

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE  
FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DIVISION:** Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

**RULE NO:** 68A-15.004

**RULE TITLE:** General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to better protect natural resources and increase camper satisfaction by allowing the inclusion of permit provisions with camping permits on Wildlife Management Areas that allow camping by permit. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the Commission to manage camping opportunities and protect fish, wildlife, cultural and natural resources.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would allow permit conditions to be included as necessary (on areas where camping permits are required by specific area rule) to protect natural and cultural resources in campgrounds, minimize conflicts among area users in the campground, maintain public safety, ensure compliance with health department county codes and offer a fair opportunity to obtain a campsite.

**SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS:** *The agency has determined that this rule will \_\_\_or will not X\_\_\_ have an impact on small business. A SERC has \_\_\_or has not X\_\_\_ been prepared by the agency.*

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein:

The nature of the rule and the preliminary analysis conducted to determine whether a SERC was required

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for lower cost regulatory alternatives must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

**RULEMAKING AUTHORITY:** Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution.

**LAW IMPLEMENTED:** Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution; Sections 379.2223, 379.354, Florida Statutes.

**A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:**

**DATE AND TIME:** During the Commission's regular meeting February 13 - 14, 2013, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day.

**PLACE:** SeaWorld Park, 7007 SeaWorld Drive, Orlando, FL 32821.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 calendar days before the workshop/meeting by contacting the ADA Coordinator, at (850)488-6411. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency by calling (850)488-9542.

**THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS:** Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

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

68A-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Permit exceptions: Persons exempted by Section ~~379.353~~ 379.354, F.S., those persons who possess a gun on Osceola, Ocala and Apalachicola Wildlife Management Areas for the exclusive purpose of shooting at a Commission authorized shooting range, persons in possession of a special-use permit; persons engaging in activities pursuant to Rule 68A-25.032 or 68A-25.042, F.A.C.; or persons hunting, fishing or frogging on lands owned by the United States of America, Department of Defense, are excepted from wildlife management area stamp requirements.

(4) through (7) No change.

(8) Camping:

(a) On those areas where Commission camping permits are required by specific area rule, those permits will be

issued by the Commission unless denial is either necessary to protect natural and cultural resources in campgrounds, minimize conflicts among area users in the campgrounds, maintain public safety, ensure compliance with health department county codes, and to offer a fair opportunity to obtain a campsite or as appropriate based on 68A-5.004.

(b) Commission camping permit conditions will be included as necessary to protect natural and cultural resources in campgrounds, minimize conflicts among area users in the campgrounds, maintain public safety, ensure compliance with health department county codes, and to offer a fair opportunity to obtain a campsite.

(c)(a) Camping during periods open to hunting season shall be limited to designated campgrounds campsites except as provided by specific area under special rules or permit conditions for particular wildlife management areas. Camping is allowed permitted during periods closed to hunting season unless prohibited by specific area regulations or permit condition.

(d)(b) When camping is allowed permitted on any wildlife management area, authorized camping equipment may be taken on the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each season and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day following the close of each season unless otherwise provided by specific area regulations or permit condition.

(9) through (16) No change.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** As soon as possible following Commission action.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 379.354 FS. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 6-9-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-15.04, Amended 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 4-13-88, 8-18-88, 4-19-90, 4-4-91, 4-14-92, 10-22-92, 7-26-94, 11-6-94, 3-30-95, 10-23-95, 9-15-96, 6-1-97, 7-1-98, 12-28-98, 4-15-99, Formerly 39-15.004, Amended 7-1-00, 6-2-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-29-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 5-2-12,\_\_\_\_\_.*

**BE ADVISED THAT THESE PROPOSED RULES MAY BE FILED FOR ADOPTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE CONSIDERED IF THE RULES ARE NOT CHANGED. IF CHANGED, THE RULES MAY BE FILED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE F.A.R.**

**NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:** Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

**NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD:** December 6, 2012

**DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN F.A.W.:** January 8, 2013