

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.062
Agenda Item 12.C.
December 6, 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 on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region 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 WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region as follows:

Bayard WMA – establish one 4-day general gun season hunt during Thanksgiving weekend (10, no-cost quota permits; no exemptions) with a bag limit of 1 antlered deer per person, but no more than 2 antlered deer per quota permit; establish one, 3-day wild hog-still hunt during February (10, no-cost quota permits; no exemptions); and change the spring turkey season daily bag limit from 1 gobbler or bearded turkey (shared by the quota permit holder and guest) to 2 per quota permit, but only 1 per person (quota permit holder and guest each may harvest only 1 during the entire hunt period).

Belmore WMA – expand small game season from 18 to 24 days (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

Big Shoals WMA – expand small game season from 39 to 114 days; make species legal to take during archery, muzzleloading gun and small game seasons consistent with other WMAs; remove the requirement for hunters to obtain zone tags; and remove the requirement to check in/out at a check station and check harvested game during archery and muzzleloading gun seasons.

Camp Blanding WMA – during supervised youth season, provide a scout day the day before each hunt and make species legal to take consistent with other WMAs.

Cary WMA – expand small game season from 18 to 24 days (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only); make species legal to take during the family hunt and the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons consistent with other WMAs; and change wild hog-still season from three, 3-day hunts to two, 5-day hunts.

Cypress Creek WMA – expand small game season from 107 to 114 days; and allow hunting for quail and migratory birds (when these species are legal to take) during archery and muzzleloading gun seasons.

Devil's Hammock WMA – expand small game season (including nighttime raccoon hunting) from 31 to 64 days.

Flying Eagle WMA – expand small game season from two, 3-day hunts to three, 3-day hunts.

Four Creeks WMA – expand small game season from 18 to 24 days (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only); and expand wild hog-still season from a 4-day hunt (Thurs.-Sun.) to a 5-day hunt (Fri.-Tues.).

Gulf Hammock WMA – expand archery season from 30 to 35 days; and expand small game season from 30 to 42 days.

Hatchet Creek WMA – establish a 30-day small game season during December/January (access remains open to the public during this period).

Homosassa WMA – expand small game season from two periods (47 days total) to three periods (70 days total).

Jennings Forest WMA – remove the requirement for hunters to check in/out at a check station and check harvested game.

Little River WMA – expand small game season (including nighttime raccoon hunting) from 44 to 114 days; and allow hunting for migratory birds (when these species are legal to take) during the family hunt and archery and muzzleloading gun seasons.

Log Landing WMA – expand small game season from 27 to 36 days (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

Lower Econfinia River WMA – expand archery season from 16 to 30 days by adding a 14-day hunt beginning the day after the conclusion of muzzleloading gun season (no quota permit required); prohibit the take of antlerless deer during the last 14 days of archery season; begin muzzleloading gun season 1 day earlier (change from Sat.-Mon. to Fri.-Sun.); expand small game season (including nighttime raccoon hunting) from 42 to 112 days; 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).

Mallory Swamp WMA – expand wild hog season from 16 to 21 days; and during general gun season allow hunting south and east of McCall’s Chapel Grade and east of East Mainline.

Potts WMA – remove the quota permit requirement during archery and muzzleloading gun seasons; and prohibit the take of antlerless deer.

Thomas Creek WMA, Kings Road Unit – expand small game season from 4 periods (18 days total) to 1 period (30 days total); and allow vehicles on named and numbered roads.

Troy Springs WMA – expand small game season from 49 to 97 days.

Twin Rivers WMA – expand small game season from 39 to 74 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) Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 5. No change.

