

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.062
Agenda Item 4
April 19, 2017**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO.: 68A-15.062

RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – North Central Region.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations to expand small game hunting opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments would revise specific area regulations to expand small game hunting opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region as follows:

- Big Bend WMA, Hickory Mound Unit – expand small game season by 56 days.
- Big Bend WMA, Jena Unit – expand small game season by 56 days.
- Big Bend WMA, Snipe Island Unit – expand small game season by 54 days.
- Big Bend WMA, Spring Creek Unit – expand small game season by 49 days.
- Big Bend WMA, Tide Swamp Unit – expand small game season by 58 days.

Additionally, the proposed rule amendments 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-15.062 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – North Central Region.

- (1) through (5) No change.
- (6) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Tide Swamp Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 - 1. through 3. No change.
 - 4. Small game – November 11 ~~January 1~~ through March 4 ~~February 25~~.
 - 5. through 10. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (7) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Spring Creek Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 - 1. through 3. No change.
 - 4. Small game – November 13 ~~January 1~~ through March 4.
 - 5. through 10. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (8) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Hickory Mound Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 - 1. No change.
 - 2. Small game – November 13 ~~January 1~~ through March 4 ~~February 25~~.
 - 3. through 9. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (9) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Jena Unit.
 - (a) Open season:
 - 1. through 3. No change.
 - 4. Small game – November 13 ~~January 1~~ through March 4 ~~February 25~~.
 - 5. through 7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(10) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Snipe Island Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Small game – November 13 ~~December 16~~ through March 4 ~~February 11~~.

5. through 8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(11) through (40) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2017.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. History—
New 6-21-82, Amended 7-1-83, 11-17-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 2-16-86, 5-7-86, 6-10-86, 11-27-86, 5-10-87, 5-1-88, 6-7-88, 7-1-89, 8-
17-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-2-91, 7-1-92, 7-2-92, 8-23-92, 10-22-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 2-9-95, 7-1-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 6-1-
97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.062, Amended 12-9-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 11-11-01, 6-2-02, 10-16-02, 5-25-03, 7-7-03,
9-29-03, 7-1-04, 8-1-04, 7-1-05, 8-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-2-06, 7-1-07, 7-5-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 10-9-12,
7-1-13, 7-1-14, 8-26-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17, 9-1-17.*