

**Draft Rules**  
**Summary of Proposed Rule Changes as Advertised in August - September, 2009**  
**With Public Comments**  
**Agenda Item 4 B 2**  
**December 9, 2009**

**(A) 68A-4.004 Possession of Wildlife or Freshwater Fish or the Carcasses Thereof.** - The purpose of this draft proposed rule change is to codify existing agency practice concerning certain deer carcasses. Currently, during the time of year when the taking or possession of deer is prohibited, the possession of any deer carcass or portion of the carcass is also prohibited. The language proposed by staff will clarify that the prohibition does not apply to a deer carcass or parts thereof from a deer (other than Key deer) that was killed by accidental collision with a vehicle.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change, 2 individuals asked questions and 1 made an off topic comment

Total 4 individuals  
0 organizations

**(B) 68-5.001 Introduction of Non-native Species into the State** – The proposed rule changes would update and clarify requirements for the issuance of permits for the importation and possession of conditional and prohibited species; codify eligibility requirements for issuance of such permits; establish criteria for denial of research permits for conditional and prohibited species; and, revise protocols for importation of leopard, African spurred and Bell’s hingeback tortoises.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change and provided additional comments regarding other rule proposals. Concerning this proposal, the individual would like to see FWC altogether prohibit the importation and sale of large constrictor snakes.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

**(C) 68-5.002 Conditional Non-native species** – The proposed rule changes would allow any current species to be automatically included on the list of conditional species if it were to undergo any taxonomic alterations, such as the changing of the genera or splitting into subspecies; modify the regulation on possession of Nile perches to further restrict outdoor culture and fee-fishing for Nile perches only to current owners of facilities authorized to possess and culture fishes in the genus *Lates*; and, add the Northern largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) as a conditional species while allowing possession of a hybrid bass on the Suwannee River and its tributaries and to the north and west of same. This is being done to protect the genetic integrity of the Florida bass stock in the state.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(D) 68-5.003 Prohibited Non-native Species** --The proposed rule changes would allow any current species to be automatically included on the list of conditional species if it were to undergo any taxonomic alterations, such as the changing of the genera or splitting into subspecies; and, add the Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*) as a prohibited species. Quagga mussels are closely related to the zebra mussel, which is already a prohibited species. Quagga mussels have been as problematic as zebra mussels in the Great Lakes, and the genus *Dreissena* is on the federal list of injurious wildlife.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(E) 68A-9.002 Permits to Take Wildlife or Freshwater Fish for Justifiable Purposes.** - The proposed rule would allow Commission volunteers to take wildlife or freshwater fish or their nests or eggs for justifiable purposes provided that the volunteer program and specific conditions for the take are approved by a Division Director.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(F) 68A-9.004 Permits for Hunting or Other Recreational Use on Wildlife Management Areas.** - The proposed rule change would adjust the number of Recreational User Permits (RUPs) as follows: Twelve Mile Swamp WMA - reduce the number of recreational user permits issued from 200 to 125.

3 individuals did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that the current number of permittees is suitable. (Note: Those who submitted comments were not made aware that the proposed reduction in permits was done to accommodate a proportional reduction in acreage.)

Total 3 Individual  
0 Organizations

**(G) 68A-9.010 Taking Nuisance Wildlife.** - The proposed rule would clarify that a chemical repellent may be used, but is not an approved exclusion device for removal of bats from a structure; require live traps and snares to be inspected at least once every 24 hours; require live-captured nuisance wildlife to be released or euthanized within 24 hours of capture or trap inspection; allow the transportation and release of nuisance wildlife at an off-site location if the following conditions are met: The nuisance wildlife must be a native species; the release site is within the same county of capture; the release site is a minimum of 40 contiguous acres; the person releasing the nuisance wildlife has written permission from the owner of the release site and the transportation of wildlife does not violate any rabies alert or area quarantine issued by a County Health Department or County Animal Service.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 1 individual supports the release and relocation of wildlife. 1 individual did not support the rule changes. Recommendations included smaller acreage for release sites and prohibit the take of any wildlife as nuisance wildlife

Total 3 Individuals  
0 Organizations

**(H) 68A-13.004 Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits.** - The proposed rule would adjust the boundaries of

management zones and open season dates for deer to better coincide with the rut and hunter preference; adjust the fall turkey season dates to align with management zones; create a special 2-day “Youth Turkey Hunt” the weekend prior to the opening weekend of spring turkey season within each management zone with the following provisions: allow only youth hunters under 16 years of age who are supervised by an adult at least 18 years of age to harvest a turkey; allow adult supervisors with all required licenses and permits for turkey hunting to participate with the youth, but not be allowed to harvest any wildlife with a gun; allow adults who do not have required licenses and permits to supervise a youth, but not be allowed to participate in the hunt; retain the current daily bag limit for turkey as one gobbler or bearded turkey per day and any wild turkey harvested during the Youth Turkey Hunt would count towards the spring season limit of two.

Summary of Comments Received:

An initial proposal regarding revisions to deer hunting zones and seasons was presented at 6 public meetings in May and June to gather public input. Comments were also received online. A total of 855 comment forms were received during this initial public input phase and significant revisions were made to the proposal based on public input. The revised proposal was presented at two public meetings in September and online input was also sought. A total of 195 comment forms were received on revised proposal during this second public input phase. The level of support for the revised proposal is very high with 74% to 93% approval for the various zones and season dates.

2 individuals supported the youth turkey hunt.

