Notice of Proposed Rule

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Freshwater Fish and Wildlife
RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:
68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northwest Region
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Northwest Region 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 WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Northwest Region as follows:

Apalachicola WMA – in those portions of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District land, allow camping in designated campgrounds by permit only from the Northwest Florida Water Management District. (Note: this change only applies to the designated campgrounds. Camping rules for the remainder of the area will remain unchanged.)

Apalachicola WMA, Bradwell Unit – remove the quota requirement for the wild hog hunts; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Aucilla WMA – as an alternative to existing 3 point antler point restriction in the Pinhook Still Hunt Area, also allow the harvest of antlered deer having at least 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more; in the remainder of the area, harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 2 or more points is prohibited; and persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length.

Beaverdam Creek WMA – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Blackwater WMA – increase the family hunt quota from 50 to 100; expand the family hunt area to include the entire WMA; allow vehicular traffic year-round in the Environmental Enhancement Area; and prohibit the harvest of wildlife with a gun or archery equipment on the paved portions of Green Road.

Blackwater WMA, Hutton Unit – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Box-R WMA – extend the shooting hours during spring turkey season from 1 p.m. to sunset; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Chipola River WMA – allow camping only in designated campgrounds by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Choctawhatchee River WMA – allow camping in designated campgrounds by permit only from the Northwest Florida Water Management District (Note: this change only applies to the designated campgrounds. Camping rules for the remainder of the area will remain unchanged.); and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Econfina Creek WMA – allow camping only in designated campgrounds by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Escambia River WMA – allow camping in designated campgrounds by permit only from the Northwest Florida Water Management District. (Note: this change only applies to the designated campgrounds. Camping rules for the remainder of the area will remain unchanged.)

Escribano Point WMA (new) – establish a new WMA (4,017 acres) that includes all seasons and regulations from that portion of Yellow River WMA known as the Grassy Point area, except that camping in designated campgrounds is allowed by permit only. This includes establishing the following seasons and regulations: two archery hunts (7 and 9 days; quota of 10, no exemptions); three general gun hunts (4, 4, and 5 days; quota of 10, no exemptions); a 3-day muzzleloading gun season (quota of 10, no exemptions); four 3-day spring turkey hunts (quota of 5, no exemptions); a 9-day small game season; fishing and frogging year-round; allow the take of all legal game, fish, frog and furbearers; prohibit the harvest of antlered deer not having at least 1 antler with 2 or more points, except by
persons less than 16 years of age; prohibit hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers; prohibit the possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages; prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles; and allow vehicles only on named and numbered roads.

Flint Rock WMA – As an alternative to existing 3 point antler point restriction, also allow the harvest of antlered deer having at least 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more; and persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length.

Joe Budd WMA – extend the shooting hours during spring turkey season from 1 p.m. to sunset; and allow dove hunting during the opening day of the first phase of the statewide mourning dove and white-winged dove season.

Juniper Creek WMA – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Lafayette Creek WMA – extend the spring turkey hunts from 2 days to 3 days.

Ochlockonee River WMA – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Perdido River WMA – allow camping only in designated campgrounds by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Pine Log WMA – allow dove hunting during the entire first phase of the statewide dove season; allow bird dog training throughout the year; extend the small game season from 23 days to 114 days; establish a raccoon season that runs concurrent with the small game season; allow raccoon hunting at night during the raccoon season without a quota permit if hunting during a quota period; allow the use of any dog to hunt raccoon; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Talquin WMA – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Tate’s Hell WMA, Womack Creek Unit – clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Wakulla WMA – as an alternative to existing 3 point antler point restriction, also allow the harvest of antlered deer having at least 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more; persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Yellow River WMA – remove rules pertaining to the Grassy Point area from the WMA regulations; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Additionally, the proposed rule amendment would provide non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization, or clarification of an existing rule.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The Agency has determined that this will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of $200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The nature of the rule and the preliminary analysis conducted to determine whether a SERC was required.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

LAW IMPLEMENTED: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution n; Sections 379.2223, 375.313 FS.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE DATES, TIMES AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

DATES AND TIMES: During the Commission’s regular meeting February 4 - 5, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., each day

PLACE: Hyatt Regency, 225 E. Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by
THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

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

(1) Apalachee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
3. No change.
5. Special September duck – On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays of the Special September duck seasons.
7. Quail (Zone A) – December 9-10.
8. Spring turkey (Zone B) – March 22-23.

