

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-13.004  
Agenda Item 4.C.1  
November 20, 2013**

**DRAFT RULE**

**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.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to allow private land owners and individuals hunting wild turkey on private land and certain public lands greater flexibility in the harvest of wild turkey by changing the daily bag limit from one to the season limit of two; and to better align the zonal deer hunting seasons in south Florida with deer breeding chronology. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to allow the season bag limit of two wild turkey to be taken in a single day on private lands and those public lands not otherwise managed under the Commission's wildlife management area system; and move portions of Zone A into Zone C so that the zonal deer hunting seasons in those areas affected by the change would better align with deer breeding chronology.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would change the daily bag limit for wild turkey from one to two and allow hunters on private land and public lands not otherwise managed under the Commission's wildlife management area system to harvest the seasonal bag limit of two in a single day. The daily bag limit would remain one turkey per hunter on wildlife management areas, wildlife and environmental areas and miscellaneous areas to aid in distributing harvest of the turkey resource among different hunters. The proposed rule amendment would also modify the zonal boundary between Zone A and Zone C to move portions of Zone A into Zone C so that the zonal deer hunting seasons in those areas affected by the change would better align with deer breeding chronology. Fall turkey seasons in the affected area would follow the new zonal seasons. Spring turkey seasons and all seasons for wildlife management areas and wildlife and environmental areas that lie in the proposed area of change would be unaffected by the proposed zonal line change.

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

68A-13.004 Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game, Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits and Private Lands Deer Management Permits.

The open season and bag limits for non-migratory game shall be as follows unless otherwise amended by the Commission, provided that regulations for hunting on wildlife management areas shall be as established by specific rule.

(1) Bag and possession limits:

(a) No change.

(b) Turkey: daily bag, ~~2~~ 4; spring season bag, 2 (except in Holmes County where the bag shall be 1); all fall seasons combined bag, 2; possession limit, 2.

(c) No change.

(2) Open seasons:

(a) Antlered deer:

1. Zone A comprised of the counties of Broward, Charlotte (~~east of the Peace River and east Charlotte Harbor~~), Collier (except that portion lying south of State Road 84, west of State Road 29, north of U.S. Highway 41 and east of the western boundary of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve where there will be no open season), Dade, DeSoto (south of State Road 70 and east of the Peace River), Glades, Hendry, Highlands (south of State Road 70), Lee, Martin (~~west of U.S. Highway 441~~), ~~Manatee (south of State Road 70)~~, Monroe (except in the Florida Keys where there will be no open season), Okeechobee (south of State Road 70 and west of U.S. Highway 441); and Palm Beach (~~except that portion lying east of U.S. Highway 441, east of State Road 80 north of County Road 880, north of County Road 880, and north of U.S. Highway 98/U.S. Highway 441/State Road 80/Southern Boulevard~~); ~~St. Lucie (south of State Road 70) and Sarasota~~: Opening the third Saturday in September and closing 29 days

thereafter and reopening the Saturday before the fourth Thursday in November and closing the first Sunday in January.

2. No change.

3. Zone C comprised of the counties of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Citrus, Clay, Charlotte (except east of the Peace River and east Charlotte Harbor), Columbia, DeSoto (north of State Road 70, and west of the Peace River south of State Road 70), Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gadsden (east of U.S. Highway 27), Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hardee, Hernando (north of State Road 50), Highlands (north of State Road 70), Hillsborough (south of State Road 60), Indian River, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Leon (east of U.S. Highway 27, east of State Road 61 and east of U.S. Highway 319), Levy, Madison, Manatee (~~north of State Road 70~~), Marion, Martin (east of U.S. Highway 441), Nassau, Okeechobee (except that portion lying south of State Road 70 and west of U.S. Highway 441 north of State Road 70), Orange (north of State Road 50 and east of U.S. Highway 17), Osceola (east of U.S. Highway 17, north and east of County Road 525, east of the western shoreline of Lake Tohopekaliga, east of C-35 canal, east of the western shoreline of Cypress Lake, east of C-36 canal and east of the eastern shoreline of Lake Hatchineha), Palm Beach (east of U.S. Highway 441, east of State Road 80 north of County Road 880, north of County Road 880, and north of U.S. Highway 98/U.S. Highway 441/State Road 80/Southern Boulevard), Pinellas (south of State Road 60), Polk (south of State Road 60), Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie (~~north of State Road 70~~), Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter (north of State Road 50), Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia and Wakulla (east of U.S. Highway 319, north and east of U.S. Highway 98 and east of the Wakulla and St. Marks Rivers): Opening the first Saturday in November closing 78 days thereafter.

4. No change.

(b) No change.

(c) Turkey:

1. No change.

2. Spring season (gobblers or bearded turkeys only):

a. Opening on the first Saturday of March and closing 36 days thereafter south of State Road 70 in Zone A. Opening on the third Saturday of March and closing 36 days thereafter north of State Road 70 in Zones B, C and D except in Holmes County where the season will open on the third Saturday of March and close 15 days thereafter.

b. In addition to the season specified in sub-subparagraph a. above, a "Youth Turkey Hunt" shall open on the last Saturday of February and close 1 day thereafter south of State Road 70 in Zone A and open the second Saturday of March and close 1 day thereafter north of State Road 70 in Zones B, C and D. Only youth under 16 years of age may hunt and must be under the supervision and in the presence of an adult not younger than 18 years of age. Adults with required license and permits for taking wild turkeys or otherwise exempt from these requirements by Section 379.353, F.S., may participate in the hunt when in the presence of at least one youth under 16 years of age. Adults shall not take wildlife with a gun.

(d) through (h) No change.

(3) through (4) No change.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2014

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History--New 8-1-79, Amended 5-19-80, 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 7-1-83, 7-1-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-13.04, Amended 6-1-86, 5-10-87, 6-8-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-1-93, 3-1-94, 7-1-94, 7-1-96, 10-28-97, 4-27-98, 12-28-98, Formerly 39-13.004, Amended 7-1-01, 5-13-02, 10-16-02, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-08, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 7-26-12, 7-1-13, 6-1-13, 7-1-14.*