Total 1,158 individuals  
0 organizations

**(I) 68A-14.001 Establishment Orders.** - The proposed changes would consolidate rules on establishment of Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs). The changes clarify that CWAs will not be established without approval of the property owner. Changes also provide authority for the Executive Director to establish a Critical Wildlife Area for a restricted period of time that will not exceed 180 days – that action would occur only when there is an urgent need and only with prior concurrence of the chairman of the Commission.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual was against requirement that property owners concur with the establishment of Critical Wildlife Areas.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

**(J) 68A-14.011 Opening or Closing Areas Other Than Restricted Hunting Areas, Bird Sanctuaries or Critical Wildlife Areas; General.** – The proposed rule would clarify references to wildlife refuges and would improve consistency by adding language to address critical wildlife areas, which currently are the only areas established and managed by FWC not covered by this rule.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(K) 68A-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.** - The proposed rule change clarifies that for a specific season only those species listed in each area-specific rule would be legal to hunt; and taking furbearers with traps or hunting furbearers at night must be explicitly allowed in the area-specific regulations.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(L) 68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas -- Babcock Ranch Preserve.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on miscellaneous areas as follows: establish a quail enhancement area that includes the entire hunt area (16,612 acres) and allow up to eight days of quail hunting, with no more than 10 quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit), in January and February with a bag limit of six quail per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization did not support the proposal. The Caloosa Saddle Club is concerned the quail hunts will interfere with access by equestrians and other users.

Total 0 Individuals  
1 Organization

**(M) 68A-15.061 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Southwest Region.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Southwest region as follows:

(1) **Arbuckle WMA** - allow small game hunting with bird dogs, retrievers and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less; and begin the muzzleloading gun season a week earlier.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the change to muzzleloading gun season, but did not support allowing dogs for hunting small game.

Total 2 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(2) **Avon Park Air Force Range WMA** - allow the use of rimfire rifles; allow waterfowl hunters to hunt in Morgan Hole Creek with or without dogs; open Smith and Old Bravo roads to vehicle traffic 24 hours per day; exempt persons within the passenger compartment of a vehicle from the requirement to wear fluorescent orange garments while in the hunt area; allow the Installation Commander or a designee to authorize certain activities on the area; and allow the Installation Commander to authorize the following within statewide regulation framework: hunts that do not have a 3-point antler restriction, hunts that allow the take of raccoon and opossum at night, hunting in Sandy Point Wildlife Refuge, use of handguns with barrels longer than 9 inches, use of centerfire rifles, use of all-terrain vehicles and airboats, use of vehicles off-road and use of vehicles on roads that are closed between 10 p.m. and 4:30 a.m.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed about the use of ATVs.

Total 3 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(3) **Chassahowitzka WMA** - expand the migratory bird hunting season to match the statewide season except waterfowl and coot hunting will continue to be limited to Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; and establish a raccoon and opossum season that allows hunting from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursdays until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sundays in February and May.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(4) **Croom WMA** - allow the Florida Division of Forestry to provide camping consistent with their regulations; and increase the quota for spring turkey hunts from 10 to 15 permits (no exemptions) for each of three hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the increased quota and felt the current quota was sufficient.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(5) **Green Swamp WMA** - expand the open hunting area from the Cumpresco Unit to the entire WMA during small game season; establish an 8-day wild hog-dog season (the first wild hog-dog hunt will overlap the last 2 weekends of small game season and hunting wild hog with dogs will be prohibited in the Cumpresco Unit [quota of 135, no exemptions] and the second wild hog-dog hunt will occur on the 2 weekends following small game season [quota of 160, no exemptions]); each wild hog-dog quota permit will allow two hunters and a guest hunter, the use of three free-running dogs per quota permit, and only one gun may be used per quota permit; allow camping by permit at the Rock Ridge campground during the wild hog-dog season; allow vehicle access to the Rock Ridge campground after 4 p.m. on Friday until 1.5 hours after sunset on Sunday during the wild hog-dog season; and continue to prohibit the possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported the proposed rule change. 3 individuals supported opening the entire area for small game season, but did not support the addition of hog-dog hunts. Concerns were expressed about wildlife disturbance, excessive harvest, hunter conflicts and camping issues.

Total 6 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(6) **Green Swamp West Unit WMA** - convert the current special-opportunity wild hog hunts to wild hog-still and wild hog-dog quota permit hunts; increase the quota for wild hog-still season from 200 to 225 (no exemptions) and increase the quota for wild hog-dog season from 100 to 150 (no exemptions); prohibit the use of horses during the small game season; during periods open for

hunting allow only those persons participating in the hunt to operate a motor vehicle on the area; and issue an additional 40 permits (first-come, first-served at the check station) during small game season to allow the hunting of small game, but not wild hog.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(7) **Hickory Hammock WMA** - establish a 2-day general gun mobility-impaired season (quota of 5, no exemptions) with a bag limit of one antlered deer (one antler must have at least three points) and one antlerless deer per quota permit, but only the mobility-impaired hunter may harvest an antlerless deer; allow mobility-impaired hunters to operate all-terrain vehicles on the area during the hunt and from 8 a.m. until sunset 1 day prior to the hunt for scouting; and require all mobility-impaired hunt participants to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed rule changes due to concerns about ATV use by any person.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(8) **Hilochee WMA** - establish a raccoon and opossum season and allow hunting from 1.5 hours before sunset on Thursdays until 1.5 hours after sunrise on Sundays in September.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(9) **Hilochee WMA, Osprey Unit** - establish a 12-day small game season, during which small game and wild hog will be legal to take; prohibit the use of dogs for hunting wild hogs during the small game season; and allow raccoon and opossum hunting at night during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(10) **KICCO WMA** - replace the current Public Small Game Hunting Area hog management hunts (12 days) with the addition of 14 days to the end of the current small game season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(11) **Lake Marion Creek WMA** - Prohibit the hunting of bobcat and otter.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(N) 68A-15.062 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - North Central Region.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the North Central region as follows:

(1) **Belmore WMA** - expand waterfowl season to match the statewide dates and allow waterfowl retrievers during that time; and clarify that the bag limit for deer and turkey is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(2) **Big Bend WMA, Hickory Mound Unit** - remove size and bag limits for wild hog and allow them to be hunted during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(3) **Big Bend WMA, Jena Unit** - remove size and bag limits for wild hog and allow them to be hunted during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(4) **Big Bend WMA, Snipe Island Unit** - remove requirement to check in and out and to check all game taken, except during the muzzleloading gun season and the first 16 days of the archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun and spring turkey seasons; allow wild hog to be hunted during the small game season; and clarify that the bag limit for deer is one per quota permit per day and for turkey is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(5) **Big Bend WMA, Spring Creek Unit** - remove size and bag limits for wild hog and allow them to be hunted during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(6) **Big Bend WMA, Tide Swamp Unit** - remove size and bag limits for wild hog and allow them to be hunted during the small game season; and remove the quota requirement for the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(7) **Camp Blanding WMA** - allow turkey to be hunted on the still hunt area during the last two days of each of the two general gun quota periods and the first two days of the non-quota period of the general gun still season; allow turkey to be hunted on the dog hunt area during the last three days of each general gun dog hunt; and remove quota requirement for the archery hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(8) **Cary WMA** – add approximately 4,000 acres to the existing area; increase the number of archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun quota permits from 60 to 100; increase the number of family hunt quota permits from 40 to 65; increase the number of spring turkey quota permits from 10 to 20; reduce bag limit for deer during archery season from two deer per day (any combination of antlered and antlerless) to one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit; reduce bag limit for deer during family hunt from two deer per day (any combination of antlered and antlerless) to one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit; reduce bag limit for deer during muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons from two antlered deer per day to one antlered deer per quota permit; reduce bag limit for spring turkey season from one bearded turkey or gobbler per day to one bearded turkey or gobbler per quota permit; expand the waterfowl season to match the statewide dates and allow

waterfowl retrievers during that time; and allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of an access permit from the Division of Forestry.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supports the changes; three individuals do not agree with the reduction in deer bag limit during the archery season.

Total 4 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(9) **Citrus WMA** - prohibit camping except as authorized by the Division of Forestry; and remove quota permit requirement for the second archery hunt.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(10) **Cypress Creek WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(11) **Devil's Hammock WMA** - allow nighttime hunting of raccoons, with dogs, during the small game season by persons in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District; and add a 4-week wild hog-still season (no quota) during which only wild hog will be legal to take.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(12) **Flying Eagle WMA** - allow hunting equipment to be taken onto the area beginning at 8 a.m. the day before each hunt and require it to be removed on the last day of each hunt; and during spring turkey season allow hunting equipment beginning 1.5 hours before sunrise the day preceding each hunt.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(13) **Four Creeks WMA** - clarify that the bag limit for deer and turkey is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(14) **Goethe WMA** - require motorized vehicles to enter the area at designated entrances but allow people on foot to enter at any location.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supports the change.

Total 1 individual

0 organizations

(15) **Grove Park WMA** - add a 56-day small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

4 individuals support the change; 1 individual is opposed to a 56-day season, believes half would be adequate; 1 individual commented off topic.

Total 6 individuals  
0 organizations

(16) **Hatchet Creek** - clarify that the bag limit for deer and turkey is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(17) **Holton Creek WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(18) **Jennings Forest WMA** - establish a quail enhancement area north of the North Fork Black Creek, east of County Road 217 and west of Yellow Water Creek (approximately 5,471 acres) and allow up to eight days of quail hunting, with no more than four quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit) in January and February with a bag limit of six quail per quota permit; expand the waterfowl season to match the statewide season; allow waterfowl retrievers during the waterfowl season; change the number of general gun hunts from two 5-day and a 6-day hunt to four 4-day hunts (quota 60) and change the spring turkey hunts from a 4-day and 5-day hunt to three 3-day hunts (quota 30).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the change because more hunters will have opportunity; 1 individual was against change because of reduction in recreational use; *Staff comment - The total number of hunting days will remain the same and should not result in a reduction of use.*

Total 2 individuals  
0 organizations

(19) **Little River WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(20) **Mallory Swamp WMA** - eliminate requirement to check game; replace the first-come first-served permits issued at the check station with quota permits issued through the Total Licensing

System (total number of permits issued will remain the same); allow nighttime raccoon hunting during the small game season by persons in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District; lengthen the small game season by 14 days; add a 3-day hog-dog season during which only wild hog would be legal to take; and allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received:

5 individuals did not support the proposed change because they will no longer be able to get first-come first-served permits.

Total 5 individuals  
0 organizations

(21) **Middle Aucilla WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(22) **Potts WMA** - allow the use of horses only during periods closed to hunting; allow hunting and camping equipment to be taken onto the area beginning 8 a.m. the day before each hunt and require it be removed on the last day of each hunt; during spring turkey season allow camping equipment beginning 1.5 hours before sunrise the day preceding each hunt; and require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual opposed disallowing horses during hunting periods, because other users are not prohibited.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(23) **Steinhatchee Springs WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District; remove requirement to check game; replace the first-come first-served quota permits issued at the check station with quota permits issued through the Total Licensing System (total number of permits will remain the same); establish a wild hog-dog season with two 3-day hunts (quota 50, no exemptions); allow only wild hog to be hunted during the wild hog-dog season, no more than three free-running dogs will be allowed per quota permit, each quota permit shall allow a hunting group of two persons and a guest (3 total) and only one gun may be used per hunting group; and lengthen general gun season by seven days.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual was opposed to adding hunting days.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(24) **Thomas Creek WMA, Kings Road Unit** - clarify that the bag limit for deer and turkey is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(25) **Troy Springs WMA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(26) **Twin Rivers WMA** - prohibit camping except as authorized by the Division of Forestry.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(27) **Twin Rivers WMA, Blue Springs Unit** - change the special-opportunity quail season to a quail season; establish the entire area as a quail enhancement area; allow up to eight days of quail hunting; and decrease the bag limit for quail from 12 per special-opportunity permit to six per quail quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual was opposed to adding hunting days.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

