

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-17.005
Agenda Item 21.D.
November 19, 2015**

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:

Northwest Region

L. Kirk Edwards WEA – in that portion of the area west of Chaires Cross Road, allow any dog for hunting gray squirrel and migratory birds during the small game season; and in that portion of the area east of Chaires Cross Road, allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during the small game season.

South Region

John C. and Mariana Jones / Hungryland WEA – require a permit for camping (only allowed in designated campgrounds).

John G. and Susan H. Dupuis WEA – prohibit use of vessels powered by an internal combustion engine during quota hunts.

CREW – allow camping by permit from the South Florida Water Management District.

Southwest Region

Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds).

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 ~~23-25~~ ~~25-27~~ and October ~~14-16~~ ~~16-18~~.
 - b. General gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~20-22~~.
 - c. Small game – December ~~9-11~~ ~~11-13~~, ~~23-25~~ ~~25-27~~, January ~~20-22~~ ~~22-24~~ and ~~27-29~~ ~~29-31~~.
 - d. Wild hog-still – May ~~6-7~~ ~~7-8~~ and ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.
 - e. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~11-12~~ ~~12-13~~.
 - f. Spring turkey – March ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~ and ~~March 31 through~~ April ~~2~~ ~~1-3~~.
 - g. No change.
 - 2. No change.
 - 3. General regulations:

- a. through d. No change.
- e. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog ~~bird dogs and retrievers~~ may be used to take small game during the small game season. Hunting wild hog with dogs is prohibited.
- f. No change.
- (g) through (k) No change.
- (2) North Central Region.
 - (a) Santa Fe Swamp – Bradford County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – September ~~23 25~~ through October ~~21 23~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~22-24 24-26~~.
 - c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~5 7~~ through January ~~1 3~~.
 - d. Spring turkey – March ~~18 19~~ through April ~~23 24~~.
 - e. through f. No change.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (b) Fort White Mitigation Park – Gilchrist County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery season – October ~~22-26 24-28~~, October ~~29 31~~ through November ~~2 4~~ and November ~~12-16 14-16~~.
 - b. Small game – November ~~19 21~~ through December ~~2 4~~.
 - c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~11-12 12-13~~.
 - d. Spring turkey – March ~~18-22 19-23~~ and ~~25-29 March 26-30~~.
 - e. through g. No change.
 - 2. through 4. No change.
 - (c) Suwannee Ridge – Hamilton County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~14-16 16-18, 28-30~~ ~~October 30 through November 1~~, November ~~4-6 6-8~~ and December ~~16-18 18-20~~.
 - b. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~24-26 25-27~~ and April ~~14-16 15-17~~.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (d) through (e) No change.
 - (f) Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area.
 - 1. Open seasons:
 - a. Archery season – September ~~24-28 26-30~~ and September 30 through October ~~4 2-6~~ and ~~7-11 9-13~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun season – October ~~22-24 24-26~~.
 - c. Family hunt – November ~~5-6 7-8~~ and ~~12-13 14-15~~.
 - d. Wild hog-still – January ~~21-25 23-27~~ and January ~~28 30~~ through February ~~1 3~~.
 - e. Small game – February ~~4-19 6-21~~.
 - f. Youth spring turkey – March ~~11-12 12-13~~.
 - g. Spring turkey – March ~~18-20 19-21~~ and ~~24-26 25-27~~.
 - h. through j. No change.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (g) Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area.
 - 1. Open seasons:
 - a. Archery season – October ~~15-23 17-25~~.
 - b. Small game – November ~~19 21~~ through December ~~4 6~~ and December ~~17 19~~ through January ~~8 10~~.
 - c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~11-12 12-13~~.
 - 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 29 through October 2 4-4, October 13-16 15-18 and 27-30 October 29 through November 1.~~
- b. Family hunt – November ~~3-6 5-8.~~
- c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~24-27 26-29, December 1-4 3-6 and 15-18 17-20.~~
- d. Small game – ~~December 30 through January 1 1-3, January 13-15 15-17, 27-29 29-31, February 10-12 12-14 and 24-26 26-28.~~

e. through h. No change.

3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. No change.

b. Taking wildlife with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game during small game season. Taking wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

c. through e. No change.

(4) South Region.

(a) Southern Glades – Dade County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – ~~July 30 through August 28 1-30.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~9-11 11-13.~~

c. General gun – September ~~17 19 through October 16 18 and November 21-27 23-29.~~

d. Small game – November ~~28 30 through February 26 28.~~

e. through g. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

(b) John G. and Susan H. Dupuis Jr. – Palm Beach and Martin counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~9-11 11-13, 16-18 18-20 and 23-25 25-27.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~7-9 9-11, 14-16 16-18 and 21-25 23-27.~~

c. General gun for mobility-impaired – October ~~29-31 31 through November 1.~~

d. General gun – November ~~4-6 6-8 and 11-13 13-15.~~

e. Wild hog-still – November ~~15-17, 17-19, November 29 through December 1 1-3, 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 ~~7-9 8-10, 17-19 18-20 and 24-26 25-27.~~

g. Small game – December ~~3 5 through January 22 24.~~

h. through j. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through d. No change.

e. The use of tracked vehicles, buggies, airboats, or all-terrain vehicles is prohibited except all-terrain vehicles may be used during the general gun for mobility-impaired season. The operation of a motorcycle that is not registered and licensed is prohibited. During quota hunts, the operation of any vessel powered by an internal combustion engine is prohibited.

f. through m. No change.

(c) CREW – Collier and Lee Counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – August ~~6-14 8-16.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~3-5 5-7.~~

c. General gun – November ~~19-27 21-29.~~

d. Small game – December ~~3 5 through January 1 3.~~

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

f. through h. No change.

2. No change.
3. Camping: Camping is allowed at designated sites by permit ~~individuals with written authorization~~ from the South Florida Water Management District ~~or by individuals participating in hunts~~.
4. No change.
- (d) No change.
- (e) John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland – Palm Beach and Martin Counties.
 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – September 10-13 ~~12-15~~, 17-20 ~~19-22~~, September 24-27 ~~26-29~~ and October 1-4 ~~3-6~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October 15-17 ~~17-19~~.
 - c. General gun – October 29-31 ~~31~~ through November 2, November 5-7 ~~7-9~~ and 12-14 ~~14-16~~.
 - d. Small game – November 19 ~~21~~ through December 18 ~~20~~.
 - e. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 2 ~~3~~ (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
 - f. through h. No change.
 2. No change.
 3. Camping: Prohibited, except in designated campgrounds by permit as provided by Rule 68A-15.004, F.A.C. ~~Camping is allowed only at designated campsites.~~ Only tents may be used for camping.
 4. No change.
 - (5) 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, 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.