

**BACKGROUND REPORT**  
**Summary of Major Proposed Rule Changes for 2012-13**  
**Agenda Item 18, B**  
**February 9, 2012**

68A-4.002 Possession of Gun While Using a Light Prohibited. - The proposed rule amendment would prohibit take of wildlife or freshwater fish with a gun during non-daylight hours except when authorized by Commission rule or permit, and on privately owned lands would allow the land owner or designee to take wild hog, coyote, and non-protected mammals with a gun and light during non-daylight hours.

68A-4.008 Taking Wildlife on Roads and Rights-of-Way Prohibited. - The proposed rule amendment would remove unnecessary language which prohibits the display of a gun on federal, state or county-maintained roads.

68A-9.004 Permits for Hunting or Other Recreational Use on Wildlife Management Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would increase the cost of Recreational Use Permits for Twelve Mile Swamp WMA from \$525 to \$625 per permit.

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the above proposed rule amendment to decrease the number of recreational user permits issued for Nassau WMA from 350 to 200.*

68A-11.003 Use of Motorboats on Certain Waters; Permits. - The proposed rule amendment would remove the boat motor restrictions on Lake Iamonia and Carr Lake in Leon County during the duck, light goose and coot season. The proposed amendment would allow the operation of any boat propelled by an internal-combustion engine of 10 horsepower or less during the duck, light goose and coot season.

68A-12.008 Use of Pen-raised Quail for Training Dogs. - The proposed rule amendment would provide an alternative to the requirement for banding pen-raised quail that are released on private lands. Provided pen-raised quail are banded or proof of purchase (dated within the past 90 days) is in the possession of the individual using them, quail may be taken by shotgun for the purpose of dog training. The banding requirement will still apply if the user will attempt to recapture the quail with a trap.

68A-13.003 Hunting Regulations for Ducks, Geese, and Coots. - The proposed rule amendment would remove the prohibition on the possession of shotshells loaded with lead shot while hunting waterfowl and prohibit the taking of waterfowl with shotshells loaded with any type of shot other than steel or other nontoxic shot approved for use by the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

68A-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would allow the Executive Director or a designee to issue permits allowing a sanctioned fox hunting organization to chase fox during otherwise closed seasons at the time and place designated by permit and would revise rule language related to possession or use of guns on wildlife management areas (WMAs).

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the above proposed rule amendment to allow the Executive Director to authorize, by executive order, special recreational opportunities, including the take of fish and wildlife, for disabled military veterans and service members to be administered by the Florida Forest Service on those wildlife management areas where the Florida Forest Service is the lead land manager.*

68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes; amend or clarify language related to guns used for taking wildlife on miscellaneous areas; and clarify hunter access for Babcock Ranch Preserve.

68A-15.061 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Southwest Region. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Southwest region as follows:

Arbuckle WMA - increase the spring turkey season quota from 10 to 15 for each of two hunts (10 permits issued through Total Licensing System and five permits issued first-come, first-served, each day at the check station); increase the weekday muzzleloading gun season quota from 50 to 75 (each day at the check station).

Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA - add three days to the archery season (total of five days); open the archery season one week earlier to eliminate the overlap with the bird dog training season; prohibit the harvest of antlerless deer after the first two days of the archery season; allow wild hog hunting during the entire general gun season; adjust hunt days for quail from Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays to Wednesdays and Saturdays only; and reduce quail harvest from 30% to 15% of fall population estimates.

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the above proposed rule amendment to modify the bag limit for wild hog during the archery and general gun seasons from one wild hog per quota permit or exempt hunter each day to one wild hog per quota permit or exempt hunter each season.*

Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA, Yucca Pens Unit - allow vehicle access year round from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Green Swamp WMA - adjust the season dates for the wild hog-dog hunts to eliminate overlap with small game hunts; allow for two wild hog-dog hunts of four consecutive days each (Thurs.-Sun.); allow dogs on the entire area during wild hog-dog hunts; increase the quota for the first wild hog-dog hunt from 135 to 160; allow only wild hog to be hunted during wild hog-dog hunts; and increase the quota for small game hunts from 150 to 300 (each day at check station).

Hickory Hammock WMA - remove the requirements for hunters to check in and check harvested game at the check station.

Hilochee WMA - increase raccoon season from four weeks to eight weeks with hunting allowed from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursdays until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sundays.