**(O) 68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northwest Region.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northwest region as follows:

(1) **Apalachicola WMA** - expand the migratory bird hunting seasons to match the statewide season; increase the number of days of quail hunting on the quail enhancement area to a maximum of eight days; decrease the bag limit for quail from 12 to six per quota permit; and limit camping on Northwest Florida Water Management District lands to 14 consecutive days.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(2) **Apalachicola WMA, Bradwell Unit** - establish a wild hog-dog season with five 3-day hunts (quota of three per hunt, no exemptions) and a wild hog-still season with five 3-day hunts (quota of six per hunt, no exemptions); allow only wild hog to be hunted during the wild hog seasons; allow up to two hunters and one guest, the use of no more than three free-running dogs and only one gun per quota permit during the wild hog-dog hunts; specify that wild hog-dog hunts will begin at 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and end at 11:59 p.m. (midnight) the last day of the hunt; prohibit hunting from sunrise to sunset during the wild hog-dog season; and allow wild hogs to be hunted during the wild hog-dog season by the aid of a light with a firearm, provided that the firearm is not loaded until

immediately prior to shooting a bayed hog (hunting of wild hog under this provision by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited).

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed about not allowing hunting during the day and hunts occurring only over weekends at the expense of other recreational users.

Total 2 individuals  
0 organizations

(3) **Aucilla WMA** - remove the quota permit requirement during the muzzleloading gun season; and allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset in the still hunt area north of Goose Pasture Road.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(4) **Blackwater WMA** - expand the waterfowl season to match the statewide season; establish a quail enhancement area north of Bryant Bridge Road, east of Sandy Forest Road, west of Norman Riley Road and south of Sweetwater River, Blue Creek and Forest Road 29 (approximately 15,400 acres) and allow up to eight days of quail hunting, with no more than eight quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit), in January and February with a bag limit of six quail per quota permit; and allow bird dogs to be trained only from November 1 through December 31 in the quail enhancement area.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received during the online commenting period. However, staff held an open house following a direct mailing soliciting comments on draft rules for establishing a quail enhancement area (QEA). From all comments received, 13 individuals supported the rule change, 20 individuals did not support the rule change, and 1 individual had no opinion. Concerns and reasons cited for not supporting the proposal included desire for the QEA to be established on a different part of the WMA, dislike of random issuance and nontransferability of quota permits, concern over too limited opportunity and access, the proposed season dates conflicting with the peak of white-tailed deer rut and an unclear north boundary line. *Staff comment – Based on comments received, the original proposal was modified to allow QEA hunts to be scheduled on Wednesdays as well when conflict with deer hunters would be less and the QEA north boundary was moved north to State Highway 4 to provide a clear boundary line.*

Total 34 individuals  
0 organizations

(5) **Box-R WMA** - establish a wild hog-dog season with five 3-day hunts (quota of ten per hunt, no exemptions); allow only wild hog to be hunted during the wild hog-dog hunts; allow up to two hunters and one guest, the use of no more than three free-running dogs and only one gun per quota permit during the wild hog-dog hunts; specify that wild hog-dog hunts will begin at 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and end at 11:59 p.m. (midnight) the last day of the hunt; prohibit hunting from sunrise to sunset during the wild hog-dog season; and allow wild hogs to be hunted during the wild hog-dog season by the aid of a light with a firearm, provided that the firearm is not loaded until immediately prior to shooting a bayed hog (hunting of wild hog under this provision by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change because of concerns over the hunts preferentially occurring on weekends at the expense of other recreational users.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(6) **Choctawhatchee River WMA** - limit camping to 14 consecutive days; and prohibit the possession or consumption of intoxicating beverages in the Holmes Creek Unit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(7) **Econfina Creek WMA** - expand the migratory bird hunting season to match the statewide season, except in the mobility-impaired, Cat Creek and Fitzhugh Carter areas; remove those portions of the area lying in Jackson County and east of Ten-mile Creek from the dog hunt area and add them to the still hunt area; require a quota permit for the entire general gun season on the dog hunt area; allow raccoon and opossum to be taken at night with the aid of a light and dogs with a gun during the raccoon season; and limit camping at designated campsites to 14 consecutive days.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change because of concerns over expanding the quota period in the dog hunt area for the entire season.

Total 2 individuals  
0 organizations

(8) **Escambia River WMA** - limit camping to 14 consecutive days.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(9) **Lafayette Creek WMA** - expand the migratory bird hunting season to match the statewide season; and allow public access during daylight hours, except during quota hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(10) **Perdido River WMA** - close Shelby Ditch Road to vehicle access from May through September.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(11) **Pine Log WMA** - expand the waterfowl season to match the statewide season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(12) **Tate's Hell WMA** - establish a fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat season open from May 1 through September 30 on that portion of the area bounded by Jet Engine Road, Five Points Road, Trout Creek Road, Buck Siding Road, Tucker Road and Gully Branch Road.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(13) **Tate's Hell WMA, Womack Creek Unit** - expand the waterfowl season to match the statewide season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(14) **Upper Chipola River WMA** - limit camping at designated campsites to 14 consecutive days.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(15) **Wakulla WMA** - prohibit discharging firearms on or from the right-of-way of Chattin Road within ¼ mile of its intersection with McBride Slough Road.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change and felt preferential treatment is being given to a private inholding.

