

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.064
Agenda Item C2
July 10, 2017**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.064

RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – South 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 South 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 South Region as follows:

Dinner Island Ranch WMA – expand small game season by 12 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.

Fisheating Creek WMA (West of U.S. 27 only) – expand small game season by 7 days

J.W. Corbett WMA – expand small game season by 7 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.

Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA – expand small game season by 14 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:

(1) J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. No change.

2. Small game – The day following the close of the general gun season through the third ~~second~~ Sunday in February.

3. through 6. No change.

7. Raccoon season – The day following the close of the general gun season through the third ~~second~~ Sunday in February.

8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 18. No change.

19. 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.

(2) through (6) No change.

(7) Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 7. No change.

8. Small game – The first Saturday in December through the third ~~second~~ Sunday in February west of US Highway 27 only.

9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(8) No change.

(9) Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Small game – Beginning the day following the close of the family hunt season ~~October 28~~ through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.

5. through 10. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 9. No change.

10. 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.

(10) Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 3. No change.

4. Small game – Beginning the opening day of gray squirrel season established by Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. ~~October 28~~ through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.

5. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(11) 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, 7-27-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 8-5-86, 5-10-87, 8-24-87, 5-1-88, 6-7-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 10-20-96, 6-1-97, 8-7-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.064, Amended 11-17-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 6-2-02, 2-27-03, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 1-19-10, 7-1-10, 8-26-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 9-18-14, 7-1-15, 7-29-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17, 9-1-17.