

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RULE CHAPTER TITLE: Type I Wildlife Management Areas

RULE TITLES:

RULE NOS.:

Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas –
Northwest Region.

68A-15.063

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule changes 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 changes is to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and public use on WMAs.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule changes 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:

Apalachee WMA - The proposed rule would no longer allow the use of dogs for deer hunting in Zone C (813 acres).

Blackwater WMA - The proposed rules would reduce the length of the deer dog hunting season from 58 to 30 days with a 13-day season during the first 13 days of the general gun season (November 24-27 and December 10-18), and a 17-day season during the last 17 days of the general gun season (January 16 through February 1); reduce the size of the dog hunt area by approximately 22,000 acres from approximately 68,000 to approximately 46,000 acres; permit still hunting during the muzzleloading gun and the muzzleloading gun/archery seasons in the dog hunt area; permit still hunting in the dog hunt area during the general gun season when hunting with dogs is not allowed; reduce the size of the fox hunt area from approximately 68,000 to approximately 20,000 acres; establish 2 new 4-day quail hunts (February 6-9 and 20-23) with a daily bag limit of 12 per group on the Field Trial Area; prohibit taking quail on the Field Trial Area after 3:00 p.m.; expand the bird dog training season on the Field Trial Area by 17 days (November 14-30);

and expand the archery season on the Field Trial Area by 13 days (November 1-13).

Tate's Hell WMA - Off-highway vehicles (ATVs and off-highway motorcycles) are prohibited except by Division of Forestry permit.

Eglin Air Force Base WMA - The proposed rules would change antler restrictions for legal antlered deer from 5 inches to three points on a side on portions of the area; restrict fishing and frogging to areas and times specified by the Installation Commander; authorize entry and exit in areas and at times as specified by the Installation Commander; restrict fishing to catch and release only on Weekly Pond, Upper Memorial Lake, Hurlburt Lake and Jack Lake; establish a daily bag limit of 10 panfish (8 inches or greater in length) and establish a daily bag limit of one black bass (24 inches or greater in length) on Duck and Indigo ponds; and prohibit the use of outboard motors.

Escambia River WMA - The proposed rule would allow raccoon and opossum hunting with dogs at night (one half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise) and no longer allow the use of dogs for deer hunting.

Choctawhatchee WMA - The proposed rule would establish a 3-day spring turkey season in that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way located north of Cedar Log Landing (Walton County) and Billy Lee Landing (Washington County) with a bag limit of one turkey per quota hunt permit.

Econfina Creek WMA - The proposed rule would restrict horses to designated trails.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST: It is estimated that the proposed action will cost the agency approximately \$275 for administrative preparation and \$375 for legal advertising. No other significant economic impacts are expected.

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

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution; Sections 372.121, 375.313, Florida Statutes.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution; Sections 372.121, 375.313, Florida Statutes.

THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC RULEMAKING HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RULES DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION TO BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day, February 2-4, 2005.

PLACE: Edgewater Beach Resort, 11212 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, Florida.

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 calendar 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 by calling (850)488-9542.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: James V. Antista, General Counsel, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

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

(1) Apalachee Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 12 ~~13~~

(Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays closed to hunting in Zones A and B).

2. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.

3. Fishing and frogging – Throughout year.

4. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.

5. Early duck – On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays of the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

6. Duck and coot – On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays of the duck and coot

season established in Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

7. Dove – On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays of the dove season established in Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. Quail (Zone A) – December ~~20~~ ~~21~~ through January ~~8~~ ~~9~~ (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays closed to hunting).

9. Spring turkey (Zones B and C) - March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~ (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only).

(b) - (c) No Change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Hunting with dogs ~~in Zones A and B~~ is prohibited except that bird dogs and retrievers are permitted during the general gun, muzzleloading gun, early duck, duck and coot, dove, and quail seasons.

