

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.061
Agenda Item 11 A
December 6, 2012**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.061

RULE TITLE: Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Southwest Region.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Southwest 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 Southwest Region as follows:

Arbuckle WMA – change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Chassahowitzka WMA – change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA – allow year-round use of vehicles on Tucker Grade, Tram Grade and Road 6; adjust the quail season; and establish a raccoon and opossum season during the month of February.

Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA, Yucca Pens Unit – establish a raccoon and opossum season during the months of February and March; and allow the use of horses year round.

Green Swamp WMA – issue quota permits for the wild hog-dog hunts at the check station; allow three hunters to hunt per each daily quota permit during wild hog-dog season; relocate the check station and campground during the wild-hog dog hunts from the Rock Ridge Road entrance to the Highway 471 entrance; and prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog except during the wild hog-dog hunts.

Green Swamp WMA, West Unit – allow the use of horses during the wild hog-still and small game seasons; and allow the use of archery equipment during the special-opportunity turkey season.

Hickory Hammock – prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog.

Hilochee WMA – allow the use of horses year round; prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Hilochee WMA, Osprey Unit – convert one of the archery hunts to a muzzleloading gun hunt; add antlered deer with at least 3 points on one side as legal to take during the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts; reduce the quota from 40 to 10 (no exemptions) for the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts; allow a bag limit of one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit during the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts; increase the length of all quota hunts, except youth turkey, from two days to three days; allow the use of horses year-round except during wild hog-dog season; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

KICCO WMA – limit vehicle access to those persons with authorization from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); require a permit from the SFWMD for camping; prohibit campfires except within fire rings; and prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog during small game season.

Lake Marion Creek WMA – limit vehicle access to those persons with authorization from the South Florida Water Management District; and prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog.

Lower Hillsborough WMA (new) – establish a new wildlife management area (2,775 acres) with the following open seasons: four 3-day family hunts (quota of 5, no exemptions) and two 3-day youth turkey hunts (quota of 5, no exemptions); allow the take of deer, wild hog, turkey, small game, furbearers, fish and frogs; allow a bag limit of two deer per family quota permit; allow a bag limit of one gobbler or bearded turkey per youth turkey quota permit; allow camping by permit only; prohibit hunting with dogs; prohibit vehicles except in parking areas and for access to the camping area by persons with a camping permit; prohibit the use of airboats, tracked vehicles, swamp buggies, all-terrain vehicles, and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours

after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise unless camping; and prohibit fires except in the camping area.

Upper Hillsborough WMA – prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog except during wild hog-dog season.

Walk-in-the-Water WMA – prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hog during small game season; change the bag limit for deer from one deer per day to one deer (antlered or antlerless) per person, but not more than two per quota permit during archery hunts and one antlered deer per person and not more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun hunts; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Weekiwachee WMA (new) – establish a new wildlife management area (2,850 acres) with the following open season: five 6-day archery hunts (quota of 10, no exemptions); allow the take of antlered deer, wild hog, small game, furbearers, fish and frogs; allow a bag limit of two antlered deer per quota permit; prohibit camping on the area; prohibit hunting with dogs; prohibit vehicles except in the parking area; prohibit the use of airboats, tracked vehicles, swamp buggies, all-terrain vehicles, unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles, and horses; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise; and prohibit fires.

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-15.061 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Southwest Region.

(1) Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~23 47~~ through January ~~19 43~~.
2. Archery – October ~~19 43~~ through November ~~17 44~~, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.
3. Small game – January ~~25 49~~ through February ~~23 47~~, Saturdays and Sundays only.
4. Wild hog-dog – February ~~27~~ through March ~~2 21-24~~ and ~~March 6-9~~ February ~~28~~ through March ~~3~~.
5. Spring turkey – March ~~15 46~~ through April ~~20 24~~.
6. Fishing and frogging – Allowed during periods in which hunting is allowed; and Saturdays and Sundays beginning the first Saturday in May and closing 43 days thereafter. Fishing and frogging are allowed at all other times provided that access is by foot only.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken.

(c) Camping: Allowed by permit only and only within the designated campsites at the Rock Ridge Road and 471 campgrounds. Camping is allowed at both campgrounds during archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons. Camping is allowed only at the Rock Ridge Road campground during the ~~wild hog-dog and~~ fishing and frogging ~~season seasons~~ and only at the 471 campground during the small game ~~and wild hog-dog seasons~~ ~~season~~. Camping permits are non-transferable. Camping along the Green Swamp Hiking Trail (Florida Trail) is prohibited except by written permission from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers are prohibited. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials is prohibited. The alteration, defacing, moving or tampering in any way with official markings of campsites is prohibited. The use or operation of electrical generators powered by an internal combustion engine is prohibited within the campgrounds from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. A legible copy of the camping permit or the permittee's name and permit number must be visibly affixed to camping shelters. Camping equipment must be removed by 8 p.m. on the last date listed on the camping permit. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.
2. No deer or wild hog shall be dismembered until checked at a designated check station.
3. Hunters may enter or exit the area at designated ~~entrances~~ ~~access points~~ only and only during hours in which check stations are in operation.
4. Hunting with dogs (other than bird dogs) is prohibited, except ~~that~~ dogs may be used during the wild hog-dog

season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited except during the wild hog-dog season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than 3 free-running dogs per wild hog-dog daily quota permit shall be allowed. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

