

BACKGROUND REPORT
Draft Rules
Summary of Proposed Rule Changes - Additional Proposals
Advertised in October – November 5, 2012
With Public Comments
Agenda Item 11 A
December 6, 2012

(A) 68A-1.004 Definitions - The proposed rule amendment would define wild hogs as game only on Commission managed lands and only for the purpose of license requirements.

Summary of Comments Received: 3 individuals did not support the rule change proposal because they thought that a separate license or permit would be needed to hunt wild hog. 1 individual did not support the rule proposal because he thought it would affect how wild hogs are managed. 1 individual does not support the change for miscellaneous areas because applying game status to wild hog on miscellaneous areas could impact the traditional hunting techniques used on these areas (dogs, airboats and night hunts) and instead wants the definition to specifically apply to wildlife management areas and wildlife and environmental areas only. 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 6 individuals

(B) 68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would make the following changes on Babcock Ranch Preserve: change the bag limit for deer from one antlered and one antlerless per quota permit to two deer per quota permit during archery, family and the general gun for mobility-impaired hunts; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun hunts; and change the bag limit for turkey from one turkey per quota permit to one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(C) 68A-15.061 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Southwest Region – The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Southwest region as follows:

(1) **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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(2) **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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(3) **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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(4) **Hilochee 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 no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(5) **Hilochee WMA, Osprey Unit** – allow a bag limit of one antlered deer (at least one antler with three or more points) per person, but not more than two per quota permit during the archery and muzzleloading gun hunts; 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(6) **Lower Hillsborough WMA (new)** –allow a bag limit of two deer per family quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: 2 individuals supported the rule proposal, but want only archery or primitive gun hunts on the area. 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 3 individuals

(7) **Walk-in-the-Water WMA** – 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(D) 68A-15.062 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - North Central Region - The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the North Central region as follows:

(1) **Bayard WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery season and one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(2) **Big Bend WMA, Snipe Island Unit** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit per day to one deer (antlered or antlerless) per person per day during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit per day to one antlered deer per person per day during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one (either sex) per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery season quota periods; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season quota periods.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(3) **Cary WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit to one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(4) **Flying Eagle WMA** – allow the use of horses on designated roads and marked trails during periods open to hunting.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(5) **Hatchet Creek WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit to one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(6) **Lochloosa WMA** – allow the use of horses during archery, muzzleloading gun, small game, waterfowl and spring turkey seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(7) **Potts WMA** – allow the use of horses during periods open for hunting except wild hog-dog hunts; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal. 1 individual supported the rule proposal, except for allowing additional horse use during certain hunting seasons because he attested that horses and equestrians are disruptive to hunters.

Total 2 individuals

(8) **Ralph E. Simmons Memorial WMA** – allow the use of horses on named or numbered roads and designated trails during small game season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(9) **Thomas Creek WMA – Kings Road Unit** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit to one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(10) **Twin Rivers WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one deer per person per hunt to one deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one deer per person per hunt to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two antlered deer per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general

gun seasons; and change the bag limit for turkey from one turkey per person per hunt to one turkey per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery and spring turkey seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(E) 68A-15.063 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northwest Region – The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northwest region as follows:

(1) **Apalachicola WMA – Bradwell Unit** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(2) **Aucilla WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun hunts in the Pinhook still hunt area.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(3) **Beaverdam Creek 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 no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(4) **Blackwater WMA – Hutton Unit** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(5) **Box-R WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit; 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(6) **Chipola River WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit to one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery hunts in the Altha Tract; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun hunts in the Altha Tract; 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 in the Altha Tract.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(F) 68A-15.064 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - South Region – The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the South region as follows:

(1) **Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA** – prohibit tree stands, deer stands and elevated shooting platforms except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the Sunday following the end of general gun-vehicle season; and prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the day prior to the opening of general gun-vehicle season when all-terrain vehicles may be used for scouting and hunting.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(2) **Fisheating Creek WMA** – allow the use of golf carts in the Palmdale campground; change the bag limit for deer from one per quota permit to one per person, two per quota permit; and change the bag limit for turkey during spring turkey quota hunts from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, two per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(3) **Holey Land WMA** - prohibit tree stands, deer stands and elevated shooting platforms except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the Sunday following the end of general gun-vehicle season; and prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the day prior to the opening of general gun-vehicle season when all-terrain vehicles may be used for scouting and hunting.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal. 1 individual did not support the rule proposal, stating that all-terrain vehicles should be allowed during migratory bird season.

Total 2 individuals

(4) **Picayune Strand WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one per person, two per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(5) **Rotenberger WMA** – prohibit tree stands, deer stands and elevated shooting platforms except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the Sunday following the end of general gun-vehicle season; and prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles except from 6 a.m. two weeks prior to the opening of archery season until 6 p.m. the day prior to the opening of general gun-vehicle season when all-terrain vehicles may be used for scouting and hunting.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal. 1 individual did not support the rule proposal, stating that all-terrain vehicles should be allowed during migratory bird season.

Total 2 individuals

(6) **Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one per person, two per permit; and change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, two per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(G) 68A-15.065 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northeast Region – The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northeast Region as follows:

(1) **Buck Lake WMA** – change the bag limit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, two antlered deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(2) **Dunns Creek WMA** – change the bag limit during muzzleloading gun season from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, two antlered deer per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(3) **Etoniah Creek WMA** – change the bag limit from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, two deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(4) **Half Moon 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(5) **Lake Panasoffkee WMA** – allow the use of horses on named or numbered roads and designated trails during the wild hog-still and small game seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(6) **Marshall Swamp WMA** – change the bag limit from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, two deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(7) **Matanzas 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(8) **Ocala WMA** – change the turkey bag limit during the spring turkey season 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.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(9) **Ocklawaha River WMA, Gores Landing Unit** – change the bag limit from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, two deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(10) **Ross Prairie WMA** – change the bag limit from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, two antlered deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 individual

(11) **Three Lakes WMA, Prairie Lakes Unit** – change the bag limit from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, two antlered deer per quota permit 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual did not support the rule change proposal, stating that the deer and turkey bag limits should remain what they currently are and that we should issue antlerless deer tags for the archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun hunts. 1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 2 individuals

(12) **Tiger Bay WMA, Rima Ridge Unit** – change the bag limit from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, two deer per quota permit; 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 not more than two per quota permit during spring turkey hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: 3 individuals supported the rule proposal.

Total 3 individuals

(H) 68A-17.005 Specific regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas - The proposed rule amendments would revise or establish specific area regulations on WEAs as follows:

Southwest Region.

(1) **Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery and general 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.

Summary of Comments Received:

Total No Comments

North Central Region

(2) **Fort White WEA** – change the bag limit for deer from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: 1 individual does not support the rule proposal, stating that the entire state in general should not be so liberal with bag limits, particularly in the absence of data on the deer population levels.

Total 1 individual

(3) **Lafayette Forest WEA** – change the bag limit for deer from one deer per quota permit to one deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit during archery season; change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun season; change bag limit for turkey from one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit to one per person, but no more than two per quota permit during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

Total No Comments

Northwest Region.

(4) **Apalachicola River WEA** – allow camping in designated campgrounds by permit only; and limit camping to 14 consecutive days in the remainder of the area.

Summary of Comments Received:

Total No Comments

(5) **L. Kirk Edwards WEA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit to one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery hunts; and change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, but no more than two per quota permit during archery/muzzleloading gun hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

Total No Comments

South Region.

(6) **John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA** – change the bag limit for deer from one antlered deer per quota permit to one antlered deer per person, two per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

Total No Comments