

Notice of Proposed Rule

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

68A-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) 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 WEAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would adjust season dates to conform to calendar year changes and revise specific area regulations on Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) as follows:

North Central Region

Fort White WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 2 or more points is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; clarify that raptors allowed when falconry hunting are not limited to falcons only; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Lafayette Forest WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 2 or more points is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; establish a 16-day small game season that includes nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting with dogs; clarify that raptors allowed when falconry hunting are not limited to falcons only; clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Santa Fe Swamp WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length.

Suwannee Ridge WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Watermelon Pond WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 2 or more points is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; extend small game season from 30 to 39 days; allow public access to the new Gladman Tract via Watermelon Pond; allow waterfowl hunting and the use of bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers during statewide waterfowl seasons on the Gladman Tract; clarify that bicycles and horses are allowed on roads, firelines and designated trails only; and clarify that raptors allowed when falconry hunting are not limited to falcons only.

Northwest Region

L. Kirk Edwards WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; extend the shooting hours during spring turkey season from 1 p.m. to sunset; allow hunting during spring turkey season on those portions of the WMA west of Chaires Cross Road; move all deer hunts later in the year to better coincide with the rut; extend the family hunt from 2 to 4 days; extend archery hunts from 3 to 4 days; change the archery and muzzleloading gun season from four 3-day hunts to three 4-day hunts; in that portion of the WMA east of Chaires Cross Road, begin the small game hunts 2 weeks later, allow waterfowl hunting during the first 3 days of the statewide duck, light goose and coot season, and allow waterfowl hunting during the first 3 days of the statewide September duck season; and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

South Region

CREW WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except 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.

John C. and Mariana Jones / Hungryland WEA – 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 allow dogs for purposes other than hunting, provided they are restrained at all times.

John G. and Susan H. Dupuis WEA – 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; allow dogs for purposes other than hunting, provided they are restrained at all times; replace the third and fourth 3-day wild hog-still hunts with two 9-day summer wild hog-still hunts (no quota permit required); and clarify that during spring turkey season the area limit of 1 per day and the statewide season limit of 2 apply.

Southern Glades WEA – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 2 or more points is prohibited, except persons less than 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer with 1 antler 5 inches or more in length; allow properly licensed and permitted hunters to harvest conditional non-native snakes and lizards during established hunting seasons; establish an extended season for hunting conditional non-native snakes and lizards starting the day after small game season ends through the second Sunday in April; allow all methods of take for game animals, except centerfire rifles, during the extended season for conditional non-native snakes and lizards; establish shooting hours during the extended season for conditional non-native snakes and lizards as ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset; require the harvest of conditional non-native snakes and lizards be reported to FWC within 36 hours; and prohibit removal of live non-native snakes and lizards from the area.

Southwest Region

Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit – harvesting antlered deer not having 1 antler with 3 or more points or 1 antler with a main beam of 10 inches or more is prohibited, except 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.

Little Gator Creek WEA – allow public access without a permit from September through January; allow public access during daylight hours; allow public access on foot or bicycle; allow public access through designated entrances only; and prohibit the possession of any animal.

Moody Branch Mitigation Park WEA – remove the permit requirement to ride a horse on the area; and allow horses to be ridden only on established roads, firelines and designated trails.

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, Florida Statutes.

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 East 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 contacting: the ADA Coordinator at (850)488-6411. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

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-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

(1) Southwest Region.

(a) Little Gator Creek – Pasco County.

1. No change.

2. Public access is prohibited February 1 through August 31 ~~except by permit~~.

3. Possession of any animal is prohibited.

4. All persons shall enter and exit the area only at designated entrances.

5. Public access other than by foot (pedestrian) or bicycle is prohibited.

6. Public access is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

(b) through (e) No change.

(f) Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area – Royce Unit – Highlands County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~25-27~~ 19-21 and October ~~16-18~~ 10-12.

b. General gun – November ~~20-22~~ 14-16.

c. Small game – December ~~11-13~~ 5-7, ~~25-27~~ 19-21, January ~~22-24~~ 16-18 and ~~29-31~~ 23-25.

d. Wild hog-still – May ~~7-8~~ 2-3 and ~~14-15~~ 9-10.

e. Youth turkey hunt – March ~~12-13~~ 14-15.

f. Spring turkey – March ~~19-21~~ 21-23 and April ~~1-3~~ 3-5.

g. No change.

2. 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 antlered deer shall be one per person, but not more than two per quota permit. Antlerless deer may be taken by antlerless deer permit only. Only wild hog may be taken during the wild hog-still season. 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. Turkey of either sex may be taken during the archery season.