5. Vehicles may be operated from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset during established open seasons, except during the designated fishing and frogging season when vehicles may be operated during daylight hours only. Vehicles may be operated after 8 a.m. until 1.5 hours after sunset one day prior to each archery hunt, general gun season and spring turkey season for scouting. Vehicle access to the designated campsites is allowed at any time after 8 a.m. one day prior to archery hunts, general gun season and spring turkey season until 1.5 hours after sunset on the last day of the hunt or season, after 4 p.m. on Wednesday until 1.5 hours after sunset on Sunday during wild hog-dog season, and after 4 p.m. on Friday until 1.5 hours after sunset on Sunday during the small game and fishing and frogging seasons. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except Stanley Fish Hole, Orange Lake and Tillman Lake roads shall be open only during the designated fishing and frogging season. Bicycles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and designated bicycle trails. During the designated fishing and frogging season Tanic Grade, Powder Grade and Levee Road north of Main Grade will be closed to vehicle traffic.

6. Tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles, horses and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles are prohibited.

7. Authorized hunting equipment or dogs may be taken on the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of a season and shall be removed from the area on the last day of each season.

8. The possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages is prohibited.

9. During the wild hog-dog season, a daily quota permit allows three hunters to participate in the hunt ~~wild hog-dog quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.~~

(2) Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area – West Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Special-opportunity turkey – March ~~15-18~~ ~~16-19~~, ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~, March ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through April ~~1~~ ~~2~~, April ~~7-10~~ ~~8-11~~ and ~~12-15~~ ~~13-16~~.

2. Special-opportunity archery – November ~~9-12~~ ~~3-6~~ and ~~21-24~~ ~~15-18~~.

3. Special-opportunity general gun – January ~~23-26~~ ~~24-27~~, February ~~3-6~~ ~~4-7~~ and ~~12-15~~ ~~13-16~~.

4. Wild hog-still – December ~~20-22~~ ~~14-16~~.

5. Wild hog-dog – January ~~8-10~~ ~~9-11~~.

6. Small game – February ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~ and ~~February 28 through~~ ~~March 2~~ ~~1-3~~.

7. Fishing and frogging – Allowed throughout the year.

8. Trapping – Prohibited.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers (except bobcat and otter). Turkey may be taken only during the special-opportunity turkey hunts. The bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per special-opportunity turkey permit. One antlered deer may be taken per special-opportunity deer permit. Antlerless deer may be taken by antlerless deer permit only. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with four or more points is prohibited. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog seasons.

(c) Camping: Camping is allowed at designated campsites during hunting season and at other times by permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and freezers, unless contained in mobile campers are prohibited. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials is prohibited. Each camper shall assure that their campsite is clean at all times. The alteration, defacing, moving or tampering in any way with official markings of campsites is prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunters must enter and exit the area at the designated entrance and register at the hunt headquarters.

2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads. Horses and bicycles may be ridden only on designated trails.

3. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited. The use of horses is prohibited during periods open for hunting, except during wild hog-still and small game seasons.

4. No game shall be dismembered until checked at the hunt headquarters.

5. Individuals in possession of a special-opportunity permit or quota permit shall have vehicle access to the area from sunrise to sunset on the day preceding the hunt.

~~6. Only shotguns may be used to take turkey during during the special opportunity turkey hunts.~~

~~6.7. Taking wildlife with shotguns is prohibited during the special-opportunity archery hunts.~~

~~7.8.~~ The use of dogs, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less during the small game season, is prohibited except that dogs may be used during the wild hog-dog season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited except during the wild hog-dog season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than three free-running dogs per quota permit shall be allowed. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

~~8.9.~~ During the wild hog-dog season, a quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.

~~9.10.~~ During periods open for hunting, motorized vehicles may only be operated by persons participating in the hunt.

~~10.11.~~ During the small game season the take of wild hog is prohibited except by persons in possession of a daily wild hog permit. Sixty wild hog permits shall be issued daily at the check station.

(3) Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~14-18~~ ~~8-12~~.

2. Bird dog training – Bird dogs may be trained in the bird dog training ~~recreation~~ area September ~~21-15~~ through February ~~16-10~~ and bird dogs may be trained in the remainder of the area during the small game season except the field trial and Boy Scout areas.

3. General gun – November ~~9-17~~ ~~3-11~~.

4. Small game – November ~~18 through December 1-12-25~~ and Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays only ~~December 4 November-28~~ through January ~~19-13~~.

5. Field trial quail – January ~~25-26~~ ~~26-27~~.

6. Raccoon and opossum - During the month of February.

~~7.6.~~ Fishing and Frogging – Year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. During the archery season the take of turkey is prohibited. After the first two days of archery season, the take of antlerless deer is prohibited. Wild hog may only be taken during archery and general gun seasons with a limit of one per quota permit or one per exempt hunter each season. The take of wild hog with a shoulder height of less than 15 inches is prohibited. Quail shall be taken by daily quail or field trial quail quota permit only with a bag limit of 6 per day. During the raccoon and opossum season only raccoon and opossum are legal to take.

