

**Background Report**  
**Draft Rule**  
**68A-15.065- Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northeast Region.**  
**Consent Agenda Item 3-B.**  
**June 11, 2013**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DIVISION:** Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

**RULE NO:** 68A-15.065

**RULE TITLE:** Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northeast Region.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The proposed rule amendment would accommodate the requests of the private landowners of Relay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the private landowner holding recreational and timber rights on Twelve Mile Swamp WMA to remove these properties from the WMA system. The effect would be removal of all references to Relay and Twelve Mile Swamp WMAs and allow them to be disestablished. In addition, the proposed rule amendment would revise specific area regulations on Herky Huffman / Bull Creek WMA to allow the take of bobcat and otter.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would remove references to Relay and Twelve Mile Swamp WMAs allowing for their disestablishment and allow the take of bobcat and otter on Herky Huffman / Bull Creek WMA.

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

**68A-15.065 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northeast Region.**

(1) Herky Huffman/Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers (~~except bobcat and otter~~). Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited. Taking wild hog is prohibited during small game season.

(c) through (d) No change.

(2) through (8) No change.

~~(9) Relay Wildlife Management Area.~~

~~(a) Open season:~~

~~1. General gun—November 2 through December 29.~~

~~2. Archery—September 14 through October 13.~~

~~3. Muzzleloading gun—October 19-27.~~

~~4. Small game—December 30 through March 2.~~

~~5. Youth turkey hunt—March 8-9.~~

~~6. Spring turkey—March 15 through April 20.~~

~~7. Fishing and frogging—Allowed during periods open to hunting.~~

~~(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers.~~

~~(c) Camping:~~

~~1. Camping is allowed only during periods when hunting is allowed and only at the designated campsite.~~

~~2. Camping equipment may be taken on the area the weekend prior to the opening of the archery season and during periods open to hunting. Camping equipment must be removed by the Saturday following the last day of the spring turkey season.~~

~~(d) General regulations:~~

~~1. Vehicles or horses may be used only on named or numbered roads.~~

~~2. Access to the area is allowed only from the Saturday two weeks prior to the archery season through the Saturday following the last day of the spring turkey season.~~

~~3. Taking wildlife with centerfire rifles or pistols is prohibited.~~

~~4. Access is allowed only by individuals possessing a valid recreational user permit, except as provided by Section 379.354, F.S.~~

~~5. Taking wild hog with the use of dogs is prohibited during the small game season.~~

~~6. Persons shall enter and exit at a designated entrance.~~

~~(10) through (28) renumbered (9) through (27) No change.~~

~~(29) Twelve Mile Swamp Wildlife Management Area.~~

~~(a) Open season:~~

~~1. Archery—September 14 through October 13.~~

~~2. Muzzleloading gun—October 19-27.~~

~~3. General gun—November 2 through the first Sunday in January.~~

~~4. Small game—The day following the close of general gun season through March 2.~~

~~5. Youth turkey hunt—March 8-9.~~

~~6. Spring turkey—March 15 through April 20.~~

~~7. Fishing and frogging—During periods open for hunting or scouting.~~

~~8. Trapping—The day following the close of general gun season through March 1.~~

~~(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Taking antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points one inch or more in length is prohibited.~~

~~(c) Camping: Prohibited.~~

~~(d) General regulations:~~

~~1. The possession or use of dogs other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers is prohibited.~~

~~2. Vehicles may be operated only on named and numbered roads.~~

~~3. Fires are prohibited.~~

~~4. Vehicles are prohibited on the area from 1.5 hours after sunset to 1.5 hours before sunrise. Persons may only enter and exit the area at designated entrances.~~

~~5. Access to the area is allowed only by individuals possessing a valid recreational use permit and only from the Saturday two weeks prior to the archery season through the last day of the spring turkey season.~~

~~6. Horses are prohibited.~~

~~7. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, all terrain vehicles and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited.~~

~~(30) through (36) renumbered (28) through (34) 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, 375.313 FS. History—New 6-21-82, Amended 6-29-82, 7-1-83, 7-5-84, 10-1-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 12-19-89, 7-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-2-91, 7-2-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 6-1-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 8-11-98, 12-28-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.065, Amended 12-20-99, 7-1-00, 12-26-00, 7-1-01, 6-2-02, 7-28-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-03, 10-12-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 1-4-06, 7-1-06, 8-22-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 8-11-11, 7-1-12, 7-26-12, 7-1-13, \_\_\_\_\_.*

**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.**