(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, December 12-13, and January 24-25. 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 65).
strict. In the remainder of the
turkey season, an ota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as
191) the field trial area, and that portion of the area north of State Road 4, except for the dog hunt area).
authorized by Rule 68A
season.
gobbler or bearded turkey
permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. During the family hunt, the bag limit shall be one
deer shall be one per quota
antler with two or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. The bag limit for antlered
22
June
November
materials are prohibited.
Water Management District lands, unless contained in mobile campers; lumber, sheet metal or other building
propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited on Northwest Florida
Water Management District lands, unless posted as no camping), but for no more than 14 consecutive days at a time and limited to tents, trailers or self-
camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited on Northwest Florida
Water Management District lands, unless contained in mobile campers; lumber, sheet metal or other building
materials are prohibited.
(d) General regulations:
1. Bird dogs may be trained from June 1 through March 6, except on the quail enhancement area where bird
dogs may be trained November 1 through December 31. Deer dogs may be trained from October 31 through
November 19 in that portion of the area open to hunting fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcats.
2. through 8. No change.
(3) Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area – Bradwell Unit.
(a) Open season:
3. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
7. Wild hog-dog – July 10-12 13-14, August 7-9 10-13 and September 4-6 7-9, 2015 2014, and May 6-8 9-13 and
June 3-5 6-7, 2016 2015.
9. Special September duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
10. 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. The bag limit for antlered
deer shall be one per quota permit during the archery season and one per person, but no more than two per quota
permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. During the family hunt, the bag limit shall be one
antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During spring turkey season, the bag limit for turkey shall be one
gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the wild hog
seasons, only wild hog may be taken.
(c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. No change.
2. Taking wildlife with dogs, other than bird dogs and retrievers, is prohibited, except during the wild hog-dog
season. During the wild hog-dog season, no more than 3 free-running dogs per quota permit may be used.
3. During the wild hog-dog season, a quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest, as
authorized by Rule 68A-15.005, F.A.C., (3 total) to participate in the hunt.
4. through 6. renumbered 3. through 5. 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).
2. Family still hunt (only in that portion of the still hunt area north of State Road 4 and east of County Road


6. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23.

7. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.


9. Wild hog-dog – July 3-5 4-6, 17-19 18-20, August 7-9 1-3, 21-23 45-17, September 4-6 5-7, 18-20 19-21, 2015 2014, and May 6-8 4-3, 20-22 14-17, June 3-5 5-7 and 17-19 19-21, 2016 2015.

10. through 14. No change.

(b) Open seasons in the dog hunt area (which includes that portion of the area north of State Road 4 and west of Three Notch Road, east of Mason West Road, and north of Camp Henderson Road; and that portion of the area north of State Road 4, west of Beaver Creek Highway and Hurricane Lake Road, and east of Belandville Road; and that portion of the area north of Forest Road R47, north of Eadie Cotton Road and Peaden Bridge Road, west of Sherman Kennedy Road, south of Mattie Kennedy Road and Kennedy Bridge Road, west of Bullard Church Road, and east of Beaver Creek Highway and Hurricane Lake Road):


2. General gun still – January 4-17 5-18.

3. Family still hunt (only in that portion of the dog hunt area north of State Road 4 and east of County Road 191) – December 12-13 13-14.

