

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-17.004
Agenda Item 21.D.
November 19, 2015**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-17.004

RULE TITLE: General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to clarify general wildlife and environmental area (WEA) regulations. The effect of the proposed rule amendment would correct references in the general WEA regulations.

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-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

(1) No change.

(2) Permits required:

(a) No change.

(b) A ~~wildlife~~ management area permit stamp as provided by Section 379.354, 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 and environmental area.

(c) through (d) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Legal to Hunt: Legal game shall be only those game species identified in specific area regulations.

(a) through (d) No change.

(e) 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.

(f) No change.

(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 wildlife and environmental 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 (c) No change.

(8) through (17) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.354, 375.313 FS. History—
New 4-12-98, Amended 12-28-98, Formerly 39-17.004, Amended 7-1-00, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-29-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10,
1-1-11, 3-25-12, 4-9-13, 7-1-14, 7-1-15, 7-1-16.*