(c) Camping: Allowed at a designated campground only. Camping is allowed after 8 a.m. one day prior to archery season until 6 p.m. one day after archery season and continuously after 8 a.m. eight (8) days prior to the opening of general gun season until the last day of the small game season. During the remainder of the year, camping is allowed from 5 p.m. Friday to 9 p.m. Sunday and on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Labor Day. Camping equipment shall be allowed on the area only when camping is allowed. The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for each campsite shall be visibly affixed to camping shelters.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken, except during the raccoon and opossum season.

2. All persons shall enter and exit the area at a designated entrance.

3. Public access is allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, provided public

access to the designated campground is allowed anytime camping is allowed and public access is allowed at anytime during the raccoon and opossum season.

4. The use of all-terrain vehicles, airboats or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.

5. Taking wildlife with dogs during the archery season and general gun season is prohibited.

6. During periods closed to hunting and the raccoon and opossum season, vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads in the bird dog training recreational area lying south of the northern boundaries of Sections 19, 20 and 21, Township 41S, Range 24E and west of the first north-south fence line east of the Seaboard Grade and on Tram Grade, Tucker Grade and Road 6 in the remainder of the area. The operation of vehicles is prohibited in Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24, Township 42S, Range 24E and the west 1/2 of Section 19, Township 42S, Range 25E.

7. Vehicles shall be operated on named or numbered roads only, except during the bird dog training, general gun and small game seasons.

8. Vehicular access for scouting shall be allowed one week prior to the archery season on named and numbered roads only.

9. During the small game and field trial quail seasons, shotguns used to take wildlife shall be plugged to a three-shell capacity with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

10. Taking wildlife with a gun is prohibited during bird dog training season while training bird dogs within the bird dog training recreation area.

11. Authorized hunting equipment may be taken on the area beginning one week prior to the archery season.

12. The take of quail within the field trial and Boy Scout areas is prohibited, except persons in possession of a field trial quota permit may take quail within the field trial area.

13. During the archery, general gun, and Wednesdays and Thursdays of small game seasons, hunting is allowed within the field trial and Boy Scout areas provided the take of quail is prohibited and access shall be on foot (pedestrian) only.

14. During the small game season only persons in possession of a daily quail permit shall kill or be in possession of quail. Daily quail permits will be issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays only, beginning the first Saturday following eight days prior to Thanksgiving Day and may continue up to 39 days thereafter. Quail shall be taken by daily quail permit within the zone assigned on the daily quail permit only.

15. The season quota for daily quail permits and the specific procedures for issuing the permits shall be as established by Order of the Executive Director or his designee. The season quota for daily quail permits will be adjusted each year, as necessary so as not to exceed a harvest of 15% of the estimated population. Quotas for daily quail permits will be based on estimates of population levels relative to a 15% harvest rate and daily hunter success rates. Procedures for issuing daily quail permits will be established in the Order of the Executive Director and will result in distributing quail hunting pressure as evenly as possible among the daily quail permit zones.

16. Daily quail permits are non-transferable, valid the day of issuance only, limited to no more than one daily quail permit per person per day, and not subject to exemptions, except that one person younger than 16 years of age may accompany a person older than 18 years of age who holds a daily quail permit and may participate in the hunt provided that both hunters must share a single daily bag limit of quail.

17. During the raccoon and opossum season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C. is allowed.

(4) Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area – Yucca Pens Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~18-20~~ 12-14.

2. General gun – November ~~9-17~~ 3-11.

3. Small game – November ~~20-44~~ through January ~~19-43~~ on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays only and the Friday after Thanksgiving Day.

4. Raccoon and opossum - During the months of February and March.

~~5.4~~ Fishing and frogging – Year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Quail may be taken only during the small game

season. The bag limit for quail shall be six per day. During small game season the take of wild hog is prohibited. During the raccoon and opossum season only raccoon and opossum are legal to take.

(c) Camping: Prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. All persons shall enter and exit the area at a designated entrance.

2. All hunters shall check in and out at the designated check station when entering or exiting the area and check all game taken, except during small game season when hunters shall use the Babcock/Webb check station and during the raccoon and opossum season when checking is not required.

3. Public access is allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except during the raccoon and opossum season when public access is allowed at anytime.

4. The use of all-terrain vehicles, airboats or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.

5. Hunting with dogs during the muzzleloading gun and general gun season is prohibited. The use of dogs, other than retrievers, bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less is prohibited, except during the raccoon and opossum season when any dog may be used.

6. Motorized vehicular access is allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except during the raccoon and opossum season when vehicle access is allowed at anytime.

7. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named and numbered roads.

8. ~~During periods open to hunting, horses are prohibited. During non hunting periods H~~horses are allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails only.

9. Authorized hunting equipment shall be allowed on the area per paragraph 68A-15.004(5)(a), F.A.C., except equipment may also be taken on the area beginning the Saturday prior to the opening of muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons.