KICCO WMA - remove the requirements for hunters to check in and check harvested game at the check station; and require all persons to enter and exit the area at a designated entrance or any location along the Kissimmee River.

Lake Marion Creek WMA - remove the requirements for hunters to check in and check harvested game at the check station.

Walk-in-the-Water WMA - change the current 9-day muzzleloading gun season to three hunts, with a 2-day hunt (Sat.-Sun.), 4-day hunt (Mon.-Thurs.) and 3-day hunt (Fri.-Sun.) (quota of 25 each hunt, no exemptions); begin the muzzleloading gun season seven days earlier; and establish a 3-day spring turkey season with a bag limit of one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit (quota 5, no exemptions).

68A-15.062 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas-North Central Region. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the North Central Region as follows:

Bayard WMA - remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station.

Belmore WMA - add a 2-day family hunt with a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit (quota 20, no exemptions).

Big Bend WMA, Jena Unit – establish a 30-day archery season (take of antlerless deer and turkeys other than gobblers or bearded turkeys prohibited, no quota permit required).

Cary WMA – establish two 3-day wild hog-still hunts (quota 100, no exemptions).

Citrus WMA – add one day to each muzzleloading gun hunt to establish two 3-day hunts; add one day to each general gun hunt to establish two 3-day hunts; add 1 day to each spring turkey hunt to establish three 4-day hunts; and add four days of quail hunting in the field trial area.

Four Creeks WMA – establish a 4-day wild hog-still hunt (quota 75, no exemptions).

Goethe WMA – add a 4-day general gun still hunt (quota 300); add a 4-day general gun dog hunt (quota 125); add a 7-day spring turkey hunt (quota 130); begin the muzzleloading gun season six days later; and remove the requirement for hunters to check game taken at the check station.

Gulf Hammock WMA – allow the take of wild hog with no size or bag limit.

Hatchet Creek WMA – remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station.

Homosassa WMA – add one day to each archery hunt to establish three 4-day hunts; and convert the wild hog-still hunts to small game hunts with wild hog legal to take (quota 30 each day at check station, no exemptions).

Jennings Forest WMA – establish a 28-day bird dog training season in the quail enhancement area; establish a 2-day family hunt with a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit (quota 25, no exemptions); prohibit the take of wild hog during small game season; establish five 3-day wild hog-still hunts (quota 60, no exemptions); and prohibit the take of wild hog in the quail enhancement area during the February wild hog-still hunt.

Little River WMA – allow nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting during small game season with access by permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District; and expand small game season from 10 to 44 days (take of quail after the first 16 days is prohibited).

Log Landing WMA - allow the use of motorized vehicles at designated parking areas; expand period open to hunting from 56 to 83 days (no quota permits required); reduce the archery season from 25 to 20 days (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only; take of antlerless deer, gobblers or bearded turkeys allowed only during the first 14 days); expand the muzzleloading gun season from 3 to 17 days (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only); expand the small game season from 17

to 27 days (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only); expand the spring turkey season from 11 to 19 days (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only).

Lower Econfina River WMA - allow nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting during small game season with access by permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Middle Aucilla River WMA - allow nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting during the last 30 days of the small game season with access by permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Ralph E. Simmons Memorial WMA – remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station; and establish a 2-day family hunt with a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit (quota 15, no exemptions).

Steinhatchee Springs WMA – allow nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting during small game season with access by permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District; increase the muzzleloading gun season quota from 200 to 220; increase the general gun season quota (first 9 days) from 200 to 220; increase each of two spring turkey hunt quotas from 80 to 88; and increase the wild hog-dog hunt quota from 50 to 55.

68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas-Northwest Region. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northwest region as follows:

Apalachicola WMA, Bradwell Unit - establish three 3-day family hunts (quota of 5 per hunt, no exemptions, in December, January and February) with a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit; and move a week of small game hunting from December to November.

Econfina Creek WMA - allow raccoon hunting at night during the raccoon season without a quota permit in the dog hunt and still hunt areas (excluding the mobility-impaired, Cat Creek and Fitzhugh Carter areas); clarify that vehicles are allowed to be operated only on named or numbered roads throughout the year; and prohibit the take of bobcat and otter in the Fitzhugh Carter area.

