

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Morgan Richardson, Director, of Hunting and Game Management
Date: December 13, 2018
Subject: Proposed Rule Changes for Hunting 2019 – 2020

Purpose:

Obtain approval to publish proposed rule amendments to revise select statewide hunting regulations, revise specific area regulations and conform hunting dates to calendar date changes on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) and Miscellaneous Areas.

Summary:

Proposed rule amendments for changes to WMAs, WEAs and Miscellaneous Areas are identified annually through interactions with stakeholders, cooperators and staff. Public ideas for change are submitted to staff online and via email or phone. During 2018, over 100 requests for changes were received and evaluated with 57 of those ultimately forwarded for consideration. Most of the rule proposals that are substantive were summarized and published online for public comments beginning August 24th. Public notification through FWC's HuntFlorida Facebook page and the Hunting Hot Sheet was made, and an email notice was sent to over 155,000 unique email addresses. To date over 16,700 responses have been received, with most of the comments generally supportive of most of the proposals. The significant proposals are summarized in the attached background document. Staff will continue to gather input on the proposed rule amendments via an online poll following publication until the final public hearing on the amendments.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed rule amendments for advertising and direct staff to return in February 2019 for final adoption. Staff also appreciates any direction or guidance from the Commission as we continue working with the public.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Morgan Richardson, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management