

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management

Date: April 19, 2017

Subject: Proposed Rule Changes for Expanding Small Game Opportunities on FWC-Managed Areas 2017 – 2018

Purpose:

Present draft rule amendments to revise specific area regulations to expand small game hunting opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs)

Summary:

Draft rule amendments will be presented to 1) expand small game season by increasing the number of days open for hunting on 18 areas; 2) increase the number of species legal to take during small game season on 1 area; and 3) allow northern bobwhite to be released and taken by shotgun during the small game season on 9 areas. 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.

FWC staff has been and is continuing to gather input on all proposed rule amendments through the internet. A summary of public input will be made available prior to the Commission meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed rule amendments for advertising and direct staff to return in July 2017 for final adoption. Staff also appreciates any direction or guidance from the Commission as we continue working with the public.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Wes Seitz, Public Hunting Areas Program Coordinator, Division of Hunting and Game Management