

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.062
Agenda Item 8.C.
November 16, 2016**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO.: 68A-15.062

RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas –
North Central Region.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the North Central 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 amendments would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region as follows:

Andrews WMA – shift the third small game season hunt from mid-January to late November (begin 7 weeks earlier).

Belmore WMA – change the first archery season hunt period from a Saturday-Monday hunt to a Friday-Sunday hunt by beginning the hunt 1 day earlier.

Big Bend WMA, Jena Unit – remove seasonal road closures and allow vehicular access only on open portions of named and numbered roads.

Camp Blanding WMA – extend archery season in the archery-only area from 56 to 68 days (including the period overlapping the first 6 days of archery season and the 6-day muzzleloading gun season); and establish two 3-day wild hog-dog season hunts in the dog hunt area, allow 3 dogs and 3 people per quota permit (60 daily quota permits available first-come, first-served at the check station each day of the season).

Cary WMA – change the first archery season hunt period from a Saturday-Monday hunt to a Friday-Sunday hunt by beginning the hunt 1 day earlier; and allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Cypress Creek WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Devil's Hammock WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Flying Eagle WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Four Creeks WMA – establish camping at designated sites by permit from the Florida Forest Service; change the first archery season hunt period from a Saturday-Monday hunt to a Friday-Sunday hunt by beginning the hunt 1 day earlier; and allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Goethe WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Grove Park WMA – allow hunting equipment to be taken onto the WMA beginning 2 weeks prior to archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun and small game seasons.

Gulf Hammock WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Jennings Forest WMA – shift the family hunt from late December to opening day of the Zone C antlered deer season (begin 7 weeks earlier) and begin general gun season 2 days later; and allow the take of wild hog during small game season, except in the Quail Enhancement Area.

Little River WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Lochloosa WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Log Landing WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Lower Econfin River WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Middle Aucilla WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Potts WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Ralph E. Simmons Memorial WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Steinhatchee Springs WMA – change and expand the general gun season from one period of 30 days (quota permit required during the first 9 days) to 2 periods (42 days): 28 days beginning on opening day of the Zone C antlered deer season (quota permit required during the first 9 days) and 14 days (no quota permit required) beginning 65 days thereafter; begin the small game season 3 weeks earlier; and allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Thomas Creek WMA, Kings Road Unit – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

Additionally, the proposed rule amendments 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-15.062 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – North Central Region.

(1) Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Wild hog-dog – Opening the Saturday before the third Monday of January and continuing for 2 days thereafter, and opening the Saturday before the third Monday of February and continuing for 2 days thereafter. Only in the dog hunt area.

3. through 4. renumbered 4. through 5. No change.

6.5. Archery – September ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~ and October ~~3-5~~ ~~4-6~~, only in the still hunt and archery-only areas; and October 10-12, 17-19 and the Monday before Thanksgiving and continuing for 55 days thereafter in the archery-only area, which is within the area described by a line beginning at the intersection of County Road 225 and Woodbury Road, then southeast on County Road 225 to State Road 16, then south on State Road 16 and County Road 230 to the Camp Blanding boundary on the east side of County Road 230, then east along the Camp Blanding boundary to Duval Road, then south on Duval Road to Yerkes Road, then west on Yerkes Road to Treat Road, then north on Treat Road to Lightning Strike Road, then west and north on Lightning Strike Road to State Road 230, then west on State Road 230 to the Camp Blanding boundary, then north along the Camp Blanding boundary to State Road 16, then east on the south side of State Road 16 to Lightning Strike Road, then north on Lightning Strike Road to Bessent Road, then north on Bessent Road to the starting point. A disjunct portion of the archery-only area is south of County Road 215, east of Rifle Range Road, north of State Road 16 and west of the Camp Blanding boundary.

6. renumbered 7. No change.

8.7. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~10-12~~ ~~11-13~~ and ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~, only in the still hunt areas.

8. renumbered 9. No change.