Total 1 individual  
0 organizations

(16) **Yellow River WMA** - limit camping to 14 consecutive days; and allow raccoon and opossum to be taken at night with the aid of a light and dogs with a gun during the general gun and small game seasons, except in the Grassy Point and Burnt Grocery Creek areas.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(P) 68A-15.064 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - South Region.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the South region as follows:

**(1) Allapattah Flats WMA** – open trails to vehicular access one week prior to the start of each season until 6 p.m. one day after the close of each season, except for small game season; begin the general gun hunt on the Saturday following the family hunt; change the archery season from one 7-day and one 9-day hunt to four 4-day hunts (quota 50, no exemptions); bird dogs and retrievers may be used to hunt migratory game during the migratory bird seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization supported the proposed rule change and suggested that trails also be opened during migratory game bird seasons. 1 individual did not support the proposed change citing that it increased the number of hunts occurring over weekends at the expense of other recreational users.

Total 1 individual  
1 organization

**(2) Dinner Island Ranch WMA** - change the wild hog bag limit from one per quota permit to a daily bag of one, possession limit of two, no size limit and allow wild hog to be taken during February; move the family hunt from the second and third weekends in November to the first and second weekends in December; change the archery season from two consecutive hunts (7-day and 9-day) to four 4-day hunts (quota 45, no exemptions); change the general gun season from two consecutive hunts (4-day and 5-day) to three 3-day hunts (quota 45, no exemptions); change the spring turkey season from two consecutive hunts (4-day and 5-day) to three 3-day hunts (quota 20, no exemptions); allow migratory birds to be taken during statewide open seasons; allow bird dogs and retrievers to be used to hunt small game during migratory bird and small game seasons; allow year-round public vehicle access on trails which are currently only open for seasonal vehicle access by people participating in hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that the proposal increased the number of hunts occurring over weekends at the expense of other recreational users, decreased the number of hunt days per hunt and allowing trail access year round would negatively affect the quality of the area.

Total 2 individual  
0 organizations

**(3) Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA** - remove the annual bag limit and shoulder height restriction for wild hog; establish a possession limit of two for wild hog; add an additional week to the general gun-walk hunt in conservation Areas 3A North and 2; shorten the muzzleloading gun season in Conservation Area 3A North by one week; eliminate the second general gun-walk hunt; remove language that prohibits kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers unless contained in mobile campers or an existing permanent camp; prohibit the operation of airboats, during legal shooting hours, during archery, muzzleloading and general gun-walk seasons; and allow use of tracked vehicles by persons participating in alligator hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization supported the proposed rule change but suggested the week removed from the muzzleloading gun season should be added to the general gun-vehicle season instead of the general gun-walk season. 1 individual did not support the proposed change citing that there was no reason to remove the second general gun-walk season.

Total 1 individual  
1 organization

(4) **Holey Land WMA** - remove the annual bag limit and shoulder height restriction for wild hog; establish a possession limit of two for wild hog; add an additional week to the general gun-walk season and shorten the muzzleloading gun season by one week; and allow the use of tracked vehicles by persons participating in alligator hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(5) **J.W. Corbett WMA** - allow wild hog to be hunted for the entire general gun season; change the bag limit for wild hog from one per year to one per day, with annual limit of two per person; remove the shoulder height restriction for wild hog; remove the quota permit requirement for the first nine days of general gun season; restrict dog training during the dog training season to the area south and east of Stumper's Grade; allow vehicle access on the North, South, and Stumper's Grade and Trail 6 year-round; allow vehicle access on named and numbered trails during archery and spring turkey seasons only to those persons participating in the hunt; during the muzzleloading gun, general gun, and small game seasons allow only those persons participating in the hunt cross-country vehicle access; address options for allowing the possession and consumption of alcohol; and adjust the boundary for the buffer zone surrounding the Pratt-Whitney complex.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 4 individuals and 1 organization did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that the less restrictive bag limit for wild hog would wipe out the hog population on the area, representing a loss of opportunity; vehicle access should be more restrictive during spring turkey season to reduce disturbance to turkey hunters; doe harvest should be restricted during archery season to avoid over-harvest; deer-dog training during deer-dog training season should also be allowed in the Roy R. Burnside still hunt area; and the proposed changes did not represent proposals submitted by the Florida Sportsman's Conservation Association. *Staff comment – As a result of public input, many of these rules were modified. Please see current proposals under specific area background report.*

Total 5 individuals  
1 organization

(6) **Okaloacoochee Slough WMA** - expand waterfowl season to match statewide dates.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(7) **Rotenberger WMA** - remove the annual bag limit and shoulder height restriction for wild hog; establish a possession limit of two for wild hog; remove prohibition of kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers unless contained in mobile campers or an existing permanent camp; establish a possession limit of two for wild hog; add an additional week to the general gun-walk season and

shorten the muzzleloading gun season by one week; and allow the use of tracked vehicles by persons participating in alligator hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(8) **Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA** - change the wild hog bag limit from one per quota permit to a daily bag of one, possession of two, no size limit and allow wild hog to be taken the entire month of February; change the archery season from two consecutive hunts (7-day and 9-day) to four 4-day hunts (quota 20, no exemptions); change the general gun season from two consecutive hunts (4-day and 5-day) to three 3-day hunts (quota 20, no exemptions); change the spring turkey season from two consecutive hunts (4-day and 5-day) to three 3-day hunts (quota 10, no exemptions); allow migratory birds to be taken during statewide open seasons; and bird dogs and retrievers may be used to hunt small game during migratory bird and small game seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 1 organization did not support the proposed change citing that it increased the number of hunts occurring over weekends at the expense of other recreational users.