10. During the raccoon and opossum season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed.

(5) Upper Hillsborough Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Wild hog-dog – November ~~12-14~~ ~~6-8~~.

2. Archery – December ~~7-8~~ ~~8-9~~, ~~14-15~~ ~~15-16~~, January ~~4-5~~ ~~5-6~~ and ~~11-12~~ ~~12-13~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – January ~~18-19~~ ~~19-20~~, ~~25-26~~ ~~26-27~~, February ~~1-2~~ ~~2-3~~ and ~~8-9~~ ~~9-10~~.

4. Small game – February ~~15-16~~ ~~16-17~~, ~~22-23~~ ~~23-24~~ and March ~~1-2~~ ~~2-3~~.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~19-20~~ ~~20-21~~, ~~26-27~~ ~~27-28~~, April ~~2-3~~ ~~3-4~~, ~~9-10~~ ~~10-11~~, and ~~16-17~~ ~~17-18~~.

6. Fishing and frogging – Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs, and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. During the wild hog-dog season only wild hog may be taken.

(c) Camping: Prohibited except at the designated campsite during periods when hunting is allowed or by written permission from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

(d) General regulations:

1. No deer, turkey or wild hog may be dismembered until checked at a designated check station.

2. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.

3. Tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles are prohibited.

4. Horses are prohibited during periods when hunting is allowed, but are permitted at other times with written permission from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

5. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.

6. Bicycles may be operated only on named or numbered roads or designated bicycle trails.

7. During periods not open for hunting, public access other than on foot (pedestrian) or by bicycle is prohibited.

8. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs is prohibited except that dogs may be used during the wild hog-dog

season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited except during the wild hog-dog season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than three free-running dogs per quota permit shall be allowed. During non-hunting periods the possession of dogs shall only be as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

~~9. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.~~

~~9.10.~~ Hunting equipment and camping equipment may be taken into the area beginning 3 p.m. the day before each hunting period and shall be removed by 8 p.m. the last day of each hunting period except during spring turkey season when hunting equipment and camping equipment shall be removed by 5 p.m. the last day of each hunt.

~~10.11.~~ During the small game season, wildlife may be taken only with shotguns. During the spring turkey season only shotguns and bows and arrows are allowed for taking turkeys. During the wild hog-dog season wildlife may be taken only with shotguns and centerfire handguns.

~~11.12.~~ During the wild hog-dog season, a wild hog-dog quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.

(6) Arbuckle Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~12~~ ~~13~~ through November ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December ~~7-15~~ ~~8-16~~.
3. Small game – January ~~4-5~~ ~~5-6~~ and ~~25-26~~ ~~26-27~~.
4. Spring turkey – March ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~ and April ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~.
5. Fishing – Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game (except turkeys shall be legal to take only during spring turkey season), furbearers and fish. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. Deer bag limit – one per day. During the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit.

(c) Camping is permitted at the designated campground located off Rucks Dairy Road; at designated campsites along the Florida Trail; and at other sites by Special-Use Permit issued by the Florida Forest Service. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station and shall check all game taken. Hunters shall enter and exit only at designated entrances.
2. No deer or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.
3. The taking of wildlife with dogs is prohibited, except small game may be taken with bird dogs, retrievers and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less.
4. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads. Horses are prohibited during periods when the area is open to hunting. During periods closed to hunting, horses may be ridden but only on firebreaks, named or numbered roads or designated horse trails.
5. The use of all-terrain vehicles, tracked vehicles, or airboats is prohibited.
6. No person shall operate a boat propelled by an internal combustion engine.

(7) KICCO Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~14~~ ~~15~~ through October ~~13~~ ~~14~~, Saturdays and Sundays only.
2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-20~~ ~~20-21~~ and ~~26-27~~ ~~27-28~~.
3. Wild hog-still – November ~~9~~ ~~10~~ through December ~~8~~ ~~9~~, Saturdays and Sundays only.
4. Small game – December ~~14~~ ~~15~~ through January ~~19~~ ~~20~~.
5. Spring turkey – March ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through April ~~13~~ ~~14~~, Saturdays and Sundays only.
6. Fishing, frogging and other recreational use – Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs, and furbearers (except bobcat and otter). Turkey bag limit – one per quota permit. During the wild hog-still season, only wild hog may be taken.

(c) Camping: Prohibited except ~~at designated hunt campsites during periods when hunting is allowed or by~~ persons possessing a special-use license issued by the South Florida Water Management District. ~~Only tents may be~~

~~used for camping at designated hunt campsites.~~

(d) General regulations:

1. ~~Vehicle access is prohibited except by persons that have obtained a vehicle access authorization from the South Florida Water Management District. Hunters participating in a hunt may operate motor vehicles on named or numbered roads during the archery, muzzleloading gun, spring turkey, and wild hog still seasons.~~ Vehicles shall be operated only on named or numbered roads and must be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited. Horses are prohibited except by written permission from the South Florida Water Management District.

2. ~~Except as authorized by the South Florida Water Management District, fires~~ Fires other than campfires at designated campsites are prohibited.