10.9. Trapping – December 1 through January ~~7~~ ~~8~~, only in the still hunt areas.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers. Turkeys of either sex may be taken during the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons, the last two days of each of the two general gun still quota periods, the first two days of the non-quota period of the general gun still season and the last three days of each general gun dog hunt. Taking 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. During the supervised youth hunts, only wild hogs and one antlered or antlerless deer may be taken per youth. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-dog season.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Possession or use of a dog, other than a dog on a leash for trailing wounded game, is prohibited except (1) in the dog hunt area and (2) bird dogs are allowed in still hunt areas 1 and 2 but only after the first 16 days of the general gun season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than three free-running dogs per wild hog-dog daily quota permit shall be allowed.

4. through 15. No change.

16. During the wild hog-dog season, a daily quota permit allows three hunters to participate in the hunt.

(2) Cypress Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

2. Spring turkey – March ~~17-25~~ 18-26.

3. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~8~~ 9.

4. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.

5. No change.

6. Small game – Opening the Saturday before Thanksgiving and closing concurrently with the gray squirrel season established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. continuing for 106 days thereafter.

(b) Legal to take: Antlered deer, bear (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the North BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C), gray squirrel, rabbit, furbearers and fish. During the small game season, the take of small game is also allowed. 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.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting Taking wildlife with dogs, other than dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season.

2. through 4. No change.

(3) Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~4~~ 5 through January ~~21~~ 22.

2. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

3. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ 18 through April ~~22~~ 23.

4. Archery – September ~~16~~ 17 through October ~~15~~ 16.

5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – October ~~21~~ 22 through November ~~3~~ 4.

6. Small game – January ~~27~~ 28 through February ~~25~~ 26.

7. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 6. No change.

7. The possession or use of dogs, other than bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers, is prohibited ~~during small game season and~~ in that portion of the area south of King Road, east of the powerline right-of-way, south of Howell Road and east of Butler Road; except during small game season and as provided by paragraphs 68A-15.004(7)(c) and (d), F.A.C.

8. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during small game season, except any dog may be used to take small game.

8. renumbered 9. No change.

(4) Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~4-17~~ 5-18, November ~~18~~ 19 through December ~~3~~ 4 and December ~~4-31~~ 5 through ~~January 1.~~

2. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ 18 through April ~~22~~ 23.
4. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~22~~ 23.
5. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ 28 through ~~October 30~~.
6. No change.
7. Small game – January ~~1~~ 2 through March ~~4~~ 5.
8. No change.
- (b) through (d) No change.
- (5) Osceola Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. General gun – November ~~11~~ 12 through January ~~7~~ 8.
 2. Small game – January ~~8~~ 9 through March ~~4~~ 5.
 3. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 4. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ 18 through April ~~22~~ 23.
 5. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~15~~ 16.
 6. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-28~~ 22-29 in the still hunt area and Big Gum Swamp Wilderness only.
 7. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – November ~~11~~ 12 through March ~~4~~ 5 in the dog hunt portion of the area.
 8. through 9. No change.
 10. Trapping – January ~~8~~ 9 through March 1.
 11. No change.
 - (b) through (c) No change.
 - (d) General regulations:
 1. No change.
 2. Deer dogs may be trained from October ~~29~~ 30 through November ~~7~~ 8, except in the still hunt area.
 3. through 7. No change.
- (6) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Tide Swamp Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. General gun – November ~~4~~ 5 through ~~December 31~~ January 1.
 2. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~22~~ 23.
 3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ 28 through ~~October 30~~.
 4. Small game – January ~~1~~ 2 through February ~~25~~ 26.
 5. through 6. No change.
 7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 8. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ 18 through April ~~22~~ 23.
 9. Trapping – January ~~8~~ 9 through March 1.
 10. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (7) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Spring Creek Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. General gun – November ~~4-12~~ 5-13 and November ~~13~~ 14 through ~~December 31~~ January 1.
 2. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~22~~ 23.
 3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ 28-30.
 4. Small game – January ~~1~~ 2 through March ~~4~~ 5.
 5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 6. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ 18 through April ~~22~~ 23.
 7. Trapping – January ~~8~~ 9 through March 1.
 8. through 10. No change.
 - (b) through (c) No change.
 - (d) General regulations:

1. through 8. No change.

