

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-17.005  
Consent Agenda Item (4) C  
May 2, 2012**

**DRAFT RULE**

**RULE NO.:** 68A-17.005      **RULE TITLE:** Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to clarify the opening day of small game and gray squirrel seasons on Apalachicola River and L. Kirk Edwards wildlife and environmental areas (WEAs). The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would clarify that there is no change to the current opening of gray squirrel or small game seasons on Apalachicola River and L. Kirk Edwards WEAs.

**THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**68A-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.**

- (1) – (2) No change
- (3) Northwest Region.
  - (a) No Change
  - (b) Apalachicola River – Gulf, Franklin, and Liberty counties.
    - 1. Open seasons:
      - a. – c. No change
      - d. Small game – During the open seasons established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., except gray squirrel season shall open the second Saturday of November.
      - e. – k. No change
    - 2. – 4. No change
  - (c) L. Kirk Edwards – Leon County.
    - 1. Open seasons for that portion of the area west of Chaires Cross Road:
      - a. Gray squirrel – Opening the second Saturday in November through the close of the ~~During the open season for gray squirrel~~ season established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.
      - b. – c. No change
    - 2. Open seasons for that portion of the area east of Chaires Cross Road:
      - a. – c. No change
      - d. Small game – During the eleventh, thirteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth ~~seventh, ninth, eleventh, thirteenth and fifteenth~~ weekends of the gray squirrel season established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. (Friday through Sunday only).
        - e. – g.. No change
      - 3. – 4. No change
      - (4) No change

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING COMMISSION ACTION**