

Summary of Public Input Proposed Wildlife and Freshwater Fish Rule Changes 2007-08

(1) 68A-1.004 Definitions - The proposed rule would clarify the definition of a muzzleloading gun to accommodate modern propellants and that centerfire primers are allowed; define nuisance wildlife as that which causes or is about to cause property damage, presents a threat to public safety or causes an annoyance within, under or upon a building; redefine a wild hog as a hog that is free-roaming and cannot be legally claimed as a domestic hog in private ownership; clarify that all freshwater fish are defined as non-game fish, except grass carp and fish defined as freshwater game fish; delete reference to redeye bass and define shoal bass as *Micropterus cataractae*.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the redefinition of muzzleloading gun; and 3 individuals made comments unrelated to these rule proposals.

Total 4 Individuals

(2) 68A-4.001 General Prohibitions - The proposed rule clarifies the prohibition on feeding certain species; prohibits the intentional feeding of pelicans when it is detrimental to a local population; and prohibits taking wildlife by persons not physically present at the location of the gun (hunting via remote control methods).

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals and the St. Petersburg Audubon Society supported the prohibition on feeding pelicans when detrimental to local populations; and 2 individuals supported the prohibition on remote control hunting.

Total 4 Individuals
1 Organization (St. Petersburg Audubon Society)

(3) 68A-4.002 Possession of Gun While Using a Light Prohibited - The proposed rule would reference exceptions for the use of guns and lights provided for in other Commission rules, such as when alligator hunting or bow-fishing, and align current regulations with Florida Statutes regarding possession of handguns for personal safety by individuals who possess a concealed weapons permit, including possession of handguns during nighttime periods.

Summary of Comments Received:

These are recent staff proposals drafted outside of the initial public commenting period.

(4) 68A-4.007 Exclusion of Certain Areas from Open Season - The proposed change would update reference to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(5) 68-A-9 Miscellaneous Permits - The proposed rule change will add a non-substantive grammatical change to the chapter title.

(6) 68A-9.004 Permits for Hunting or Other Recreational Use on Wildlife Management Areas - The proposed rule would increase the price for Recreational Use Permits on the following WMAs: Grove Park from \$325 to \$475, Ft. McCoy from \$200 to \$350,

Relay from \$275 to \$425, Twelve Mile Swamp from \$425 to \$525 and Blue Water Creek from \$200 to \$325.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported the proposed rule changes; 3 individuals opposed; and 6 individuals made comments unrelated to the proposed rule changes. *Note: The private landowner of Twelve Mile Swamp WMA did not request a rate increase until after the September Commission meeting.*

Total 12 Individuals

(7) 68A-9.007 Special-use Permits; Short-term Use Permits; Fees: Special-Opportunity Hunting and Fishing - The proposed rule would clarify that a daily-use permit is not required for Florida Trail through-hikers on Three Lakes and J.W. Corbett WMAs.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual made unrelated comments about duck hunting on the stormwater treatment areas (STAs).

Total 1 Individual

(8) 68A-9.008 Permits for Physically Disabled - The proposed rule would require a Commission mobility-impaired card to receive mobility-impaired quota permits; revise qualifications to remove permanent dependence on assisted aids to walk; define single-leg amputation as above the knee only; and continue to recognize as valid those mobility-impaired certifications issued prior to July 1, 2008.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 Individual supported the proposed rule change; and 1 individual opposed. The individual opposed would like to "open more doors" for the physically disabled.

Total 2 Individuals

(9) 68A-9.010 Taking Nuisance Wildlife (New) - The proposed rule would clarify, standardize and in some instances liberalize the take of nuisance wildlife by a private property owner, airport property personnel or lead manager of public land or their designee; remove the registration requirement for nuisance wildlife trappers; simplify and consolidate the method of take and the listing of species which may not be taken as nuisance wildlife without additional permits; allow the incidental take of bats when using excluding devices or repellants; clarify that the use of registered pesticides is allowed for the taking of nuisance wildlife when used according to label; and allow off-site transportation of live-trapped nuisance wildlife for the purpose of euthanization.

Summary of Comments Received:

76 individuals and 13 organizations support the current proposed rule language regarding bats. These organizations included Organization for Bat Conservation, City of Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation Dept., Wildlife, Inc., Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Reef Rovers 4-H Club, Sarasota County, Friends of Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation, Pinellas County Extension, Conservancy of SW Florida, Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage, West End Animal Hospital, Gainesville, FL, Operation Wild Life Survival, Inc., Sawgrass Nature Center & Wildlife Hospital, and Florida Bat Conservancy. In addition, one of the 76 did not support the portion of the rule that will eliminate the requirement for nuisance wildlife trappers to be registered by FWC.

1 individual made comments unrelated to the proposed rule change.

Total 77 Individuals
13 Organizations

(10) 68A-11.003 Use of Motorboats on Certain Waters; Permits - The proposed rule would allow motors up to 10 hp on Lake Miccosukee during duck season, and allow motors of any size during the Youth Waterfowl Hunt on Lake Miccosukee, Lake Iamonia and Carr Lake.

Summary of Comments Received:

10 individuals supported the first draft of the proposed rule change as posted for public comment. 17 individuals and 3 organizations did not support parts or all of the proposed rule as posted for public comment. The major areas of concern, for those that did not support the first draft, were allowing motors on Lakes Iamonia and Carr, although there was also opposition to increasing horsepower on Lake Miccosukee. The organizations included Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Plantation Security Inc. and Mill Pond Plantation. *The first draft of this proposed rule posted for public comment would have allowed motors up to 10 horsepower on Lake Miccosukee, Lake Iamonia and Carr Lake during duck season, and allow motors of any size during the Youth Waterfowl Hunt on these lakes. Based on public comment, staff is recommending withdrawal of the part of this proposal that would have allowed motors up to 10 horsepower on Lake Iamonia and Carr Lake.*

Total 27 Individuals
3 Organizations

(11) 68A-12.002 General Methods of Taking Game; Prohibitions - The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns in accordance with Chapter 790, F.S.; and clarify that wild turkeys may not be taken if the hunter is within 100 yards of a feeding station when feed is present.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization supported the proposed rule change and 3 individuals did not support the change regarding maintenance of a wildlife feeding station. The organization was the Richloam Sportsman Association (300 members). *Note: Following public comment, staff withdrew the portion of this rule proposal addressing the maintenance of wildlife feeding stations and modified the proposal to clarify that a hunter must be 100 yards from feed when taking wild turkey.*

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization

(12) 68A-12.007 Hunting Dogs; Molesting Game in Closed Season; Training; Field Trials; Prohibited for Certain Hunting - The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns in accordance with Chapter 790, F.S.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 comments unrelated to the proposed rule change.

