

**Background Report
68A-17.005
Agenda Item 11A
February 20, 2020**

PROPOSED FINAL RULE LANGUAGE

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

Suwannee Ridge WEA – move the last (December) general gun mobility-impaired hunt to the third weekend in November.

South Region

John G. and Susan H. Dupuis Jr. – allow harvested wild hog to be dismembered before checking at the check station, and correct an error related to missing hunt dates for the existing April wild hog-still hunt.

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 ~~25-27~~ ~~20-22~~ and October ~~16-18~~ ~~11-13~~.
 - b. General gun – November ~~20-22~~ ~~15-17~~.
 - c. Small game – December ~~11-13~~ ~~6-8~~, ~~25-27~~ ~~20-22~~, opening 3 days prior to the third Monday in January and closing 3 days thereafter and ~~January 30 through~~ February ~~4-7~~ ~~2~~.
 - d. Wild hog-still – May ~~1-2~~ ~~2-3~~ and ~~8-9~~ ~~9-10~~.
 - e. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.
 - f. Spring turkey – March ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~ and April ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~.
 - 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 ~~25~~ ~~20~~ through October ~~23~~ ~~18~~.
 - b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~24-26~~ ~~19-21~~.
 - c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~7~~ ~~2~~ through ~~January 3~~ ~~December 29~~.

d. Spring turkey – March ~~20-21~~ through April ~~25-26~~.
e. through f. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

(b) Fort White Mitigation Park – Gilchrist County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery season – October ~~24-28~~ ~~19-23~~, October 31 through November 4 ~~26-30~~ and November ~~14-18~~ ~~9-13~~.

b. Small game – November ~~19~~ ~~14~~ through March ~~7~~ ~~1~~.

c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.

d. Spring turkey – March ~~20-24~~ ~~21-25~~ and March ~~27-31~~ ~~28~~ through April ~~1~~.

e. through g. No change.

2. through 4. No change.

(c) Suwannee Ridge – Hamilton County.

1. Open season:

a. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~16-18~~ ~~11-13~~, October 30 through November 1 ~~25-27~~, November ~~6-8~~ ~~1-3~~ and ~~20-22~~ ~~December 13-15~~.

b. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~ and April ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~.

2. through 3. No change.

(d) through (e) No change.

(f) Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area.

1. Open seasons:

a. Archery season – September ~~26-30~~ ~~21-25~~ and ~~September 27 through~~ October ~~2-6~~ ~~1~~ and ~~October 9-13~~ ~~4-8~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun season – October ~~24-26~~ ~~19-21~~.

c. Family hunt – November ~~7-8~~ ~~2-3~~ and ~~14-15~~ ~~9-10~~.

d. Wild hog-still – January ~~23-27~~ ~~18-22~~ and January 30 through February 3 ~~25-29~~.

e. Small game – November ~~16~~ ~~11~~ through January ~~22~~ ~~17~~ and February 4 ~~January 30~~ through March ~~7~~ ~~1~~.

f. Youth spring turkey – March ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.

g. Spring turkey – March ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~ and ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~.

h. through j. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

(g) Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area.

1. Open seasons:

a. Archery season – October ~~17-25~~ ~~12-20~~.

b. Small game – November ~~21~~ ~~16~~ through December ~~6~~ ~~1~~ and December ~~19~~ ~~14~~ through January ~~10~~ ~~5~~.

c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.

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 – Opening 37 days prior to the first Saturday in November and closing 3 days thereafter, reopening 11 days later and closing 3 days thereafter, and reopening 11 days later and closing 3 days thereafter ~~October 3-6,~~ ~~17-20~~ ~~and October 31 through November 3~~.

b. Family hunt – Opening the Thursday following the close of archery season and closing 3 days later ~~November 7-10~~.

c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – Opening the fourth Thursday in November and closing 3 days thereafter, reopening 4 days later and closing 3 days thereafter, and reopening 11 days later and closing 3 days thereafter ~~28~~ ~~through December 1, December 5-8 and 19-22~~.

d. Small game – Opening the second Saturday in November and closing the first Sunday in March (except

during the archery and muzzleloading gun season) 9-27, December 2-4, 9-18, and December 23 through March 1.

e. through h. No change.

3. through 4. No change.

(4) South Region.

(a) Southern Glades – Dade County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – August 1-30 ~~3 through September 1.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – September 11-13 ~~13-15.~~

c. General gun – September 19-24 through October 18-20 and November 23-29 ~~25 through December 1.~~

d. Small game – November 30 ~~December 2~~ through February 21-23.

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 11-13 ~~13-15, 18-20~~ ~~20-22~~ and 25-27 ~~27-29.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – October 9-11 ~~11-13, 16-18~~ ~~18-20~~ and 23-25 ~~25-27.~~

c. General gun for mobility-impaired – October 31 through November 1-2-3.

d. General gun – November 6-10 ~~8-10~~ and 13-17 ~~15-17.~~

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, and opening the second Saturday ~~in May~~ and closing 8 days thereafter in April and May.

f. Youth turkey hunt – February 27-28 ~~29 through March 1.~~

g. Spring turkey – March 9-11 ~~10-12, 19-21~~ ~~20-22~~ and 26-28 ~~27-29.~~

h. through j. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through f. No change.

g. During periods when the check station is staffed, hunters shall check in and out at the check station and check all game taken, and no deer, ~~wild hog~~, or turkey may be dismembered until checked at the check station. Hunters must enter and exit the area through the designated entrance where the check station is located. People through-hiking on the Florida Trail may enter or exit the area through the Florida Trail.

h. through j. No change.

(c) CREW – Collier and Lee Counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – August 8-16 ~~10-18.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – September 5-7 ~~7-9.~~

c. General gun – November 21-29 ~~23 through December 1.~~

d. Small game – December 5-7 through January 3-5.

e. Spring turkey – March 6-9 ~~7-10~~ and 10-14 ~~11-15.~~

f. through h. No change.

2. through 3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through g. No change.

h. Hunters shall enter and exit the Corkscrew Marsh Unit only through Gate 5 ~~and Gate 6.~~

i. through k. No change.

(d) No change.

(e) John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland – Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September 12-15, 14-17 and 19-22 ~~21-24, 26-29~~ ~~September 28 through October 1,~~ and October 3-6

~~5-8.~~

- b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~16-19~~ 19-21.
- c. General gun – October 31 through November ~~2~~ 2-4, and November ~~7-9~~ 9-11 and ~~14-16~~ 16-18.
- d. Small game – November ~~21~~ 23 through the second Sunday in January.
- e. Spring turkey – March ~~20~~ 21 through April ~~4~~ 5 (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
- f. through h. No change.
- 2. through 4. No change.
- (5) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2020

*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, 7-1-20.*