

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.006
Agenda Item 15.A.(1) and (2)
November 21, 2014**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.006

RULE TITLE: Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on miscellaneous areas 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 miscellaneous areas.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on miscellaneous areas as follows:

Babcock Ranch Preserve – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; and allow the harvest of furbearers.

Kissimmee River Chain of Lakes Area – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length.

Kissimmee River Public Use Area – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; eliminate the two days of antlerless deer harvest during general gun season; and in the area south of Hwy. 70, only allow antlerless deer harvest during the last nine days of archery season.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas.

(1) No change.

(2) Kissimmee River Public Use Area.

(a) No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, wild hog, non-protected mammals, furbearers, fish, and frogs. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. Antlerless deer may be taken only during the archery season in that portion of the area north of State Road 70 seasons and during the last nine days of archery season in that portion of the areas south of State Road 70. first two days of the antlerless deer seasons for Zone A and C, as applicable, established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. Bag and possession limits and shooting hours shall be those established under Rules 68A-13.003, 68A-13.004 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C., except that shooting hours for turkeys during the spring season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m. and the daily bag limit for wild turkey shall be one per day.

(c) No change.

(3) Babcock Ranch Preserve.

(a) Open season (in the FWC designated hunting area):

1. Archery – August ~~1-4~~ ~~2-5~~ and ~~8-11~~ ~~9-12~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~5-7~~ ~~6-8~~.

3. Family – September ~~19-20~~ ~~20-21~~ and December ~~19-20~~ ~~20-21~~.

4. General gun for mobility-impaired – December ~~4-6~~ ~~5-7~~.

5. General gun – September ~~25-27~~ ~~26-28~~, October ~~2-4~~ ~~3-5~~ and December ~~11-13~~ ~~12-14~~.

6. Small game – January ~~9-24~~ ~~3-18~~ and February 6-7 ~~January 31 through February 1~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).

7. Spring turkey – March ~~5-7~~ ~~7-9~~ and ~~12-14~~ ~~14-16~~.

8. No change.

9. Trapping – Prohibited.

(b) The following are the only species of wildlife legal to take within the FWC designated hunting area: All legal game (except quail), furbearers and wild hog. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the archery season, family and general gun for mobility-impaired hunts the bag limit for deer shall be two deer per quota permit. Only mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer during the general gun for mobility-impaired hunt. One antlered deer may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit during the muzzleloading gun and general gun hunts. One gobbler (or bearded turkey) per person, but no more than two per quota permit may be taken during spring turkey season. Turkey may only be taken during the spring turkey season.

(c) Regulations controlling activities within the FWC designated hunting area:

1. through 12. No change.

13. Except during periods described in paragraph (a) and subparagraph (c)9. ~~(e)10.~~ public access and use is allowed only by Babcock Ranch Management, LLC, or any successor authorized by Section 259.1053, F.S., collectively herein referred to as “Preserve Manager”.

14. The Preserve Manager shall authorize the take of fish and wildlife within the FWC designated hunting area pursuant to subparagraph (d)2. except during periods described in paragraph (a) and subparagraph (c)9. ~~(e)10.~~

(d) Regulations controlling activities outside the FWC designated hunting area:

1. No change.

2. The Preserve Manager shall authorize the take of fish and wildlife provided all such authorizations shall be consistent with the currently approved management plan, adopted pursuant to Section 253.034, F.S., and the following conditions shall apply:

a. No change.

b. Open season for non-migratory game shall be consistent with ~~zone A as specified in~~ Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., in areas and during days specified by the Preserve Manager.

c. through f. No change.

(4) Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Area.

(a) No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, wild turkey (but only bearded turkey or gobblers), wild hog, non-protected mammals, furbearers (except bobcat and otter), fish and frogs. The take of deer is prohibited in the Drasdo, East, and West Shore Units. The take of antlerless deer is prohibited. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points or one antler with a main beam of ten inches or more in length is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. The daily bag limit for wild turkey shall be one per day.

(c) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art IV, Sec 9, Fla. Const. History--New 12-9-99, Amended 5-13-02, 5-1-03, 5-23-04, 7-1-06, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 11-9-10, 7-1-11, 7-1-12, 8-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-1-15.