

DRAFT RULE
Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas
Agenda Item 12A
December 13, 2018

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:

North Central Region

Lafayette Forest WEA – allow persons hunting during the April or June wild hog-dog season hunts on Mallory Swamp WMA to traverse Lafayette Forest WEA on McCalls Chapel Grade at night (from 1 ½ hours after sunset until 1 ½ hours before sunrise) with no requirement to possess a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

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 ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~ and October ~~11-13~~ ~~12-14~~.
 - b. General gun – November ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~.
 - c. Small game – December ~~6-8~~ ~~7-9~~, ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~, opening 3 days prior to the third Monday in January and closing 3 days thereafter and January 30 through February ~~2~~ ~~1-3~~.
 - d. Wild hog-still – May ~~2-3~~ ~~4-5~~ and ~~9-10~~ ~~11-12~~.
 - e. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~14-15~~ ~~9-10~~.
 - f. Spring turkey – March ~~21-23~~ ~~16-18~~ and April 3-5 ~~March 29-31~~.
 - g. No change.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (g) through (k) No change.
- (2) North Central Region.
 - (a) Santa Fe Swamp – Bradford County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – September ~~20~~ ~~21~~ through October ~~18~~ ~~19~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-21~~ ~~20-22~~.
 - c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~2~~ ~~3~~ through December ~~29~~ ~~30~~.
 - d. Spring turkey – March ~~21~~ ~~16~~ through April ~~26~~ ~~21~~.
 - e. through f. No change.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (b) Fort White Mitigation Park – Gilchrist County.
 - 1. Open season:

- a. Archery season – October ~~19-23~~ ~~20-24~~, ~~26-30~~ ~~27-31~~ and November ~~9-13~~ ~~10-14~~.
- b. Small game – November ~~14~~ ~~15~~ through March ~~1~~ ~~3~~.
- c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~14-15~~ ~~9-10~~.
- d. Spring turkey – March ~~21-25~~ ~~16-20~~ and March 28 through April 1 ~~23-27~~.
- e. through g. No change.
- 2. through 4. No change.
- (c) Suwannee Ridge – Hamilton County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~11-13~~ ~~12-14~~, ~~25-27~~ ~~26-28~~, November ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~ and December ~~13-15~~ ~~14-16~~.
 - b. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~27-29~~ ~~22-24~~ and April ~~17-19~~ ~~12-14~~.
 - 2. through 3. No change.
 - (d) through (e) No change.
 - (f) Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area.
 - 1. Open seasons:
 - a. Archery season – September ~~21-25~~ ~~22-26~~ and September ~~27~~ ~~28~~ through October ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and October ~~4-8~~ ~~5-9~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun season – October ~~19-21~~ ~~20-22~~.
 - c. Family hunt – November ~~2-3~~ ~~3-4~~ and ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
 - d. Wild hog-still – January ~~18-22~~ ~~19-23~~ and ~~25-29~~ ~~26-30~~.
 - e. Small game – November ~~11~~ ~~12~~ through January ~~17~~ ~~18~~ and January ~~30~~ ~~31~~ through March ~~1~~ ~~3~~.
 - f. Youth spring turkey – March ~~14-15~~ ~~9-10~~.
 - g. Spring turkey – March ~~21-23~~ ~~16-18~~ and ~~27-29~~ ~~22-24~~.
 - h. through j. No change.
 - 2. No change.
 - 3. General regulations:
 - a. No change.
 - b. Public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise except during small game season by persons hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C. and ~~that persons hunting during the April or June wild hog-dog season hunts on Mallory Swamp WMA or in possession of~~ with a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District for Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area may traverse McCalls Chapel Grade.
 - c. through h. No change.
 - (g) Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area.
 - 1. Open seasons:
 - a. Archery season – October ~~12-20~~ ~~13-21~~.
 - b. Small game – November ~~16~~ ~~17~~ through December ~~1~~ ~~2~~ and December ~~14~~ ~~15~~ through January ~~5~~ ~~6~~.
 - c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~14-15~~ ~~9-10~~.
 - 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. Open seasons for that portion of the area west of Chaires Cross Road:
 - a. through c. No change.
 - d. Migratory game birds – Migratory game birds during seasons established in Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.
 - e. No change.
 - 2. Open seasons for that portion of the area east of Chaires Cross Road:
 - a. Archery – ~~September 27-30~~, October ~~3-6~~, ~~17-20~~, ~~11-14~~ and October 31 through November 3 ~~25-28~~.

- b. Family hunt – November ~~7-10~~ 4-4.
 - c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~28 22-25, November 29~~ through December ~~1, 2~~ and December ~~5-8 and 19-22~~ 13-16.
 - d. Small game – November ~~9-27~~ 10-21, 26-28; December ~~2-4, 9-18~~ 3-12, and December ~~23~~ 17 through March ~~1~~ 3.
 - e. through h. No change.
 - 3. through 4. No change.
 - (4) South Region.
 - (a) Southern Glades – Dade County.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – ~~August 3 July 28~~ through ~~September 1~~ August 26.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~13-15~~ 7-9.
 - c. General gun – September ~~21 15~~ through October ~~20~~ 14 and November ~~25~~ through ~~December 1~~ 19-25.
 - d. Small game – ~~December 2~~ November 26 through February ~~23~~ 24.
 - 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 ~~13-15~~ 7-9, 20-22 ~~14-16~~ and ~~27-29~~ 21-23.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~11-13~~ 5-7, 18-20 ~~12-14~~ and ~~25-27~~ 19-21.
 - c. General gun for mobility-impaired – ~~November 2-3~~ October 27-28.
 - d. General gun – November ~~8-10~~ 2-4 and ~~15-17~~ 9-11.
 - e. Wild hog-still – Opening 9 days prior to Thanksgiving Day and ending 2 days thereafter, opening the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving Day and ending 2 days thereafter ~~November 13-15, November 27-29~~, 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. Youth turkey hunt – February ~~29~~ through March ~~1~~ 23-24.
 - g. Spring turkey – March ~~10-12~~ 5-7, 20-22 ~~15-17~~ and ~~27-29~~ 22-24.
 - h. Small game – Opening the second Saturday following Thanksgiving Day and closing 50 days thereafter ~~December 1 through January 20~~.
 - i. through j. No change.
 - 2. through 4. No change.
 - (c) CREW – Collier and Lee Counties.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – August ~~10-18~~ 4-12.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~7-9~~ 1-3.
 - c. General gun – November ~~23~~ through ~~December 1~~ 17-25.
 - d. Small game – ~~December 7~~ through ~~January 5~~ 1-30.
 - e. Spring turkey – March ~~7-10~~ 2-5 and ~~11-15~~ 6-10.
 - f. through h. No change.
 - 2. through 4. No change.
- (d) No change.
- (e) John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland – Palm Beach and Martin Counties.
 - 1. Open season:
 - a. Archery – September ~~14-17 and 8-11, 21-24~~ 15-18, September ~~28 22-25 and September 29~~ through October ~~1~~ 2, and October 5-8.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-21~~ 13-15.
 - c. General gun – ~~October 27-29~~, November ~~2-4, 9-11~~ 3-5 and ~~16-18~~ 10-12.
 - d. Small game – November ~~23~~ 17 through the second Sunday in January.

- e. Spring turkey – March ~~21~~ through ~~April 5~~ ~~16-31~~ (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
- f. through h. No change.
- 2. through 4. No change.
- (5) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

*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, 7-1-17, 9-14-17, 7-1-18, 7-1-19.*