3. No change.

(g) through (h) No change.

(i) Moody Branch Mitigation Park – Manatee County.

1. Possession of any animal is prohibited, ~~except horses are allowed by permit~~.

2. No change.

3. Public access other than by foot (pedestrian) or horseback (equestrian) is prohibited. Horses may be ridden only on established roads, firelines and designated trails.

4. No change.

(j) Crooked Lake Mitigation Park – Polk County.

1. through 2. No change.

3. Public access other than by foot (pedestrian), bicycle or horse (equestrian) is prohibited. Horses and bicycles may be ridden only on established ~~roads~~ roads, firelines and designated trails.

4. No change.

(k) No change.

(2) North Central Region.

(a) Santa Fe Swamp – Bradford County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~25~~ 19 through October ~~23~~ 17.

b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~24-26~~ 18-20.

c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November ~~7-14~~ through January 3 ~~December 28~~.

d. Spring turkey – March ~~19-21~~ through April ~~24~~ 26.

e. through f. No change.

2. Legal to take: Gray squirrel, rabbit, antlered deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length and fish. 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. Antlered and antlerless deer (except spotted fawns) and turkey of either sex may be taken during the archery season. Only bearded turkey or gobblers may be taken during the spring turkey season.

3. No change.

(b) Fort White Mitigation Park – Gilchrist County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery season – October ~~24-28~~ ~~18-22~~, October 31 through November 4 ~~25-29~~ and November ~~14-16~~ ~~8-12~~.

b. Small game – November ~~21~~ through December 4 ~~15-28~~.

c. Youth spring turkey – March ~~12-13~~ ~~14-15~~.

d. Spring turkey – March ~~19-23~~ ~~21-25~~ and March ~~26-30~~ ~~28~~ through April 1.

e. through g. No change.

2. 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 archery season, turkey of either sex may be taken and the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit. During the spring turkey season, ~~the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey~~ may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through b. No change.

c. Possession of any animal is prohibited except that a dog on a leash may be used to trail wounded game, bird dogs are allowed for hunting during the small game season and raptors ~~falcons~~ may be used during the falconry season.

d. through f. No change.

(c) Suwannee Ridge – Hamilton County.

1. Open season:

a. Mobility-impaired general gun – October ~~16-18~~ ~~10-12~~, October 30 through November 1 ~~24-26~~, November 6-8 ~~October 31 through November 2~~ and December ~~18-20~~ ~~12-14~~.

b. Mobility-impaired spring turkey – March ~~25-27~~ ~~27-29~~ and April ~~15-17~~ ~~17-19~~.

2. Legal to take: Antlered deer, antlerless deer ~~Any deer (except spotted fawn)~~, wild hog, gobbler or bearded turkey (during spring turkey season only), gray squirrel, rabbit and furbearers. ~~The bag limit shall be~~ Two deer or two turkeys may be taken per quota permit. Only certified mobility-impaired hunters may take an antlerless deer. 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.

3. No change.

(d) through (e) No change.

(f) Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area.

1. Open seasons:

a. Archery season – September ~~26-30~~ ~~20-24~~ and October 2-6 ~~26-30~~ and 9-13 ~~October 3-7~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun season – October ~~24-26~~ ~~18-20~~.

c. Family hunt – November ~~7-8~~ ~~1-2~~ and ~~14-15~~ ~~8-9~~.

d. Wild hog-still – January ~~23-27~~ ~~17-21~~ and January 30 through February 3 ~~24-28~~.

e. Small game – February 6-21.

~~f.e.~~ Youth spring turkey – March ~~12-13~~ ~~14-15~~.

~~g.f.~~ Spring turkey – March ~~19-21~~ ~~21-23~~ and ~~25-27~~ ~~27-29~~.

g. through i. renumbered h. through j. No change.

2. 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 archery season, turkey of either sex may be taken and the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered or one antlerless deer per person, but no more than two deer per quota permit. During the family hunt the bag limit shall be one antlered or one antlerless deer per person. During the muzzleloading gun season, the bag limit shall be one antlered deer per person, but no more than two antlered deer per quota permit. During the wild hog-still season, only wild hog may be taken. During the spring turkey season, ~~the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey~~ may be taken per person, but no more than two per quota permit.

3. General regulations:

a. No change.

b. Public access is prohibited from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise except during small game season by persons hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C. and that persons with a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District for Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area may traverse McCalls Chapel Grade.

c. Possession of any animal is prohibited except horses are allowed, a dog on a leash may be used for trailing wounded game, dogs may be transported year round on McCalls Chapel Grade, dogs may be used to hunt during small game season and raptors falcons may be used during the falconry season. Horses are allowed on firebreaks, designated trails and named or numbered roads only.

d. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is prohibited during the small game season, except by persons hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C.

e. Taking wild hog by the use of dogs is prohibited.

d. through f. renumbered f. through h. No change.

