

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.064
Agenda Item 21.D.
November 19, 2015**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.064

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

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the South 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 South Region as follows:

Dinner Island Ranch WMA – require a permit for camping (only allowed in designated campgrounds).

Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA – during general gun-walk season in Water Conservation Area (WCA) 2A, only allow hunting north of the East/West Airboat Trail; and during general gun-walk season in WCA 2A allow use of airboats and tracked vehicles south of the East/West Airboat Trail.

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-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – South Region.

(1) No change

(2) Holey Land Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~1-16~~ ~~3-18~~.

2. General gun – Vehicle, October ~~22~~ ~~24~~ through November ~~6~~ ~~8~~ (tracked vehicles).

3. Archery – August ~~6-28~~ ~~8-30~~.

4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-11~~ ~~5-13~~.

5. Small game – November ~~7~~ ~~9~~ through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(3) Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~1-16~~ ~~3-18~~, Conservation Areas 3A North and 2A (north of the East/West Airboat Trail) only.

2. General gun – Vehicle (airboats and tracked vehicles only), October ~~22~~ ~~24~~ through November ~~6~~ ~~8~~, in Conservation Areas 3A North, 3A South, 2, and the Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area.

3. Archery – August ~~6-28~~ ~~8-30~~, Conservation Area 3A North only.

4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-11~~ ~~5-13~~, in Conservation Area 3A North only.

5. Small game – November ~~7~~ ~~9~~ though March ~~5~~ ~~6~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 4. No change.

5. ~~During archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun walk seasons, in~~ The operation of airboats is prohibited in ~~Conservation Area 3A North and Conservation Area 2~~ during legal shooting hours in Conservation Area 3A North during archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons, and in Conservation Area 2 (north of the East/West Airboat Trail only) during general gun season.

6. through 9. No change.

10. Unauthorized motorized vehicles are prohibited on all the levees except the L-4, L-5, and L-6 levees that portion of the L-6 extending from the S-7 pump station north to Sportsman's Crossover.

11. through 27. No change

(e) No change.

(4) Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~1-16~~ 3-18.

2. General gun – Vehicle (tracked vehicles only), October 22-24 through November 6-8 (tracked vehicles).

3. Archery – August ~~6-28~~ 8-30.

4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-11~~ 5-13.

5. Small game – November 7-9 through March 5-6.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(5) Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~8-23~~ 10-25, except in the Deep Lake Unit.

5. Spring turkey – March 4-5 through April 9-10.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(6) Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~6-12~~ 8-14 and ~~13-21~~ 15-23.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-5~~ 5-7 and ~~10-12~~ 12-14.

3. Family Hunt – September ~~17-18~~ 19-20.

4. General gun – September ~~24-27~~ 26-29 and September ~~28-30~~ through October 2-4.

5. Small game – November ~~12-14~~ through December ~~25-27~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~4-7~~ 5-8 and ~~8-12~~ 9-13.

7. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(7) Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~19-21~~ 21-23 and ~~26-28~~ 28-30 west of US Highway 27 only.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~9-11~~ 11-13 and ~~16-18~~ 18-20 west of US Highway 27 only.

3. General gun – ~~September 30 through~~ October 2-4 and ~~October 14-16~~ 16-18 west of US Highway 27 only.

4. Youth Turkey Hunt – February ~~25-26~~ 27-28 west of US Highway 27 only.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~4-7~~ 5-8, ~~10-13~~ 11-14, ~~17-20~~ 18-21, ~~24-27~~ 25-28 and ~~March 31 through~~ April 3-4 west of US Highway 27 only.

6. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March ~~4-10~~ 5-11 and ~~18-24~~ 19-25 east of US Highway 27 only.

7. Wild hog-still– November ~~19-20~~ 21-22 west of US Highway 27 only.

8. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(8) Picayune Strand Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~6-21~~ 8-23.
2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-5~~ 5-7 and ~~10-12~~ 12-14.
3. General gun – October ~~8-11~~ 10-13, ~~12-16~~ 14-18 and ~~17-23~~ 19-25.
4. Small game – November ~~5~~ 7 through December ~~25~~ 27.
5. Spring turkey – March ~~4-7~~ 5-8 and ~~8-12~~ 9-13.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(9) Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~5-8~~ 7-10, ~~12-15~~ 14-17, ~~19-22~~ 21-24 and ~~26-29~~ 28-31.
2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~9-11~~ 11-13.
3. General gun – September ~~17-19~~ 19-21, ~~23-25~~ 25-27 and ~~September 30 through~~ September 30 through October ~~2~~ 2-4.
4. Small game – October ~~29~~ 31 through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.
5. Family hunt – October ~~8-9~~ 10-11 and ~~15-16~~ 17-18.
6. Youth Turkey Hunt – February ~~25-26~~ 27-28.
7. Spring turkey – March ~~4-6~~ 5-7, ~~11-13~~ 12-14 and April ~~1-3~~ 2-4.

8. through 10. No change.

(b) No change.

(c) Camping: ~~Prohibited, except in designated campgrounds by permit as provided in Rule 68A-15.004, F.A.C.~~

~~Camping is allowed only at designated campsites.~~ Only tents, trailers, or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

(d) No change.

(10) Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~5-8~~ 7-10, ~~12-15~~ 14-17, ~~19-22~~ 21-24 and August ~~26-29~~ 28-31.
2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~9-11~~ 11-13.
3. General gun – September ~~17-19~~ 19-21, ~~23-25~~ 25-27, and ~~September 30 through~~ September 30 through October ~~2~~ 2-4.
4. Small game – October ~~29~~ 31 through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.
5. Youth Turkey Hunt – February ~~25-26~~ 27-28.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~4-6~~ 5-7, ~~11-13~~ 12-14 and April ~~1-3~~ 2-4.

7. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(11) Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~10-13~~ 12-15, ~~17-20~~ 19-22, September ~~25-27~~ 27-29 and October ~~1-4~~ 3-6.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~15-17~~ 17-19.
3. Family hunt – October ~~29~~ 31 through November ~~1~~ 3.
4. General gun – November ~~5-9~~ 7-11.
5. Small game – November ~~12~~ 14 through the second Sunday in January.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~4-7~~ 5-8 and ~~8-12~~ 9-13.

7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. History—New 6-21-82, Amended 7-1-83, 7-27-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 8-5-86, 5-10-87, 8-24-87, 5-1-88, 6-7-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 10-20-96, 6-1-97, 8-7-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.064, Amended 11-17-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 6-2-02, 2-27-03, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07,

7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 1-19-10, 7-1-10, 8-26-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 9-18-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16.