

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Colonel Curtis Brown, Director, Division of Law Enforcement
Date: October 7, 2020
Subject: Consent Agenda – Draft Rule, Game Farms and Hunt Preserves

Purpose: Obtain Commission approval for amendments to Rules 68A-12.010, F.A.C., Hunt Preserves, and 68A-12.011, F.A.C., Game Farms.

Why: Expanding limited exception allowances for fencing and updating rule language and references will provide consistency between rules, provide additional disease protection for Cervidae, and address stakeholder concerns with the current rules.

Top Points:

- 1) Stakeholders expressed concerns of having to replace fencing that is in good condition and would contain game species.
- 2) Language was not consistent between game farms and hunt preserves.
- 3) Rule number references within the game farm and hunt preserve rules need to be updated to reflect the recent reorganization of chapter 68A-6.

Affected Parties:

Game Farm and Hunt Preserve licensees who are eligible for the limited exception allowance for fencing.

Summary:

Under the current rules, limited exception fencing requirements go into effect December 2020. Fences which do not meet the limited exception fencing requirements must be replaced with fences that meet the full current requirements at that time. Members of the game farm and hunt preserve industry contacted FWC staff to discuss possible solutions for game farm and hunt preserve facilities who currently utilize fencing that would not qualify under the current limited exception language but adequately contain game species. Staff reviewed the fencing requirements and met with stakeholders to ensure new draft rule language still provided for the effective containment of game species, but did not cause undue financial burden to licensees.

The proposed rule revisions would also correct grammatical errors. This would be accomplished in part by aligning the language in both rules to provide additional consistency between the two rules as well as updating rule references that are out of date due to the reorganization of Chapter 68A-6 in May 2019. Additionally, the proposed rule revisions would provide for additional disease protection for Cervidae in Florida. To accomplish this, staff propose adding language to hunt preserve regulations that will streamline record requirements for Cervidae when being transported to better track movement of cervids and possible transmission of disease within the state.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of the proposed draft rules. Staff also recommends the proposed changes be advertised and filed for adoption without further hearing, unless requested by a member of the public.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter: Major Rob Beaton, Section Leader, Captive Wildlife