~~9. Bear – During the open season established for the East Panhandle BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.~~

(8) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Hickory Mound Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~4-12 5-13, 13-19 14-20~~ and November 20 21 through December 31 January 1.

2. Small game – January 1 2 through February 25 26.

3. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23.

4. Archery – September 30 through October 29 1-30.

5. through 7. No change.

8. Trapping – January 8 9 through March 1.

9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(9) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Jena Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 23 24 through October 22 23.

2. General gun – November ~~4-12 5-13~~ and November 13 14 through December 31 January 1.

3. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23.

4. Small game – January 1 2 through February 25 26.

5. through 6. No change.

7. Trapping – January 8 9 through March 1.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.

2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads. Operation of a vehicle in areas posted as closed to vehicles is prohibited. On that portion of the area south of County Road 358, west of Gentle Woods Road (north of Rocky Creek) and west of County Road 361 (south of Rocky Creek) motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads from two days before the opening of archery season through April 30; and only on Sand Ridge Road, Sink Creek Road and Rocky Creek Landing Road during the remainder of the year. On the remainder of the area vehicles may be operated only on established roads.

3. through 6. No change.

(10) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Snipe Island Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 23 24 through October 22 23.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October 27-29 28-30.

3. General gun – November ~~4-12 5-13~~ and 13-26 14-27.

4. Small game – December 16 17 through February 11 12.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.

6. Spring turkey – March 17-25 18-26, March 26 27 through April 1 2 and April 2-8 3-9.

7. Trapping – January 6 7 through March 1.

8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(11) PotashCorp – White Springs Wildlife Management Area.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

~~1. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.~~

2. through 4. renumbered 1. through 3. No change.

~~5. The take of wildlife with firearms from dikes is prohibited.~~

6. through 7. renumbered 4. through 5. No change.

(12) Raiford Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~8~~ 9.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.

3. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~4-12~~ 5-13, Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day and December ~~23-26~~ 24-27.

4. Wild hog-still – December ~~30~~ 31 through January ~~2~~ 3.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~17-25~~ 18-26 and April ~~5-8~~ 6-9.

7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(13) Cedar Key Scrub Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~4-12~~ 5-13.

2. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~8~~ 9.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.

4. Fishing – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) through (d) No change.

(14) Andrews Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and September ~~29~~ 30 through October ~~1~~ 2.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~3-5~~ 4-6 and ~~10-12~~ 11-13.

3. General gun – November ~~17-19~~ 18-20.

4. Small game – ~~November 24-26~~, December ~~29-31~~ 30 through ~~January 1~~, and January ~~5-7~~ 6-8 and ~~13-15~~.

5. Family hunt – January ~~20-21~~ 21-22 and ~~27-28~~ 28-29.

6. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~23-25~~ 24-26 and April ~~13-15~~ 14-16.

8. Supervised deer/hog youth hunt – October ~~21-22~~ 22-23 and October ~~28-29~~ 29-30.

9. Wild ~~hog-still~~ ~~hot-still~~ – May ~~4-6~~ 5-7 and ~~11-13~~ 12-14.

10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(15) Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~25-30~~ 26 through ~~October 1~~, October ~~2-7~~ 3-8 and ~~9-14~~ October 10-15.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ 28-30 and November ~~3-5~~ 4-6.

3. No change.

4. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and April ~~12-14~~ 13-15.

6. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(16) Twin Rivers Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23-29~~ 24-30 and ~~September 30~~ through October ~~8~~ 1-9.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.

3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6.

4. General gun – November ~~6-12~~ 7-13 and ~~13-19~~ 14-20.

5. No change.

6. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~23-25~~ 24-26 and April ~~13-15~~ 14-16.

8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(17) No change.

(18) Jennings Forest Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23-26~~ ~~24-27~~ September ~~27-30~~ ~~28~~ through October ~~1~~, October ~~1-4~~ ~~2-5~~ and ~~5-8~~ ~~6-9~~.

