

Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-13.004
Agenda Item 11 A.
April 15, 2015

Draft rule language for a seven (7) day bear hunting season with early cutoff mechanism.

68A-13.004 Hunting Regulations for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits.

The hunting regulations for non-migratory game shall be as follows unless otherwise amended by the Commission, provided that regulations for hunting on wildlife management areas shall be as established by specific rule.

(1) Bag and possession limits:

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) Bear: daily, possession and season bag 1.

(2) No change.

(3) Open seasons:

(a) Antlered deer:

1. Zone A: Opening the third Saturday in September and closing 29 days thereafter and reopening the Saturday before the fourth Thursday in November and closing the first Sunday in January.

2. through 4. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(e) Gray squirrel: Opening the second Saturday of October and closing the first Sunday in March. Opening October 1 and closing March 31 for falconry.

~~No open season on fox squirrels.~~

(f) Rabbit: Throughout the year.

(h) Bear:

1. East Panhandle, North, Central, and South BMUs: Opening the Saturday prior to the last Saturday in October and closing 6 days thereafter. If a BMU's harvest objective, established pursuant to subparagraph 2., is attained prior to the season close and on or after the second day of the season, that BMU's season shall close at midnight on the day its harvest objective is attained.

2. The harvest objective for each BMU shall be as established by Order of the Executive Director, after approval of the Commission, and shall be based on the proportion of the BMU population available for harvest consistent with biologically sustainable population objectives for each BMU.

3. All bear taken shall be checked and tagged within 12 hours of recovery at a Commission designated check station. The tag shall remain affixed to the hide until it is tanned or mounted.

(g) through (h) Relettered (i) through (j)

(4) through (5) No Change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: As soon as possible after adoption by the Commission.