4. Small game – November 14-25 8-26, November 30 through December 18 4-19 and February 11 42 through March 6 4.


7. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23.

8. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.


10. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – May 1 through March 6 8, in that portion of the dog hunt area east of Belandville Road.

11. Wild hog-dog – July 3-5 4-6, 17-19 18-20, August 7-9 1-3, 21-23 45-17, September 4-6 5-7, 18-20 19-21, 2015 2014, and May 6-8 4-3, 20-22 14-17, June 3-5 5-7 and 17-19 19-21, 2016 2015.

12. through 15. No change.

(c) Open seasons in the field trial area (which includes that portion of the area bounded by Coldwater Creek on the northwest, the western boundary of Blackwater State Forest to the west and south, County Road 191 on the southeast, and on a line running west 3/4 mile from the intersection of County Road 191 and Coldwater Horse Trail, then north one mile and then three miles west to Coldwater Creek at a point 1/2 mile northeast of the Coldwater Recreation Area):

1. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23.


3. through 5. renumbered 4. through 6. No change.


8. Wild hog-dog – July 3-5 4-6, 17-19 18-20, August 7-9 1-3, 21-23 45-17, September 4-6 5-7, 18-20 19-21, 2015 2014, and May 6-8 4-3, 20-22 14-17, June 3-5 5-7 and 17-19 19-21, 2016 2015.

8. through 11. No change.

(d) through (e) No change.

(f) General regulations:

1. through 5. No change.

6. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on, upon or from rights-of-way of State Road 4 and 189; U.S. Highway 90; County Road 2, 180 and 191; Beaver Creek Highway; Bryant Bridge, Norman Riley, Sandy Forest, Pleasant Home,
Bob Pitts, Deaton Bridge, Indian Ford, Red Rock, Shockley Springs, State Line, Sherman Kennedy, Hurricane Lake, Belandville and Sellersville Roads; paved portions of Camp Lowery Road and Green Road; and Carpenter Road from County Road 191 to Juniper Creek is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

7. No change.

8. Vehicles are prohibited on the Florida Gas Transmission Line and from March 1 through September 30 in all areas posted as the Environmental Enhancement Area (all of Sections 32 and 33 and portions of Sections 27, 28 and 34, Township 4 North, Range 26 West and all of Section 9 and portions of Sections 5, 8, 14, 15, 16 and 17, Township 3 North, Range 26 West).

9. through 13. No change.

(5) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area – Hutton Unit.

(a) Open season:
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
5. Mobility-impaired general gun – January 29-31 30 through February 1 and February 5-7 6-8.
7. Spring turkey – March 19-21 21-23, April 1-3 3-5 and 15-17 17-19.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers except that only quail may be taken during the quail season. Taking quail is prohibited except during the quail season. Taking 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 antlered deer shall be one per quota permit during the archery season and one per person, but not more than two per quota permit during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. Two deer (antlered or antlerless) may be taken per mobility-impaired quota permit. During the general gun for mobility-impaired season, only mobility-impaired hunters may take antlerless deer. During spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken.

(c) through (d) No change.

(6) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area – Carr Unit.

(a) Open season: Special-opportunity released quail – November 14-20 8-14, 21-27 45-24, November 28 through December 4 22-28, December 5-11 November 29 through December 5, 12-18 December 6-12, 19-25 13-19, December 26 through January 1 20-26, January 2-8 December 27 through January 2, 9-15 January 3-9, 16-22 10-16, 23-29 17-23, January 30 through February 5 24-30, February 6-12 January 31 through February 6, 13-19 February 7-13, 20-26 14-20, and February 27 through March 4 21-27.

(b) through (d) No change.

