

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-17.005
Agenda Item 8.C.
November 16, 2016**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-17.005 **RULE TITLE:** Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) 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 WEAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) as follows:

North Central Region

Fort White WEA – extend the small game season from 14 to 30 days by adding one 16-day hunt in February; and allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

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

South Region

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

John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.

John G. and Susan H. DuPuis Jr. WEA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season; remove rule prohibiting hunting within ¼ mile of primitive campgrounds; and clarify that only mobility-impaired hunters may harvest antlerless deer during the mobility-impaired season.

Southern Glades WEA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season; remove rule prohibiting hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of any building or structure; prohibit hunting within 100 yards of 232nd Avenue; allow airboat access in Unit 3 from the day following the close of general gun season until March 1.

Southwest Region

Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit – improve hunting opportunity by beginning the third small game season hunt one week earlier and expanding this hunt from 3-days (Friday through Sunday) to 4-days (Friday through Monday, overlapping the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.).

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-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

(1) Southwest Region.

(a) through (e) No change.

(f) Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area – Royce Unit – Highlands County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~ and October ~~13-15~~ ~~14-16~~.

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

c. Small game – December ~~8-10~~ ~~9-11~~, ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~, opening 3 days prior to the third Monday in January and closing 3 days thereafter ~~January 20-22~~ and ~~February 2-4~~ ~~27-29~~.

d. Wild hog-still – May ~~5-6~~ ~~6-7~~ and ~~12-13~~ ~~13-14~~.

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

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

g. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

(g) through (k) No change.

(2) North Central Region.

(a) Santa Fe Swamp – Bradford County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~22~~ ~~23~~ through October ~~20~~ ~~21~~.

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

c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~4~~ ~~5~~ through December 31 ~~January 1~~.

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

e. through f. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

(b) Fort White Mitigation Park – Gilchrist County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery season – October ~~21-25~~ ~~22-26~~, October ~~28~~ ~~29~~ through November ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and November ~~11-15~~ ~~12-16~~.

b. Small game – November ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through December ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and February 3-18.

c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

d. Spring turkey – March ~~17-21~~ ~~18-22~~ and ~~24-28~~ ~~25-29~~.

e. through g. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through b. No change.

c. Possession of any animal is prohibited except that a dog on a leash may be used to trail wounded game, any dog may be used to take small game ~~bird dogs are allowed for hunting~~ during the small game season and raptors may be used during the falconry season.

d. through f. No change.

(c) Suwannee Ridge – Hamilton County.

1. Open season:

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

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

2. through 3. No change.

(d) through (e) No change.

(f) Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area.

1. Open seasons:

a. Archery season – September ~~23-27~~ ~~24-28~~ and September ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through October ~~3~~ ~~4~~ and ~~6-10~~ ~~7-11~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun season – October ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~.

c. Family hunt – November ~~4-5~~ ~~5-6~~ and ~~11-12~~ ~~12-13~~.

d. Wild hog-still – January ~~20-24~~ ~~21-25~~ and ~~27-31~~ ~~January 28~~ through ~~February 1~~.

e. Small game – February ~~3-18~~ ~~4-19~~.

f. Youth spring turkey – March ~~10-11~~ ~~11-12~~.

- g. Spring turkey – March ~~17-19 18-20~~ and ~~23-25 24-26~~.
- h. through j. No change.
- 2. No change.
- 3. General regulations:
 - a. through c. No change.
 - d. Hunting with dogs ~~other than bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers~~ is prohibited during the small game season, 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.
 - e. through h. No change.
- (g) Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area.
 - 1. Open seasons:
 - a. Archery season – October ~~14-22 15-23~~.
 - b. Small game – November ~~18 19~~ through December ~~3 4~~ and December ~~16 17~~ through January ~~7 8~~.
 - c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~10-11 11-12~~.
 - d. through g. No change.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (3) Northwest Region.
 - (a) through (b) No change.
 - (c) L. Kirk Edwards – Leon County.
 - 1. No change.
 - 2. Open seasons for that portion of the area east of Chaires Cross Road:
 - a. Archery – September ~~28 29~~ through October ~~1 2~~, October ~~12-15 13-16~~ and ~~26-29 27-30~~.
 - b. Family hunt – November ~~2-5 3-6~~.
 - c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~23-26 24-27~~, November 30 through December ~~3 4-4~~ and December 14-17 15-18.
 - d. Small game – December ~~29-31 30~~ through January ~~1~~, January ~~12-14 13-15~~, ~~26-28 27-29~~, February ~~9-11 10-12~~ and ~~23-25 24-26~~.
 - e. through h. No change.
 - 3. through 4. No change.
 - (a) Southern Glades – Dade County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – July ~~29 30~~ through August ~~27 28~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~8-10 9-11~~.
 - c. General gun – September ~~16 17~~ through October ~~15 16~~ and November ~~20-26 21-27~~.
 - d. Small game – November ~~27 28~~ through February ~~25 26~~.
 - e. through g. No change.
 - 2. No change.
 - 3. General regulations:
 - a. Dogs are prohibited except dogs may be used for hunting small game during small game season and waterfowl retrievers and bird dogs may be used during the duck, coot, and snipe seasons.
 - b. No change.
 - c. Hunting is prohibited within 100 yards of 232nd avenue. The take of wildlife with a firearm east of the C-109 road, ~~or within 500 yards of the Dade Work Camp, or any building or structure~~ is prohibited.
 - d. The use of tracked vehicles, buggies, airboats, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles is prohibited in the area except that airboats may be used in Units ~~1, 3~~ and 4 from the day following the close of the general gun season through March 1 and outboard motor boats may be used within canals, and vehicles may be operated on named or numbered roads.
 - e. through j. No change.
 - (b) John G. and Susan H. Dupuis Jr. – Palm Beach and Martin counties.

