

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.004
Agenda Item 21.D.
November 19, 2015**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.004 **RULE TITLE:** General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to clarify general wildlife management area (WMA) regulations. The effect of the proposed rule amendment would correct references in the general WMA regulations; and clarify that dogs may not be used for hunting during bear season.

SUMMARY: 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-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

(1) No change.

(2) Permits required:

(a) A ~~wildlife~~ management area permit as provided by Section ~~379.354~~ ~~379.353~~, F.S., in addition to all regular license requirements, is required for persons, except those exempted in subsection (3) hereof, to take wildlife on a wildlife management area.

(b) through (d) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Legal to hunt:

(a) through (i) No change.

(j) Non-protected mammals, ~~as defined in paragraph 68A-12.002(9)(a), F.A.C.~~, may be taken during any season open for the taking of game mammals, with no size or bag limit unless otherwise provided by area specific rule.

(5) through (6) No change.

(7) Dogs:

(a) Dogs may be used for hunting during open seasons, except bear season or if unless prohibited by regulations for the particular management area. The Executive Director or designee may issue permits to raccoon or fox hunting organizations that are sanctioned by the United Kennel Club, American Kennel Club, Professional Kennel Club, or similar sanctioning entity to allow raccoon or fox hunting during otherwise closed seasons and at times and places designated in the permit. Permits may be issued only in areas where this activity will not negatively impact wildlife, where adjoining landowner conflicts will be minimal, where cooperating landowners are in agreement with the permit conditions, and when not in conflict with other user groups.

(b) through (d) No change.

(8) through (16) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 379.354 FS. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 6-9-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-15.04, Amended 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 4-13-88, 8-18-88, 4-19-90, 4-4-91, 4-14-92, 10-22-92, 7-26-94, 11-6-94, 3-30-95, 10-23-95, 9-15-96, 6-1-97, 7-1-98, 12-28-98, 4-15-99, Formerly 39-15.004, Amended 7-1-00, 6-2-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-29-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 5-2-12, 4-9-13, 7-1-14, 7-1-15, 7-1-16.