

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-17.004
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 and Environmental 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-17.004 **RULE TITLE:** General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental 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 and Environmental 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 and Environmental 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 public Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would maintain a daily limit of one turkey per day on Wildlife and Environmental 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.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

(1) through (3) No change.

(4) Legal to Hunt: Legal game shall be only those game species identified in specific area regulations.

(a) No change.

(b) 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.

(b) through (d) renumbered (c) through (e) No change.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions in Rule 68A-24.002, the take of bobcat with a gun is prohibited from March 2 through March 31.

(5) through (17) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.354, 375.313 FS. History—New 4-12-98, Amended 12-28-98, Formerly 39-17.004, Amended 7-1-00, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-29-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 3-25-12, 4-9-13, 7-1-14.