2. Dove and waterfowl may be hunted in accordance with federal migratory bird regulations on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

3. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.

4. The possession or use of rifles is prohibited, except during the muzzleloading gun season.

5. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting Zone A and shall check all game taken when hunting in Zone A.

6. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of County Road 271 is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

7. Two hundred zone tags will be issued for Zone A on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station. A zone tag is not required in Zones B or C.

8. During quail season, taking quail after 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time is prohibited.

(2) Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 1 ~~2~~.

2. Small game - November 12-23 ~~13-24~~, November 28 ~~29~~ through December 9 ~~10~~ and

February ~~2~~ ~~3~~ through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~.

3. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~.

4. Archery – October ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through November ~~13~~ ~~14~~.

5. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~.

6. Muzzleloading gun and archery – February ~~16-26~~ ~~17-27~~.

7. Early duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

8. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – October 1 through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~ in that portion of the area in Liberty County lying west of State Road 65 (except in that portion of the area lying north and east of the Florida River and Larkins Slough) and in that portion in Leon County and Wakulla County south of State Road 267 bounded on the east by Forest Roads 313, F.H. 13 and 356, on the south by Forest Roads 349 and 357, on the west by Forest Roads 348 and F.H. 13, 309, 314, and 344. No guns may be used prior to November ~~24~~ ~~25~~.

9. Trapping – February ~~2~~ ~~3~~ through March 1.

10. Fishing and frogging – Throughout year.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Bearded turkeys or gobblers may be taken from November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and from December ~~10-21~~ ~~11-22~~. Wild hogs may be taken only during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, archery and muzzleloading and small game hunts. No size or bag limits on wild hogs.

(c) Camping: Throughout year.

(d) General regulations:

1. Camping is permitted only on designated campsites during general gun season, except on Northwest Florida Water Management District lands where camping is permitted throughout the area.

2. Bird dogs may be trained from June 1 through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~. Deer dogs may be trained from October ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through November ~~17~~ ~~18~~ in that portion of the area open to hunting fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcats.

3. Dove hunting is permitted during the first phase of the established dove season.

4. During the November ~~12-13~~ through March ~~5-6~~ period, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is permitted.

5. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of State Road 267, 67, 375, 65, 299, 368, 369, 260, 373, 263, 379, 12 or that portion of County Road 22 east of the Ochlockonee River is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

6. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs and retrievers, is prohibited in that portion of the area lying west and south of State Road 375 and east of the Ochlockonee River; also those lands lying north and east of the Florida River and Larkins Slough.

7. Taking of deer is prohibited on or from the rights-of-way of State Road 375 and 50 yards outward from the rights-of-way.

8. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited on that portion of the area posted as Northwest Florida Water Management District lands.

(3) Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area – Bradwell Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December ~~10-14~~ ~~11-15~~.

2. Archery – October ~~15-30~~ ~~16-31~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~.

4. Small game – November ~~12-17~~ ~~13-18~~ and ~~21-23~~ ~~22-24~~.

5. Spring turkey – March ~~18-19~~ ~~19-20~~ and March 31 through April 2 ~~April 1-3~~.

6. Early duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

7. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(b) - (c) No Change.

(d) General Regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads and may be parked only at designated parking areas.

2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs and retrievers, is prohibited.

(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) season:

1. General gun – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through February ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
2. Small game – November ~~12-23~~ ~~13-24~~, November ~~28~~ ~~29~~ through December ~~9~~ ~~10~~ and February ~~2~~ ~~3~~ through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~.
4. Archery – October ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through November ~~13~~ ~~14~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~, ~~in the still hunt area only (except in the field trial area).~~
6. Muzzleloading gun and archery – February ~~16-26~~ ~~17-27~~, ~~in the still hunt area only (except in the field trial area).~~ ~~January 20-22~~ ~~21-23~~ ~~in the designated field trial area only.~~
7. ~~Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – May 1 through March 13, north of State Road 4 (except in the still hunt area).~~
7. ~~8.~~ Dove – During the mourning dove and white-winged dove season established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C., ~~(except on the field trial area).~~
8. ~~9.~~ Bird dog training – October 1-15 and November 14-30.
9. ~~10.~~ Fishing and frogging – Throughout year except on fish hatchery.