(7) Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – December 11 12 through January 10 14 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Archery and muzzleloading gun – January 15-31 16 through February 1 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Small game – October 3 4 through December 6 2 (Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Spring turkey – March 19 24 through April 24 26 (Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Dove – During the first Saturday of the first phase of the mourning dove and white-winged dove season established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

6. renumbered 7. No change.
(b) Legal to take: All legal game, turkey of either sex, fish, frogs and furbearers. During small game season, dove (Saturdays only, during phases established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.), quail and squirrel may be taken. Antlerless deer is any deer, except a spotted fawn, that is without antlers or whose antlers are less than one inch in length visible above the hairline. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the last two 3-day hunts of archery season, the take of antlerless deer is prohibited. Gobblers or bearded turkeys may be taken during the spring turkey season from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:
1. through 11. No change.

12. During the archery, archery/muzzleloading gun, small game, dove, youth spring turkey, and spring turkey seasons, access to the area shall be restricted to individuals authorized to participate in the hunt.

(8) Point Washington Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
2. Small game – November 14-25 8-26, November 30 through December 11 12 and February 4 5 through March 6 7.
5. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-6 7-8.
6. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14 5-15.
7. Migratory game birds – During special September duck, dove and rail and common moorhen seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. through 9. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(9) Talquin Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. General gun – November 27-29 28-30 and December 12 13 through January 3 4 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Small game – January 8 9 through March 6 7 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Spring turkey – March 19 21 through April 24 26 (Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Special September duck – In the September seasons season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

7. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish 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. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.

(10) Ochlockonee River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November 27-29 28-30 and December 12 13 through January 3 4 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Small game – January 8 9 through March 6 7 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Spring turkey – March 19 21 through April 24 26 (Saturdays and Sundays only).

6. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area south of I-10, 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. In that portion of the area north of I-10, 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. Gobblers or bearded turkeys may be taken during the archery/muzzleloading gun season. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.

(c) through (d) No change.
(11) Tate’s Hell Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
6. through 7. No change.
9. through 11. No change.
(b) through (c) No change.
(d) General regulations:
1. Deer dogs may be trained from October 31–25 through November 19–13.
2. through 6. No change.
(12) Tate’s Hell Wildlife Management Area – Womack Creek Unit.
(a) Open season:
5. through 6. No change.
9. through 10. 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. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit. The take of wild hog is prohibited during small game season.
(c) through (d) No change.
(13) Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
7. Family hunt – October 31 through November 1 25–26, in the Pinhook still hunt area only.
10. Special September duck – In the September duck seasons season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
11. through 12. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In the Pinhook still hunt area (which is that portion of the area south of US 98), 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, each point one inch or more in length, is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the archery season in the Pinhook still hunt area, the bag limit for deer shall be two deer, only one of which can be antlered, per quota permit. During the family hunt the bag limit shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons in the Pinhook still hunt area, the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:
1. through 7. No change.
8. Taking wildlife with dogs is prohibited during the archery season, except that waterfowl retrievers may be used during the Special September duck season.
9. 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 three or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.

(c) No change.

(d) General regulations:
1. No change.
2. Taking wildlife with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by permit or when taking raccoon during the raccoon season.
3. through 6. No change.
7. During the raccoon season, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed and quota permits are not required from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise.