2. Supervised small game – October ~~14-22~~ ~~15-23~~, east of Yellow Water Creek, and east of the North Fork Black Creek but only south of its convergence with Yellow Water Creek.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ ~~28-30~~.

4. Bird dog training – November ~~20~~ ~~21~~ through December ~~17~~ ~~18~~ in the quail enhancement area and in the Normandy Unit only on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from October through January; except that bird dog training is prohibited during the archery season.

5. General gun – November ~~6-9~~ ~~5-8~~, ~~10-13~~ ~~9-12~~, ~~14-17~~ ~~13-16~~ and ~~18-21~~ ~~17-20~~.

6. Family hunt – ~~November 4-5~~ ~~December 24-25~~.

7. Small game – January ~~5~~ ~~6~~ through February ~~4~~ ~~5~~, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

8. Wild hog-still – February ~~9-11~~ ~~10-12~~, ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, May ~~4-6~~ ~~5-7~~, ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~ and June ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~.

9. No change.

10. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

11. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~, ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~ and ~~23-25~~ ~~24-26~~.

12. through 13. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers. Taking 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. The bag limit for deer shall be one per quota permit during the archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons and one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit during the family hunt. The take of wild hog is prohibited in the quail enhancement area during small game season and in the quail enhancement area in February during the wild hog-still season. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-still season. During the spring turkey season, one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit. Taking quail is prohibited on the quail enhancement area (that portion of the area lying north of the North Fork Black Creek, east of County Road 217 and west of the Yellow Water Creek) except during quail season as established annually by order of the Executive Director, based on annual fall quail surveys. The daily bag limit for quail on the quail enhancement area is six per person.

(c) through (d) No change.

(19) Holton Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~13-15~~ ~~14-16~~, October ~~27-29~~ ~~28-30~~, November ~~3-5~~ ~~4-6~~ and December ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~.

2. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~23-25~~ ~~24-26~~ and April ~~13-15~~ ~~14-16~~.

3. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(20) Goethe Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23~~ ~~24~~ through October ~~15~~ ~~16~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ ~~28-30~~.

3. General gun (still hunt) – November ~~4-6~~ ~~5-7~~, ~~7-9~~ ~~8-10~~ and ~~10-13~~ ~~11-14~~.

4. General gun (dog hunt) – November ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~, ~~20-23~~ ~~21-24~~ and ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~.

5. Family hunt – December ~~30-31~~ ~~31~~ through January ~~1~~.

6. Small game – January ~~6~~ ~~7~~ through February ~~4~~ ~~5~~.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~17-23~~ ~~18-24~~, March ~~24~~ ~~25~~ through April ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and April ~~2-8~~ ~~3-9~~.

8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during general gun still hunt, archery, and muzzleloading gun seasons.

During the family hunt ~~and small game season~~, hunting with dogs other than waterfowl retrievers and bird dogs is prohibited, ~~except~~ During the small game season, hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game and during small game season by persons hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C.

5. through 11. No change.

(21) Citrus Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – December ~~8-10~~ ~~9-11~~ and December ~~29-31~~ ~~30~~ through ~~January 1~~.

2. Small game – January ~~1~~ ~~2~~ through February ~~25~~ ~~26~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – December ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~ and December ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~.

4. Archery – November ~~4-12~~ ~~5-13~~, ~~13-19~~ ~~14-20~~ and ~~20-26~~ ~~21-27~~.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~20-23~~ ~~21-24~~, April ~~3-6~~ ~~4-7~~ and ~~17-20~~ ~~18-21~~.

7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(22) Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 30 through October 3 ~~1-4~~ and October 6-10 ~~7-11~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~.

3. General gun – November ~~4-7~~ ~~5-8~~ and ~~10-14~~ ~~11-15~~.

4. Small game – November ~~24-26~~ ~~25-27~~ and December ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~17-20~~ ~~18-21~~ and ~~23-27~~ ~~24-28~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except that any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season; waterfowl retrievers and bird dogs are allowed during ~~small game and~~ September duck seasons. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

3. through 9. No change.

(23) Potts Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Spring turkey – March ~~17-20~~ ~~18-21~~ and ~~23-27~~ ~~24-28~~.