(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 Break Fork Fire Line, 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 Breek Highway and Hurricane Lake Road:

1. General gun dog - November 24-27, December 10-18, and January 16 through February 1.
2. General gun still (use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited and hunting with dogs other

than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited) – December 19 through January 15.

3. Small game – November 12-23, November 28 through December 9 and February 2 through March 5.

4. Spring turkey – March 18 through April 23.

5. Archery – October 15 through November 13.

6. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20.

7. Muzzleloading gun and archery – February 16-26.

8. Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat – May 1 through March 12, north of State Road 4, west of Beaver Creek Highway and Hurricane Lake Road, and east of Belandville Road.

9. Dove – During the mourning dove and white-winged dove season established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

10. Bird dog training – October 1-15 and November 14-30.

11. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(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, State Road 191 on the southeast, and on a line running west 3/4 mile from the intersection of State Road 191 and Forest Road 64 (Spanish 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 15 through November 13.

2. Muzzleloading gun and archery - January 20-22.

3. Dove - During the first phase of the dove season (Monday through Saturday only), the second phase of the dove season (Monday through Wednesday only), and the third phase of the dove season (Monday through Wednesday only) until January 1 on fields posted as open to dove hunting.

4. Bird dog training - October 1-15 and November 14-30.

5. Quail - February 6-9 and February 20-23.

6. Fishing and frogging - Throughout year except on fish hatchery.

(d) (b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. During the January 20-22 21-23 archery/muzzleloading gun season on the field trial portion of the area any deer (daily bag limit one) except spotted fawns may be taken. Feral hogs may be taken during any period when possession of a gun is otherwise authorized with no size or bag limit on wild hogs. Taking quail is prohibited on the field trial area except during the quail season. The bag limit for quail on the field trial area is 12 per hunting group each day. A group for purpose of quail hunting on the field trial area shall include up to 2 persons. Taking quail after 3:00 p.m. Central Time is prohibited during the quail season on the field trial area.

(e) (e) Camping: Throughout year at designated campsites only.

(f) (d) General regulations:

~~1. That portion known as the field trial area which is bounded by Coldwater Creek on the northwest, the western boundary of Blackwater State Forest to the west and south, State Road 191 on the southeast, and on a line running west 3/4 mile from the intersection of State Road 191 and Forest Road 64 (Spanish 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 shall be open to deer hunting only during the archery season before November 1 and during the January 21-23 archery/muzzleloading gun season and for mourning doves during the first phase of the dove season (Monday through Saturday only), and the second phase of the dove season (Monday through Wednesday only), and the third phase of the dove season (Monday through Wednesday only) until January 1 on fields posted as open to dove hunting.~~

~~2. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited in the still hunt area, which includes that portion of the area south of State Road 4 and that portion of the area north of State Road 4 and east of Hurricane Lake Road and Beaver Creek Highway and south of the Brake Fork Fireline, west of Eadie Cotton Road, south of Peaden Bridge Road, east of Sherman Kennedy Road, north of Mattie Kennedy Road and Kennedy Bridge Road,~~

~~east of Bullard Church Road and east of Ashburn Fork Fireline; and that portion of the area west of Mason West Road and west of Simmons Road from its intersection with Mason West Road to Camp Henderson Road.~~

~~1. 3-~~ During fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat season, hunting as specified in paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is permitted.

~~2. 4-~~ Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except on that portion of the area lying south of State Road 4 and east of County Road 191 and those lands north of State Road 4 and east of Forest Road 31 (Hurricane Lake Road cutoff and Beaver Creek Road) where vehicles may be operated only on established roads.