Total 1 individual  
1 organization

**(Q) 68A-15.065 Specific regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northeast Region.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs in the Northeast region as follows:

(1) **Buck Lake WMA** – clarify that the deer bag limit is one antlered deer and one antlerless deer per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(2) **Bull Creek WMA** - allow small game to be hunted with bird dogs during all seasons except spring turkey; remove the quota permit requirement for the second and third general gun hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed for the potential to hunt deer with dogs.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(3) **Caravelle Ranch WMA** - reduce the quota for the special-opportunity dove hunts from 80 to 60; clarify that the bag limit during spring turkey season is one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(4) **Charles H. Bronson WMA (NEW)** 9,242 acres - establish a new wildlife management area with the following open seasons: archery - one 7-day hunt and one 9-day hunt (quota of 30 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun - one 3-day hunt (quota of 30; no exemptions); general gun - three 3-day hunts (quota of 30 per hunt; no exemptions); small game – one 9-day hunt and one 7-day hunt (no quota permit required); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt; no exemptions); statewide waterfowl and snipe seasons (no quota permit required, except during archery, muzzleloading gun or general gun hunts); fishing and frogging - year round; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; the bag limit for deer shall be one per quota permit; during the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit; allow camping only as authorized by the Division of Forestry; prohibit hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers for hunting small game; allow vehicles to be operated on named and numbered roads only and to be parked within 25 feet of a named or numbered road; allow vehicle access only by persons participating in the hunts; prohibit airboats, tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles; require persons to enter and exit at a designated entrance or from any point along the St. Johns River, except access along the river is prohibited during quota hunts and the small game season; vehicle access is allowed only during quota hunts and small game season; prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season and allow horses to be ridden only on designated equestrian trails.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 3 individuals did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed for safety, not having a check station requirement and not having enough hunts.

Total 4 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(5) **Etoniah Creek WMA** – clarify that the bag limit during spring turkey season is one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(6) **Fort Drum WMA** - convert the special-opportunity wild hog-still hunts to regular quota hunts.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(7) **Half Moon WMA** – increase the wild hog-still hunts from two 2-day hunts to three 3-day hunts (quota of 50 per hunt, no exemptions).

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(8) **Little Big Econlockhatchee WMA, Kilbee Unit** - remove "Kilbee Unit" from the WMA name; extend the archery season from two 3-day hunts to one 7-day hunt and one 9-day hunt (increase the quota from 10 to 20 per hunt, no exemptions); increase the quota for muzzleloading gun season from 10 to 20 (no exemptions); extend the general gun season from one 3-day hunt to three 3-day hunts (increase the quota from 10 to 20 per hunt; no exemptions); remove the general gun hog season; increase small game season from three 2-day weekend hunts to 16 consecutive days (no quota permit required); allow the take of wild hog during small game season; add three 3-day spring turkey hunts

(quota of 10, no exemptions); remove the requirement for hunters to check in and out at a check station upon entry and exit from the WMA; remove the requirement for hunters to record all game taken; require vehicles to be parked within 25 feet of a named or numbered road; remove the prohibition on dismemberment of deer, turkey and wild hog prior to being checked at a check station; prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for taking wild turkey during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(9) **Lake George WMA** - establish a quail enhancement area east of Lake George, south of County Road 305, west of U.S. Highway 17 and north of Shell Harbor Road and allow up to 8 days of quail hunting, with no more than 5 quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit) in January and February, with a bag limit of 6 per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(10) **Lake Panasoffkee WMA** - allow horses only during periods closed to hunting; allow camping and hunting equipment only during periods when scouting and hunting are allowed; prohibit the take of hog during small game season; increase the number of daily quota permits issued at the check station during small game season from 30 to 40 per day (no exemptions); increase the quota for the wild hog-still hunt from 30 to 50 (no exemptions); increase the quota for the wild hog-dog hunt from 30 to 35 (no exemptions).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that all non-hunting recreation activities should be prohibited during periods open to hunting if horseback riding is prohibited during periods open to hunting. Alternatively, horseback riders could be required to wear fluorescent orange.

Total    1 Individual  
          0 Organizations

(11) **Marshall Swamp WMA (NEW)** 5,361 acres - establish a new wildlife management area with the following open seasons: archery - four 7-day hunts and one 9-day hunt (quota of 10 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun - one 3-day hunt (quota of 10, no exemptions); general gun - three 3-day hunts (quota of 10 per hunt, no exemptions); small game - 114 days (no quota permit required, except when overlapping with general gun season); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 5 per hunt; no exemptions); statewide migratory bird seasons (no quota permit required, except during archery, muzzleloading gun or general gun quota periods); fishing and frogging - year round; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; the bag limit for deer shall be one per quota permit; during the spring turkey season, the bag limit shall be one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit; prohibit camping; prohibit hunting with dogs other than bird dogs or retrievers for the take of small game; prohibit the take of wild hog with dogs; allow vehicles in designated parking areas only; prohibit airboats, tracked vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles; require persons to enter and exit at a designated entrance; prohibit the take of wildlife with centerfire rifles and centerfire handguns; prohibit fires.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concern was expressed for hunting occurring over the weekends.

Total 2 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(12) **Ocala WMA** - establish a quail enhancement area in all property designated as the Church Lake Unit and allow up to 8 days of quail hunting, with no more than 6 quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit) in January and February, with a bag limit of 6 per quota permit; remove the quota permit requirement for the general gun and muzzleloading gun hunts on the Hopkins Prairie and Lake Delancy Units; incorporate that portion of the Pipeline Unit south of the Fore Lake campground into the Church Lake Unit, which will reduce the number of deer dog hunting days from 58 to nine in that area.

Summary of Comments Received:

11 individuals supported the proposed rule change. 2 individuals and 1 organization did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that quota permits should not be required to hunt the Church Lake Unit, that deer dog hunting opportunities are being reduced on the area and that the dog-trespass problem will not be effectively resolved with the revision in unit boundaries.

Total 13 Individuals  
1 organization

(13) **Ocklawaha River WMA, Gores Landing Unit** – clarify that the deer bag limit is one per quota permit; clarify that the bag limit during spring turkey season is one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(14) **Relay WMA** - require all persons to enter and exit at a designated entrance.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(15) **Richloam** – clarify that camping is allowed only as authorized by the Division of Forestry.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals submitted unrelated comments.