Total 2 Individuals

(13) 68A-12.009 Taking Destructive Birds and Mammals - The proposed rule would delete this subsection and address nuisance wildlife with other rules.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(14) 68A-13.003 Hunting Regulations for Ducks, Geese, and Coots - The proposed rule would expand the Canada goose season to statewide; and clarify that light geese may be taken statewide by falconers.

Summary of Comments Received:

7 individuals and 1 organization support the proposed rule change. The organization was the Richloam Sportsman Association (300 members).

Total 7 Individuals
1 Organization

(15) 68A-13.004 Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits - The proposed rule would increase the spring turkey season in Holmes County from 3 days to 16 days with a season bag limit of 1 turkey per season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(16) 68A-13.007 Regulations on Public Small-game Hunting Areas - The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns pursuant to Chapter 790, F.S., subject to state and federal law, provided the gun is securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent during periods when the take of wildlife with the gun is prohibited; and require hunters to possess a management area permit when hunting.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule change.

Total 2 Individuals

(17) 68A-14.001 Establishment Orders - The proposed rule would delete the reference to wild hog areas and add a reference to Commission managed shooting ranges. The rule which establishes wild hog areas is proposed to be deleted as a part of a suite of changes addressing the take of wild hogs on public hunting lands.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments received.

(18) 14.0011 Opening or Closing Areas Other Than Restricted Hunting Areas, Bird Sanctuaries or Critical Wildlife Areas; General - The proposed rule would delete the reference to wild hog areas. The rule which establishes wild hog areas is proposed to be deleted as a part of a suite of changes addressing the take of wild hogs on public hunting lands.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments received.

(19) 68A-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas - The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns on WMAs pursuant to Chapter 790, F.S., subject to state and federal law, provided the gun is securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent during periods when the take of wildlife with the gun is prohibited; allow wild hogs to be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset during any season open for the taking of game mammals or wild hogs, with no size or bag limit unless provided by area-specific rule, use only methods of take for wild hogs allowed for the taking of

game mammals, and not transport wild hogs alive; and prohibit target practice except at a shooting range.

Summary of Comments Received:

5 individuals supported the proposed rule changes. 2 individuals made unrelated comments regarding the take of hogs.

Total 5 Individuals

(20) 15.005 Quota Permits; Antlerless Deer Permits; Special-Opportunity Permits -

The proposed rule changes would remove an unnecessary rule that infers quota permits are necessary during the first nine days of general gun season on all areas; allow one youth, Mentor License supervisor or disabled hunter assistant to accompany a permitted hunter on those areas that require a quota permit for access, the youth or Mentor License supervisor may participate in the hunt provided they share a single bag limit, the assistant for the disabled hunter may participate in the hunt, but may not take game with a gun; to standardize rules related to family hunts, regulations currently found within area-specific rules for the Northwest and Northeast regions will be removed and new standardized language will apply to all family hunts throughout the regions; and update the reference to quota list.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments received.

(21) 68A-15.006 Regulations Relating to Miscellaneous Areas -

(a) The proposed rule would remove reference to Wild Hog Areas.

(b) **Kissimmee River Public Use Area** - The proposed rules would allow the possession of guns pursuant to Chapter 790, F.S., subject to legal agreements and state or federal law, provided the gun is securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent during periods when the take of wildlife with the gun is prohibited; allow wild hogs to be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset during any season open for the taking of game mammals or wild hogs, with no size or bag limit, use only methods of take for wild hogs allowed for the taking of game mammals, and not transport wild hogs alive; prohibit target practice except at a shooting range; prohibit driving a metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven; and prohibit the placement of food for wildlife on the area.

Summary of Comments Received:

The Richloam Sportsman Association supported the proposed rule changes.

Total

1 Organization (Richloam Sportsman Association)

(22) 68A-15.061 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Southwest Region -

The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) **Arbuckle WMA** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; move the muzzleloading gun season from November to December; convert the general gun hog season to a small game season with no quota; allow the take of wild hogs during small game season; and delete the quota for the general gun hog season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 4 individuals did not support parts of the proposed rule changes including three comments not supporting the three point antler restrictions and one not supporting the date changes for muzzleloading gun season. Unrelated comments included road improvements and establishment of food plots. *Note: The proposal to move the muzzleloading gun season was initiated by a request from the Lake Wales Ridge Citizen Liaison Committee (Division of Forestry public working group) during the promulgation process. In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 5 Individuals

(b) **Chassahowitzka WMA** - allow camping by permit at Ryle Creek for persons paddling segment 7 of the Florida Circumnavigation Paddling Trail; establish a new general gun hog-dog season of two, 3-day hunts (quota of 75 and each permit would allow one gun, two hunters and three dogs); split the existing 9-day spring turkey season (currently a 4-day and 5-day hunt) into 3, 3-day hunts, and move all hunts to Friday, Saturday and Sunday; add geese as legal to take during the waterfowl season; and restrict horses and bicycles to roads and trails, except bicycles will be allowed "off-road" during hunting and scouting periods.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule changes. 2 individuals supported parts of the proposed rule change including the camping (1 comment) and wild hog hunts (1 comment). 3 individuals did not support parts of the proposed rule changes, including the camping rule (1 comment), turkey season on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (3 comments) and the hog-dog hunts (3 comments). 1 individual made unrelated comments. Concerns related to camping included enforcement of trespass on private property. Concerns related to the hog-dog hunts included poor road access, potential hunter conflicts, disturbance of wildlife and trespass on private property. *The three comments not supporting the shifting of spring turkey hunts to Friday, Saturday and Sunday were made because the individuals thought the proposed change would apply to all seasons.*

Total 8 Individuals

(c) **Croom WMA** - prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; add geese as legal to take during the waterfowl season; and no longer require hunters to check game after the first 9 days of the general gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 1 individual supported all proposed changes except the restriction on centerfire rifles during spring turkey season. United Hunters of Florida and 7 individuals did not support the reduction in check station operation. Unrelated comments included a request to add an archery season and expand general gun season.