6. Archery – September ~~25-27~~ ~~26-28~~ and October ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~, only in the still hunt and archery-only areas; and October ~~9-11~~ ~~10-12~~, ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, and the Monday before Thanksgiving and continuing for 55 days thereafter in the archery-only area, which is within the area described by a line beginning at the intersection of County Road 225 and Woodbury Road, then southeast on County Road 225 to State Road 16, then south on State Road 16 and County Road 230 to the Camp Blanding boundary on the east side of County Road 230, then east along the Camp Blanding boundary to Duval Road, then south on Duval Road to Yerkes Road, then west on Yerkes Road to Treat Road, then north on Treat Road to Lightning Strike Road, then west and north on Lightning Strike Road to State Road 230, then west on State Road 230 to the Camp Blanding boundary, then north along the Camp Blanding boundary to State Road 16, then east on the south side of State Road 16 to Lightning Strike Road, then north on Lightning Strike Road to Bessent Road, then north on Bessent Road to the starting point. A disjunct portion of the archery-only area is south of County Road 215, east of Rifle Range Road, north of State Road 16 and west of the Camp Blanding boundary.

7. No change.

8. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~9-11~~ ~~10-12~~ and ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, only in the still hunt areas.

9. No change.

10. Trapping – December 1 through January ~~6~~ ~~7~~, only in the still hunt areas.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers. Turkeys of either sex may be taken during the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons, the last two days of each of the two general gun still quota periods, the first two days of the non-quota period of the general gun still season and the last three days of each general gun dog hunt. Taking antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the supervised youth hunts, the bag limit for deer shall be only wild hogs and one antlered or antlerless deer may be taken per youth. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-dog season.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.

2. During periods open to hunting, hHunters may enter the area with their hunting equipment and dogs (where legal) one hour before sunrise and shall exit the area with their equipment and dogs by one hour after sunset.

Hunting equipment may be taken onto the area beginning 8 a.m. the day preceding each supervised youth hunt and shall be removed from the area the last day of each supervised youth season hunt.

3. through 16. No change.

(2) Cypress Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~40-44~~.
2. Spring turkey – March ~~16-24~~ ~~47-25~~.
3. Archery – September ~~22-23~~ through October ~~7~~ ~~8~~.
4. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~.
5. No change.

6. Small game – Opening November 10 ~~the Saturday before Thanksgiving~~ and closing concurrently with the gray squirrel season established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game ~~Antlered deer~~, bear (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the North BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.), ~~gray squirrel, rabbit~~, furbearers and fish. ~~During the small game season, the take of small game is also allowed.~~ Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age.

(c) through (d) No change.

(3) Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3~~ ~~4~~ through January ~~20~~ ~~21~~.
2. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~40-44~~.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ ~~47~~ through April ~~21~~ ~~22~~.
4. Archery – September ~~15~~ ~~46~~ through October ~~19~~ ~~45~~.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – October ~~20~~ ~~21~~ through November ~~2~~ ~~3~~.
6. Small game – January ~~21~~ ~~27~~ through March 3 ~~February 25~~.
7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(4) Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3-16~~ ~~4-47~~, November ~~17~~ ~~48~~ through December ~~2~~ ~~3~~ and December ~~3-30~~ ~~4-31~~.
2. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~40-44~~.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ ~~47~~ through April ~~21~~ ~~22~~.
4. Archery – September ~~22-23~~ through October ~~21~~ ~~22~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~.
6. No change.
7. Small game – December 31 ~~January 1~~ through March ~~3~~ ~~4~~.
8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(5) Osceola Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~10~~ ~~44~~ through January ~~6~~ ~~7~~.
2. Small game – January ~~7~~ ~~8~~ through March ~~3~~ ~~4~~.
3. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~40-44~~.
4. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ ~~47~~ through April ~~21~~ ~~22~~.
5. Archery – September ~~22-23~~ through October ~~14~~ ~~45~~.
6. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-27~~ ~~24-28~~ in the still hunt area and Big Gum Swamp Wilderness only.
7. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – November ~~10~~ ~~44~~ through March ~~3~~ ~~4~~ in the dog hunt portion of the area.
8. through 9. No change.
10. Trapping – January ~~7~~ ~~8~~ through March 1.
11. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.
2. Deer dogs may be trained from October ~~28~~ 29 through November ~~6~~ 7, except in the still hunt area.
3. through 7. No change.

