

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-15.063  
Agenda Item 4  
April 19, 2017**

**DRAFT RULE**

**RULE NO:** 68A-15.063

**RULE TITLE:** Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northwest 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 Northwest 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 amendment would revise specific area regulations to expand small game hunting opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Northwest Region as follows:

Apalachee WMA – expand quail season by 8 days.

Aucilla WMA – expand small game season by 19 days in the Pinhook Still Hunt Area; and, allow northern bobwhite to be released and taken by shotgun during the small game season. A daily no-cost permit and proof that northern bobwhite were purchased from a licensed game farm would be required for each individual or group participating. Allow release of northern bobwhite only on FWC-lead managed portions of the area.

Escribano Point WMA – expand small game season by 89 days.

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-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northwest Region.

(1) Apalachee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 7. No change.

8. Quail (Zone A) – December 19 through February 11 ~~January 28~~ (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays closed to hunting).

9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(2) through (12) No change.

(13) Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. No change.

2. Small game – November 27 through December 15 (Pinhook still hunt area only), and January 1 through March 4.

3. through 14. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 12. No change.

13. Northern bobwhite may be released and taken by shotgun during the small game season provided each individual or group participating possesses a daily permit and proof (including the name and address of the vendor and date of purchase) that the northern bobwhite were purchased from a licensed game farm within the past 90 days. The release of northern bobwhite is allowed only on FWC-lead managed portions of the area.

(14) through (28) No change.

(29) Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area

(a) Open season:

1. through 4. No change.

5. Small game – November 11-~~22~~, November 27 through December 1, December 5 through January 19, and January 29 through March 4 ~~19~~.

6. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2017.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. History—New 6-21-82, Amended 7-1-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 6-8-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 9-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-2-92, 7-1-93, 3-1-94, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 7-2-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 7-2-96, 6-1-97, 12-3-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 8-11-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.063, Amended 11-17-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 7-22-01, 6-2-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-2-04, 8-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 11-14-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-2-14, 11-2-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17, 9-1-17.*