

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.004
Agenda Item 15.A.(1)
November 21, 2014**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-15.004

RULE TITLE: General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to allow the extension of shooting hours during spring turkey season by specific rule for individual wildlife management areas (WMAs). The effect of the proposed rule amendment would allow staff to monitor the effects of extended shooting hours during spring turkey season on selected WMAs and use the information to potentially make future recommendations.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would allow the extension of shooting hours during spring turkey season by specific rule for individual WMAs.

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-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

(1) through (3) No change.

(4) Legal to hunt:

(a) Turkeys may not be taken during any fall season in which firearms may be used unless otherwise provided for a specific area. Notwithstanding provisions in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., turkeys of either sex may be taken during muzzleloading and general gun seasons as specifically provided by area rule. 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. The hours in which the hunting of gobblers or bearded turkeys is permitted during the spring season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m., unless otherwise provided by specific area regulation.

(b) through (j) No change.

(5) through (16) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.2223, 379.354 FS. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 6-9-83, 9-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-15.04, Amended 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 4-13-88, 8-18-88, 4-19-90, 4-4-91, 4-14-92, 10-22-92, 7-26-94, 11-6-94, 3-30-95, 10-23-95, 9-15-96, 6-1-97, 7-1-98, 12-28-98, 4-15-99, Formerly 39-15.004, Amended 7-1-00, 6-2-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-29-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-1-10, 1-1-11, 5-2-12, 4-9-13, 7-1-14, 7-1-15.