3. Taking wildlife with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

4. Hunting with dogs is prohibited ~~except during the archery, muzzleloading gun and wild hog still seasons.~~ The use of dogs, other than retrievers, bird dogs or and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used is prohibited during the small game season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

5. The portion of the area north and east of River Ranch Boulevard shall be open to hunting only during the wild hog-still season.

6. Vehicular access to the area is prohibited during the period from 1.5 hours after sunset to 1.5 hours before sunrise, except as authorized by the South Florida Water Management District.

7. All persons shall enter and exit the area at a designated entrance or via the Kissimmee River.

(8) Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Wild hog-still – September ~~13-15 14-16, 20-22 21-23~~ and January ~~10-12 11-13~~.

2. Archery – October ~~11-13 12-14~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-21 20-22~~ and ~~23-25 24-26~~.

4. General gun – November ~~2-4 3-5~~.

5. Small game – November ~~11-24 12-25~~ and January ~~20 21~~ through March ~~2 3~~.

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

7. Migratory game birds – During the migratory game bird seasons as established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. Spring turkey – March ~~20-22 21-23~~ and April ~~10-12 11-13~~.

9. Fishing and frogging – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. Antlerless deer may be taken during archery and general gun for mobility-impaired seasons. During the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons the bag limit for antlered deer shall be one per quota permit. During the archery and general gun for mobility-impaired seasons the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. Only mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer during the general gun for mobility-impaired season. During spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-still season. During the first fourteen (14) days of small game season the take of wild hog is prohibited.

(c) Camping: Permitted by persons possessing a special-use license issued by the South Florida Water Management District.

(d) General regulations:

1. Taking wildlife with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited except retrievers, bird dogs, or and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used during small game season. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

3. Vehicles are prohibited except in designated parking areas.

4. The use of tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited, except that all-terrain vehicles may be used only by certified mobility-impaired hunters and only during the general

gun for mobility-impaired season and from 8 a.m. until sunset one day prior to the season.

5. During the mobility-impaired general gun season, certified mobility-impaired hunters with quota permits, a non-hunting assistant and one guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., may participate in the hunt, but must share the bag limit. ~~All mobility-impaired hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting.~~

(9) Walk-in-the-Water Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~28-29 29-30~~, September 30 through October ~~3 4-4~~, October 4-6 5-7, 7-10 8-11 and 11-13 12-14.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November 30 through December ~~1 4-2~~, December 2-5 3-6 and 6-8 7-9.

3. Wild hog-still – January ~~11-14 12-15~~ and 15-19 16-20.

4. Small game –February ~~1-9 2-10~~ and February 22 23 through March 2 3.

5. Spring turkey – March 25-27 26-28.

6. Fishing – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, furbearers and fish. During the archery season the bag limit for deer shall be one deer per person, but not more than two quota permit. During the muzzleloading gun season the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. Deer bag limit – one per day. During the wild hog-still season only wild hog may be taken. The take of turkey is prohibited during the archery season. During the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit.

(c) Camping: Permitted at designated campgrounds. Permitted at other sites by special-use permit from the Florida Forest Service. Only tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles may be used for camping.

(d) General regulations:

1. The use of dogs, other than bird dogs, retrievers ~~or and~~ dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, is prohibited. ~~The take of wild hog with dogs use of any dog during the wild hog still season~~ is prohibited.

2. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.

3. All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas.

4. The use of all-terrain vehicles, tracked vehicles or airboats is prohibited.

5. The use of horses is prohibited during the archery, muzzleloading gun, and wild hog-still seasons. At other times, horses may be ridden but only on firebreaks, named or numbered roads or designated horse trails.

6. All persons shall enter and exit only at designated entrances.

(10) Hilochee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~8-9 9-10~~.

2. Spring turkey – March ~~21-23 22-24~~ and April ~~4-6 5-7~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – February ~~21-23 15-17~~.

4. Wild hog-still – ~~December 6-8 November 30 through December 2~~, January ~~17-19 11-13~~ and ~~24-26 18-20~~.

5. Small game – January ~~31 25~~ through February 2 3.

6. Archery – February ~~14-16 8-10~~.

7. Fishing – Permitted only on Peat Lake, Little Peat Lake, Hidden Lake, Stock Lake, and Turtle Pond and only by those in possession of a Hilochee Fishing Permit. The possession of nets (except dip nets), fish traps, trotlines, set lines, minnow seines, cast nets, or bush hooks is prohibited. Fishing is allowed on Saturdays and Sundays only and during daylight hours only. Twenty fishing permits shall be available for each weekend. Permits shall be nontransferable with no exemptions.

8. Raccoon – August ~~8 2~~ through September ~~29 23~~ (from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sunday).

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish (as provided below), and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. During the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the

wild hog-still season, only wild hog may be taken. No person shall kill or possess any largemouth bass from Peat Lake, Little Peat Lake, Stock Lake, Hidden Lake, and Turtle Pond. No person shall take, in any one day, more than 20 bluegill, 10 black crappie, or 6 catfish. No person shall kill or possess any bluegill less than 8 inches total length or black crappie less than 10 inches total length. During the raccoon season, only raccoon and opossum may be taken.

