

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-15.064  
Agenda Item 18 B (2)  
June 19, 2014**

**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 provide specific regulations and hunting seasons for the Addition Unit within the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on Big Cypress WMA.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would establish the same hunting seasons and dates within the Addition Unit as in the Bear Island Unit, prohibit the take of wildlife on or from the L-28 Interceptor Canal levees, and allow operation of licensed and motorized vehicles on designated portions of L-28 Interceptor Canal levees north of I-75.

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

68A-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas – South Region.

(1) through (4) No change.

(5) Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – 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 except in the Deep Lake Unit in the Stairsteps, Bear Island, Turner River, Corn Dance, and Loop units.

2. through 5. No change.

6. Special September duck – In the September season as established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C., except on the Bear Island, Addition and Deep Lake Units.

7. Fishing and frogging – Allowed throughout the year.

(b) Through (c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Through 6. No change.

7. Taking wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of County Roads 839, 841, 837 or Burns Road or State Road 84 or 94 or US 41 or the L-28 Interceptor Canal levees is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

8. Through 19. No change.

20. Motorized vehicles and vessels are prohibited in the Addition Unit except that licensed and registered vehicles may be operated on designated portions of L-28 Interceptor Canal levees north of I-75.

(6)Through (11) No change.

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 18, 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, 9-18-14.*