~~3. 5-~~ Dogs are prohibited in the field trial area, except as specifically authorized by permit, or during the bird dog training or quail hunting seasons ~~season~~.

~~4. 6-~~ The discharge of any gun within 300 yards of a public campsite is prohibited.

~~5. 7-~~ Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on, upon or from rights-of-way of State Road 4, 191, 189 and 2; U.S. Highway 90; County Highway 180; Carpenter Road from County Road 191 to Juniper Creek; Forest Road 31, 47, 25, 86, 23, 72, 48, 6 and the paved portions of Forest Roads 57, 2 and 9 is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

~~6. 8-~~ The use of airboats, tracked vehicles, or all-terrain vehicles on the area is prohibited, except by Division of Forestry use permit.

~~7. 9-~~ Vehicles are prohibited on the Florida Gas Transmission Line and from March 1 through September 30 in 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 all as posted as Environmental Enhancement Area.

(5) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area – Hutton Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 15-23 ~~16-24~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.

3. Quail – November 12-13 ~~13-14~~, 23-24 ~~24-25~~, December 3-4 ~~4-5~~, 12-13 ~~13-14~~, 17-18 ~~18-19~~, 26-27 ~~27-28~~, and December 31 through January 1 ~~January 1-2~~.

4. General gun – January 14-22 ~~15-23~~.

5. Mobility-impaired general gun – January 27-29 ~~28-30~~ and February 3-5 ~~4-6~~.

6. Spring turkey – March 18-20 ~~19-21~~, March 31 through April 2 ~~April 1-3~~, and April 14-16 ~~15-17~~.

7. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

8. Bird dog training – Monday through Friday in October, except during archery season.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(6) Blackwater Wildlife Management Area – Carr Unit.

(a) Open season:

Quail: November 12-15 ~~13-16~~, 17-20 ~~18-21~~, 24-27 ~~25-28~~, December 1-4 ~~2-5~~, 8-11 ~~9-12~~, 15-18 ~~16-19~~, 22-25 ~~23-26~~, December 29 ~~30~~ through January 1 ~~2~~, January 5-8 ~~6-9~~, 12-15 ~~13-16~~, 19-22 ~~20-23~~, 26-29 ~~27-30~~, February 2-5 ~~3-6~~, 9-12 ~~10-13~~, 16-19 ~~17-20~~ and 23-26 ~~24-27~~.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(7) Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – December 9 ~~10~~ through January 8 ~~9~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

2. Archery and muzzleloading gun – January 13-29 ~~14-30~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).

3. Small game – October 1 ~~2~~ through December 4 ~~5~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).

4. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).

5. Fishing and other recreational use – Permitted during daylight hours when hunting is not allowed.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(8) Robert Brent Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through February ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
2. Small game – November ~~12-23~~ ~~13-24~~, November ~~28~~ ~~29~~ through December ~~9~~ ~~10~~ and February ~~2~~ ~~3~~ through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~.
4. Archery – October ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through November ~~13~~ ~~14~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~.
6. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February ~~16-26~~ ~~17-27~~.
7. Dove – During the mourning dove and white-winged dove season established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.
8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout year.
9. Trapping – January 1 through March 1 by permit from the Panama City regional office only.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. Bearded turkeys or gobblers may be taken from November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and from December ~~10-21~~ ~~11-22~~. Taking of antlered deer not having at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length, is prohibited.

(c) - (d) No Change.