(16) Eglin AFB Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 24 25 through November 25 26 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-11 6-12 in areas specified by the Installation Commander.
4. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 22-28 23 through March 1 2 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
5. Small game – November 14 8 through March 6 4 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
6. No change.
8. Spring turkey – March 19 24 through April 24 26 in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
9. through 11. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(17) Escambia River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
5. Small game – November 14-25 8-26, November 30 through December 11 12 and February 4-5 through March 6 4.
8. through 10. No change.
(b) No change.
(c) Camping: A permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District is required if camping within any designated campground. In the remainder of the area, camping is limited to Allowed throughout the area (except where posted as no camping), but for no more than 14 consecutive days and prohibited where posted as no camping. **Camping is at a time and limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited, unless contained in mobile campers. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.**
(d) No change.
(18) Tyndall AFB Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 24 25 through November 25 26 during days specified by the Installation Commander.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-11 6-12.
3. General gun – November 26-29 27-30 and December 12 13 through February 21 22 during days specified by the Installation Commander.
4. Supervised youth – October 24 25 through December 31 (only in areas and during days designated by the Installation Commander).
5. Youth turkey hunt – March 12-13 14-15 in areas specified by the Installation Commander.
6. Spring turkey – March 19–24 through April 24–26 during days specified by the Installation Commander.
7. Small game – November 14–8 through March 6–4 during days specified by the Installation Commander.
8. through 9. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(19) Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
7. Spring turkey – March 19 24 through April 24–26 only in that portion of the area south of the pipeline right-of-way located up river (north) of Cedar Log Landing (Walton County) and Billy Lee Landing (Washington County). March 19–21 21–23 and April 1–3 3–5 in that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way.
8. through 9. No change.
10. Trapping – December 1 through March 1 in still hunt areas and February 4–5 through March 1 in dog hunt areas.
(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area south of I-10, 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. In that portion of the area north of I-10, 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. In that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way, turkey may be taken only during the spring turkey season and only the bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.
(c) Camping: A permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District is required if camping within any designated campground. In the remainder of the area, camping is limited to: Allowed throughout the area (except where posted as no camping), but for no more than 14 consecutive days and prohibited where posted as no camping. Camping is limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited, unless contained in mobile campers. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.
(d) No change.
(20) Chipola River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open seasons, except in the Altha Tract:
8. through 10. No change.
(b) Open seasons in the Altha Tract:
4. Small game – January 2–3 through March 6–4 (Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Spring turkey – March 19-21, 24-26, April 1-3, 3-5 and 15-17, 24-26.
6. through 7. No change.

c. Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area south of I-10, 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. In that portion of the area north of I-10, 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 in the Altha Tract, the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the family hunt, the bag limit shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During the muzzleloading gun season in the Altha Tract, the bag limit shall be one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. The bag limit for turkey in the Altha Tract shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit during the youth turkey hunt and one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but not more than two per quota permit during the spring turkey season in the Altha Tract.

d. Camping: Prohibited, except at designated campsites (for no more than 14 consecutive days at a time) or by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

(e) No change.

(21) Yellow River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open seasons except in the Grassy Point and Burnt Grocery Creek area areas:
1. Archery – October 24-25 through November 22-23.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7, 6-8.
4. Small game – November 14-25, 8-26, November 30 through December 11-12 and February 4-5 through March 6-4.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14, 5-15.
7. through 9. No change.

(b) Open seasons in the Grassy Point area (the area south of Weaver River):
5. Small game – November 8-16.
6. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(b) Open seasons in the Burnt Grocery Creek area (the area west of Burnt Grocery Creek and north of Bernice Road and Old Fisher Mill Road):
1. Archery – October 24-25 through November 22-23, November 26-29, 27-30, and December 12-13 through February 3-4.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7, 6-8.
4. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14, 5-15.
7. through 8. No change.

(c) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area south of I-10, 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. Antlerless deer may only be taken during the first 30 days of archery season in the Burnt Grocery Creek area. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.
(d) Camping: Prohibited south of Weaver River, except at designated campsites (for no more than 14 consecutive days at a time) or by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District. Allowed throughout the area north of Weaver River (except where posted as no camping), but for no more than 14 consecutive days at a time and limited to tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles only. Kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers are prohibited, unless contained in mobile campers. Lumber, sheet metal or other building materials are prohibited.

(e) General regulations:
1. No change.
2. Taking wildlife with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited, except that dogs may be used to hunt raccoon and opossum during the general gun and small game seasons (except in the Grassy Point and Burnt Grocery Creek areas).
3. No change.
4. The possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages is prohibited in the Grassy Point area.
5. During the general gun and small game seasons, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is allowed, except in the Grassy Point and Burnt Grocery Creek areas.

