

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Morgan Richardson, Director, Hunting and Game Management
Date: February 21, 2019
Subject: Final Rule Changes for Hunting 2019 – 2020

Purpose:

Final adoption of previously approved 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; approval for advertising new draft rule language for one WMA as explained below.

Summary:

Draft rule amendments for changes to WMAs, WEAs and Miscellaneous Areas were approved by the Commission at the December 2018 Commission meeting. Rule proposals are submitted from the public staff and cooperators 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 is requesting a change to one rule amendment presented at the December 2018 Commission meeting but not published. A new draft rule amendment for Rule 68A-15.006, F.A.C. is proposed that ensures the use of centerfire rifles remains prohibited in the Drasdo Unit of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Area. This change is based on comments received from the land manager of that area.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve staff request to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Rule 68A-15.006 F.A.C. and file the rule for adoption if no additional hearing is requested. Approve adoption of all other rule amendments as advertised following the December Commission meeting. All changes, if approved, would be effective for the 2019-2020 Hunting Seasons.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Paul Scharine, Public Hunting Areas Program Coordinator, Division of Hunting and Game Management