(c) Camping: Prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. All users shall enter and exit the area through designated entrances. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken, except during the small game and raccoon seasons.

2. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited, except ~~that~~ during small game season dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used and during the raccoon season dogs of any size may be used. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

3. Motorized vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and shall be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.

4. The use of tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, ~~horses~~ or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited, ~~except that horses are allowed on named and numbered roads or designated trails during periods closed to hunting.~~

5. Horses are allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails only.

~~6.5.~~ During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than by foot, bicycle, or horse is prohibited, except that motorized vehicles shall be allowed one day prior to the archery, muzzleloading gun, wild hog-still, and spring turkey hunts, and by individuals in possession of a valid fishing permit. Persons participating in the raccoon season may operate motorized vehicles from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunset on Sunday.

~~7.6.~~ No deer or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at a check station.

~~8.7.~~ Operation of any boat propelled by an internal combustion engine is prohibited.

~~9.8.~~ Public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise, except persons participating in the raccoon season may have access from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunset on Sunday.

~~10.9.~~ During the raccoon season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed.

(11) Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 19-21 ~~13-15~~ and 25-27 ~~19-21~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November 29 through December 1 ~~23-25~~.

3. General gun – January 24-26 ~~18-20~~ and February 7-9 ~~1-3~~.

4. Small game – January 3-5 ~~December 28-30~~ and 10-12 ~~January 4-6~~.

5. Wild hog-still – December 13-15 ~~7-9~~ and 27-29 ~~21-23~~.

6. Youth turkey hunt – March 8-9 ~~9-10~~.

7. Spring turkey – March 15-17 ~~16-18~~, 28-30 ~~March 29-31~~ and April 11-13 ~~12-14~~.

8. Fishing – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers (except bobcat and otter). Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. One antlered deer may be taken per quota permit. No more than one antlerless deer may be taken per quota permit during the archery season. During the spring turkey season, the bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-still season.

(c) Camping: Prohibited during hunting seasons. Permitted at other times by individuals in possession of a special-use license issued by the South Florida Water Management District.

(d) General regulations:

1. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, horses, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles

is prohibited.

2. ~~During periods when the area is closed to hunting~~ Public access other than by foot or bicycle is prohibited, except by persons that have obtained a vehicle access authorization from the South Florida Water Management District. ~~participating in a hunt may operate motor vehicles from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. one day prior to each hunt except small game. During periods open for hunting only persons participating in the hunt may operate motor vehicles on the area and~~ Vehicles may only be operated from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except as authorized by the South Florida Water Management District. ~~no motor vehicle access is allowed during small game hunts.~~ Vehicles shall be operated only on named or numbered roads and shall be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.

3. Entry into or exit from the area at locations other than designated entrances is prohibited.

4. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited, except that during small game season dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited.

(12) Avon Park Air Force Range Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~14 15~~ through October ~~13 14~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19 20~~ through November ~~1 2~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

3. General gun – November ~~2 3~~ through January ~~19 20~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

4. Small game – November ~~9 10~~ through March ~~2 3~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

5. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~8-9 9-10~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~15 16~~ through April ~~20 21~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

7. Antlerless deer – November ~~23-29 17-23~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

8. Trapping – Prohibited.

9. Fishing and frogging – During periods when hunting is allowed and at other times specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs, turtles, and furbearers. Antlered deer, wild hog, and quail may be taken only during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited, except in those areas and during those days as specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

(c) Camping: In areas and during periods specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunters and individuals accompanying hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material above the waist as an outer garment when in any hunt area during muzzleloading gun, general gun, or small game seasons, except those hunting waterfowl in Morgan Hole Creek, Kissimmee Marsh or Arbuckle Marsh. Persons within the passenger compartment of a vehicle are not required to wear the fluorescent orange material.

2. The use of centerfire rifles for taking wildlife is prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander or a designee.

3. Shotguns are prohibited for taking wildlife during the archery season.

4. Hunting with or possession of dogs is prohibited in areas designated by the Installation Commander or a designee.

5. During the general gun season, hunting in the designated dog-hunt areas is restricted to hunters using dogs, unless hunting waterfowl in Morgan Hole Creek, Kissimmee Marsh or Arbuckle Marsh. No tree stands may be

erected in the designated dog-hunt areas.

6. Running of dogs after sunset and before sunrise is prohibited.

7. Taking wildlife is prohibited in the Sandy Point Wildlife Refuge, unless authorized by the Installation Commander or a designee.

8. Vehicles may be operated only on roads designated by the Installation Commander or a designee. No person shall operate a vehicle off of named or numbered roads, except hunters with bird dogs in the designated vehicle-bird dog areas during the small game season or as authorized by the Installation Commander or a designee.

9. The use of vehicles is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. except on Frostproof, Smith Old Bravo and Kissimmee roads. When authorized by the Installation Commander or a designee, these restrictions shall not apply.

10. Hunters shall sign in and out and check all game taken at the Outdoor Recreation Office.

11. Hunters may enter and exit the area only at entry points designated by the Installation Commander or a designee.

12. Use of all-terrain vehicles and airboats is prohibited, unless authorized by the Installation Commander or a designee.

