DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.065  RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northeast Region

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Northeast 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 amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Northeast Region as follows:

Buck Lake WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Charles H. Bronson WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Etoniah Creek WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Gores Landing WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Guana River WMA – remove the existing WMA rules related to waterfowl hunting in Lake Ponte Vedra and authorize waterfowl quota hunts in the lake by establishing the Guana River - Lake Ponte Vedra Public Small Game Hunting Area through executive order.
Lake George WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Lake George WMA, Dexter Mary Farms Unit – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Lake Monroe WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Little Big Econ WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Marshall Swamp WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Matanzas WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Ocala WMA – require a quota permit for the entire general gun season on the Pipeline Unit (5,000 permits, exemptions allowed); allow trapping in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19 during the statewide trapping season; allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Rock Springs Run WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Ross Prairie WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Seminole Forest WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Seminole Forest WMA, Lake Tracy Unit – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Seminole Ranch WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Tiger Bay WMA – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Tiger Bay WMA, Rima Ridge Unit – allow any dog for hunting small game (quail, rabbit, squirrel and migratory birds) during small game season.
Tosohatchee WMA – add gray squirrel as legal to hunt during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun and wild hog-dog seasons.
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-15.065 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northeast Region.
(1) Herky Huffman/Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
   1. General gun – November 4-5 5-6 and November 6-7 through December 31 January 4.
   2. Small game – January 1-2 through March 4-5.
   4. Archery – September 16-17 17-18 and September 18-19 through October 15-16.
   7. No change.
   (b) through (d) No change.
(2) Ocala Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
   1. General gun – November 11-12 through January 7-8 (Pipeline, Lake Delancy and Hopkins Prairie units only).
   2. General gun dog – November 11-12 through 19-20 (Church Lake Unit only).
   3. General gun still – November 25-26 through December 3-4 (Church Lake Unit only).
   4. Small game – December 4-5 through March 4-5 (Church Lake Unit only) and January 8-9 through March 4-5 (Pipeline, Lake Delancy and Hopkins Prairie units only).
   5. Archery – September 23-24 through October 22-23.
   6. Muzzleloading gun – October 27-29 28-30, in the Church Lake, Hopkins Prairie and Lake Delancy units only.
   7. Fox, opossum, bobcat and raccoon – November 11-12 through April 15-16.
   8. No change.
   9. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12 (Lake Delancy Unit only).
   10. Spring turkey – March 22-25 23-26, March 29-30 through April 1-2, April 5-8 6-9 and 12-15 13-16.
   11. No change.
   12. Trapping – December 1 through March 1, except in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19.
   13. through 14. No change.
(b) Legal to take:
1. No change.
2. Furbearing animals – During the November 11-12 through March 1 period, hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed only in the Pipeline and Church Lake units. Raccoons may also be hunted, with dogs only, from March 5-6 through April 15-16 only in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19. The hunting of fox and bobcat by the use of dogs only shall be allowed from January 8-9 through April 15-16, only in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19.
   (c) No change.
   (d) General regulations:
1. No change.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited in the Hopkins Prairie and Lake Delancy units, except any dog may be used to take small game and bird dogs and retrievers are allowed during small game, and bird dogs and retrievers are allowed during September duck, dove, and duck, geese and coot seasons. Taking deer with dogs is prohibited in the Church Lake Unit during the general gun still hunt. Caged or leashed hunting dogs may be transported on numbered roads.
3. through 4. No change.
5. Dogs may be used to pursue rabbits from January 8-9 through April 15-16 in that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of S.R. 40 and west of S.R. 19.

6. No change.

(e) No change.

(3) Richloam Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
2. Spring turkey – March 17-25 18-26 and March 26 27 through April 22 23.
4. No change.


8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(4) Richloam Wildlife Management Area – Baird Unit.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 28-31 and 29 through November 1 2, November 1 2 through November 5 6 and 6-12 7 13.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
7. Small game – February 3 4 through March 4 5.
8. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(5) Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. General gun – November 4-5 5-6 and November 6 7 through December 31 January 1.
2. Small game – January 1 2 through March 4 5.
3. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23.
4. Archery – September 16-17 17-18 and September 18 19 through October 15 16.
5. No change.