Total 9 Individuals
1 Organization (United Hunters of Florida)

(d) **Green Swamp WMA** - allow camping only at designated campsites; require campers to obtain a non-transferable permit for designated campsites; require campers to attach their name and permit number to camping equipment; prohibit kitchen stoves, refrigerators and freezers unless contained in mobile campers; prohibit lumber, sheet metal and other building materials; prohibit the operation of generators between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.; prohibit the possession and consumption of intoxicating beverages; and no longer require deer and hogs to be tagged at the check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule changes as proposed. 3 individuals supported parts of the proposed rule changes including the prohibition of alcohol (1 comment), camping rules (2 comments), and prohibition of generators (1 comment). 5 individuals and 2 organizations did not support parts or all of the proposed rule changes including the prohibition of alcohol (2 comments including the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association), the deletion of the tagging requirement (5 comments including United Hunters of Florida). *Comments which did not support the removal of the tagging requirement for deer and hogs were due to a misconception that the check stations would be closed (deer and hogs will continue to be checked, but harvested game will not be physically tagged).*

Total 9 Individuals

2 Organizations (United Hunters of Florida, Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association)

(e) **Hickory Hammock WMA** - allow the take of wild hogs during the last 42 days of small game season; split the small game season into 2 hunts to begin the second hunt (last 42 days) after the close of the zonal general gun season; allow waterfowl hunting all day during duck and coot season; and allow the use of rimfire rifles.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported the proposed rule changes including two specific comments supporting the additional waterfowl opportunity. Unrelated comments included posting of boundaries.

Total 3 Individuals

(f) **Hilochee WMA** - prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise; increase quota during archery and muzzleloading gun seasons from five permits per hunt to 10 permits per hunt; increase quota during general gun hog from 30 to 40 each hunt; clarify a rule that prohibits fishing in certain bodies of water; increase the number of fishing permits from 10 to 20; increase fishing opportunity by allowing fishing by permit on Sundays; remove the quota permit requirement for small game season; allow wild hogs to be dismembered before being checked at the check station; no longer require hunters to check-in or check game during the small game season; close Yancey road during small game season; and remove the special-opportunity dove season, rules associated with that season and the quota.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 1 individual supported the proposed changes except the closure of Yancey road during small game season and the removal of the special-opportunity dove season.

Total 2 Individuals

(g) **Hilochee WMA - Osprey Unit (NEW)** - establish a new wildlife management area with the following open seasons: archery - two 2-day hunts (quota of 40 per hunt); family hunt - 2-day hunt (quota of 15, 1 adult and 2 children per permit); general gun hog-still - 2-day hunt (quota of 40); general gun hog-dog - two 2-day hunts (quota of 10, one gun, two hunters, and three dogs per permit); two 2-day spring turkey hunts (quota of 5); legal to take - all legal game (except deer), fish and furbearers; turkey may be taken during the spring turkey season only; bag limits for fish: no more than 20 bluegill, 10 black crappie and 6 catfish per person; size limits for fish will be no less than 8 inches total length for bluegill and no less than 10 inches total length for black crappie; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise; enter and exit at designated entrances; prohibit airboats, tracked vehicles, motorcycles ATVs and outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower;

allow horses during non-hunting periods on designated trails and named or numbered roads; allow bicycles year-round; allow motorized vehicle access only during hunts and one day prior by persons with a quota permit; motorized vehicles must enter and exit on Robert L. Tanner Grade; prohibit nets, fish traps, trotlines, set lines, minnow seines, cast nets and bush hooks; and allow bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or less for the take of small game.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 1 individual supported the proposals, but suggested higher hunter quotas. 1 individual supported the proposals, except for the hog-dog hunts. The Sunshine State Horse Council supported the proposal to allow equestrian use.

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(h) **KICCO WMA** - The proposed rule changes will allow the use of handguns and rimfire rifles.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule change.

Total 1 Individual

(i) **Lake Marion Creek WMA** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; add a new 3-day general gun hog hunt (quota of 50, no exemptions); move the small game season after the general gun hog season and allow the take of wild hogs; no longer require wild hogs to be checked before quartering; and no longer require hunters to check-in or check game during small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals did not support the three-point antler restriction or the reduction in check station operation. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 2 Individuals

(j) **Upper Hillsborough WMA** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and no longer require deer, turkey and hog to be tagged at the check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed three-point antler restriction. 3 individuals did not support the three-point antler restriction. 2 individuals and United Hunters of Florida did not support removing the tagging requirement. Comments supporting the antler restrictions cited quality deer on the area and comments against antler restrictions cited a lack of deer. *Comments which did not support the removal of the tagging requirement for deer and hogs were due to a misconception that the check stations would be closed (deer and hog will continue to be checked, just will not be physically tagging the animals). In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 7 Individuals
1 Organization (United Hunters of Florida)

(k) **Walk-in-the-Water WMA** - expand the muzzleloading gun season from one 3-day hunt to two hunts (4 and 5 days respectively; quota of 25 each hunt); move the muzzleloading gun season from October to December; shorten the small game season from 39 days to 18 days; and no longer require hunters to check in and record all game taken at a check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes. 1 individual supported all changes except the proposal to no longer require hunters to check in and record game. 1 individual did not support shifting the muzzleloading gun season, but supported the addition to the muzzleloading gun season and requested a general gun season. 1 individual did not support the reduced small game season. United Hunters of Florida and 1 individual did not support the proposal to no longer require hunters to check in and record game. *FWC received 6 requests from the public requesting the change to the muzzleloading gun season during the rule promulgation process.*

Total 5 Individuals
1 Organization (United Hunters of Florida)

(l) **Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA** – allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset; and allow the take of furbearers during the archery and general gun seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes.

Total 1 Individual

(m) **Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA - Yucca Pens Unit** - allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset; allow the take of furbearers during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; increase the number of quota permits for general gun and muzzleloading gun from 30 to 50, each hunt, no exemptions; remove the size and bag limit for wild hog; establish scouting days; allow vehicle access for scouting; and expand the timeframe when hunting equipment is allowed on the area.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule changes.

Total 1 Individual

(23) 68A-15.062 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - North Central Region - The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) **Bayard WMA** - allow a youth or mentor license holder to accompany a quota permit holder and share the bag limit; and allow only tent camping at designated sites.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support because tent camping because it is not as safe, comfortable, or convenient as that in a recreational vehicle. 1 individual made an unrelated comment.