(9) Blue Water Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December ~~10~~ ~~11~~ through February ~~1~~ ~~2~~.
2. Small game – February ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through March ~~5~~ ~~6~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Archery – October ~~15~~ ~~16~~ through November ~~13~~ ~~14~~.
4. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February ~~2-15~~ ~~3-16~~.
6. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~.
7. Fishing and frogging – Prohibited except during designated hunting days and pre-hunt

scouting periods.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(10) Point Washington Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 1 ~~2~~.
2. Small game – November 12-23 ~~13-24~~, November 28 ~~29~~ through December 9 ~~10~~ and February 2 ~~3~~ through March 5 ~~6~~.
3. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~.
4. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
6. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 16-26 ~~17-27~~.
7. Fishing and frogging – Throughout year.
8. Trapping – January 1 through February 1.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(11) Talquin Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 25-27 ~~26-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through January 1 ~~2~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).
4. Early duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
5. Fishing and other recreational uses – Permitted during daylight hours only.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish and furbearers. Antlerless deer (daily bag one) may be taken December 31 ~~January 3~~. No size or bag limit on wild hogs.

(c) Camping: Prohibited.

(d) General regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on numbered roads.
2. Hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited.
3. All hunters entering onto or exiting from this area may do so only at a designated entrance as indicated on the hunt map.
4. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station on December 31 January 3 and check all game taken.
5. Guns are prohibited when the area is closed to hunting.

(12) Ochlockonee River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery and muzzleloading gun – November 25-27 ~~26-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through January 1 ~~2~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
2. Small game – January 6 ~~7~~ through March 5 ~~6~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
3. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~ (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only).
4. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~ (Saturdays and Sundays only).
5. Fishing and other recreational uses – Permitted during daylight hours when hunting is not allowed.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(13) Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 1 ~~2~~.
2. Small game – November 12-23 ~~13-24~~, November 28 ~~29~~ through December 9 ~~10~~ and February 2 ~~3~~ through March 5 ~~6~~.
3. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.
4. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun and archery – February 16-26 ~~17-27~~.
6. Early duck – In September season as established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

7. Duck and coot – As established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.

8. Dove – As established by Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

9. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~.

10. Trapping – February 1 through March 1.

11. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(b) - (c) No Change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Deer dogs may be trained from October ~~29~~ ~~30~~ through November ~~17~~ ~~18~~.

2. During the general gun and small game seasons, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is permitted.

3. Vehicles may be operated only on designated roads. Off-Highway Vehicles (all-terrain vehicles and off-highway motorcycles) are prohibited except by permit from the Division of Forestry only ~~may be operated on designated off-highway vehicle trails only~~. Airboats and tracked vehicles are prohibited.

4. In the still hunt area, which includes that portion of the area east of Whiskey George Creek and south of Dry Bridge Road, east of Car Body Road, south of River Road, east of Burnt Bridge Road from its intersection with River Road to the New River, south of New River and west of Carrabelle River, and those lands lying south and east of the Crooked River, hunting with dogs other than bird dogs and retrievers is prohibited.

5. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from the rights-of-way of State Road 67 is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

(14) Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area – Womack Creek Unit.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~15-23~~ ~~16-24~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20~~ ~~19-21~~.

3. Small game – November ~~12~~ ~~13~~ through February ~~1~~ ~~2~~.

4. General gun still – November ~~24-27~~ ~~25-28~~ and December ~~10-18~~ ~~11-19~~.

5. General gun dog – December ~~24 22~~ through January ~~5 3~~.
6. Early duck – In September as established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
7. Spring turkey – March ~~18-21 19-22~~, March ~~30 31~~ through April ~~2 3~~ and April ~~6-9 7-10~~.
8. Trapping – February 1 through March 1.
9. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(15) Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November ~~12 13~~ through January ~~8 9~~.
2. Small game – January ~~9 10~~ through March ~~5 6~~.
3. Spring turkey – March ~~18 19~~ through April ~~23 24~~.
4. Archery – September ~~24 25~~ through October ~~23 24~~.
5. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~28-30 29-31~~.
6. Early duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
7. Duck and coot – During the duck and coot season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year except on those portions of the area closed to public access during specified periods. Fishing and frogging in those areas are permitted only when they are open to public access.
9. Trapping – January ~~9 10~~ through March 1.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(16) Flint Rock Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Muzzleloading gun – October ~~28-30 29-31~~.
2. General gun – November ~~12 13~~ through January ~~8 9~~.
3. Small game – January ~~9 10~~ through March ~~5 6~~.
4. Spring turkey – March ~~18 19~~ through April ~~23 24~~.
5. Archery – September ~~24 25~~ through October ~~23 24~~.