9. through 10. No change.

11. Raccoon – January 12-14 13-15, 19-21 20-22 and 26-28 27-29 (from 1.5 hours before sunset on Friday until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sunday) in that area between the Florida Turnpike and US 441 only.


(b) through (d) No change.

(6) Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area – Prairie Lakes Unit.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 29 30 through October 1 2 and October 6-8 7-9.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.

7. No change.


9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.
(7) Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. General gun – November 4-12 5-13 and November 13 14 through December 31 January 1.
2. Archery – September 16 17 through October 15 16.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
7. through 8. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. through 2. No change.
3. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15” or less may be used for hunting small game and any dog may be used to take small game during small game season.
4. through 9. No change.

(8) Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area – Rima Ridge Unit.
(a) Open season:
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
7. through 8. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. through 2. No change.
3. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15” or less may be used for hunting small game and any dog may be used to take small game during small game season.
4. through 9. No change.

(9) Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 5-8 6-9 and 12-15 13-16.
6. No change.
(b) Legal to take: Antlered deer, antlerless deer, turkey, wild hog, fish, frogs, gray squirrel and coyote. No other wildlife species may be taken. Antlerless deer is any deer, except a spotted fawn, that is without antlers or whose antlers are less than one inch in length visible above the hairline. 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. A limit of one antlerless and one antlered deer per quota permit is established. Only wild hog and gray squirrel may be taken during the wild hog-dog season.
(c) through (d) No change.

(10) Seminole Ranch Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 6-8 7-9 and 13-15 14-16.
7. No change.
   (b) through (c) No change.
   (d) General regulations:
   1. through 4. No change.
   5. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that dogs may be used during the wild hog-dog season, and any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs may be used during small game season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than 3 free-running dogs per quota permit shall be allowed.
   6. through 10. No change.
   (11) Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area.
   (a) Open season:
   1. Archery – September 16-17 through October 15-16.
   3. General gun – November 4-12 5-13 and November 13-14 through December 31 January 1.
   5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
   6. Spring turkey – March 17 18 through April 22 23.
   7. through 8. No change.
   (b) through (d) No change.
   (12) Rock Springs Run Wildlife Management Area.
   (a) Open season:
   1. Archery – September 29 30 through October 1 2 and October 6-8 7-9.
   5. No change.
   (b) through (c) No change.
   (d) General regulations:
   1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs during small game season.
   2. through 7. No change.
   (13) Guana River Wildlife Management Area.
   (a) Open season:
   1. Duck, light goose and coot – Lake Ponte Vedra shall be open during the September duck seasons established pursuant to Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C., and the first day of each phase and on Wednesdays and Saturdays of the duck, light goose and coot season established pursuant to Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
   4. Archery – October 6-8 7-9 and 13-15 14-16.
   5. Spring turkey – March 23-25 24-26 and March 30 31 through April 1 2.
   7. through 8. renumbered 6. through 7. No change.
   (b) through (e) No change.
   (14) Half Moon Wildlife Management Area.
   (a) Open season:
   1. Archery – October 6-8 7-9 and 13-15 14-16.
   8. No change.
   (b) through (d) No change.
(15) Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area.
    (a) Open season:
       2. Supervised small game – October 7-15 8-16.
       5. No change.
       7. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12 (south of the Cross Florida Barge Canal only).
       9. No change.
    (b) through (d) No change.

(16) Lake George Wildlife Management Area.
    (a) Open season:
       1. Archery – September 16-17 through October 15-16.
       4. Small game – November 27-28 through March 4-5.
       5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
       7. No change.
    (b) through (c) No change.
    (d) General regulations:
       1. through 2. No change.
       3. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs and retrievers may be used during the general gun season and any dog may be used to take small game small game seasons and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used to hunt rabbit during small game season.
       4. No change.