(g) Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area.

1. Open seasons:

a. Archery season – October 17-25 ~~11-19~~.

b. Small game – November 21 through December 6 ~~14-27~~ and December 19 through January 10 ~~12-27~~.

c. Youth spring turkey – March 12-13 ~~14-15~~.

d. Duck, geese and coot – During the seasons established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C. on the Gladman Tract only.

d. through f. renumbered e. through g. No change.

2. Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs, turkey, furbearers and antlerless deer. 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 archery season, turkey of either sex may be taken and the bag limit for deer shall be one per person.

3. General regulations:

a. ~~All~~ Persons shall enter and exit the area only at designated entrances or via Watermelon Pond.

b. No change.

c. Bicycles may be ridden ~~only on named or numbered roads, firelines and~~ or designated bicycling trails only.

d. No change.

e. Possession of animals is prohibited; except that dogs are allowed as provided by paragraph 68A-17.004(7)(c), F.A.C., dogs on a leash may be used for trailing wounded game, horses are allowed ~~only~~ on roads, firelines and designated horse trails only, bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers may be used for hunting during the small game season and seasons established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C. on the Gladman Tract and raptors falcons may be used for falconry season.

(3) Northwest Region.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) L. Kirk Edwards – Leon County.

1. Open seasons for that portion of the area west of Chaires Cross Road:

a. No change.

b. Youth turkey hunt – During the youth turkey hunt for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.

c. Spring turkey – During the first three days of the regular season for Zone C, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the third and fifth weekends of the regular season for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.

b. through c. renumbered d. through e. No change.

2. Open seasons for that portion of the area east of Chaires Cross Road:

a. Archery – October 1-4, 15-18 and October 29 through November 1. ~~During the first three days of the archery season for Zone C, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the third and fifth weekends of the archery season for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.~~

b. Family hunt – November 5-8. ~~During the first two days of the muzzleloading gun season for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.~~

c. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November 26-29, December 3-6 and 17-20. ~~During the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend of the muzzleloading gun season for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. and during the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second, fourth and sixth weekends of the antlered deer season for Zone C established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C.~~

d. Small game – January 1-3, 15-17, 29-31, February 12-14 and 26-28. ~~During the eleventh, thirteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth weekends of the gray squirrel season established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C. (Friday through Sunday only).~~

e. No change.

f. Spring turkey – During the first three days of the regular season for Zone C, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the third and fifth weekends of the regular season for Zone C established in Rule sub-subparagraph 68A-13.004 68A-13.004(2)(e)2.a., F.A.C.

g. Duck, geese and coot – During the first three days of both the wood duck and teal and duck, light goose, and coot seasons established in rule 68A-13.003.

g. renumbered h. No change.

3. Legal to take: All legal game, turkey (during spring turkey season only), 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. During the spring turkey season, ~~the bag limit shall be~~ one gobbler (or bearded turkey) may be taken per quota permit. During the archery season 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 for deer shall be one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit. During the archery/muzzleloading gun season the bag limit for deer shall be one antlered deer per 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.

4. No change.

(4) South Region.

(a) Southern Glades – Dade County.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – August 1-30 ~~2-31.~~

b. Muzzleloading gun – September 11-13 ~~12-14.~~

c. General gun – September 19 ~~20~~ through October 18 ~~19~~ and November 23-29 ~~24-30.~~

d. Small game – November 30 ~~December 1~~ through February 28 ~~March 1.~~

e. through g. No change.

2. Legal to take: All legal game (except turkey), fish, frogs and furbearers (except bobcat and otter). Take of antlerless deer is prohibited during archery season. 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.

3. General regulations:

a. through e. No change.

f. Conditional non-native snakes and lizards as listed in subsection 68-5.002(4), F.A.C., may be taken after the last day of small game season through the second Sunday in April and during established seasons for the taking of game animals or alligators and only by persons properly licensed and permitted to take game animals or alligators.

g. Guns are a prohibited method of take for Conditional non-native snakes and lizards, except when the use of guns to take game or alligators is authorized and after the last day of small game season through the second Sunday in April when all legal methods of take for game animals or alligators are allowed, except the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

h. Conditional non-native snakes and lizards shall not be removed from the area alive.

i. Persons that take any Conditional non-native snakes and lizards shall report the take within 36 hours, and shall provide all data requested.

j. The day after small game season ends through the second Sunday in April shooting hours for Conditional non-native snakes and lizards shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