Total 2 Individuals

(b) **Belmore WMA (NEW)** – establish a new WMA with the following open seasons: archery - three 3-day hunts (quota of 45 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun – 3-day season (quota of 45, no exemptions); family hunt – 2-day hunt (quota of 20, no exemptions); general gun - one 4-day hunt and one 5-day hunt (quota of 45 per hunt, no exemptions); small game - six 3-day hunts (no quota permit required); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 10 per hunt, no exemptions); and fishing and frogging throughout the year; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; bag limits - archery - one antlered or one antlerless deer per person per permit, family hunt - one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, muzzleloading gun and general gun - one antlered deer per person per permit per season, spring turkey - one gobbler per person per permit; antlered deer must have at least one antler with three or more points, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; allow vehicles only on named or numbered roads; prohibit tracked vehicles, airboats, unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs; prohibit camping; prohibit hunting with dogs except bird dogs allowed during the small game and waterfowl seasons; allow horses and bicycles on roads and designated trails only; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise and require entry and exit only through designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposal. 2 individuals supported parts of the proposal, but would like more hunts, higher quotas, a longer small game season and camping. 1 organization submitted an unrelated comment favoring equestrian use. *Staff changed the general gun season format from 2 3-day hunts to a 4-day and a 5-day hunt, based on public comment.*

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(c) **Big Bend WMA, Hickory Mound Unit** - require that all persons enter and exit the WMA only at designated entrances; add a section of Swartz Tram (between Cow Creek and J.C. Franklin Grades) open for public use from May 31 through August 31; remove requirement for quota permit after the first 16 days of the general gun season and remove the requirement for a daily permit for waterfowl hunting; and reduce the timeframe from when hunters must check all game taken from the entire season to the first 16 days of the archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals; and 1 organization submitted an unrelated comment requesting a 3-points-on-a-side antler restriction.

Total 1 Individual
1 Organization (Camp Misery Hunt Club)

(d) **Big Bend WMA, Jena Unit** - eliminate the requirement that hunters check in and out, check all game, and obtain a daily use permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization did not support the proposal to eliminate the check station.

Total
1 Organization (United Hunters of Florida)

(e) **Big Bend WMA, Snipe Island Unit** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and allow .22s during the trapping season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the 3-point rule. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 1 Individual

(f) **Big Bend WMA, Spring Creek Unit** - require all persons enter and exit the WMA only at designated entrances; add roads on which the public could travel year-round; and reduce the timeframe when hunters must check all game taken from the entire season to the first 16 days of the archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons and all days of the muzzleloader gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed changes. 1 organization did not support the proposal to eliminate the check station. Another organization did not support the opening of more roads.

Total 1 Individual
2 Organizations (Okefenokee Slough Hunt Club and United Hunters of Florida)

(g) **Big Bend WMA, Tide Swamp Unit** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and reduce the timeframe when hunters must check all game taken from the entire season to the first 16 days of the archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons and all days of the muzzleloader gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the entire proposal. 4 individuals did not support the 3-point proposal. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 5 Individuals

(h) **Big Shoals WMA** - change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; eliminate the quota and check-in check-out requirements during the small game season; and add wild hogs as legal to take during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported adding hogs as legal to take but did not support the 3-point rule. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 1 Individual

(i) **Camp Blanding WMA** - prohibit hunting from the right-of-way of Dade, Treat and Impact Roads; allow harvest of wild hogs during all seasons except spring turkey, no size or bag limit; and allow the use of bird dogs on the still hunt area after the first 16 days of the general gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals. 1 individual supported not shooting from the right-of-way. 1 individual did not support the proposed rule changes. *In addition, FWC received a public input proposal request to prohibit hunting from various roads within the WMA.*

Total 3 Individuals

(j) **Cary WMA** - replace five 2-day archery hunts with two 3-day hunts (increase quota from 55 to 60 per hunt), increase muzzleloading gun quota from 55 to 60 per hunt, establish a 2-day family hunt (quota of 40, no exemptions), establish a general gun season with two 3-day hunts (quota of 60 per hunt, no exemptions); eliminate bird dog training season but establish a small game season with six 3-day hunts (no quota permit required), and establish a spring turkey season with three 3-day hunts (quota of 10 per hunt, no exemptions); require hunters to enter and exit only at the designated entrance; remove requirement for hunters to check in and out; allow camping at designated sites by permit from the landowner; allow hunting with bird dogs and retrievers during small game season; and prohibit the use of centerfire rifles.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals. 1 individual supported everything except removing the check station requirement. 2 individuals and 1 organization did not support the reduction in the number of archery hunts. 1 individual repeated most of the proposals but did not disagree with anything. 2 individuals submitted unrelated comments.

Total 6 Individuals
1 Organization (Public Land Hunters of Florida)

(k) **Citrus WMA** - prohibit use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; and require turkeys to be checked during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals. 1 individual supported the requirement to check turkeys but did not support the prohibition of centerfire rifles for taking turkeys.

Total 2 Individuals

(l) **Cypress Creek WMA** - prohibit ATVs.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposal; 2 individuals did not support the proposal. *Note: The road on which ATVs can currently be used is approximately 1/4 mile long.*

Total 3 Individuals

(m) **Devil's Hammock WMA** - allow bicycling and horseback riding year-round.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization and 1 individual supported the proposals. 1 individual did not support the proposals. 1 individual submitted an unrelated comment that bicyclists and equestrians should be required to purchase a wildlife management area permit.

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(n) **Flying Eagle WMA** - provide a non-hunting scouting day before the second hunts of archery, general gun and spring turkey seasons; and extend scouting hours during the spring turkey season to 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported.

Total 2 Individuals

(o) **Four Creeks WMA (NEW)** – establish a new WMA with the following open seasons: archery - three 3-day hunts (quota of 55 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun – 3-day season (quota of 55, no exemptions); family hunt – 2-day hunt (quota of 20, no exemptions); general gun - one 4-day hunt and one 5-day hunt (quota of 55 per hunt, no exemptions); small game - six 3-day hunts (no quota permit required); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); waterfowl legal during the statewide seasons; and fishing and frogging throughout the year; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; bag limits - archery - one antlered or one antlerless deer per person per permit, family hunt - one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, muzzleloading gun and general gun - one antlered deer per person per permit per season, spring turkey - one gobbler per person per permit; antlered deer must have at least one antler with three or more points, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; allow vehicles only on named or numbered roads; prohibit tracked vehicles, airboats, unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs; prohibit hunting with dogs except bird dogs allowed during the small game season and waterfowl retrievers during waterfowl seasons; allow horses and bicycles on roads and designated trails only; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise and require entry and exit only through designated entrances (which includes navigable waterways).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals except the 3-point antler restriction. 1 would like more hunts, higher quotas and a longer small game season. 1 organization did not support the bag limits and would like a bag limit of 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer during archery season. 1 individual would like larger quotas. 1 organization submitted an unrelated comment favoring equestrian use. *Staff expanded the general gun season format from two 3-day hunts to a 4-day and a 5-day hunt, based on public comment.*