Total 2 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(16) **Richloam WMA, Baird Unit** - clarify that the bag limit is one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit during the archery season and one antlered deer per quota permit during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; and require a quota permit to hunt during the third archery hunt.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. 1 individual provided unrelated comments. Concerns were expressed that establishing quotas on the majority of WMAs causes crowding on areas that do not establish quotas, that the quota requirement on the third archery hunt should remain and that the bag limit for deer should be 2 deer per hunt.

Total 2 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(17) **Salt Lake WMA** - change the small game season from one 16-day season in December (Saturday through Sunday) to six 3-day hunts (Friday through Sunday) during December, January and February; clarify that the deer bag limit is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that the change in the small game season hunting format would result in more hunting occurring over the weekends.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(18) **Seminole Forest WMA, Lake Tracy Unit** - add one 3-day archery hunt (quota 40, no exemptions); add three 3-day wild hog-still hunts (quota 40, no exemptions); increase the quotas for archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons from 20 to 40 per hunt (no exemptions), and for spring turkey season from 10 to 20 per hunt (no exemptions); change the bag limit from two deer per day to two deer per quota permit; allow vehicles to be parked within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed for increased number of hunting days and not wanting to share the area with hunters for 12 more days.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(19) **Seminole Ranch WMA** - increase the length of the muzzleloading gun hunts from 2 days to 3 days; clarify that the deer bag limit is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed for increased number of hunting days and not wanting to share the area with hunters for additional days.

Total 2 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(20) **Three Lakes WMA** - establish a quail enhancement area east of the Florida Turnpike and west of U.S. 441 (25,168 acres) and allow up to 8 days of quail hunting, with no more than 10 quota permits per day (no exemptions, up to two hunters per quota permit) in January and February, with a bag limit of 6 quail per quota permit; remove the quota requirement for the second and third general gun hunts and the general gun for mobility impaired hunt; allow raccoon hunting on that area between the Florida Turnpike and U.S. 441 only.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed for increased number of hunting days and not wanting to share the area with hunters for additional days.

Total 3 Individuals  
0 Organizations

(21) **Three Lakes WMA, Prairie Lakes Unit** - expand the snipe and dove seasons to match the statewide seasons.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(22) **Tiger Bay WMA, Rima Ridge Unit** - allow vehicles only on named and numbered roads designated on the hunt map; clarify that the deer bag limit is one per quota permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(23) **Tosohatchee WMA** - allow turkey to be hunted during archery season; issue quota permits for the Monday through Thursday wild hog-dog hunts first-come, first-served at the check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposed change. Concerns were expressed that the fees are excessive and unnecessary.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(24) **Twelve Mile Swamp WMA** - require all persons to enter and exit at a designated entrance; reduce the number of recreational user permits issued from 200 to 125.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual provided an unrelated comment.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(25) **Upper St. Johns River Marsh WMA** - allow motorized vessels in areas posted as seasonal walk-in areas, but only from one day following the close of spring turkey season to one day prior to archery season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed change. 1 individual did not support the proposed change. 1 organization provided an unrelated comment.

Total 2 Individuals  
1 Organization

**(R) 68A-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas.** - The proposed rule change clarifies that during a specific season only those species listed in each area-specific rule are legal to take and taking furbearers with traps or hunting furbearers at night must be explicitly allowed in the area-specific regulations.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(S) 68A-17.005 Specific regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas.** - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WEAs as follows:

Southwest Region.

(1) **Bullfrog Creek Mitigation Park** - require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(2) **Chinsegut WEA** - clarify that public access is limited to foot traffic unless participating in Commission sponsored activities; allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset; prohibit the possession of any animal; and require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(3) **Crooked Lake Mitigation Park (NEW)** 1,147 acres - prohibit the possession of any animal; limit public access to foot traffic; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(4) **Hickey Creek Mitigation Park** - require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(5) **Janet Butterfield Brooks Mitigation Park (NEW)** 319 acres - prohibit public access as required by the acquisition agreement.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the proposal based on concerns about public lands not being open for public use.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(6) **Lake Wales Ridge WEA** - prohibit the possession of any animal, except horses are allowed by permit; limit public access to foot traffic or horses; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 unrelated comment.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(7) **Lake Wales Ridge WEA, Royce Unit** - move the wild hog-still hunt dates from January to May and remove the quota permit requirement; prohibit the use of horses during periods open for hunting; and expand scouting opportunities by allowing vehicle access on named roads one day prior to all hunts except small game.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change. 1 individual did not support the restriction of horses during the hunting season.

Total 2 individuals  
0 organizations

(8) **Moody Branch Mitigation Park (NEW)** 960 acres - prohibit the possession of any animal, except horses are allowed by permit; limit public access to foot traffic or horses; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposal and recommended a hunting season.

Total 1 Individual  
0 Organizations

(9) **Perry Oldenburg Mitigation Park** - prohibit the possession of any animal; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(10) **Platt Branch Mitigation Park** - require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; and allow public access from 0.5 hours before sunrise until 0.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

North Central Region

(11) **Bell Ridge WEA (NEW)** 720 acres - prohibit possession of any animal; allow access only on foot; and allow entrance and exit at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(12) **Fort White WEA** - establish three 5-day archery hunts (quota 10, no exemptions); establish a 14-day small game season; establish two 5-day spring turkey hunts (quota 3, no exemptions); establish a falconry season with statewide dates; allow fishing and frogging only along the banks of the Santa Fe River; prohibit trapping; establish as legal to take all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; set the bag limit for deer during archery season at one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit; set the bag limit for turkey during spring turkey season at one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit; require persons enter and exit at designated entrances; allow access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 after sunset; prohibit possession of any animal, except that dogs may be used for trailing wounded game, bird dogs may be used for hunting during the small game season and falcons may be used during the falconry season; prohibit access by motorized vehicles; remove rule that restricts access to foot traffic only; allow bicycles to be ridden on firebreaks, trails and well defined roads; allow access during the archery and spring turkey seasons only to persons eligible to hunt; and prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 person supported the proposal, 2 persons wanted to allow horses, 1 person wanted to establish a falconry season and 1 person wanted to allow bird dogs. *Staff comment - the original proposal was modified to allow falcons during statewide open season and bird dogs during the small game season.*