(b) John G. and Susan H. Dupuis Jr. – Palm Beach and Martin counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~11-13 12-14~~, ~~18-20 19-21~~ and ~~25-27 26-28~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~9-11 10-12~~, ~~16-18 17-19~~ and ~~23-25 24-26~~.

c. General gun for mobility-impaired – ~~October 31 through~~ November ~~1 1-2~~.

d. General gun – November ~~6-8 7-9~~ and ~~13-15 14-16~~.

e. Wild hog-still – November 17-19 18-20, December 1-3 2-4, and opening the second Saturday in April and closing 8 days thereafter, and opening the second Saturday in May and closing 8 days thereafter 9-11 and 16-18.

f. Spring turkey – March ~~8-10 10-12~~, ~~18-20 20-22~~ and ~~25-27 27-29~~.

g. Small game – December ~~5 6~~ through January ~~24 25~~.

h. through j. No change.

2. Legal to take: All legal game, gobblers or bearded turkeys (during spring season only), wild hog, fish and furbearers (except otter). 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. Antlerless deer (except spotted fawns) may be taken during the archery and general gun for the mobility-impaired seasons. The bag limit for deer shall be one per quota ~~hunt~~ permit, except during the general gun for mobility-impaired season when one (1) antlered and one (1) antlerless deer may be taken per quota permit. One ~~The bag limit for turkey shall be one~~ gobbler (or bearded turkey) may be taken per spring turkey quota ~~hunt~~ permit. The take of deer is prohibited during the wild hog season.

3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through b. No change.

c. Taking wildlife with dogs is ~~Dogs are~~ prohibited except bird dogs and retrievers are permitted during the small game season.

d. through m. No change.

(c) CREW – Collier and Lee Counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – August ~~8-16 9-17~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun – September ~~5-7 6-8~~.

c. General gun – November ~~21-29 22-30~~.

d. Small game – December ~~5 6~~ through January 3.

e. Spring turkey – March ~~5-8 7-10~~ and ~~9-13 11-15~~.

f. through h. No change.

2. Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs, and furbearers (except bobcat and otter). The bag limit for deer shall be one per quota permit. 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 taking of deer is prohibited in the Corkscrew Marsh Unit. One ~~During the spring turkey season, the bag limit for turkey shall be one~~ gobbler (or bearded turkey) may be taken per spring turkey quota permit. The taking of turkey is prohibited during the archery season. The take of wild hog is prohibited during small game season.

3. through 4. No change.

(d) No change.

(e) John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland – Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

1. Open season:

a. Archery – September ~~12-15 13-16~~, ~~19-22 20-23~~, September ~~26-29 27-30~~ and October ~~3-6 4-7~~.

b. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~17-19 18-20~~.

c. General gun – October 31 through November ~~2 1-3~~, November 7-9 8-10 and ~~14-16 15-17~~.

d. Small game – November ~~21~~ 22 through December ~~20~~ 21.

e. Spring turkey – March ~~19~~ 21 through April ~~3~~ 5 (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

f. through h. No change.

2. Legal to take: Antlered deer ~~Deer~~, gobblers or bearded turkeys (during spring turkey season only), quail, gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, coyote, skunk, fish, frogs and migratory game birds as established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C. The bag limit for deer shall be one per person, two per quota permit. The taking of antlerless deer is prohibited during the archery season. 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.

3. No change.

4. General regulations:

a. through e. No change.

f. Taking wildlife with dogs is ~~Dogs are~~ prohibited except bird dogs and retrievers may be used for taking small game and migratory birds.

g. through i. No change.

(5) 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, 375.313 FS. History—New 7-1-83, Amended 11-30-83, 7-1-84, 8-21-85, Formerly 39-17.05, Amended 6-1-86, 8-13-87, 8-18-88, 8-17-89, 4-11-90, 7-1-91, 10-31-91, 4-14-92, 4-20-93, 7-1-94, 9-15-94, 3-30-95, 8-15-95, 7-1-96, 4-3-97, 10-28-97, 7-1-98, 8-11-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-17.005, Amended 7-1-00, 5-1-01, 6-2-02, 5-25-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 7-1-08, 1-6-09, 7-1-09, 10-29-09, 7-1-10, 7-1-11, 11-14-11, 7-1-12, 7-26-12, 7-1-13, 7-1-14, 7-2-14, 7-1-15.

BE ADVISED THAT THESE PROPOSED RULES MAY BE FILED FOR ADOPTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE CONSIDERED IF THE RULES ARE NOT CHANGED. IF CHANGED, THE RULES MAY BE FILED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE F.A.R.

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