(6) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Tide Swamp Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3~~ 4 through December ~~30~~ 31.
2. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~21~~ 22.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ 27-29.
4. Small game – November ~~10~~ 11 through March ~~3~~ 4.
5. through 6. No change.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ 17 through April ~~21~~ 22.
9. Trapping – January ~~7~~ 8 through March 1.
10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(7) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Spring Creek Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12 and November ~~12~~ 13 through December ~~30~~ 31.
2. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~21~~ 22.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ 27-29.
4. Small game – November ~~12~~ 13 through March ~~3~~ 4.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ 17 through April ~~21~~ 22.
7. Trapping – January ~~7~~ 8 through March 1.
8. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(8) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Hickory Mound Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12, ~~12-18~~ 13-19 and November ~~19~~ 20 through December ~~30~~ 31.
2. Small game – November ~~12~~ 13 through March ~~3~~ 4.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ 17 through April ~~21~~ 22.
4. Archery – September ~~29~~ 30 through October ~~28~~ 29.
5. through 7. No change.
8. Trapping – January ~~7~~ 8 through March 1.
9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(9) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Jena Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~21~~ 22.
2. General gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12 and November ~~12~~ 13 through December ~~30~~ 31.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ 17 through ~~April 21~~ March 4.
4. Small game – November ~~12~~ 13 through March ~~3~~ 4.
5. through 6. No change.
7. Trapping – January ~~7~~ 8 through March 1.

(b) through (d) No change.

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

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~21~~ 22.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ 27-29.
3. General gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12 and ~~12-25~~ 13-26.
4. Small game – November ~~12~~ 13 through March ~~3~~ 4.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~16-24~~ 17-25, March ~~25-31~~ 26 through April ~~1~~ and April ~~1-7~~ 2-8.
7. Trapping – January ~~5~~ 6 through March 1.
8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 5. No change.

~~6. During the trapping season, taking trapped furbearers with a .22-caliber rimfire firearm is allowed.~~

7. renumbered 6. No change.

(11) No change.

(12) Raiford Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~7~~ 8.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.

3. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12, Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day and December ~~22-25~~ 23-26.

4. Wild hog-still – December ~~29~~ 30 through January ~~1~~ 2.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~16-24~~ 17-25 and April ~~4-7~~ 5-8.

7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(13) Cedar Key Scrub Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3-11~~ 4-12.

2. Archery – September ~~22~~ 23 through October ~~7~~ 8.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.

4. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(14) Andrews Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~21-23~~ 22-24 and September ~~28-30~~ 29 through October 1.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~2-4~~ 3-5 and ~~9-11~~ 10-12.

3. General gun – November ~~16-18~~ 17-19.

4. Small game – November ~~23-25~~ 24-26, December ~~28-30~~ 29-31 and January ~~4-6~~ 5-7.

5. Family hunt – January ~~19-20~~ 20-21 and ~~26-27~~ 27-28.

6. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and April ~~12-14~~ 13-15.

8. Supervised deer/hog youth hunt – October ~~20-21~~ 21-22 and October ~~27-28~~ 28-29.

9. Wild hog-still – May ~~3-5~~ 4-6 and ~~10-12~~ 11-13.

10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(15) Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~24-29~~ 25-30, October ~~1-6~~ 2-7 and ~~8-13~~ 9-14.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ 27-29 and November ~~2-4~~ 3-5.

3. Small game – November 10 through March 3 Opening on Thanksgiving Day and continuing for 38 days

thereafter.

4. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
5. Spring turkey – March ~~21-23~~ 22-24 and April ~~11-13~~ 12-14.
6. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. ~~During the archery season only antlerless and antlered deer, wild hog, turkey of either sex, rabbit, and gray squirrel may be taken. During the muzzleloading gun season only antlered deer, wild hog, rabbit and gray squirrel may be taken. During the small game season only wild hog, rabbit and gray squirrel may be taken.~~ During the spring turkey season only bearded turkeys or gobblers may be taken.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

~~1. No person shall hunt in any zone other than that to which he or she is assigned by zone tag. Zone tags shall not be transferred. Hunters shall keep the zone tag in their possession. Persons are not required to possess zone tags during small game season.~~

~~1,2.~~ Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering or exiting the area, and shall check all game taken, except during the archery, muzzleloading gun and small game seasons ~~season~~.