Joe Budd WMA - prohibit the take of antlerless deer during the last two archery hunts (total of five 3-day hunts).

Lafayette Creek WMA - allow persons to through-hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail year round.

Pine Log WMA - extend the archery and spring turkey seasons by seven days each (16 to 23 days each, no quota permit required).

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the above proposed rule amendment to establish area specific hunting opportunities for Beaverdam Creek Wildlife Management Area. This is a 1,317-acre property near Bristol, Florida, owned by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The amendment would include the opportunities listed below.*

Beaverdam Creek WMA - The amendment would establish the following seasons and area-specific regulations: a 30 day archery season; 4 day family hunt (quota of 5, no exemptions); 3 day muzzleloading gun season (quota of 10, no exemptions); 54 day general gun season; 11 day archery/muzzleloading gun season; 9 day spring turkey season (quota of 5 for each of 2 hunts, no exemptions); 15 day wild hog-dog season (five 3-day hunts); full small game and waterfowl seasons; establish as legal to take all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; allow fishing and frogging year round; allow any deer (except spotted fawns) to be taken during the muzzleloading gun season and family hunt, with a limit for antlerless deer of one per day during the muzzleloading gun season and one per person per day during the family hunt; set the bag limit for turkey during the spring turkey season at one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit; allow only wild hog to be taken during the wild hog-dog season; allow wild hog to be hunted during the day and at night with dogs; prohibit hunting deer with dogs; allow camping at designated campsites; allow boats to be launched and loaded only at the boat ramp; allow vehicle access year round to the boat ramp and seasonally beyond the ramp to the gas line right-of-way and parking area; prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles; and allow horses on named roads and designated horse trails

68A-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas-South Region. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the South region as follows:

Allapattah Flats WMA - remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station.

Dinner Island Ranch WMA - allow hunting in the dove fields without assigned hunt stations.

J.W. Corbett WMA - allow vehicle access only on the portion of the North Grade road lying between the north entrance and the B camp gate beginning at 8 a.m. two days prior to the opening of archery season and vehicles must remain attended by a driver.

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the above proposed rule amendment to modify the vehicle access time from 8 a.m. two days prior to 5 p.m. three days prior to the opening of archery season.*

Okaloacoochee Slough WMA - add 21 days to small game season (no quota permit required); add a 7-day spring turkey hunt (quota 50, no exemptions); and add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 125, no exemptions).

Picayune Strand WMA - add a 7-day general gun hunt (quota 145, no exemptions); and add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 145, no exemptions).

Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA - remove dove field hunts and associated regulations, because of unsuitable dove field conditions.

68A-15.065 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas-Northeast Region. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northeast region as follows:

Buck Lake WMA - remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station.

Bull Creek WMA - clarify that camping at designated campsites on the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) is limited to persons hiking through on the FNST.

Charles H. Bronson WMA - change the bag limit for deer from one deer per quota permit to one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit during the archery season and two antlered deer per quota permit during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; add a 7-day archery hunt (quota 30; no exemptions); add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 30; no exemptions); and add one day to each spring turkey hunt (change from 3-day hunts to 4-day hunts).

Dunns Creek WMA - remove the requirement for hunters to check in and check game at the check station.

Etoniah Creek WMA - add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 50; no exemptions); add a 4-day general gun hunt and restructure the other two general gun hunts so that each hunt is four days long and runs from Thurs.-Sun. (currently the first hunt runs four days from Sat.-Tues. and the second hunt runs five days from Wed.-Sun.); and add one day to each spring turkey hunt.

Guana River WMA - establish vehicle access hours for all area users during hunting seasons as 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time and from 5 a.m. until 8 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time, except during the spring turkey hunts when vehicles are allowed only from 5 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Lake George WMA - add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 250; no exemptions); and add one day to each of the three spring turkey hunts (change from 3-day hunts to 4-day hunts).

Lake Panasoffkee WMA - allow camping only on days that vehicle access is allowed.

Lake Tracy Unit WMA - add one day to the general gun season (change from a 3-day season to a 4-day season); add one day to the muzzleloading gun season (change from a 3-day season to a 4-day season); add one day to each archery hunt (change from two 3-day hunts to two 4-day hunts); and add a small game season (three 3-day hunts in January; no quota permit required).

