

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.004
Agenda Item 4.C.1
November 20, 2013
Version 2, November 5, 2013**

Explanation of Version 2: This modification to the original report is to clarify the draft rule language and ensure it matches the original intent of the rule change, which is to maintain the status quo for wild turkey bag limits on wildlife management areas. Staff was concerned that the original draft language could be misinterpreted and change the way a quota permit holder and a guest permit holder currently share a single bag limit. The clarification is needed to ensure that the status quo is maintained and that a quota permit holder and a guest permit holder share a single bag limit, which for wild turkey means one turkey per day (not per person), unless otherwise provided for by specific area regulation.

DRAFT RULE

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 retain a daily bag limit of one per day for wild turkey on wildlife management areas to aid in distributing harvest of the resource among different individuals where the Commission regulates hunter access; and keep the season when bobcat may be harvested on wildlife management areas as December 1 through March 1. The effect of the proposed rule amendment would maintain a daily bag limit of one turkey per day and allow the harvest of bobcat from December 1 through March 1 on wildlife management areas.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would maintain a daily limit of one turkey per day on wildlife management areas to aid in distributing the harvest among different individuals where the Commission regulates hunter access; and clarify that bobcat may only be harvested from December 1 through March 1.

Additionally, the proposed rule amendment would provide non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization, or clarification of an existing rule.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

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

(1) No change.

(2) Permits required:

(a) A wildlife management area permit as provided by Section ~~379.353~~ 379.354, F.S., in addition to all regular license requirements, is required for persons, except those exempted in subsection (3) hereof, to take wildlife on a wildlife management area.

(b) through (d) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Legal to hunt:

(a) Turkeys may not be taken during any fall season in which firearms may be used unless otherwise provided for a specific area. Notwithstanding provisions in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., turkeys of either sex may be taken during muzzleloading and general gun seasons as specifically provided by area rule. During periods in which the taking of turkey is allowed, the daily bag limit for turkey shall be one per day unless otherwise provided by specific area regulation. The hours in which the hunting of gobblers or bearded turkeys is permitted during the spring season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

(b) through (f) No change.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions in Rule 68A-24.002, the take of bobcat with a gun is prohibited from March 2 through March 31. Fox squirrels may not be taken.

(h) through (j) No change.

(5) through (16) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

*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, 4-
9-13, 7-1-14.*