

**Background Document**  
**Florida Black Bear Management Update**  
**Agenda Item 5A**  
**February 4, 2015**

**Proposed Changes to Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-4.001, General Prohibitions**

Staff is requesting authorization to advertise proposed changes to Administrative Code Rule 68A-4.001 (3), sometimes referred to as the “bear feeding rule.” The changes proposed will provide clarification that the rule is intended to apply when people knew or should have known their actions would attract bears or the other species covered by the rule. In addition, the proposed amendment would add coyotes to the rule. Coyotes are attracted to human-provided foods such as garbage, as well as prey on other animals attracted to human-provided foods. Lastly, staff recommends adding “property damage, or a public safety risk” to the existing language.

The proposed change is a major rewrite and is shown below:

**68A-4.001 General Prohibitions.**

(1) No Change

(2) No Change

(3) ~~Intentionally placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage in such a manner that it attracts black bears, foxes, or raccoons and in a manner that is likely to create or creates a public nuisance is prohibited.~~ Placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage in such a manner that the person knew or should have known it attracts black bears, coyotes, foxes or raccoons and in a manner that is likely to create or creates a public nuisance, property damage, or a public safety risk is prohibited.

(4) No Change

(5) No Change

(6) No Change