6. Early duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
7. Duck and coot – During the duck and coot season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
8. Fishing and frogging – Permitted during periods the area is open for access.
9. Trapping – January 9 ~~10~~ through March 1.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(17) Pine Log Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 15-30 ~~16-31~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~, January 21-24 ~~22-25~~, and January 25-29 ~~26-30~~.
4. Small game – December 3 ~~4~~-31.
5. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 2 ~~3~~.
6. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(b) - (d) No Change..

(18) Eglin AFB Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~ in areas specified by the Installation Commander.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~, December 10 ~~11~~ through February 5 ~~6~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
4. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 6-26 ~~7-27~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
5. Small game – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.
6. Dove – In areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander in accordance

with Rule 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

7. Spring turkey – March ~~18~~ ~~19~~ through April ~~23~~ ~~24~~ in areas and during days specified by the Installation Commander.

8. Raccoon, fox, opossum, and bobcat – May 15 through August 31 in areas specified by the Installation Commander.

9. Trapping – December 1 through March 1 in areas specified by the Installation Commander.

10. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year in areas and at times specified by the Installation Commander.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers. The taking of any deer not having at least one antler with three or more points (each point one-inch in length or more) is prohibited in areas specified by the Installation Commander. Antlerless deer may be taken during established seasons by permit from the Installation Commander.

1. No person shall kill or possess any fish on Weekly Pond, Upper Memorial Lake, Hurlburt Lake or Jack Lake .

2. No person shall take more than ten panfish in the aggregate per day, kill or possess any panfish less than eight inches in total length, take more than one black bass per day, or kill or possess any black bass less than 24 inches in total length on Duck Pond or Indigo Pond.

(c) Camping: Prohibited, except at designated campsites.

(d) General regulations:

1. Possession of or hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers is prohibited in areas specified by the Installation Commander.

2. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads except those posted as closed.

3. Hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all game taken in areas specified by the Installation Commander.

4. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from the rights-of-way of any paved Eglin road,

Range Roads 200, 213, 234, and the portion of Range Road 211 from Highway 85 west to Range Road 610, and all other roads posted as such, is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.

5. Use of trotlines or bush hooks is prohibited.
6. During November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~, hunting as specified by paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., is permitted.
7. Use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited, except by permit.
8. Dogs may be trained in areas and at times specified by the Installation Commander.
9. Persons shall only enter and exit Eglin AFB in areas and at times specified by the Installation Commander.
10. No person shall operate any boat propelled by an internal-combustion engine on any lake or pond, except as authorized by the Installation Commander.

(19) Escambia River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11-31~~.
2. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
4. Archery and muzzleloading gun – January 1 through February 1 ~~2~~ and February 16-26 ~~17-27~~.
5. Small game – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~.
6. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~.
7. ~~Fox, Raccoon, and opossum, and bobcat~~ Fox, Raccoon, and opossum, and bobcat – November 1 through July 31 except during spring turkey season.
8. Migratory game birds – Migratory game birds during seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.
9. Fishing and frogging – Permitted throughout the year.

(b) - (c) No Change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.
2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited ~~on Parker and Morgan Islands (except hunting raccoons or opossums with dogs is allowed from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, in accordance with paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., when hunting raccoon.) and in that portion of the area north of State Road 184, Mineral Springs Road in Santa Rosa County, and Bogia Road in Escambia County.~~
3. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited.
4. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of State Road 184 and all other paved roads located within the area is prohibited as provided by Rule 68A-4.008, F.A.C.
5. Raccoon and opossum may be taken in accordance with paragraph 68A-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C., ~~by the use of firearms~~ only during November 1 through March 1.