Little Big Econ WMA - add a 7-day archery hunt (quota 20, no exemptions); add a 3-day muzzleloading gun hunt (quota 30, no exemptions); and add one day to each of three 3-day spring turkey hunts.

Matanzas WMA - add a 7-day hunt to the archery season (no quota); add a 3-day hunt to the muzzleloading gun season (quota 30, no exemptions); add a 7-day hunt to the wild hog-still season (quota 50, no exemptions); and add a 4-day hunt to the spring turkey season (quota 15, no exemptions).

Richloam WMA - move the wild-hog dog hunt from weekdays (Tues.-Thurs.) to the weekend (Fri.-Sun.).

Rock Springs WMA - allow wild hog to be hunted during small game season.

Ross Prairie WMA - add a 3-day archery season (quota 10, no exemptions) with a bag limit of one antlered deer per quota permit; and add a 3-day spring turkey season (quota 5, no exemptions) with a bag limit of one gobbler per quota permit.

Salt Lake WMA - allow wild hog to be hunted during small game season; and clarify that all persons are allowed vehicle access during the hunting seasons.

Seminole Forest WMA - add one day to the first spring turkey hunt (change from a 4-day hunt to a 5-day hunt) and clarify when vehicle access is allowed.

Three Lakes WMA - add two 3-day raccoon hunts (no quota).

Tiger Bay WMA - add one day to each of three spring turkey hunts (change from 3-day to 4-day hunts).

Triple N WMA - allow vehicle access on scout days for special-opportunity spring turkey hunts to start at 5 a.m.

68A-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would clarify that migratory birds may be taken with centerfire shotguns during established area seasons when one or more migratory game birds are legal to take, except when prohibited by specific area regulation on wildlife and environmental areas; revise language related to possession or use of guns for taking freshwater fish and wildlife; and allow the Executive Director or designee to issue permits to sanctioned raccoon or fox hunting organizations to allow raccoon hunting or fox chasing during otherwise closed seasons and at times and places designated in the permit.

68A-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes, would amend or clarify language related to the use of guns for taking wildlife, and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WEAs as follows:

#### Southwest Region

Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit - adjust the season dates for the first spring turkey hunt to begin with the opening of the zonal season.

#### North Central Region

Santa Fe Swamp WEA - allow the take of game by falconry during established statewide falconry seasons.

*NOTICE: Staff will be requesting a change to the rule amendment to modify the dates for the spring turkey hunts on Fort White WEA, which were published in error as March 18-22 and 25-29, to March 16-20 and 23-27.*

#### Northwest Region

Apalachicola River WEA - allow wild hog hunting during small game season and allow camping at Butcher Pen Landing in designated sites only.

68A-20.004 Regulations in Fish Management Areas. - The proposed rule amendment would remove

unnecessary language related to the possession and transportation of guns on FMAs.

68A-20.005 Specific Fish Management Area Regulations. - The proposed rule amendment would revise or establish specific area regulations on FMAs as follows:

Northeast Region

Lake Griffin FMA - Amend the Lake Griffin size limit for harvest of black crappie from the state wide regulation of no size limit to a 10 inch minimum. The Lake Griffin black crappie population has the potential to support greater harvest of larger black crappie. The proposed 10-inch minimum size with a 25 fish daily bag limit regulation should allow greater utilization of the fish population by anglers and not harm the abundance or size/age structure of the black crappie population. Currently, black crappie rules in Lake Griffin Fish Management Area follow the state rules of no size limit and a 25 daily bag limit.

Southwest Region

Middle Lake FMA - Clarify that the intent of the rule is to prohibit swimming, the taking of fish and wildlife with firearms, camping or open fires within 150 feet of the boat launch site.

Tenoroc FMA - Remove unnecessary language related to possession or use of guns on the area.

68A-23.002 General Methods of Taking Freshwater Fish. - The proposed rule amendment would clarify which devices are prohibited for the take of freshwater fish and clarify that a firearm may be possessed with freshwater fish.

68A-24.002 Methods of Taking Fur-Bearing Animals; Possession; Open Season. - The proposed rule amendment would amend rules related to the use of firearms when taking raccoons and opossums at night.

68A-26.002 Regulations Relating to the Taking of Amphibians. - The proposed rule amendment would clarify language related to the taking of frogs with firearms during daylight hours only.