Total 3 Individuals

2 Organizations (Public Land Hunters of Florida and Sunshine State Horse Council)

(p) **Goethe WMA** - prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; and add frogs as legal to take.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported both issues. 1 individual supported the rifle proposal. *In addition, FWC received a public input process to allow frogs to be taken.*

Total 2 Individuals

(q) **Hatchet Creek WMA (NEW)** – establish a new WMA with the following open seasons: archery - three 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun – 3-day season (quota of 15, no exemptions); family hunt – 2-day hunt (quota of 5, no exemptions); general gun - two 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 5 per hunt, no exemptions); and fishing and frogging throughout the year; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; bag limits - archery - one antlered or one antlerless deer per person per permit, family hunt - one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, muzzleloading gun and general gun - one antlered deer

per person per permit per season, spring turkey - one gobbler per person per permit; antlered deer must have at least one antler with three or more points, one inch or more in length; prohibit take of wildlife from Boundary Road; allow vehicular access only on hunt days and the day before each hunt; allow vehicles only on named or numbered roads; prohibit tracked vehicles, airboats, unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs; prohibit hunting with dogs; allow bicycles on roads and designated trails only; require a valid quota permit of all persons entering the area on hunt days; require entry and exit only through designated entrances and require hunters to check in and out at the check station and check all game.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals except the 3-point antler restriction. 1 individual supported the proposal but would like larger quotas. 2 individuals would like the area to be archery hunting only.

Total 4 Individuals

(r) **Homosassa WMA** - establish an archery season with three 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); bag limit for deer of one antlered and one antlerless deer per quota permit; and define legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposal. 1 individual did not support the 3-point rule. 1 individual submitted unrelated comments requesting shotgun-only seasons and buffer zones.

Total 3 Individuals

(s) **Jennings Forest WMA** - change definition of legal to take antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; increase the number of hunts during the archery and general gun season from three to four; open a currently closed area for bird dog training and archery hunting; and redefine the area for youth small-game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the antler restriction and the increased number of hunts for archery and general gun seasons. 1 individual did not support the 3-point antler restriction. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 2 Individuals

(t) **Little River WMA** - add quail to the legal to take list during the first hunt of the small game season and allow use of bird dogs during that time.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(u) **Log Landing WMA (NEW)** - establish a new WMA with the following open seasons: archery - two hunts, 16-day and 9-day (no quota permit required); muzzleloading gun - 3-day season (no quota permit required); small game - six 3-day hunts (no quota permit required); spring turkey - 9-day season (no quota permit required); and fishing and frogging throughout the year; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; prohibit motorized vehicles;

prohibit hunting deer or hogs with dogs; allow only bird dogs or dogs with a shoulder height of fifteen inches or less; prohibit fires; prohibit public access from 1.5 hours after sunset until 1.5 hours before sunrise; prohibit taking wildlife with centerfire rifles; and require public access only at designated entrances or via the Suwannee River.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported everything except the prohibition of hunting hogs with dogs. 1 individual submitted an unrelated comment requesting higher quotas. *Staff comment - quota permits would not be required for this area.*

Total 2 Individuals

(v) **Mallory Swamp WMA** - allow horses year-round; and camping year-round with a permit from the landowner.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization and 1 individual supported. 1 individual did not support, because of safety concerns of having deer-dog hunting and equestrian use at the same time.

Total 2 Individuals
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(w) **Middle Aucilla WMA** - allow camping year-round with a permit from the landowner.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(x) **Nassau WMA** – allow take of hogs during all seasons, except spring turkey, no size or bag limit.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported. *In addition, FWC received a public input process request that hogs be allowed to be taken during small game season.*

Total 2 Individuals

(y) **Osceola WMA** - restrict motorized vehicles and bicycles to designated roads; and reduce requirement to check deer at a check station from the entire season to only the first 16 days of the general gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

5 individuals and 1 organization did not support the motorized vehicle restriction. Reasons for opposition include a decline in the number of areas to ride all-terrain vehicles and difficulty in accessing good hunting spots. 1 of those individuals also wants the check stations to remain. Unrelated comments were received requesting a limit on the area where dogs can be used for hunting. *Staff comment - the vehicle restrictions were established as part of the US Forest Service access policy.*

Total 5 Individuals
1 Organization (Florida ATV Association)

(z) **PotashCorp - White Springs WMA** - allow the take of snow geese.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(aa) **Potts WMA** - provide for non-hunting scouting days between the two hunts of the archery and spring turkey seasons; and extend the scouting hours during spring turkey season to 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposal. 1 individual did not support because they believed there was already sufficient time for scouting.

Total 3 Individuals

(bb) **Raiford WMA** - prohibit ATVs; and eliminate the requirement to sign in and out at a self-service check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported both proposals. 1 individual supported the prohibition on ATVs but did not support eliminating the check station requirement. Another individual did not support the prohibition of ATVs.

Total 3 Individuals

(cc) **Ralph Simmons WMA** - prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; allow a youth or mentor license hunter to accompany a permitted hunter during quota hunts and share the bag limit; and allow camping during the small game season with a permit from the landowner.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposals.

Total 1 Individual

(dd) **San Pedro Bay WMA** - eliminate requirement to check in and out at a self-service check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposals.

Total 1 Individual

(ee) **Steinhatchee Springs WMA** - allow horses year-round; and camping year-round with a permit from the landowner.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization and 1 individual supported the proposed changes.

Total 1 Individual
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(ff) **Thomas Creek WMA (NEW)** – establish a new WMA with the following open seasons: archery - three 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); muzzleloading gun – 3-day season (quota of 15, no exemptions); family hunt – 2-day hunt (quota of 5, no exemptions); general gun - two 3-day hunts (quota of 15 per hunt, no exemptions); small game - six 3-day hunts (no quota permit required); spring turkey - three 3-day hunts (quota of 5 per hunt, no exemptions); and fishing and frogging throughout the year; legal to take - all legal game, fish, frogs and furbearers; motorized vehicles would be prohibited; bicycles would be allowed on named or numbered roads and designated trails; prohibit hunting deer or hogs with dogs; allow bird dogs and dogs with a shoulder height of less than 15 inches; allow bicycles on roads and designated trails only; require a valid quota permit of all persons entering the area on hunt days, except the small game season and require entry and exit only through designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposals. 2 individuals did not support parts. 1 of these individuals would like a longer small game season the other would like a larger quota.

Total 3 Individuals

(gg) **Twin Rivers WMA** - prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season.

Total No comments received.