13. Public access is prohibited in areas designated as "Closed" by the Installation Commander or a designee.

14. Hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander or a designee.

(13) Croom Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-21~~ ~~20-22~~.

2. General gun – November ~~2-24~~ ~~3-25~~.

3. Small game – December ~~2-3~~ through March ~~2-3~~.

4. Spring turkey – March ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~, April ~~1-3~~ ~~2-4~~ and ~~15-17~~ ~~16-18~~.

5. Fox, raccoon and bobcat – December ~~12-13~~ through March ~~9-10~~. Hunting is allowed from 5 p.m. Thursday to sunrise Sunday with dogs only. Taking wildlife with guns is prohibited during this season.

6. Fishing and frogging – Throughout year.

7. Duck, geese and coot – During the migratory game bird seasons as established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. During spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per quota permit.

(c) Camping: Prohibited unless authorized by the Florida Forest Service.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during the small game season, except bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less may be used to take small game. Dogs may be used for hunting fox, raccoon or bobcat during the fox, raccoon and bobcat season. Dogs used during the fox, raccoon and bobcat season, and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less used during the small game season are only allowed in the portion of the area south of Croom road, bounded on the east by Croom-Rital Road to its juncture with the boundary fence of the Croom Motorcycle Area located in Sections 17, 18, 19, 30, 31 and those parts of Sections 7 and 8 lying south of the old railroad right-of-way, Township 22 South, Range 21 East, and thence bounded by said boundary fence.

2. Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles may be operated off roads in Sections 17, 18, 19, 30, 31 and those parts of Sections 7 and 8 lying south of the old railroad right-of-way, Township 22 South, Range 21 East (Croom Motorcycle Area) only. Operation of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles in this area is permitted throughout the year but all such vehicles shall be permitted by the Florida Forest Service. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads in that portion of the area lying outside the Croom Motorcycle Area, but such vehicles must be properly licensed under Chapter 320, F.S., or otherwise legal to operate on public roads.

3. Horses may be ridden only on named or numbered roads or on designated horse trails.

4. Taking wildlife with firearms is prohibited at all times in Sections 17, 18, 19, 30, 31 and those parts of Sections 7 and 8 lying south of the old railroad right-of-way, Township 22 South, Range 21 East.

5. During the first nine days of general gun season and the entire spring turkey and muzzleloading gun seasons,

all game taken shall be checked at the check station, and no turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.

6. Taking wildlife with guns is prohibited on the Withlacoochee State Trail.

(14) Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – September ~~14 15~~ through October ~~13~~ 14.

2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~19-21~~ 20-22.

3. General gun – November ~~2 3~~ through December ~~29 30~~.

4. Wild hog-dog – January ~~10-12~~ 11-13 and ~~17-19~~ 18-20.

5. Migratory game birds – During the migratory game bird seasons as established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C., except waterfowl and coot may be taken on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

6. Fishing, frogging and other recreational use – Allowed year-round.

7. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~8-9~~ 9-10.

8. Spring turkey – March ~~21-23~~ 22-24, April ~~4-6~~ 5-7 and ~~18-20~~ 19-21.

9. Raccoon – January ~~30 31~~ through February ~~23 24~~ and May ~~1-25~~ 2-26 (from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursday until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sunday).

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers (~~except bobcat and otter~~). ~~The taking of bobcat and otter is prohibited.~~ During the spring turkey season the bag limit for turkeys shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-dog season. Waterfowl and coot may be taken on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only. During the raccoon season, only raccoon and opossum may be taken.

(c) Camping: Prohibited, except primitive overnight camping is allowed at a designated site on Ryle Creek by persons paddling Segment 7/Nature Coast segment of the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail. Paddlers must obtain a permit from the Commission and have the permit in their possession while camping.

(d) General regulations:

1. Dogs are prohibited south of County Road 550. Hunting with dogs other than retrievers or bird dogs is prohibited west of the Main grade, on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service portion of the property. Hunting with dogs other than retrievers or bird dogs is prohibited east of Swamp Grade, except during the wild hog-dog season. Dogs with a shoulder height greater than 17 inches are prohibited in that portion of the area lying east of the Main grade and west of the Swamp grade, except during the wild hog-dog and raccoon seasons when dogs are allowed east of Main Grade.

2. Fires are prohibited.

3. Waterfowl hunting from permanent blinds or structures is prohibited.

4. Decoys and boats must be removed from the management area daily.

5. Vehicles shall be operated only on named or numbered roads.

6. All persons shall enter and exit only at designated entrances. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station and check all game taken during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, wild hog and spring turkey seasons.

7. The use of tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.

8. The possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages is prohibited south of County Road 550.

9. Public access is prohibited from sunset to sunrise south of County Road 550.

10. That portion of the area east of US Highway 19 shall be open for small game hunting only

11. During the wild hog-dog season, a quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.

12. The take of wild hog with the aid of dogs is prohibited, except no more than three free-running dogs per quota permit may be used during the wild hog-dog season in that portion of the area east of Main Grade and west of US Hwy. 19.