1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – September ~~8-10 9-11~~, ~~15-17 16-18~~ and ~~22-24 23-25~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~6-8 7-9~~, ~~13-15 14-16~~ and ~~20-22 21-25~~.
 - c. General gun for mobility-impaired – October ~~28-29 29-31~~.
 - d. General gun – November ~~3-5 4-6~~ and ~~10-12 11-13~~.
 - e. Wild hog-still – November ~~14-16 15-17~~, November ~~28-30 29~~ through ~~December 1~~, and ~~and~~ opening the second Saturday in April and closing 8 days thereafter, and opening the second Saturday in May and closing 8 days thereafter.
 - f. Spring turkey – March ~~6-8 7-9~~, ~~16-18 17-19~~ and ~~23-25 24-26~~.
 - g. Small game – December ~~2 3~~ through January ~~21 22~~.
 - h. through j. No change.

2. Legal to take: All legal game, gobblers or bearded turkeys (during spring season only), wild hog, fish and furbearers (except otter). 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. Antlerless deer (except spotted fawns) may be taken during the archery and general gun for the mobility-impaired seasons. The bag limit for deer shall be one per quota permit, except during the general gun for mobility-impaired season when one (1) antlered and one (1) antlerless deer may be taken per quota permit. Only mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer during the general gun for mobility-impaired season. One gobbler (or bearded turkey) may be taken per spring turkey quota permit. The take of deer is prohibited during the wild hog season.

3. No change.

4. General regulations:

- a. through b. No change.
- c. Taking wildlife with dogs is prohibited except ~~bird dogs and retrievers~~ are permitted for hunting small game during the small game season.

d. through l. No change.

~~m. The take of wildlife with a firearm within 1/4 mile of the hiking trail campsites is prohibited.~~

(c) CREW – Collier and Lee Counties.

1. Open season:

- a. Archery – August ~~5-13 6-14~~.
- b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~2-4 3-5~~.
- c. General gun – November ~~18-26 19-27~~.
- d. Small game – December ~~2-31 3~~ through ~~January 1~~.
- e. Spring turkey – March ~~3-6 4-7~~ and ~~7-11 8-12~~.

f. through h. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

4. General regulations:

- a. No change.
- b. Take of wildlife with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs or retrievers may be used during general gun season and any dog may be used to take small game during small game season seasons.

c. through k. No change.

(d) No change.

(e) John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland – Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

1. Open season:

- a. Archery – September ~~9-12 10-13~~, ~~16-19 17-20~~, September ~~23-26 24-27~~ and September 30 through October 3 1-4.
- b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~14-16 15-17~~.
- c. General gun – October ~~28-30 29-31~~, November ~~4-6 5-7~~ and ~~11-13 12-14~~.
- d. Small game – November ~~18 19~~ through December ~~17 18~~.
- e. Spring turkey – March ~~17 18~~ through April ~~1 2~~ (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

- f. through h. No change.
- 2. through 3. No change.
- 4. General regulations:
 - a. through e. No change.
 - f. Taking wildlife with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs and retrievers may be used for taking ~~small game and~~ migratory birds during small game season and dogs may be used during small game season to take small game.
 - g. through i. No change.
- (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., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. History—
New 7-1-83, Amended 11-30-83, 7-1-84, 8-21-85, Formerly 39-17.05, Amended 6-1-86, 8-13-87, 8-18-88, 8-17-89, 4-11-90, 7-1-
91, 10-31-91, 4-14-92, 4-20-93, 7-1-94, 9-15-94, 3-30-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 4-3-97, 10-28-97, 7-1-98, 8-11-98, 7-1-99, Formerly
39-17.005, Amended 7-1-00, 5-1-01, 6-2-02, 5-25-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 1-6-09, 7-1-09, 10-29-09, 7-1-10,
7-1-11, 11-14-11, 7-1-12, 7-26-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-2-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17.*