DRAFT RULE


PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Blackwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Northwest Region to address landowner concerns regarding the illegal trespass of hunting dogs onto private property. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and reduce conflict between hunters and private landowners.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would require that all dogs used to pursue or take deer, fox or coyote must be equipped and monitored with electronic tracking and control devices in that portion of the dog hunt area east of Belandville Road. The correction device requirement of this rule shall not take effect until July 1, 2016.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – Northwest Region.

(1) through (3) No change.
(4) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area.
(a) through (e) No change.
(f) General regulations:
1. through 3. No change.
4. The taking or pursuing of deer, fox or coyote with dogs is prohibited in that portion of the dog hunt area east of Belandville Road unless each dog is equipped and monitored with devices that allow remote tracking and behavior correction. The device(s) must be attached by a collar or similar means and must be used to prevent dog egress into unauthorized areas. The remote tracking device(s) would include Global Positioning System (GPS) or telemetry tracking. Effective Date: The correction device requirement in this rule shall not take effect until July 1, 2016.
4. through 12. renumbered 5. through 13. No change.
(5) through (28) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: As soon as possible following Commission action.