22. Econfina Creek Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season except in the mobility-impaired, Cat Creek and Fitzhugh Carter areas.
1. Archery – October 24 through November 22.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7, 6-8.
4. Small game – November 14-25, and November 30 through December 11, 12 and February 4-5 through March 4.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14, 5-15.
9. through 10. No change.
(b) Open seasons in the mobility-impaired hunt area (area south of County Road 388):
3. No change.
(c) Open seasons in the Cat Creek (area south of State Road 20 and north of County Road 388) and Fitzhugh Carter (area west of State Road 77) areas:
1. Archery – October 24-30 and October 31 through November 8.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7, 6-8.
7. Special September duck – In the September duck seasons established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
(Fitzhugh Carter area only).
8. No change.
(d) Legal to Take: All legal game, fish (except as provided below), 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. Taking bobcat and otter is prohibited in the Fitzhugh Carter area. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit. In the mobility-impaired hunt area, antlerless deer (bag limit of two per three-day hunt) may be taken during general gun hunts only by persons possessing valid mobility-impaired certificates.

(e) Camping: Prohibited, except Allowed only at designated campsites sites and for no more than 14 consecutive days at a time or by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District.
(f) No change.
(23) Box-R Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
3. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
7. Spring turkey – March 19-22 24-26, March 31 through April 3 2-5 and April 14-17 16-19.
8. through 9. No change.
(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. The bag limit for deer shall be one antlered deer per person, but not more than two per quota permit. Antlerless deer may be taken by antlerless deer permit only. Taking antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During spring turkey season, the bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken person, but not more than two per quota permit. Gobblers or bearded turkeys may be taken during the spring turkey season from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken. The take of wild hog is prohibited during small game season. The take of deer is prohibited during wild hog-still season.
(c) through (d) No change.
(24) Lafayette Creek Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
5. Small game – December 11 12 through January 17 18 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. Spring turkey – March 19-21 24 and March 25 through April 24 26 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
7. through 9. No change.
(b) through (d) No change.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 17 18 through November 15 16 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Spring turkey – March 19-24 through April 24 26 (Saturdays and Sundays only).
6. No change.
(b) 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, one inch or more in length, is prohibited, except by persons less than 16 years of age. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.
(c) through (d) No change.
(26) Perdido River Wildlife Management Area.
(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 24 25 through November 22 23.
2. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14 5-15.
9. through 11. No change.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area south of I-10, 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. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per quota permit.

(c) Camping: Prohibited, except at designated campsites or by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

(d) No change.

(27) Juniper Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

(b) Legal to take: Antlered deer with at least one antler with two or more points, antlerless deer and wild turkey (during the youth turkey hunt only). The bag limit for deer shall be one antlered or one antlerless deer per person. During the youth turkey hunt, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per youth.

(c) through (d) No change.

(28) Beaverdam Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:
1. Archery – October 24-25 through November 22-23.
2. Small game – November 14-25 8-26, November 30 through December 11 4-12 and February 4 5 through March 6 4.
4. Muzzleloading gun – December 5-7 6-8.
5. General gun – December 12 13 through February 3 4.
6. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 4-14 5-15.
7. Spring turkey – March 19-22 21-24 and March 30 through April 3 4-5.
9. through 10. 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. During the family hunt, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken (limit one antlerless deer per person per day). During the muzzleloading gun season, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken (limit one antlerless deer per day). During the spring turkey season, the bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey may be taken per person, but not more than two per quota permit. During the wild hog-dog season, only wild hog may be taken.

(c) through (d) No change.

(29) Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area

(a) Open season:
2. Archery – October 24-30 and October 31 through November 8.
6. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.
(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.

(c) Camping: Prohibited, except in designated campgrounds by permit as provided by paragraph 68A-15.004(8)(a), F.A.C.

(d) General regulations:
1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
2. Taking wildlife with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited.
3. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited.
4. The possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages is prohibited.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

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.


NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: November 21, 2014

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: January 8, 2015