68A-15.062 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 date changes to calendar year. 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 the calendar year and revise specific area regulations on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the North Central Region.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

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, 16-18, 17-19, only in the still hunt areas.

9. No change.

10. Trapping – December 1 through January 6, 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. Hunters 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 4-14.
3. Archery – September 22 23 through October 7 8.
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:
2. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 4-14.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – October 20 21 through November 2 3.
7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(4) Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. General gun – November 3-16 4-17, November 17 18 through December 2 3 and December 3-4 3-4.
2. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 4-14.
3. Spring turkey – March 16-17 through April 21-22.
4. Archery – September 22 23 through October 21 22.
6. No change.

(c) through (d) No change.

(5) Osceola Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
3. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 4-14.
4. Spring turkey – March 16-17 through April 21-22.
5. Archery – September 22 23 through October 14 15.
6. Muzzleloading gun – October 20-27 21-28 in the still hunt area and Big Gum Swamp Wilderness only.
7. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – November 10 11 through March 3 4 in the dog hunt portion of the area.
8. through 9. No change.
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:
5. through 6. No change.
8. Spring turkey – March 16-17 through April 21-22.
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.
5. through 6. No change.
7. Spring turkey – March 16-17 through April 21-22.
9. through 10. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(8) Big Bend Wildlife Management Area – Hickory Mound Unit.
(a) Open season:
3. Spring turkey – March 16-17 through April 21-22.
5. through 7. No change.
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 21-22.
5. through 6. No change.
(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.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 through April 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 through October 7.
3. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November 3-11 and Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day and December 22-25.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 through April 1.
7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(13) Cedar Key Scrub Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
4. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(14) Andrews Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 21-23 through October 4.
4. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 through April 1.
5. Spring turkey – March 21-23 and April 11.
6. No change.

(15) Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – September 24-29 through October 4.
3. Small game – November 10 through March 3 opening on Thanksgiving Day and continuing for 38 days thereafter.
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.

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.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
5. Small game – Opening on Thanksgiving Day and continuing for 73 38 days thereafter.
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 22-26 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.
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 4-3.
9. No change.
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:
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.
3. General gun (still hunt) – November 3-5 4-6, 6-8 7-9 and 9-12 10-13.
8. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(21) Citrus Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
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.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 10-14.
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.
6. through 7. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(23) Potts Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
2. Archery – October 4-7 5-8 and 10-14 11-15.
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:
2. Small game – November 9 10 through December 2 3 and December 22 23 through January 13 14 and February 2-24.
4. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(25) Devil’s Hammock Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
2. Family hunt – October 6-7 7-8 and 13-14 14-15.
4. General gun – November 3-6 4-7 and 7-11 8-12.
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).
4. Small game – January 7 8 through February 17 18.
5. Wild hog-dog – February 18 24 through March 10 11.
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.
4. Archery – September 15 16 through October 14 15.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 10-11.
7. through 8. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(28) Little River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 10-11.
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. Antlered deer 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. Antlered deer 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:
2. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(30) Bayard Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. General gun – Opening Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day.
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 10-11.
(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. 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:
5. No change.
During the spring turkey season one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but no more than two antlered deer per quota permit. Only wild hog may be taken during the family hunt. 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. During the family hunt the bag limit shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. 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.

(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.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
5. Small game – November 10 December 1 through January 20 2 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
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:
4. General gun for mobility-impaired – October 6-9 7-10.
5. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
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.
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 4 and October 5-7 6-8.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5 and 17-18 18-19.
5. Small game – November 30 December 1 through January 20 2 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. No change.

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 4 and October 5-7 6-8.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
5. Small game – November 30 December 1 through January 20 2 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
7. No change.
8. Youth turkey hunt – March 9-10 10-11.
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 4 and October 5-7 6-8.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
6. renumbered 5. No change.
9. renumbered 7. 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).
3. Small game – November 30 through December 16 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).
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.
3. Family hunt – November 3-4 4-5.
6. No change.
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–