

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-15.006  
Agenda Item 8.A.  
February 7, 2018**

**DRAFT RULE**

**RULE NO:** 68A-15.006      **RULE TITLE:** Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on miscellaneous areas, specifically for Babcock Ranch Preserve, and conform date changes to calendar year. In addition, the proposed rule amendment establishes the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Rolling Meadows Unit. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on miscellaneous areas.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates in miscellaneous areas, specifically the Babcock Ranch Preserve, to conform date changes to calendar year and revise specific area regulations. In addition, the proposed rule amendment would establish the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Rolling Meadows Unit and establish rules consistent with the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes WMA (regulations for Kissimmee Chain of Lakes WMA, including statewide hunting seasons and no quota requirement to apply to the Rolling Meadows Unit), except that motorized vehicles and vessels will be prohibited and centerfire rifles will be allowed.

**THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:**

68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Babcock Ranch Preserve.

(a) Open season (in the Tier I hunt area):

1. Archery – July ~~28-31~~ ~~29 through August 1~~ and August ~~4-7~~ ~~5-8~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~.

3. Family – September ~~15-16~~ ~~16-17~~ and December ~~15-16~~ ~~16-17~~.

4. General gun for mobility-impaired – ~~November 30 through December 2~~ ~~1-3~~.

5. General gun – September ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~, September ~~28-30~~ ~~29 through October 1~~ and December ~~7-9~~ ~~8-10~~.

6. Small game – January ~~5-20~~ ~~6-21~~ and February ~~2-3~~ ~~3-4~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).

7. Spring turkey – March ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~ and ~~9-11~~ ~~10-12~~.

8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (f) No change.

(4) through (5) No change.

(6) Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Area - Rolling Meadows Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Non-migratory game – During Zonal seasons established under Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., except deer and turkey shall only be taken during those seasons established for Zone B and crossbow season shall be the last 5 days of the Zone B crossbow season only.

2. Migratory birds – Statewide regulations established under Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C., except that open season for crow shall be during the first phase of crow season only.

3. Furbearers – During zonal antlered deer season established for Zone B only.

4. Fishing and frogging – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, wild turkey (bearded turkey or gobblers only), wild hog, non-protected mammals, furbearers (except bobcat and otter), fish and frogs. The take of 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. The daily bag limit for wild turkey shall be one per day.

(c) General regulations:

1. Taking deer and furbearers with dogs is prohibited.

2. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
3. Shooting frogs shall be allowed only during hunting seasons established for this area and only with guns that are legal methods of take during each open hunting season.
4. Motorized vehicles and vessels are prohibited.
5. Taking wildlife is prohibited on, from or across the levees.
6. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
7. No person shall place, expose or distribute any grain or other food for wildlife except as authorized by permit from the executive director. No person shall take wildlife on any land or waters upon which grain or other food has been deposited.
8. Wild hog may be taken in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a. Wild hog may be taken throughout the year with no size or bag limit.
  - b. Wild hog may only be taken with a gun from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Wild hog may not be taken with a gun at night.
  - c. Wild hog may not be transported alive.
9. Non-protected mammals may be taken during any season open for the taking of game mammals, with no size or bag limit.
10. The regulations contained in Rules 68A-15.004 F.A.C., not in conflict with specific area regulations, shall apply to this area.
11. Erecting or maintaining tree stands more than ten days before the start of archery season or more than ten days after the end of spring turkey season is prohibited.
12. Fires are prohibited.
13. Tampering with or destruction of equipment, improvements, and water control structures is prohibited.
14. Construction or use of permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.
15. Releasing wildlife of any species is prohibited unless authorized by permit from the Executive Director.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2018

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art IV, Sec 9, Fla. Const. History—New 12-9-99, Amended 5-13-02, 5-1-03, 5-23-04, 7-1-06, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 11-9-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 8-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-1-15, 7-1-16, 7-1-17, 7-1-18.*