Total 5 individuals  
0 organizations

(13) **Lafayette Forest WEA (NEW)** 2,148 acres - establish three 5-day archery hunts (quota 15, no exemptions); establish a 3-day muzzleloading gun season (quota 15, no exemptions); establish two 2-day family hunts (quota 10, no exemptions); establish two 5-day wild hog-still hunts (quota 20, no exemptions); establish two 3-day spring turkey hunts (quota 5, no exemptions); establish a falconry season with statewide dates; establish as legal to take all legal game, fish and furbearers; allow fishing year round; prohibit trapping; set the bag limit for deer during the archery season at one antlered or one antlerless deer per quota permit; set the bag limit for deer during the family hunts at one antlered or one antlerless deer per person; set the bag limit for deer during the muzzleloading gun season at one antlered deer per quota permit; set the bag limit for turkeys during the spring turkey season at one gobbler or bearded turkey per quota permit; only allow wild hog to be hunted during the wild hog-still season; require all persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; public access will be allowed only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset; prohibit possession of any animal, except a dog on a leash may be used for trailing wounded game, dogs may be transported

throughout the year on McCall Chapel Grade and falcons may be used during the falconry season; prohibit access by motorized vehicles except on Lafayette Loop and McCall Chapel Grade; allow Lafayette Loop to be driven on only by persons authorized to participate in the hunts and only on hunt days and the day prior to each hunt; during hunting periods access will be limited to persons participating in the hunt, except that McCall Chapel Grade would be open to public access year round; and prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 person wanted to allow horses and 1 person wanted to establish a falconry season. *Staff comment - The original proposal was modified to allow falcons during statewide open season.*

Total 2 individuals  
0 organizations

(14) **Santa Fe Swamp WEA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless in possession of a Special Use Authorization from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(15) **Suwannee Ridge WEA** - allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

(16) **Watermelon Pond WEA (NEW)** 4,231 acres - establish a 9-day archery season (no quota); establish two 2-week small game hunts; establish a falconry season with statewide dates; establish as legal to take all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; prohibit trapping; allow fishing and frogging throughout the year; establish the bag limit for deer of one per person; require persons to enter and exit at designated entrances; prohibit access by motorized vehicles; allow bicycles to be ridden only on named or numbered roads or designated trails; prohibit the possession of any animal except that horses may be ridden on roads and designated trails, dogs on a leash may be used to track wounded game, bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers may be used for hunting during the small game season and falcons may be used during the falconry season; and allow public access only from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual asked that bird dogs be allowed, 1 person asked that a falconry season be established, 1 individual opposed hunting because the patchwork distribution of ownership and small size of parcels, 1 individual requested a buffer, 1 organization requested a 300-500 foot buffer and 1 person made an unrelated comment. *Staff comment - The original proposal was modified to allow falcons during statewide open season and bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers during the small game season.*

Total 5 individuals  
1 organization

Northwest Region

(17) **Apalachicola River WEA** - establish a wild hog-dog season with five 3-day hunts (quota 5 per hunt, no exemptions) for that portion of the area west of Saul Creek Road, south of a line running east from Misfit Landing to the Apalachicola River and west of the Apalachicola River; allow up to two hunters and one guest, the use of no more than three free-running dogs and only one gun per quota permit during the wild hog-dog hunts; specify that wild hog-dog hunts will begin at 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and end at 11:59 p.m. (midnight) the last day of the hunt; prohibit hunting from sunrise to sunset during the wild hog-dog season; allow wild hogs to be hunted during the wild hog-dog season by the aid of a light with a firearm, provided that the firearm is not loaded until immediately prior to shooting a bayed hog (hunting of wild hog under this provision by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited); and limit camping on Northwest Florida Water Management District lands to 14 consecutive days.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

South Region

(18) **John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA** - establish an 8-day spring turkey season with hunting allowed on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays (no quota).

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported the proposed rule change. 1 individual supported the proposed change but suggested the hunts should occur mid-week instead of on weekends to avoid impacting recreational weekend users.

Total 4 individual  
0 organizations

(19) **John G. and Susan H. Dupuis, Jr. WEA** - move the wild hog-still hunts that currently occur on weekdays to weekends (Friday through Sunday); and allow public access during the wild hog-still hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual and 1 organization did not support the proposed change citing that it increased the number of hunts occurring over weekends at the expense of other recreational users.

Total 1 individual  
1 organization

Northeast Region.

(20) **Split Oak Forest Mitigation Park** - prohibit the possession of any animal, except horses are allowed by permit.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(T) 68A-19.005 Establishment and Protection of Critical Wildlife Areas.** - The proposed revisions will provide a new title of: “General Regulations Relating to Critical Wildlife Areas.” Changes clarify language while retaining intent of the existing regulations for Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs). Changes also allow for area-specific regulations that differ from those in this section to be stated in the establishment order for the CWA; require the CWA boundaries be posted as a “Critical Wildlife Area”; prohibit public access, including vehicles, boats, and dogs in areas posted as “Closed to Public Access”; prohibit dogs only in areas posted as “Dogs Prohibited”; and allow the Executive Director to issue permits for scientific or conservation purposes on CWAs where public access is prohibited.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.

**(U) 68A-20.005 Specific Fish Management Area Regulations.** - The proposed rule would eliminate the 18-inch or greater length limit for black bass on Hurricane Lake (Okaloosa County). The general statewide black bass length limit for this area would apply (12-inch or greater in total length).

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received.