3. through 6. renumbered 2. through 5. No change.

(16) Twin Rivers Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-28~~ 23-29 and September ~~29~~ 30 through October ~~7~~ 8.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.
3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ 4-5.
4. General gun – November ~~5-11~~ 6-12 and ~~12-18~~ 13-19.
5. Small game – Opening on Thanksgiving Day and continuing for ~~73~~ 38 days thereafter.
6. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
7. Spring turkey – March ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and April ~~12-14~~ 13-15.
8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(17) Twin Rivers Wildlife Management Area – Blue Springs Unit.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 5. No change.

6. Taking wildlife with a gun ~~firearms~~ is prohibited except with blank-firing pistols during the bird dog training season by persons in possession of a bird dog training permit; and with shotguns during the quail season by those persons in possession of a valid quota permit.

7. No change.

(18) Jennings Forest Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-25, 23-26~~ September 26-29 27-30, September 30 through October ~~3~~ 4-4 and October 4-7 5-8.

2. Supervised small game – October ~~13-21~~ 14-22, east of Yellow Water Creek, and east of the North Fork Black Creek but only south of its convergence with Yellow Water Creek.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ 27-29.

4. Bird dog training – November ~~19~~ 20 through December ~~16~~ 17 in the quail enhancement area and in the Normandy Unit only on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from October through January; except that bird dog training is prohibited during the archery season.

5. General gun – November ~~5-8~~ 6-9, 9-12 10-13, 13-16 14-17 and ~~17-20~~ 18-21.

6. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ 4-5.

7. Small game – January ~~4-5~~ through February ~~3-4~~, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.
8. Wild hog-still – February ~~8-10~~ ~~9-11~~, ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~, May ~~3-5~~ ~~4-6~~, ~~17-19~~ ~~18-20~~ and ~~May 31 through June 2-3~~.
9. No change.
10. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
11. Spring turkey – March ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, ~~19-21~~ ~~20-22~~ and ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~.
12. through 13. No change.
- (b) No change.
- (c) Camping: ~~Primitive~~ Camping allowed year-round at designated sites, by permit from the Florida Forest Service.
- (d) General regulations:
 1. through 5. No change.
 6. ~~Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering or exiting the area and shall report all game taken.~~
 7. through 12. renumbered 6. through 11. No change.
- (19) Holton Creek Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~12-14~~ ~~13-15~~, October ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~, November ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~ and December ~~14-16~~ ~~15-17~~.
 2. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~ and April ~~12-14~~ ~~13-15~~.
 3. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (20) Goethe Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. Archery – September ~~22~~ ~~23~~ through October ~~14~~ ~~15~~.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~.
 3. General gun (still hunt) – November ~~3-5~~ ~~4-6~~, ~~6-8~~ ~~7-9~~ and ~~9-12~~ ~~10-13~~.
 4. General gun (dog hunt) – November ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, ~~19-22~~ ~~20-23~~ and ~~23-26~~ ~~24-27~~.
 5. Family hunt – December ~~29-30~~ ~~30-31~~.
 6. Small game – January ~~5~~ ~~6~~ through February ~~3~~ ~~4~~.
 7. Spring turkey – March ~~16-22~~ ~~17-23~~, March ~~23-31~~ ~~24~~ through ~~April 1~~ and April ~~1-7~~ ~~2-8~~.
 8. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (21) Citrus Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. General gun – December ~~7-9~~ ~~8-10~~ and December ~~28-30~~ ~~29-31~~.
 2. Small game – ~~December 31~~ ~~January 1~~ through February ~~24~~ ~~25~~.
 3. Muzzleloading gun – ~~November 30 through~~ December ~~2~~ ~~1-3~~ and December ~~14-16~~ ~~15-17~~.
 4. Archery – November ~~3-11~~ ~~4-12~~, ~~12-18~~ ~~13-19~~ and ~~19-25~~ ~~20-26~~.
 5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
 6. Spring turkey – March ~~19-22~~ ~~20-23~~, April ~~2-5~~ ~~3-6~~ and ~~16-19~~ ~~17-20~~.
 7. through 8. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.
- (22) Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. Archery – September ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through October ~~2~~ ~~3~~ and October ~~5-9~~ ~~6-10~~.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~.
 3. General gun – November ~~3-6~~ ~~4-7~~ and ~~9-13~~ ~~10-14~~.
 4. Small game – November ~~16-18~~, ~~23-25~~ ~~24-26~~ and December ~~14-16~~ ~~15-17~~.
 5. Spring turkey – March ~~16-19~~ ~~17-20~~ and ~~22-26~~ ~~23-27~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(23) Potts Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Spring turkey – March ~~16-19~~ ~~17-20~~ and ~~22-26~~ ~~23-27~~.
2. Archery – October ~~4-7~~ ~~5-8~~ and ~~10-14~~ ~~11-15~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ ~~27-29~~.
4. Wild hog-dog – November ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~.
5. Small game – February ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~, ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~ and March ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers except that taking antlerless deer is prohibited.

Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. One gobbler or bearded turkey per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-dog season.

(c) through (d) No change.

(24) Homosassa Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~11-14~~ ~~12-15~~, October ~~25-28~~ ~~26-29~~ and November ~~1-4~~ ~~2-5~~.
2. Small game – November ~~9~~ ~~10~~ through December ~~2~~ ~~3~~ and December ~~22~~ ~~23~~ through January ~~13~~ ~~14~~ and February 2-24.
3. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March ~~16-22~~ ~~17-23~~ and March ~~30~~ ~~31~~ through April ~~5~~ ~~6~~.

4. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(25) Devil's Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~15-18~~ ~~16-19~~, ~~19-23~~ ~~20-24~~ and September ~~24-28~~ ~~25-29~~.
2. Family hunt – October ~~6-7~~ ~~7-8~~ and ~~13-14~~ ~~14-15~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~.
4. General gun – November ~~3-6~~ ~~4-7~~ and ~~7-11~~ ~~8-12~~.
5. Small game – November ~~12~~ ~~18~~ through January 13 ~~December 17~~.
6. Wild hog-still – January ~~14~~ ~~15~~ through February ~~10~~ ~~11~~.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~16-19~~ ~~17-20~~ and ~~20-24~~ ~~21-25~~.
9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(26) Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through October ~~14~~ ~~15~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-28~~ ~~21-29~~ (still hunt area only).
3. General gun – November ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through January ~~6~~ ~~7~~.
4. Small game – January ~~7~~ ~~8~~ through February ~~17~~ ~~18~~.
5. Wild hog-dog – February ~~18~~ ~~24~~ through March ~~10~~ ~~11~~.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~16-31~~ ~~17~~ through ~~April 1~~.
7. No change.
8. Trapping – January ~~7~~ ~~8~~ through March 1.
9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 5. No change.

~~6. During the general gun season, taking wildlife is prohibited south and east of McCall's Chapel Grade and east of East Mainline.~~

7. through 9. renumbered 6. through 8. No change.

(27) Middle Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~3-29 4-30~~ and November 30 through December 30 1-31.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-28 21-29~~.

3. Small game – December 31 January 1 through March 3 4.

4. Archery – September ~~15 16~~ through October ~~14 15~~.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10 10-11~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~16 17~~ through April ~~21 22~~.

7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(28) Little River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-24 23-25~~, September ~~29 30~~ through October ~~1 2~~ and October ~~6-8 7-9~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22 21-23~~.

3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4 4-5~~.

4. Small game – November ~~10 25~~ through March 3 January 7.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10 10-11~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~16-18 17-19~~ and March ~~29-31 30~~ through ~~April 1~~.

7. through 8. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, furbearers and fish. Antlered deer, Antlerless deer may be taken only (during the family hunt ~~only~~), bear may be taken (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the North BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.), ~~rabbit, gray squirrel, and quail~~ may be taken (only during the first 16 days of the small game season), ~~furbearers, migratory birds (only during small game season) and fish.~~ Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the family hunt, one antlered and one antlerless deer may be taken per quota permit. During the spring turkey season, one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.