(17) Lake George Wildlife Management Area – Dexter/Mary Farms Unit.
    (a) Open season:
       2. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March 17-23 18-24, March 31 through April 6-7 and April 14-20 15-21.
       3. No change.
    (b) through (c) No change.
    (d) General regulations:
       1. The use of dogs is prohibited except that any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less during the small game season is prohibited.
       2. through 9. No change.
    (e) No change.

(18) Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area.
    (a) Open season:
       3. General gun – December 2-5 3-6 and 6-10 7-14.
       7. No change.
    (b) through (c) No change.
    (d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs may be used during the small game season.

2. through 9. No change.

(19) Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
2. Special-opportunity deer – October 14-20 15-21 and October 28 29 through November 3 4.
5. through 6. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.

(20) Etoniah Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
4. Small game – November 27 28 through the first weekend in January.
5. Spring turkey – March 17-20 18-21, 23-26 24-27 and March 30 31 through April 1 3.
6. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used during the small game season.
2. through 4. No change.

(21) Little Big Econ Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 29 30 through October 5 6, October 6-12 7-13 and 13-21 14-22.
5. Spring turkey – March 17-20 18-21, 22-25 23-26 and March 29 30 through April 1 2.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs may be used during the small game season and waterfowl retrievers may be used during the September duck seasons.
2. through 4. No change.

(22) Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March 22-25 23-26, April 3-6 4-7 and 19-22 20-23.
2. Special-opportunity archery – September 21-24 22-25, October 3-6 4-7, 12-15 13-16, 24-27 25-28, November 2-5 3-6, 14-17 15-18, December 5-8 6-9 and 14-17 15-18.
5. Small game – February 2-4 3-5 and 9-11 10-12.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.

(23) Ross Prairie Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. through 2. No change.
3. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game during small game season.
bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15" or less may be used for hunting small game.
4. through 6. No change.
(24) Buck Lake Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 23 24 through October 1 2 and October 7-13 8-14.
7. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game bird dogs may be used during
the small game season.
2. through 6. No change.
(25) Fort Drum Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
4. Wild hog-still – November 10-12 11-13, 17-19 18-20, 24-26 25-27; January 30 31 through February 1 2 and
February 6-8 7-9.
5. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(26) Gores Landing Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 23 24 through October 8 9.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.
7. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. No change.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game bird dogs and retrievers may
be used during the small game season.
3. through 4. No change.
(27) Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area – Lake Tracy Unit.
(a) Open season:
7. through 8. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except any dog may be used to take small game. Bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used during small game season to take small game and waterfowl retrievers may be used to take ducks during special September duck season.
2. through 6. No change.
(a) Open season:
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10–11.
7. through 9. No change.
(b) Legal to take: All legal game, furbearers, fish, and frogs. 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. Antlerless deer may be taken during the period November 18–19. Turkey of either sex may be taken during the general gun season only from November 4–5 through December 31–January 1.
(c) through (d) No change.
(29) Dunns Creek Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 23–24 through October 8–9 and November 18–26.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(30) Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(31) Matanzas Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. Family hunt – November 11–12.
7. Spring turkey – March 17–20, March 29–30 through April 1–2 and April 5–8.
8. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited except any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season. The take of wild hog with dog is prohibited.

2. through 4. No change.

(32) Lake Monroe Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Furbearers – During the zonal antlered deer season only except that bobcat and otter may be taken only after December 1 November 30.

4. through 5. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. No change.

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except bird dogs and retrievers may be used during the small game season and any dog may be used to take small game during small game season.

3. No change.

(33) Charles H. Bronson Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 29 30 through October 5 6, October 6-12 13-21 22.


5. Youth turkey hunt – March 10-11 11-12.


7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited except that any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season.

2. through 5. No change.


(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September 16-22 23-29, 29-30, September 30 through October 6-12 13, and October 1-7 8-14 and 14-22 23.


4. No change.


6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers for the take of small game is prohibited except that any dog may be used to take small game during the small game season.

2. through 7. No change.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2017