

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.064
Agenda Item 4.C.1
November 20, 2013**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.064

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

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the South Region and conform to calendar year date changes. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the South Region as follows:

Dinner Island Ranch WMA – require hunters to check in, check out, and check harvested game only during periods when the check station is staffed; and require deer, wild hog, and turkey to be checked at a check station before being dismembered only during periods when the check station is staffed.

Fisheating Creek WMA – establish a 72 day small game season from the first weekend in December through the second weekend in February; allow the harvest of wild hog during small game season; allow wild hog to be dismembered before being checked at a check station; require hunters to check in, check out, and check harvested game only during periods when the check station is staffed; and require deer and turkey to be checked at a check station before being dismembered only during periods when the check station is staffed.

J.W. Corbett WMA – require hunters to check in, check out, and check harvested game only during periods when the check station is staffed; and require deer, wild hog, and turkey to be checked at a check station before being dismembered only during periods when the check station is staffed.

Okaloacoochee Slough WMA – remove the third spring turkey hunt; require hunters to check in, check out, and check harvested game only during periods when the check station is staffed; and require deer, wild hog, and turkey to be checked at a check station before being dismembered only during periods when the check station is staffed.

Picayune Strand WMA - remove the requirement for hunters to check in, check out, and check game at a check station; and remove requirement to check deer, wild hog, and turkey before dismembering.

Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA - require hunters to check in, check out, and check harvested game only during periods when the check station is staffed; and require deer, wild hog, and turkey to be checked at a check station before being dismembered only during periods when the check station is staffed.

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-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – South Region.

(1) J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2. No change.

3. During periods when check stations are staffed, all AH persons shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken. People through-hiking on the Florida Trail may enter or exit the area through the Florida Trail.

4. No change.

5. During periods when the check stations are staffed, no ~~No~~ deer or wild hog shall be quartered or dismembered in the hunt area or removed from the area unless checked at a check station.

6. through 18. No change.

(2) Holey Land Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~4-19~~ ~~5~~ through ~~October 20~~.
2. General gun – Vehicle, October ~~25~~ ~~26~~ through November ~~9~~ ~~10~~ (tracked vehicles).
3. Archery – August ~~9-31~~ ~~10~~ through ~~September 1~~.
4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~6-14~~ ~~7-15~~.
5. Small game – November ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through March ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(3) Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~4-19~~ ~~5-20~~, Conservation Areas 3A North and 2 only.
2. General gun – Vehicle (airboats and tracked vehicles only), October ~~25~~ ~~26~~ through November ~~9~~ ~~10~~, in Conservation Areas 3A North, 3A South, 2, and the Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area.
3. Archery – August ~~9-31~~ ~~10~~ through ~~September 1~~, Conservation Area 3A North only.
4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~6-14~~ ~~7-15~~, in Conservation Area 3A North only.
5. Small game – November ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through March ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(4) Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – Walk, October ~~4-19~~ ~~5-20~~.
2. General gun – Vehicle (tracked vehicles only), October ~~25~~ ~~26~~ through November ~~9~~ ~~10~~ (tracked vehicles).
3. Archery – August ~~9-31~~ ~~10~~ through ~~September 1~~.
4. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~6-14~~ ~~7-15~~.
5. Small game – November ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through March ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(5) Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. through 2. No change.
3. Archery – Starting the Saturday prior to Labor Day and ending 29 days thereafter ~~September 7 through October 6~~ in all units and twelve days prior to Thanksgiving day through January 1, except during those years when January 1 falls on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday, in which case the season would close on the following Sunday in the Deep Lake Unit only.

4. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~11-26~~ ~~12-27~~, except in the Deep Lake Unit.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~7~~ ~~1~~ through April ~~12~~ ~~6~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(6) Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~9-15~~ ~~10-16~~ and ~~16-24~~ ~~17-25~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~6-8~~ ~~7-9~~ and ~~13-15~~ ~~14-16~~.
3. Family Hunt – September ~~20-21~~ ~~21-22~~.
4. General gun – September ~~27-30~~ ~~28~~ through ~~October 1~~ and October ~~1-5~~ ~~2-6~~.
5. Small game – November ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through December ~~28~~ ~~29~~.
6. Spring turkey – March ~~7-10~~ and ~~11-15~~ ~~1-4~~, ~~5-9~~ and ~~10-16~~.
7. through 8. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 4. No change.

5. During periods when the check station is staffed, hunters ~~Hunters~~ shall check in and out at the a designated check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.

6. During periods when the check station is staffed, no ~~No~~ deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the a check station.

7. No change.

(7) Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~22-24 23-25~~ and ~~29-31~~ August 30 through September 1 west of US Highway 27 only.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~12-14 13-15~~ and ~~19-21 20-22~~ west of US Highway 27 only.