(20) Tyndall AFB Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~ during days specified by the Installation Commander.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 15 ~~16~~ during days specified by the Installation Commander.
4. Supervised youth – November 19-20 ~~20-21~~, December 3-4 ~~4-5~~ and 17-18 ~~18-19~~ (only in areas designated by the Installation Commander).
5. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~ during days specified by the Installation Commander.
6. Small game – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~ during days specified by the Installation Commander.
7. Migratory game birds – During days specified by the Installation Commander within

seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year except in areas posted as closed.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(21) Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~15 16~~ through November ~~13 14~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20 19-21~~.

3. General gun – November ~~24-27 25-28~~ and December ~~10 11~~ through February ~~1 2~~ except Holmes Creek Unit and East River Island.

4. Small game – November ~~12 13~~ through March ~~5 6~~.

5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February ~~16-26 17-27~~. Holmes Creek Unit and East River Island November ~~24-27 25-28~~, December ~~10 11~~ through February ~~1 2~~ and February ~~16-26 17-27~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~18 19~~ through April ~~23 24~~ 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 18 – 20 in that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way.

7. Migratory game birds – Migratory game birds during seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

9. Trapping – December 1 through March 1 in still hunt areas and February 1 through March 1 in dog hunt areas.

(b) Legal to take: All legal game ~~(except turkey shall not be taken in that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way)~~, fish, frogs and furbearers. In that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way, turkey may be taken only during the spring turkey season and the bag limit for turkey shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota hunt permit.

(c) No Change.

(d) General regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads.

2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited in still hunt areas.

Designated still hunt areas are north of U.S. Highway 90, Holmes Creek Unit (those lands in Washington County lying east of C.R. 284), and East River Island (those lands in Township 1 North, Ranges 17 and 18 West which are bounded on the south and east by East River and on the west and north by Choctawhatchee River); also those lands south of U.S.

Highway 90 lying north of the pipeline right-of-way and east of the Choctawhatchee River.

3. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited.

4. During spring turkey season in that portion of the area north of the pipeline right-of-way, hunters shall check in and out at a check station when entering and exiting the area and shall check all turkeys taken.

(22) Upper Chipola River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October ~~15 16~~ through November ~~13 14~~.

2. Muzzleloading gun – November ~~18-20 19-21~~.

3. General gun – November ~~24-27 25-28~~ and December ~~10 11~~ through January 1.

4. Small game – November ~~12 13~~ through March ~~5 6~~.

5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February ~~18-19 19-20~~ and ~~25-26 26-27~~.

6. Spring turkey – March ~~18 19~~ through April ~~23 24~~.

7. Migratory game birds – Migratory game birds during seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.

8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

9. Trapping – December 1 through March 1.

(b) - (d) No Change.

(23) Yellow River Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open seasons except in the Grassy Point area:

1. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 1 ~~2~~.
4. Small game – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 16-26 ~~17-27~~.
6. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~.
7. Migratory game birds – Migratory game birds during seasons established by Rules 68A-13.003 and 68A-13.008, F.A.C.
8. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.
9. Trapping – December 1 through March 1.

(b) Open seasons in the Grassy Point area (the area south of Weaver River):

1. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and January 21-29 ~~22-30~~.
2. Archery – October 15-30 ~~16-31~~.
3. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
4. Spring turkey – March 18-19 ~~19-20~~, April 1-2 ~~2-3~~ and 15-16 ~~16-17~~.
5. Small game – November 12-17 ~~13-18~~ and 21-23 ~~22-24~~.
6. Fishing and frogging – Throughout the year.

(c) - (e) No Change.

(24) Econfina Creek Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season except in the mobility-impaired, Cat Creek, and Fitzhugh Carter areas.

