

Background Report  
Notice of Change Rule 68A-13.004  
Agenda Item 10A  
April 18, 2013

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Division: Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

RULE NO.:68A-13.004 RULE TITLE: Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game, Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits and Private Lands Deer Management Permits.

**NOTICE OF CHANGE**

Notice is hereby given that the following changes have been made to the proposed rule in accordance with Section 120.54(3)(d)1., F.S., published in Vol. 39, No. 56, (March 21, 2013), issue of the Florida Administrative Register.

Proposed amendment to Rule 68A-13.004 has been changed to include the following changed paragraph (4)(a):

(4)(a) Only property that meets the criteria listed in this paragraph is eligible to be enrolled in the Private Lands Deer Management Permit Program. The property identified for enrollment in an application must be at least 5,000 acres that form one continuous uninterrupted piece of land; an aggregate of properties under different ownership that adjoin one another so as to form one continuous uninterrupted piece of land that together satisfy the acreage requirement will be considered one property for purposes of this program if those properties are the subject of one application. A written Wildlife Management Plan (WMP), developed or approved by a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB; certified by The Wildlife Society 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD, 20816) or developed through the Commission's Landowner Assistance Program, must be provided for the property identified for enrollment in an application. Annual recommendations for the harvest of antlered and antlerless deer shall be developed by a CWB and be intended to help reach the stated deer management objectives for the property. ~~FWC-approved~~ Commission-approved survey standards shall be used to estimate and monitor the deer population when harvest recommendations exceed either one (1) antlered deer per 150 acres or one (1) antlerless deer per 150 acres. Antlered and antlerless deer harvest recommendations may be submitted without conducting a deer population survey in the year immediately following two consecutive years of deer population surveys, and in alternate years thereafter, provided the surveyed areas and survey methodologies are comparable between surveys. No deer population survey is required for approval of the harvest of a maximum of (1) antlered and one (1) antlerless deer per 150 acres. The permit shall require a minimum of four (4) ~~three (3)~~ qualifying conservation activities (active habitat management, wildlife management or conservation-related activities for youth) annually on the property during the period it is enrolled in the program. ~~Acceptable conservation activities shall include, but not be limited to: agricultural plantings, creation of or maintenance of wildlife openings, invasive vegetation management, prescribed burning, silvicultural practices that benefit wildlife, mechanical treatments (mowing, disking, roller chopping), management for rare, threatened or endangered species, allowing Commission personnel or its partners to conduct wildlife surveys or research, wetland restoration or enhancement or conservation easements.~~ Conservation-related activities for youth may only account for one (1) of the four (4) ~~three (3)~~ qualifying conservation activities required by the permit. For an application to be approved, the four (4) ~~three (3)~~ qualifying conservation activities combined must affect at least 10% of the permitted land.

No other changes were made to the rule amendments as proposed.