Avon Park Road.

Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA, Yucca Pens Unit – add coyote as legal to hunt during daylight hours of the raccoon and opossum season; and prohibit coyote hunting with dogs and at night.

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 FOLLOWING:

68A-15.061 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Southwest Region.

(1) Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

2. Archery – October 27 28 through November 26 27, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only and Thanksgiving Day.
3. No change.
4. Wild hog-dog – September 28 29 through October 1 2 and October 5-8 6-9.
5. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23.
6. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(2) Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area – West Unit.

(a) Open season:

5. Special-opportunity turkey – March 17-20 18-21, 26-29 27-30, March 31 through April 3 4, April 9-12 10-13 and 14-17 15-18.
7. through 8. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(a) Open season:
2. Bird dog training – Bird dogs may be trained in the bird dog training area September 16-17 through February 11-12 and bird dogs may be trained in the remainder of the area during the small game season except the field trial and Boy Scout areas.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(4) Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area – Yucca Pens Unit.
(a) Open season:
2. General gun – October 28 29 through November 5 6.
3. Small game – November 15 16 through January 14 15 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays only and the Friday after Thanksgiving Day.
4. through 5. No change.
(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. Quail may be taken only during the small game season. The bag limit for quail shall be six per day. During small game season the take of wild hog is prohibited. During the raccoon and opossum season, only raccoon, and opossum and coyote are legal to take.
(c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. through 2. No change.
3. Public access is allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except during the raccoon and opossum season when public access is allowed at any time anytime.
4. No change.
5. Hunting with dogs during the muzzleloading gun and general gun season is prohibited. The take of wildlife with dogs is prohibited, except when taking small game during the small game season or raccoon and opossum during the raccoon opossum and opossum season when any dog may be used. The take of wild hogs with dogs is prohibited. The take of coyotes with dogs is prohibited.
6. Motorized vehicular access is allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except during the raccoon and opossum season when vehicle access is allowed at any time anytime.
7. through 10. No change.
11. During the raccoon and opossum season, coyotes may be taken only with guns and only from one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

(5) Upper Hillsborough Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Wild hog-dog – November 7-9 8-10.
2. Archery – December 2-3 3-4, 9-10 10-11, December 30-31 31 through January 1 and January 6-7 7-8.
6. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(6) Arbuckle Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
5. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.

(7) KICCO Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 16–17 through October 15–16, Saturdays and Sundays only.
3. Wild hog-still – November 11–12 through December 10–11, Saturdays and Sundays only.
5. Spring turkey – March 17–18 through April 15–16, Saturdays and Sundays only.
6. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.

(8) Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
7. No change.
9. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.


(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 30 through October 1–2, October 2–5, 6–8, 22–24, 23–25 and January 12–14.
6. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.

(10) Hilochee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Youth turkey hunt – March 10–11, 11–12.
7. No change.
8. Raccoon – August 3–4 through September 24–25 (from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sunday).
(b) through (d) No change.

(11) Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
7. Spring turkey – March 17-19 18-20, March 30 31 through April 1 2 and April 13-15 14-16.
8. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 16 17 through October 15 16 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 21 22 through November 3 4 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
3. General gun – November 4 5 through January 21 22 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
4. Small game – November 11 12 through March 4 5 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
6. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
7. Antlerless deer – November 18-24 19-25 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.
8. through 10. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(13) Croom Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
2. General gun – November 4-26 5-27.
3. Small game – December 4 5 through March 4 5.
5. Fox, raccoon and bobcat – December 14 15 through March 11 12. Hunting is allowed from 5 p.m. Thursday to sunrise Sunday with dogs only. Taking wildlife with guns is prohibited during this season.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(14) Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 16 17 through October 15 16.
5. through 6. No change.
8. Spring turkey – March 23-25 24-26, April 6-8 7-9 and 20-22 21-23.
9. Raccoon – February 1-25 2-26 and May 3-27 4-28 (from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sunday).
(b) through (d) No change.
(15) Hilochee Wildlife Management Area – Osprey Unit.
(a) Open season:
1. Family hunt – November 10-12 14-16.
3. Wild hog-dog – December 8-10 9-11 and January 5-7 6-8.
9. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(16) Weekiawachee Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 14-19 15-20, November 11-16 12-17, December 9-14 10-15, January 13-18 14-19 and
February 10-15 11-16.
2. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(17) Lower Hillsborough Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(a) The regulations contained in Rules 68A-15.061(6), F.A.C., not in conflict with specific area regulations,
shall apply to this area.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017