3. General gun – October ~~3-5 4-6~~ and ~~17-19 18-20~~ west of US Highway 27 only.

4. Youth Turkey Hunt – February 28 through March 1 ~~22-23~~ west of US Highway 27 only.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~7-10 1-4, 13-16 7-10, 20-23 14-17, 27-30 21-24~~ and April 3-6 28-31 west of US Highway 27 only.

6. Special-opportunity spring turkey – March ~~7-13 1-7~~ and ~~21-27 15-21~~ east of US Highway 27 only.

7. Wild hog-still – November ~~22-23 23-24~~ west of US Highway 27 only.

8. Small game – The first Saturday in December through the second Sunday in February.

8. through 9. renumbered 9. through 10. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 2.

3. During periods when the check station is staffed, hunters ~~Hunters~~ shall check in and out at the a check station located at the Palmdale campground when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken. Hunters shall access the area only from the Palmdale campground, except that special-opportunity turkey hunters may access the special-opportunity hunt area from the right-of-way US Highway 27 provided they check in and out at the check station.

4. through 5. No change.

6. During periods when the check station is staffed, no ~~No~~ deer, ~~wild hog~~ or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the a check station.

7. No change.

(8) Picayune Strand Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~9-24 10-25~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~6-8 7-9~~ and ~~13-15 14-16~~.

3. General gun – October ~~11-14 12-15, 15-19 16-20~~ and ~~20-26 21-27~~.

4. Small game – November ~~8 9~~ through December ~~28 29~~.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~7-10 1-4~~ and ~~11-15 5-9~~.

6. through 7. No change.

(b) through (c)

(d) General regulations:

1. through 3. No change.

~~4. Hunters shall check in and out at a designated check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.~~

~~5. No deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at a check station.~~

6. renumbered 4. No change.

(9) Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – August ~~8-11 9-12, 15-18 16-19, 22-25 23-26~~ and August ~~29 30~~ through September ~~1 2~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~12-14 13-15~~.
3. General gun – September ~~20-22 21-23, 26-28 27-29~~ and October ~~3-5 4-6~~.
4. Small game – November ~~1 2~~ through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.
5. Family hunt – October ~~11-12 12-13~~ and ~~18-19 19-20~~.
6. Youth Turkey Hunt – February ~~28~~ through ~~March 1 22-23~~.
7. Spring turkey – March ~~7-9 1-3, 14-16 8-10~~ and ~~April 4-6 March 29-31~~.
8. through 10. No change.
- (b) through (c) No change.
- (d) General regulations:
 1. through 4. No change.
 5. During periods when the check station is staffed, hunters ~~Hunters~~ shall check in and out at the ~~a~~ designated check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.
 6. During periods when the check station is staffed, no ~~No~~ deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the ~~a~~ check station.
 7. through 9. No change.
- (10) Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. Archery – August ~~8-11 9-12, 15-18 16-19, 22-25 23-26~~ and August ~~29 30~~ through September ~~1 2~~.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~12-14 13-15~~.
 3. General gun – September ~~20-22 21-23, 26-28 27-29~~, and October ~~3-5 4-6~~.
 4. Small game – November ~~1 2~~ through the Sunday prior to the youth turkey hunt.
 5. Youth Turkey Hunt – February ~~28~~ through ~~March 1 22-23~~.
 6. Spring turkey – March ~~7-9 1-3, 14-16 8-10~~ and ~~21-23 15-17~~.
 7. through 8. No change.
 - (b) through (c) No change.
 - (d) General regulations:
 1. through 4. No change.
 5. During periods when the check station is staffed, hunters ~~Hunters~~ shall check in and out at the ~~a~~ designated check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken.
 6. During periods when the check station is staffed, no ~~No~~ deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the ~~a~~ check station.
 7. No change.
 - (11) Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area.
 - (a) Open season:
 1. Archery – September ~~13-16 14-17, 20-23 21-24~~, September ~~27-30 28~~ through ~~October 1~~ and October ~~4-7 5-8~~.
 2. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~18-20 19-21~~.
 3. Family hunt – November ~~1-4 2-5~~.
 4. General gun – November ~~8-12 9-13~~.
 5. Small game – November ~~15 16~~ through the second Sunday in January.
 6. Spring turkey – March ~~7-10 1-4~~ and ~~11-15 5-9~~.
 7. through 8. No change.
 - (b) through (d) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 375.313 FS. History—New 6-21-82, Amended 7-1-83, 7-27-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 8-5-86, 5-10-87, 8-24-87, 5-1-88, 6-7-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-1-93, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 9-15-96, 10-20-96, 6-1-97, 8-7-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.064, Amended 11-17-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 6-2-02, 2-27-03, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 1-19-10, 7-1-10, 8-26-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14.