

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Hunting and Game Management  
**Date:** February 8, 2018  
**Subject:** Proposed Rule Changes for Hunting 2018 – 2019

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## **Purpose:**

Final adoption of previously approved rule amendments to revise select statewide hunting regulations, revise specific area regulations and conform hunting dates to calendar date changes on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) and Miscellaneous Areas; staff will also request two changes to the advertised amendments.

## **Summary:**

Draft rule amendments for changes to WMAs, WEAs and Miscellaneous Areas were approved by the Commission at the December 2017 Commission meeting. Rule proposals are submitted from the public, staff and cooperators online and via email or phone. During 2017, 205 requests for changes were received and evaluated and 141 of those were forwarded for consideration. Substantive rule proposals were summarized and published online for public comments beginning September 23rd. Public notification through FWC's HuntFlorida Facebook page and the Hunting Hot Sheet was made and an email notice was sent to over 152,000 unique email addresses. To date over 14,000 responses have been received, with most of the comments supportive of the proposals. The significant proposals are summarized in the attached background document.

Staff is requesting changes to 2 proposed rule amendments presented at the December 2017 Commission meeting. We are recommending changing proposed Rule 68A-12.002, F.A.C. to reduce the proposed minimum caliber of air guns allowed when taking deer from .40 to .30 and changing proposed Rule 68A-15.064, F.A.C. to remove certain restrictions on camping at J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

## **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve a Notice of Change to Rule 68A-12.002, F.A.C. to reduce the proposed minimum caliber of air guns allowed when taking deer from .40 to .30; Approve a Notice of Change to Rule 68A-15.064, F.A.C. to remove certain restrictions on camping at J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area and Adopt all other final rule amendments as advertised. All changes, if approved, would be effective for the 2018-2019 Hunting Seasons.

## **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Paul Scharine, Public Hunting Areas Program Coordinator, Division of Hunting and Game Management