2. Archery – October ~~5-8~~ ~~6-9~~ and ~~11-15~~ ~~12-16~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~27-29~~ ~~28-30~~.

4. Wild hog-dog – November ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~.

5. Small game – February ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~, ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~ and March ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 5. No change.

6. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game ~~The use of dogs, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less during the small game season, and any dog is prohibited except that dogs may be used to take wild hog during the wild hog-dog season.~~ During the wild hog-dog

season, no more than three free-running dogs per quota permit shall be allowed. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

7. through 8. No change.

(24) Homosassa Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~12-15~~ ~~13-16~~, October ~~26-29~~ ~~27-30~~ and November ~~2-5~~ ~~3-6~~.
2. Small game – November ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through December ~~3~~ ~~4~~ and December ~~23~~ ~~24~~ through January ~~14~~ ~~15~~.
3. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March ~~17-23~~ ~~18-24~~ and March 31 through April 6 ~~1-7~~.
4. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(25) Devil’s Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~16-19~~ ~~17-20~~, ~~20-24~~ ~~21-25~~ and September ~~25-29~~ ~~26-30~~.
2. Family hunt – October ~~7-8~~ ~~8-9~~ and ~~14-15~~ ~~15-16~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~.
4. General gun – November ~~4-7~~ ~~5-8~~ and ~~8-12~~ ~~9-13~~.
5. Small game – November ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through December ~~17~~ ~~18~~.
6. Wild hog-still – January ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through February ~~11~~ ~~12~~.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~17-20~~ ~~18-21~~ and ~~21-25~~ ~~22-26~~.

9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 4. No change.

5. Hunting with dogs other than waterfowl retrievers and bird dogs is prohibited, except by persons hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C. and any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

6. No change.

(26) Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~16~~ ~~17~~ through October ~~15~~ ~~16~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-29~~ ~~22-30~~ (still hunt area only).
3. General gun – November ~~11~~ ~~12~~ through January ~~7~~ ~~8~~.
4. Small game – January ~~8~~ ~~9~~ through February ~~18~~ ~~19~~.
5. Wild hog-dog – February ~~24~~ ~~25~~ through March ~~11~~ ~~12~~.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ ~~18~~ through April ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
7. No change.
8. Trapping – January ~~8~~ ~~9~~ through March 1.
9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(27) Middle Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~4-30~~ ~~5~~ through December ~~1~~ and December ~~1-31~~ ~~2~~ through January ~~1~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-29~~ ~~22-30~~.
3. Small game – January ~~1~~ ~~2~~ through March ~~4~~ ~~5~~.
4. Archery – September ~~16~~ ~~17~~ through October ~~15~~ ~~16~~.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ ~~18~~ through April ~~22~~ ~~23~~.
7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Hunting with ~~The possession or use of dogs, other than bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers,~~ is prohibited, except as provided by ~~paragraph paragraphs~~ 68A-24.002(2)(b), ~~and 68A-15.004(7)(c) or (d),~~ F.A.C. and any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season.

5. through 7. No change.

(28) Little River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23-25~~ 24-26, September 30 through October ~~2~~ 1-3 and October 7-9 ~~8-10~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.

3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6.

4. Small game – November ~~25~~ 26 through January ~~7~~ 8.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ 18-20 and March ~~30~~ 31 through April ~~1~~ 2.

7. through 8. No change.

(b) Legal to take: Antlered deer, antlerless deer (during the family hunt only), bear (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the North BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C), rabbit, gray squirrel, quail (only during the first 16 days of the small game season), furbearers, migratory birds (only during small game season) and fish. 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. During the family hunt, one antlered and one antlerless deer may be taken per quota permit. During the spring turkey season, one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Taking wildlife with dogs is prohibited, except during the small game season. During the small game season, any dog may be used to take small game and dogs may be used as provided by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., and that bird dogs may be used for hunting quail during the first 16 days of the small game season.

5. through 7. No change.

(29) Troy Springs Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Small game – November ~~11~~ 12 through January ~~7~~ 8, except on Sundays.

2. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(30) Bayard Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23~~ 24 through October ~~8~~ 9 and November ~~11-19~~ 12-20.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-29~~ 22-30.

3. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.

4. through 6. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(31) Grove Park Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~16~~ 17 through October ~~15~~ 16.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21~~ 22 through November ~~3~~ 4.

3. General gun – November ~~4~~ 5 through January ~~7~~ 8.

4. Small game – January ~~8~~ 9 through March ~~4~~ 5.

5. No change.
6. Trapping – December 1 through January 7 ~~8~~.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 ~~11-12~~.
8. Spring turkey – March 17 ~~18~~ through April 22 ~~23~~.
9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 7. No change.

8. In addition to the provisions of Rule 68A-15.004, F.A.C., hunting equipment shall be allowed on the area beginning 14 days prior to hunts allowing the take of deer or wild hog.

(32) Steinhatchee Springs Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 23 ~~24~~ through October 22 ~~23~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 27-29 ~~28-30~~.
3. General gun – November 4-12, ~~5-13~~ and November 13 ~~14~~ through December 1 ~~4~~ and January 8-21.
4. Small game – December 2 ~~24~~ through January 7 ~~29~~.
5. Wild hog-dog – February 2-4 ~~3-5~~, 16-18 ~~17-19~~ and 23-25 ~~24-26~~.
6. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 ~~11-12~~.
7. Spring turkey – March 17-20 ~~18-21~~, 21-25 ~~22-26~~ and March 26 ~~27~~ through April 8 ~~9~~.

8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting with ~~The possession or use of dogs, other than waterfowl retrievers or bird dogs is prohibited, except as provided by paragraph paragraphs 68A-24.002(2)(b), and 68A-15.004(7)(c) or (d), F.A.C., any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season and any dog may be used to take wild hog during the wild hog-dog season.~~

2. through 10. No change.

(33) Cary Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 22-24 ~~24-26~~, September 29 ~~30~~ through and October 1 ~~2~~ and October 6-8 ~~7-9~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 21-23 ~~22-24~~ and 27-29 ~~28-30~~.
3. Family hunt – November 4-5 ~~5-6~~.
4. General gun – November 10-12 ~~11-13~~, 17-19 ~~18-20~~ and 24-26 ~~25-27~~.
5. Small game – December 1 ~~2~~ through January 7 ~~8~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Wild hog-still – January 26-28 ~~27-29~~ and February 2-4 ~~3-5~~ and 16-18 ~~17-19~~.
7. Spring turkey – March 17-19 ~~18-20~~, 23-25 ~~24-26~~ and March 30 ~~31~~ through April 1 ~~2~~.

8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.

2. Hunting Taking wildlife ~~with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game that bird dogs are allowed during the small game season and waterfowl retrievers are allowed during the duck, geese and coot season.~~

3. through 7. No change.

(34) Ralph E. Simmons Memorial Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 18-26 ~~19-27~~.
2. Archery – September 16-24 ~~17-25~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October 21-29 ~~22-30~~.