1. Archery – October 15 ~~16~~ through November 13 ~~14~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~ and December 10 ~~11~~ through February 1 ~~2~~.
4. Small game – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 5 ~~6~~.
5. Archery and muzzleloading gun – February 16-26 ~~17-27~~.
6. Spring turkey – March 18 ~~19~~ through April 23 ~~24~~.

7. Raccoon – November 12 ~~13~~ through March 17 ~~18~~ and April 24 ~~25~~ through July 31.
8. Duck and coot – During duck and coot season as established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C.
9. Fishing and frogging – Permitted throughout the year.

(b) Open seasons in the mobility-impaired hunt area (area south of County Road 388):

1. General gun – November 25-27 ~~26-28~~, January 13-15 ~~14-16~~, 20-22 ~~21-23~~, 27-29 ~~28-30~~ and February 1-3 ~~2-4~~.
2. Spring turkey – March 18-19 ~~19-20~~, 24-26 ~~25-27~~, March 31 through April 2 ~~April 1-3~~, April 7-9 ~~8-10~~, 14-16 ~~15-17~~ and 21-23 ~~22-24~~.
3. Fishing and frogging – Permitted throughout the year.

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 15-30 ~~16-31~~.
2. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.
3. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~, January 21-24 ~~22-25~~ and 25-29 ~~26-30~~.
4. Small game – December 3-18 ~~4-19~~.
5. Spring turkey – March 18-20 ~~19-21~~, March 31 through April 2 ~~April 1-3~~ and April 14-16 ~~15-17~~.
6. Special September duck – In the September season established by Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C. (Fitzhugh Carter area only).
7. Fishing and frogging – Permitted throughout the year except that fishing is prohibited in the Fitzhugh Carter area.

(d) - (e) No Change.

(f) General regulations:

1. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads except in the mobility-impaired hunt area by persons possessing mobility-impaired certificates.
2. Hunting with dogs, other than bird dogs or retrievers, is prohibited west of State Road 77, south of State Road 20, east of Econfina Creek, west of Econfina Road and south of

Greenhead Road, and north of Duma Jack Road, except that dogs may be used to take raccoons (except in the mobility-impaired hunt area).

3. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited except in the mobility-impaired hunt area by persons possessing mobility-impaired certificates.

4. The possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages is prohibited.

5. Persons hunting in the mobility-impaired area must possess a valid mobility-impaired certificate and mobility-impaired hunt permit, or accompany a person possessing a valid mobility-impaired certificate and mobility-impaired hunt permit. One additional person per permit holder may participate in the hunt. Only one mobility-impaired quota hunt permit may be utilized per individual per hunt.

6. Taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of Thomas Road, Rattlesnake Road, Strickland Road, Porter Pond Road, Duma Jack/Deadening Road, Econfina Road, Greenhead Road, Hampshire Boulevard, S.R. 20, or C.R. 388 is prohibited.

7. Horses are allowed on designated horse trails only. Horses are prohibited on the Fitzhugh Carter Area.

(25) Box-R Wildlife Management Area.

(a) Open season:

1. Archery – October 15-21 ~~16-22~~, and 22-30 ~~23-31~~.

2. Small game – November 12-17 ~~13-18~~.

3. Muzzleloading gun – November 18-20 ~~19-21~~.

4. General gun – November 24-27 ~~25-28~~, January 5-8 ~~6-9~~, 12-15 ~~13-16~~, and 19-22 ~~20-23~~.

5. Wild hog – December 3-9 ~~4-10~~.

6. Spring turkey – March 18-21 ~~19-22~~, March 30 ~~31~~ through April 2 ~~3~~, and April 13-16 ~~14-17~~.

7. Fishing and frogging – Permitted throughout the year.

(b) - (d) No Change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.121, 375.313 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.121, 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,_____.

NAME OF PERSON(S) ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Mr. Nick Wiley.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Mr. Kenneth D. Haddad,
Executive Director.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: December 2, 2004.

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN F.A.W.: December 10,
2004.