This presentation covers the major proposed rule changes related to hunting and to FWC-managed public areas. Full summaries of all proposed rule changes, including nonsubstantive technical changes and annual calendar adjustments, are included in the additional background material.

Authors: Diane Eggeman, Don Coyner

Report date: January 5, 2015
FWC staff received approximately 155 requests for changes from the public, staff, and cooperators. Some of these ideas were proposals for change to publications, policies, or other non-rulemaking issues. Staff recommended approximately 90+ of the ideas for rule changes. The public has had an opportunity to directly submit comments to staff over the internet prior to the November and February Commission meetings.
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: 2 archery hunts (7 and 9 days; quota of 10, no exemptions); 3 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.
This page and the next one summarize the remaining substantive, area-specific rules contained in this rule-change package (details are in the background report).

Expanded hunting hours for spring turkey seasons:

**Southwest Region (68A-15.061):** Chassahowitzka, Hilochee

**North Central Region (68A-15.062):** Andrews, Big Bend – Snipe Island Unit

**Northwest Region (68A-15.063):** Box-R, Joe Budd,(68A-17.005): L. Kirk Edwards

**South Region (68A-15.064):** Dinner Island Ranch, Fisheating Creek, J.W. Corbett

**Northeast Region (68A-15.065):** Caravelle Ranch, Guana River, Half Moon, Salt Lake, Three Lakes Prairie Lakes Unit, Triple N Ranch
New Hunting Opportunity - Increases to hunt types, number of days, number of quota permits, or number of species to hunt:


North Central Region (68A-15.062): Big Bend – Snipe Island Unit, Big Shoals, Cary, Citrus, Cypress Creek, Flying Eagle, Jennings Forest, Little River, Raiford, Twin Rivers (68A-17.005): Lafayette Forest, Watermelon Pond

Northwest Region (68A-15.063): Apalachicola – Bradwell Unit, Blackwater, Joe Budd, Lafayette Creek, Pine Log; (68A-17.005): L. Kirk Edwards

South Region (68A-15.064): Picayune Strand

Reduced Hunting Opportunity:

Other Rules:

Roads, vehicles, horses, dogs, access, check stations, or camping -

**Southwest Region (68A-15.061):** Arbuckle, Hilochee, Walk-in-the-Water; **(68A-17.005):** Little Gator Creek, Moody Branch Mitigation Park

**North Central Region (68A-15.062):** Big Bend Snipe Island Unit, Cary, Devil’s Hammock, Goethe, Gulf Hammock, Jennings Forest, Lochloosa, PotashCorp-White Springs, Twin Rivers; **(68A-17.005):** Watermelon Pond

[Note: Following the November Commission meeting, the landowner and stakeholders recommended shifting the family hunt 3 weeks later to avoid user conflicts and accommodate family schedules during winter break].

**Northwest Region (68A-15.063):** Apalachicola, Blackwater, Chipola River, Choctawhatchee River, Econfina Creek, Escambia River, Pine Log

**South Region (68A-17.005):** John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland, John G. and Susan H. Dupuis, J. W. Corbett

**Northeast Region (68A-15.065):** Buck Lake, Caravelle Ranch, Guana River, Lake George – Dexter Mary Farms Unit, Triple N Ranch

Adjust hunt types and dates –

**Southwest Region (68A-15.061):** Green Swamp, Hickory Hammock, Hilochee

**North Central Region (68A-15.062):** Goethe
Summaries of all rule proposals regarding hunting and FWC-managed areas were posted online from August until December, with instructions and request to make comments. Staff employed a new method for receiving online comments. The opportunity to comment was advertised and made available through FWC’s HuntFlorida Facebook page. Email blasts were sent via GovDelivery (FWC’s email news group service), and staff sent group emails to known stakeholders and stakeholder groups, who we thought might be interested. More than 100,000 individuals were notified by email. Staff also made phone calls to known stakeholder leaders, informing them of the proposed changes and where they could make comments. These efforts combined resulted in more than 6,300 individuals providing input. Changes to rule proposals in response to public input were evaluated and made.
Approval of proposed rule amendments to take effect July 1, 2015.