(24) 68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northwest Region - The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) **Apalachee WMA** - allow vehicular access only during periods open to hunting except vehicular access would be allowed year-round on Rock Pond Road and during daylight hours one week prior to the archery season and one day prior to the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; increase the number of days that quail hunting is allowed from 12 to 24 days; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer in Zone A to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; allow general gun season to be open the Friday after Thanksgiving; and remove daily quota requirement to hunt quail in Zone A.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported antler restrictions. 1 individual did not support antler restrictions and requested it apply to Zone A only if passed (the proposed antler restrictions would only apply to Zone A). 1 individual made unrelated comments regarding duck hunting. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 3 Individuals

(b) **Apalachicola WMA** - establish a quail enhancement area in that portion of the area lying north of Oak Ridge Road, east of State Road 61 and Highway 319, south of State Road 263, and west of State Road 363; allow quail hunting in the enhancement area by quota permit only; allow quotas to be established annually by Order of the Executive Director or designee; allow quail hunts on Saturdays only (with a maximum of six Saturdays being hunted); allow up to two quota hunt permits to be issued per day and allow up to two hunters per permit; allow for a bag limit of 12 quail per permit; allow the number of days open for quail hunting to be adjusted each year as needed to achieve a harvest of up to 15% of the fall population, based on an October quail survey; and prohibit shining deer from 12 am (midnight) until one-half hour before sunrise during the general gun season. *The proposal regarding shining deer*

was modified to prohibit shining beginning at 12 am (midnight) until one-half hour before sunrise during the general gun season based on public and staff comments. The original proposal would have prohibited shining deer from 10 pm until sunrise during the general gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported prohibiting shining during general gun season. 1 individual did not support having a quota on the proposed quail enhancement area. 1 individual made unrelated comments requesting that the small game season begin after the end of muzzleloading gun season.

Total 3 Individuals

(c) **Apalachicola WMA - Bradwell Unit** – The proposed rules would allow antlerless deer to be taken during the archery season; allow hogs to be taken during the small game season; and extend the small game season from 9 to 18 days.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(d) **Aucilla WMA** – allow antlerless deer to be taken during the archery season; allow tent camping along the Aucilla River on property owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District by permit from the District; allow still hunting only on that portion of the eastern dog hunt area north of Goose Pasture Road and east of Oneal Tram; and allow vehicular access to the area at designated entrances only.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported some of the proposed rules. 1 individual made unrelated comments regarding access to the small game area. 2 comments were supportive of allowing still hunting only north of Goose Pasture Road and east of Oneal Tram and 1 comment was supportive of allowing antlerless deer to be taken during archery season.

Total 3 Individuals

(e) **Blackwater WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season; establish a family hunt (quota of 50; still hunting only, no exemptions) in that portion of the area north of Highway 4 and east of 191; and allow the take of up to 3 deer (antlered or antlerless) per quota permit; require hunters to check in and out at a check station during the family hunt; and allow the use of retrievers (dogs) on the Field Trial Area during the dove season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the use of retrievers on the Field Trial Area during dove season. 1 individual did not support prohibiting the use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season. 1 organization (Blackwater Deer Dog Association) and 1 individual made unrelated comments regarding the proposed family hunt.

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization

(f) **Blackwater WMA - Hutton Unit** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; establish five 3-day hog-dog hunts (quota of 5 per hunt, no exemptions); allow only hogs to be taken during the hog-dog hunts; allow the use of no more than 3 dogs per quota permit during the hog-dog hunts; allow up to 2 hunters per quota permit and only one gun per permit during the hog-dog hunts; allow hogs to be taken during the day or at night by

the aid of a light with a firearm provided that no such firearm shall be loaded at any time except immediately prior to the shooting of a bayed hog (hunting of hogs under this provision by display or use of a light from a moving vehicle, boat or animal is prohibited); no longer require hunters to check in and out at a check station during the spring turkey season; allow limited field trials by permit; and change the quail quota from two groups of three hunters by quail quota application to 8 individual permits at the check station, no exemptions.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(g) **Blue Water Creek WMA** – allow the take of frogs.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual made unrelated comments regarding check station operation.

Total 1 Individual

(h) **Box-R WMA** – allow dove hunting on the opening day of the first phase of mourning dove and white-winged dove season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(i) **Choctawhatchee River WMA** - add a new 3-day spring turkey quota hunt (quota of 10; no exemptions).

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(j) **Econfina Creek WMA** – allow vehicular access on certain roads during open seasons and prohibit vehicular access on certain roads during periods closed to hunting.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals made unrelated comments requesting vehicular access on more roads.

Total 2 Individuals

(k) **Eglin WMA** – extend the length of time that general gun hunts may occur by 10 days.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(l) **Escambia River WMA** – allow still hunting only north of State Road 184 in Santa Rosa County and north of Cedartown Rd and Daffin Road in Escambia County. *The proposal was modified to allow dog hunting north of Highway 184 and south of Cedartown Rd and Daffin Road in Escambia County based on public comments.*

Summary of Comments Received:

10 individuals supported the proposed rule. 1 organization (Escambia River Dog Hunters) did not support the original proposal, but does support the modified proposal.

Total 10 Individuals

1 Organization

(m) **Joe Budd WMA** – allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule. 2 individuals made unrelated comments.

Total 3 Individuals

(n) **Lafayette Creek WMA** – prohibit vehicular access during periods closed to hunting except vehicular access would be allowed one day prior to and after each season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(o) **Ochlockonee River WMA** – allow public access throughout the year from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset; and prohibit ATVs.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(p) **Perdido River WMA** – prohibit launching or loading of boats with a motor greater than 10 hp at Fillingam and Pipes boat ramps; allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset, except access would be allowed throughout the year on Sand Landing Road, at designated campsites or by permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District; and prohibit vehicular access on Muscogee Regen Road and Red Gate Road from May through September.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(q) **Pine Log WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; no longer require hunters to check in and out at a check station during the spring turkey season; and allow limited field trials by permit.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported antler restrictions. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 2 Individuals

(r) **Point Washington WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; allow vehicular access on named or numbered roads only; require a quota permit for the last 17 days of the general gun season; and reduce the general gun quota from 300 to 150 (each hunt).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support proposed quota changes for the area.

Total 1 Individual

(s) **Talquin WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; allow public access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset; prohibit ATVs; and allow vehicular access only on named or numbered roads.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support prohibiting ATVs (ATVs are already prohibited by Division of Forestry rules).