(29) Troy Springs Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Small game – November ~~10 11~~ through March 3 January 7, except on Sundays.

2. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(30) Bayard Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22 23~~ through October ~~7 8~~ and November ~~10-18 11-19~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-28 21-29~~.

3. General gun – Opening Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day.

4. Wild hog-still – February 22-24.

~~5-3.~~ Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10 10-11~~.

4. through 6. renumbered 6. through 8. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, bear (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the Central BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C), fish, frogs, and furbearers. The bag limit for deer shall be one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season and one antlered deer per person, but no more than two antlered deer per quota permit during

muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons season. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the spring turkey season one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.

(31) Grove Park Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 15 ~~16~~ through October 14 ~~15~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 20 ~~21~~ through November 2 ~~3~~.
3. General gun – November 3 ~~4~~ through January 6 ~~7~~.
4. Small game – January 7 ~~8~~ through March 3 ~~4~~.
5. No change.
6. Trapping – December 1 through January 6 ~~7~~.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 ~~10-11~~.
8. Spring turkey – March 16 ~~17~~ through April 21 ~~22~~.
9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(32) Steinhatchee Springs Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 22 ~~23~~ through October 21 ~~22~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 26-28 ~~27-29~~.
3. General gun – November 3-11 ~~4-12~~ and November 12-30 ~~13 through December 1~~ and January 7-20 ~~8-21~~.
4. Small game – December 1 ~~2~~ through January 6 ~~7~~.
5. Wild hog-dog – February 1-3 ~~2-4~~, 15-17 ~~16-18~~ and 22-24 ~~23-25~~.
6. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 ~~10-11~~.
7. Spring turkey – March 16-19 ~~17-20~~, 20-24 ~~21-25~~ and March 25 ~~26~~ through April 7 ~~8~~.
8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(33) Cary Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 21-23 ~~22-24~~, September 28-30 ~~29 through October 1~~ and October 5-7 ~~6-8~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October 20-22 ~~21-23~~ and 26-28 ~~27-29~~.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 ~~4-5~~.
4. General gun – November 9-11 ~~10-12~~, 16-18 ~~17-19~~ and 23-25 ~~24-26~~.
5. Small game – November 30 ~~December 1~~ through January 20 ~~7~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Wild hog-still – January 25-29 ~~26-28~~ and February 15-19 ~~2-4 and 16-18~~.
7. Spring turkey – March 16-18 ~~17-19~~, 22-24 ~~23-25~~ and March 29-31 ~~30 through April 1~~.
8. through 9. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, bear (only during those portions of the muzzleloading gun season that coincide with the open season established for the North BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.), fish, ~~and~~ frogs and furbearers ~~except that only wild hog, deer, bear, waterfowl, fish and frogs may be taken during the family hunt, and the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons.~~ Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the archery season the bag limit for deer shall be one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit. During the family hunt the bag limit shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons the bag limit shall be one antlered deer per person, but no more than two antlered deer per quota permit. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-still season. During the spring turkey season one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.

(34) Ralph E. Simmons Memorial Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~17-25~~ ~~18-26~~.
2. Archery – September ~~15-23~~ ~~16-24~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-28~~ ~~21-29~~.
4. General gun for mobility-impaired – October ~~6-9~~ ~~7-10~~.
5. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ ~~4-5~~.
6. Small game – December ~~10-23~~ ~~11-24~~ and January ~~26~~ ~~27~~ through February ~~3~~ ~~4~~.
7. No change.
8. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
9. through 10. No change.

(b) No change.

(c) Camping: During quota hunt periods, camping is allowed only in the Scotts Landing Road campground and only by hunters in possession of a valid quota permit. During the small game season and periods closed to hunting, camping in the Scotts Landing Road campground is allowed only by permit from the Florida Forest Service and camping at ~~primitive~~ campsites along the St. Mary's River is allowed on a first-come first-served basis.

(d) No change.