13. Horses are allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails only. Bicycles are allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails only, except during periods open for hunting and 7 days prior to each hunt when bicycles are allowed throughout the area.

14. During the raccoon season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed.

(15) Hilochee Wildlife Management Area – Osprey Unit.

(a) Open season:

~~1. Archery – October 6-7 and 13-14.~~

~~1.2. Family hunt – November 15-17 10-11.~~

~~2.3. Wild hog-still – November 29 through December 1 24-25.~~

~~3.4. Wild hog-dog – December 13-15 and January 10-12 5-6 and 26-27.~~

~~4.5. Small game – January 23 31 through February 3 11.~~

~~5. Archery – February 14-16.~~

~~6. Muzzleloading gun - February 21-23.~~

~~7.6. Youth turkey hunt – March 8-9 9-10.~~

~~8.7. Spring turkey – April 11-13 12-13 and 18-20 19-20.~~

~~8. Trapping – Prohibited~~

9. Fishing – Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game (~~except deer~~), fish and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. The bag limit for deer shall be one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. The take of antlerless deer is prohibited during the archery season. The take of deer is prohibited during the family hunt. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog seasons. Turkey may be taken during the spring turkey season only. During the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but not more than two per quota permit. No person shall kill or possess any largemouth bass. No person shall take, in any one day, more than 20 bluegill, 10 black crappie, or 6 catfish. No person shall kill or possess any bluegill less than 8 inches total length or black crappie less than 10 inches total length.

(c) Camping: Prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. Public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise, except during the small game season.

2. All persons shall enter and exit the area through a designated entrance.

3. The use of airboats, outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower, tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, ~~horses or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited, except that horses are allowed on named or numbered roads or designated trails during periods closed to hunting.~~

4. Horses are prohibited during wild hog-dog hunts. At other times, horses are allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails only.

~~5.4.~~ During periods when the area is closed to hunting, public access other than by foot, bicycle, or horse is prohibited, except motorized vehicles shall be allowed one day prior to all hunts except small game by persons participating in the hunt. During small game season, motorized vehicle access is allowed from 1.5 hours before sunrise on the first day of the season until 1.5 hours after sunset on the last day of the season.

~~6.5.~~ Motorized vehicles shall be operated only on named or numbered roads and shall be parked in designated parking areas or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road. Motorized vehicles shall enter and exit the area only at the designated entrance located at the intersection of C. R. 557 and Robert L. Tanner Grade.

~~7.6.~~ During periods open for hunting, motorized vehicles shall only be operated by persons participating in the hunt, except during the small game season.

~~8.7.~~ The use of dogs, other than bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less, is prohibited except that dogs of any size may be used during the wild hog-dog and small game seasons. No more than 3 free-running dogs per quota permit shall be used during the wild hog-dog season.

~~9.8.~~ During the wild hog-dog season, a quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.

~~10.9.~~ The possession of nets (except dip nets), fish traps, trotlines, set lines, minnow seines, cast nets, or bush hooks is prohibited.

11.40. The take of wild hog with dogs is prohibited during the small game season.

12.44. During the small game season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed.

(16) Weekiwachee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 19-24, November 16-21, December 14-19, January 18-23 and February 15-20.

2. Fishing and frogging – Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, bearded turkey or gobbler, fish, frogs and furbearers. The take of antlerless deer is prohibited. The bag limit for deer shall be two antlered deer per quota permit.

(c) Camping: Prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. During periods open for hunting, public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise. During periods closed to hunting, public access is allowed during daylight hours only.

2. All persons shall enter and exit the area through a designated entrance.

3. The use of airboats, tracked vehicles, swamp buggies, all-terrain vehicles, horses or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.

4. Bicycles may be ridden only on established roads and firelines.

5. Motorized vehicles are prohibited except in designated parking areas.

6. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

7. Fires are prohibited.

(17) Lower Hillsborough Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Family hunt - December 13-15, January 17-19, January 31 through February 2 and February 14-16.

2. Youth turkey hunt - March 21-23 and April 4-6.

3. Fishing and frogging - Allowed year-round.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Antlerless deer may be taken during the family hunts. The bag limit for deer shall be two deer per quota permit. The bag limit for turkey shall be one per quota permit.

(c) Camping: Prohibited except by permit from Southwest Florida Water Management District.

(d) General regulations:

1. During periods open for hunting, public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise, except in the designated camping area. During periods closed to hunting, public access is allowed during daylight hours only, except in the designated camping area.

2. All persons shall enter and exit the area through a designated entrance.

3. The use of airboats, tracked vehicles, swamp buggies, all-terrain vehicles or unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.

4. Motorized vehicles are prohibited except in designated parking areas and persons with a camping permit may drive directly to the designated camping area.

5. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.

6. Fires are prohibited except in the designated camping area.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 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, 11-17-83, 7-5-84, 10-1-84, 7-1-85, 9-19-85, 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 6-8-87, 10-8-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-2-91, 7-1-92, 8-23-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 6-1-97, 8-7-97, 7-1-98, 10-20-98, 12-28-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.061, Amended 12-9-99, 3-30-00, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 5-13-02, 5-25-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13.