Total 1 Individual

(t) **Tate's Hell WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having two or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; prohibit shining deer from 12 am (midnight) until one-half hour before sunrise during the general gun season; and reduce the number of quota permits from 1,000 for the first 13 days to 750 for the first 13 days. *The proposal regarding shining deer was modified to prohibit shining beginning at 12 am (midnight) until one-half hour before sunrise during the general gun season based on public and staff comments. The original proposal would have prohibited shining deer from 10 pm until sunrise during the general gun season. The proposal to require a quota permit throughout the general gun season and to reduce the number of permits available from 1,000 to 500 was modified based on public comments to 750 permits for the first 13 days. A survey of area hunters was conducted to solicit comments on the amended proposals and the forked-antler proposal. Survey results regarding the amended rule proposals are reported separately below.*

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported all proposed rules. 1 individual supported prohibiting shining during the general gun season. 8 individuals supported the proposed forked-antler proposal and 4 individuals did not. 7 individuals did not support a quota reduction to 500 permits for the entire season. 1 individual did not support proposed antler restrictions. *Survey results: 1 individual did not support the quota permit reduction to 750. 5 individuals supported the proposed reduction in quota permits to 750. 10 individuals supported the prohibition on shining deer during the general gun season.*

Total 21 Individuals

(u) **Tate's Hell WMA - Womack Creek Unit** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having two or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and allow the possession (not use) of ATVs.

Summary of Comments Received:

9 individuals supported the proposed antler restrictions and 3 individuals did not.

Total 12 Individuals

(v) **Wakulla WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and allow access from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 individuals supported proposed antler restrictions. 2 individuals made unrelated comments requesting that all seasons alternate between being open for hunting and not open for hunting. 1 Individual made unrelated comments requesting the addition of a family hunt on the area. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 6 Individuals

(w) **Yellow River WMA** – prohibit vehicular access from May through September on Holt Enhancement Road, North Holt Cross Road and South Holt Cross Road; and no longer require a quota permit for the first 13 days of general gun season or the first 9 days of spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received.

(25) 68A-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - South Region

The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) **Allapattah Flats WMA** – allow hunters to operate vehicles on numbered trails during the small game season; and require persons to enter and exit the area only at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the rule proposals. 4 individuals submitted unrelated comments. *The landowner requested that FWC withdraw the portion of the rule proposal to allow registered and licensed motorcycles on named and numbered roads because the road system is not sufficiently developed on this area.*

Total 5 Individuals

(b) **Big Cypress WMA** - remove general gun quota on Corn Dance, Loop and Stairsteps Units; remove daily general gun quota from the 17th day through December 21 on the Bear Island Unit; remove quota on Bear Island and Turner River Units from the 10th through 16th days and from December 22 through the last day of the general gun season on these units; and remove muzzleloading daily quota from the 10th through 16th days on Bear Island Unit; and remove quota for the second archery hunt on Deep Lake Unit.

Summary of Comments Received:

4 individuals supported the rule proposals. 1 organization supported the rule proposals, but requested that we increase the quota for the first 9 days of general gun season on Turner River Unit.

Total 4 Individuals

1 Organization (Trail Lakes Conservationists)

(c) **Dinner Island Ranch WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the antler restriction. 2 individuals and 1 organization submitted unrelated comments. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 3 Individuals
1 Organization (Trail Lakes Conservationists)

(d) **Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA** – establish a 105-day small game season; allow the take of migratory birds (except dove) during the statewide migratory bird season; allow the use of ATVs for hunting purposes only and only during archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun-walk seasons and for scouting purposes one week prior to the start of each season; allow airboats and vehicles in Conservation Areas 3A and 2 during the second general gun-walk season; prohibit commercial airboat rides, guide services or other tourist services in that portion of Conservation Area 3A South, west of the Miami Canal unless authorized by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; require checking of deer and hogs at a manned check station before quartering, dismembering, or removing them from the area on Saturdays and Sundays during the archery, muzzleloading gun, and general gun-walk seasons; and allow airboats in Conservation Areas 3A South, 3B, and all of 2 during the general gun-vehicle season.

Summary of Comments Received:

31 individuals and 11 organizations did not support the proposed ATV or commercial activity restrictions. 3 individuals supported the rule proposals. *After further consideration, staff proposed to amend the rule proposal to prohibit commercial recreational activities in that portion of Conservation Area 3A South, west of the Miami Canal unless authorized by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.*

Total 31 Individuals
11 Organizations (Law Office of Hammel & Kaplan; BNF Escapades, Inc.; Rick Case Honda Riders Club of Florida; Tubs and More Supply; Ride the Wind Airboat Adventures; South Florida ATV Riders; Fepat, Inc.; Broward County Airboat Club; Full Track Conservation Club; Florida ATV Association; and ATVMiextreme)

(e) **Fisheating Creek WMA** – expand the migratory bird hunting season to match the statewide season west of U.S. Highway 27 only.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the rule proposals.

Total 1 Individual

(f) **Holey Land WMA** – establish a 105-day small game season and allow the use of ATVs for hunting purposes only and only during archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun-walk seasons and for scouting purposes one week prior to the start of each season.

Summary of Comments Received:

24 individuals and 3 organizations did not support the ATV restrictions in this rule proposal. 4 individuals supported all rule proposals as presented.

Total 28 Individuals
3 Organizations (Florida ATV Assoc.; ATVMiextreme; Full Track Conservation Club)

(g) **J.W. Corbett WMA** – expand the migratory bird hunting season to match the statewide season; allow the use of shotguns only southeast of Stumper’s Grade; and require persons to enter and exit the area only at designated entrances.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the rule proposals.

Total 1 Individual

(h) **Okaloacoochee Slough WMA** – eliminate the dove hunts; eliminate the general gun hog hunt; establish a 2-day family hunt (quota of 40, no exemptions); make hogs legal to take during small game season; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and prohibit use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the rule proposals. 1 individual did not support the antler restriction proposal, but supported the rest of the rule proposals. Reasons for opposition were in regard to eliminating the dove hunts - the field was not crowded, which made the hunting opportunity enjoyable, and the hunts should be both Saturday and Sunday. 1 individual submitted an unrelated comment asking for a rule change to allow hunting equipment to be set up at least 1 week prior to the start of a hunt. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 3 Individuals

(i) **Picayune Strand WMA** –prohibit use of centerfire rifles during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the rule proposal.

Total 1 Individual

(j) **Rotenberger WMA** – establish a 105-day small game season; allow the use of ATVs for hunting purposes only and only during archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun-walk seasons and for scouting purposes one week prior to the start of each season; expand the migratory bird hunting season for migratory birds (except dove) to match the statewide migratory bird season; allow airboats during the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun-walk and general gun-vehicle seasons for the purpose of duck and coot hunting on days when duck and coot hunting is allowed.