(35) Lower Econfina River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~6-21~~ ~~7-22~~ and October 29 through November 11.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~26-28~~ ~~28-30~~.
3. Small game – ~~November 12~~ ~~January 15~~ through ~~March 3~~ ~~February 25~~.
4. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
5. Spring turkey – March ~~16-24~~ ~~17-25~~.
6. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, bear (only during those portions of the archery season that coincide with the open season established for the East Panhandle BMU in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C), fish, frogs and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with two or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. The take of antlerless deer during the last 14 days of archery season is prohibited.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 7. No change.

8. 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 within the past 90 days from a game farm licensed by the Commission or another state.

(36) Belmore Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~, September ~~28-30~~ ~~29~~ through ~~October 1~~ and October ~~5-7~~ ~~6-8~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ ~~21-23~~.
3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ ~~4-5~~ and ~~17-18~~ ~~18-19~~.
4. General gun – November ~~8-11~~ ~~9-12~~ and ~~21-25~~ ~~22-26~~.
5. Small game – ~~November 30~~ ~~December 1~~ through January ~~20~~ ~~7~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. No change.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~16-18~~ ~~17-19~~, ~~22-24~~ ~~23-25~~ and March ~~29-31~~ ~~30~~ through ~~April 1~~.
9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(37) Four Creeks Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~21-23~~ 22-24, September ~~28-30~~ 29 through ~~October 1~~ and October ~~5-7~~ 6-8.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.
3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ 4-5.
4. General gun – November ~~9-11~~ 10-12, ~~16-18~~ 17-19 and ~~23-25~~ 24-26.
5. Small game – ~~November 30~~ December 1 through January ~~20~~ 7 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Wild hog-still – February ~~8-12~~ 8-11.
7. No change.
8. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
9. Spring turkey – March ~~16-18~~ 17-19, ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and March ~~29-31~~ 30 through ~~April 1~~.
10. through 11. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(38) Hatchet Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~21-23~~ 22-24, September ~~28-30~~ 29 through ~~October 1~~ and October ~~5-7~~ 6-8.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.
3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ 4-5.
4. General gun – November ~~9-11~~ 10-12 and ~~23-25~~ 24-26.
5. Small game – December 15 through January 13.
5. renumbered 6. No change.
- ~~7.6.~~ Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
- ~~8.7.~~ Spring turkey – March ~~16-18~~ 17-19, ~~22-24~~ 23-25 and ~~29-31~~ March 30 through ~~April 1~~.
8. renumbered 9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except during small game season when vehicles are prohibited on the area except at designated parking areas.

2. through 7. No change.

8. During periods open to hunting except small game season, public access is restricted to individuals with valid quota permits and those persons identified in Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C.

(39) Log Landing Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~15~~ 16 through October ~~14~~ 15 and November ~~2-11~~ 3-12 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-28~~ 21-29, November ~~16-25~~ 17-26 and December ~~21-30~~ 22-31 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Small game – November 30 through December ~~16~~ 1-17 and January ~~4~~ 5 through March 3 ~~February 11~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
4. No change.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~16~~ 17 through April ~~21~~ 22 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
7. Wild hog-still – May ~~4-12~~ 5-13.
8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(40) Thomas Creek Wildlife Management Area – Kings Road Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~22-24~~ 23-25, October ~~1-3~~ 2-4 and ~~8-10~~ 9-11.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~20-22~~ 21-23.

3. Family hunt – November ~~3-4~~ 4-5.
4. General gun – November ~~16-18~~ 17-19 and ~~23-25~~ 24-26.
5. Small game – December 15 through January ~~13~~ 14-6, 11-13, ~~22-24~~, December ~~29-31~~ and January ~~8-10~~.
6. No change.
7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~9-10~~ 10-11.
8. Spring turkey – March ~~16-18~~ 17-19, ~~25-27~~ 26-28 and April ~~1-3~~ 2-4.
9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except during small game season when vehicles are prohibited on the area except at designated parking areas. ~~Motorized vehicles are allowed only in designated parking areas.~~

4. through 7. No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018.

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, 7-1-18.