

Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-15.063
Agenda Item 9 C.
April 15, 2015

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

(1) No change.

(2) Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open seasons:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Quail (quail enhancement area) – Up to ~~16~~ ~~eight (8)~~ days (Saturdays and Wednesdays only) of quail hunting may be allowed in January and February, combined.

4. through 12. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with two or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. Bearded turkeys or gobblers may be taken during the muzzleloading gun season, and during the periods of November 26-29 and December 12-23. ~~Taking~~ ~~Killing~~ quail is prohibited on the quail enhancement area (that portion of the area lying north of Oak Ridge Road, east of State Road 61 and U.S. Highway 319, south of State Road 263 and west of State Road 363) ~~except by quail permit during the quail season as established annually by order of the Executive Director, based on annual fall quail surveys.~~ The daily bag limit for quail on the quail enhancement area is six (6) per person quota permit.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:

1. through 6. No change.

~~7. A quota permit, as established annually by Order of the Executive Director or designee, shall be required for each group entering the quail enhancement area to take quail. Up to two (2) quota permits may be issued per day and up to two (2) hunters will be allowed per permit. The number of Saturdays open for quail hunting will be adjusted each year as necessary so as not to exceed a harvest of 15% of the fall population, based on annual fall quail surveys.~~

8. renumbered 7. No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open seasons in the still hunt area (which includes that portion of the area south of State Road 4, except for the field trial area, and that portion of the area north of State Road 4, except for the dog hunt area).

1. through 11. No change.

12. Quail (quail enhancement area) – Up to ~~16~~ ~~eight (8)~~ days (Saturdays and Wednesdays only) of quail hunting may be allowed in January and February, combined.

13. through 14. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. 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 bag limit for deer during the muzzleloading gun and archery season on the field trial portion of the area shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per day. During the family still hunt, antlered or antlerless deer (bag limit of three per quota permit) may be taken. Taking quail is prohibited on the field trial area except by quail permit during the quail season. The bag limit for quail on the field trial area is 12 per hunting group each day. A group for the purpose of quail hunting on the field trial area shall include up to 2 persons. Taking quail after 3 p.m. Central Time is prohibited during the quail season on the field trial area. Taking quail is prohibited and on the quail enhancement area (that portion of the area lying north of Bryant Bridge Road, east of Sandy Forest Road,

east of County Road 191 between Sandy Forest Road and State Road 4, south of State Road 4 and west of Old Martin Road and Norman Riley Road) ~~except by quail permit during the quail season seasons as established annually by order of the Executive Director, based on annual fall quail surveys. The bag limit for quail on the field trial area is 12 per hunting group each day. A group for the purpose of quail hunting on the field trial area shall include up to 2 persons. Taking quail after 3 p.m. Central Time is prohibited during the quail season on the field trial area. The daily bag limit for quail on the quail enhancement area is six (6) per person quota permit.~~ During the fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat season, rabbit may be chased by the use of free-running dogs but may not be harvested except as allowed during other open seasons. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken.

(e) No change.

(f) General regulations:

1. through 9. No change.

~~10. A quota permit, as established annually by Order of the Executive Director or designee, shall be required for each group entering the quail enhancement area to hunt quail. Up to eight (8) quota permits may be issued per day and up to two (2) hunters will be allowed per permit. The number of days open for quail hunting will be adjusted each year as necessary so as not to exceed a harvest of 15% of the fall population, based on annual fall quail surveys.~~

11. through 13. renumbered 10. through 12. No change.

(5) through (29) No change.

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, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, 5-7-86, 5-10-87, 6-8-87, 5-1-88, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 9-1-90, 7-1-91, 9-1-91, 7-1-92, 7-2-92, 7-1-93, 3-1-94, 7-1-94, 7-1-95, 7-2-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 7-2-96, 6-1-97, 12-3-97, 7-1-98, 7-2-98, 8-11-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-15.063, Amended 11-17-99, 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 7-22-01, 6-2-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-2-04, 8-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 7-1-09, 7-20-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 11-14-11, 7-1-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-2-14, 11-2-14, 7-1-15.