4. General gun for mobility-impaired – October ~~7-10~~ 8-11.
 5. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6.
 6. Small game – December ~~11-24~~ 12-25 and January ~~27~~ 28 through February ~~4~~ 5.
 7. No change.
 8. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 9. through 10. No change.
 - (b) through (c) No change.
 - (d) General regulations:
 1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog ~~bird dogs~~ may be used to take small game during the small game season.
 2. through 7. No change.
- (35) Lower Econfina River Wildlife Management Area.
- (a) Open season:
1. Archery – October ~~7-22~~ 8-23.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~28-30~~ 29-31.
 3. Small game – January ~~15~~ 16 through February ~~25~~ 26.
 4. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 5. Spring turkey – March ~~17-25~~ 18-26.
 6. No change.
 - (b) through (c) No change.
 - (d) General regulations:
 1. Hunting with ~~The possession or use of dogs, other than bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less is prohibited, except as provided by paragraph paragraphs 68A-24.002(2)(b), and 68A-15.004(7)(c) or (d), F.A.C. and any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season.~~
 2. through 7. No change.
- (36) Belmore Wildlife Management Area.
- (a) Open season:
1. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ 24-26, September ~~29~~ 30 through October ~~1~~ 2 and October ~~6-8~~ 7-9.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.
 3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6 and ~~18-19~~ 19-20.
 4. General gun – November ~~9-12~~ 10-13 and ~~22-26~~ 23-27.
 5. Small game – December ~~1~~ 2 through January ~~7~~ 8 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
 6. No change.
 7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 8. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ 18-20, ~~23-25~~ 24-26 and March ~~30~~ 31 through April ~~1~~ 2.
 9. through 10. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (37) Four Creeks Wildlife Management Area.
- (a) Open season:
1. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ 24-26, September ~~29~~ 30 through October ~~1~~ 2 and October ~~6-8~~ 7-9.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.
 3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6.
 4. General gun – November ~~10-12~~ 11-13, ~~17-19~~ 18-20 and ~~24-26~~ 25-27.
 5. Small game – December ~~1~~ 2 through January ~~7~~ 8 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
 6. Wild hog-still – February ~~8-11~~ 9-12.
 7. No change.
 8. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
 9. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ 18-20, ~~23-25~~ 24-26 and March ~~30~~ 31 through April ~~1~~ 2.
 10. through 11. No change.

(b) No change.

(c) Camping: Allowed throughout the year only at designated sites by permit from the Florida Forest Service
~~Prohibited.~~

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2. No change.

3. ~~Hunting~~ ~~Taking wildlife~~ with dogs is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game ~~with bird dogs~~ during the small game season and waterfowl retrievers may be used during seasons established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

4. through 7. No change.

(38) Hatchet Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~, September ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through October ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and October ~~6-8~~ ~~7-9~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~.

3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ ~~5-6~~.

4. General gun – November ~~10-12~~ ~~11-13~~ and ~~24-26~~ ~~25-27~~.

5. No change.

6. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~, ~~23-25~~ ~~24-26~~ and March ~~30~~ ~~31~~ through April ~~1~~ ~~2~~.

8. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. During the archery season the bag limit for deer shall be one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit. During the family hunt the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons the bag limit for deer shall be one deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit. Taking 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. During the spring turkey season one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two ~~deer~~ per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.

(39) Log Landing Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~16~~ ~~17~~ through October ~~15~~ ~~16~~ and November ~~3-12~~ ~~4-13~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-29~~ ~~22-30~~, November ~~17-26~~ ~~18-27~~ and December ~~22-31~~ ~~23~~ through January ~~1~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

3. Small game – December ~~1-17~~ ~~2-18~~ and January ~~5~~ ~~6~~ through February ~~11~~ ~~12~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

4. No change.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~17~~ ~~18~~ through April ~~22~~ ~~23~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

7. Wild hog-still – May ~~5-13~~ ~~6-14~~.

8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Hunting with ~~The possession or use of~~ dogs is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game ~~that bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less are allowed~~ during the small game season ~~and as provided by paragraph 68A-15.004(7)(e) or (d), F.A.C.~~

4. through 6. No change.

(40) Thomas Creek Wildlife Management Area – Kings Road Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~23-25~~ 24-26, October ~~2-4~~ 3-5 and ~~9-11~~ 10-12.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~21-23~~ 22-24.
3. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ 5-6.
4. General gun – November ~~17-19~~ 18-20 and ~~24-26~~ 25-27.
5. Small game – December ~~1-6~~ 2-7, ~~11-13~~ 12-14, ~~22-24~~ 23-25, December ~~29-31~~ 30 through ~~January 1~~ and January ~~8-10~~ 9-11.
6. No change.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~10-11~~ 11-12.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19~~ 18-20, ~~26-28~~ 27-29 and April ~~2-4~~ 3-5.
9. No change.
- (b) through (c) No change.
- (d) General regulations:
 1. through 3. No change.
 4. Hunting with ~~The possession or use of dogs, other than bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of fifteen inches or less is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game during small game season as provided by paragraph 68A-15.004(7)(e) or (d), F.A.C.~~
 5. through 7. No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

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