Summary of Comments Received:

8 individuals and 3 organizations did not support the ATV restrictions in this rule proposal. 2 individuals supported the rule proposal as presented.

Total 11 Individuals

3 Organizations (Florida ATV Assoc.; ATVMiextreme; Full Track Conservation Club)

(k) **Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA** – establish a 114-day small game season; establish dove hunts during Saturdays of the dove season (100 at check station, each hunt); change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; allow take of wildlife with bird dogs or retrievers during general gun and small game seasons and on the posted dove field during dove hunts; require

dove hunters to hunt from assigned stations in the posted field and allow them to transfer assignments at the check station; issue dove permits on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station each day of a dove hunt; establish shooting hours for the dove hunts; and establish times when hunters may enter and exit the posted dove field.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual did not support the antler restriction, but supported the rest of the proposal. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 1 Individual

(26) 68A-15.065 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northeast Region - The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) **Buck Lake WMA** - add a one-week gap between the first and second archery hunt.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule.

Total 2 Individuals

(b) **Bull Creek WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; require camping equipment to be removed one day after the end of each season; and remove the requirement that hunters obtain a daily check station permit for the Crabgrass Creek portion of the WMA during small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

4 individuals and 1 organization supported the proposed three-point rule. 4 individuals and 1 organization did not support the proposed three-point rule. 1 individual supported the proposed camping rule. 2 individuals and 1 organization did not support the proposed camping rule. 1 organization did not support the proposed rule to eliminate the check station permit for the Crabgrass Creek portion of the area during small game season. 1 individual made an unrelated comment. Reasons cited for opposition to the camping rule were inconvenience of having to remove the camping equipment and the cost of fuel. *In response to these public comments, staff has modified the original proposal to allow camping equipment to remain on the area between the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons. In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 9 Individuals

3 Organizations (Marco Hunting & Fishing Club, Deseret Ranches of Florida and Friends of Bull Creek)

(c) **Caravelle Ranch WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length and a bag limit of one antlered or one antlerless deer per permit, per person, per season during the archery season; a bag limit of one antlered deer per permit, per person, per season during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; allow only one quota permit per person per season during all seasons which deer are legal to take; and change the opening day of the supervised small game season from a Sunday to a Saturday.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rules. 3 individuals did not support the proposed rules. 1 individual supported the three-point rule proposal but did not support the proposed bag limit restriction. 1 individual did not want the three-point rule to apply to archery hunters. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 7 Individuals

(d) **Dunns Creek WMA** - allow a youth or mentor license holder to accompany a quota permit holder.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(e) **Etoniah Creek WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; no longer require that hunters check in and out at self-service boxes and report all game taken; and allow horses on the area year-round.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual and 1 organization supported the proposed rules.

Total 1 Individual
1 Organization (Sunshine State Horse Council)

(f) **Fort Drum WMA** – The proposed rule change would establish a bag limit of one antlered deer per special-opportunity permit, per person, per season; establish a bag limit of one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per special-opportunity permit, per person, per season; allow only one special-opportunity permit to be utilized per person, per season; allow only tent camping at the designated campground; and require that deer, wild hog and turkey be checked at the check station before being dismembered.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 5 individuals did not support the proposed rule to allow only tent camping on the area. 2 individuals did support the proposed new bag limits for deer. Individuals not supporting the proposed camping rule commented that the proposed rule was unnecessary and cited the inconvenience of tent camping versus trailer camping.

Total 6 Individuals

(g) **Guana River WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length and a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the archery season; a bag limit of one antlered deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; allow only one quota permit per person per hunt during all seasons which deer are legal to take; and establish a spring turkey season with two, 3-day hunts (quota of six, no exemptions).

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported all proposed rules except the three-point rule proposal. 1 individual did not support the three-point rule proposal. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 2 Individuals

(h) **Half Moon WMA** – technical changes to clarify rules related to the taking of deer.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule.

Total 2 Individuals

(i) **Jumper Creek WMA** - add geese as legal to take during the waterfowl season.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule.

Total 2 Individuals

(j) **Lake George WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule.

Total 2 Individuals

(k) **Lake George WMA – Dexter/Mary Farms Unit** – allow take of one antlered and one antlerless deer during the archery season; eliminate the special-opportunity dove season; eliminate the general gun hog season; establish wild hog as legal to take during the small game season; and prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

4 individuals supported the proposed rules.

Total 4 Individuals

(l) **Lake Panasofkee WMA** - change the special-opportunity hog seasons to general gun hog seasons; and extend scouting hours during spring turkey season from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rules.

Total 2 Individuals

(m) **Matanzas WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(n) **Ocala WMA** – establish a 9-day general gun still hunt (quota of 225) one week after the general gun dog hunt on the Church Lake Unit; prohibit hunting from the rights-of-way of Deerhaven Road and North Boulevard; and eliminate the quota on the Pipeline Unit during the general gun season.

Summary of Comments Received:

5 individuals supported the proposed rules. 1 individual did not support the proposed Church Lake general gun hunt. 1 individual made an unrelated comment asking for does to be taken during archery season.

Total 7 Individuals

(o) **Relay WMA** – allow the take of wild hogs during the small game season; allow the use of centerfire rifles and pistols during the general gun season; require camping equipment to be removed by the Saturday following spring turkey season; and eliminate requirement that hunters check in and out and record their game harvest.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 1 individual supported all proposed rules except allowing centerfire rifles and pistols on the area. 1 organization supported the proposed camping rule, did not support eliminating the requirement for hunters to check in and out, did not support allowing centerfire rifles on the area, and supported allowing hogs to be taken during small game season, but with the use of dogs. 2 individuals did not support the proposed rule to allow centerfire rifles and pistols. *In response to these public comments, staff has withdrawn the rule proposal to allow centerfire rifles and pistols on the area for the taking of wildlife.*

Total 4 Individuals

1 Organization (Relay Recreational & Sportsman's Association)

(p) **Richloam WMA** – establish new 3-day general gun hog-dog season (no quota); and require that hunters check game only during the first nine days of the general gun season and during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 3 individuals did not support the proposed rules. 1 individual supported the proposed rule to add a hog-dog season but did not support the proposed rule to limit the game check requirement. 1 organization did not support the proposed rule to limit the game check requirement. 1 individual made unrelated comments.

Total 6 Individuals

1 Organization (United Hunters of Florida)

(q) **Richloam WMA - Baird Unit** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length and a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the archery season; a bag limit of one antlered deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; allow only one quota permit per person per hunt during all seasons which deer are legal to take; establish a new 3-day general gun hog season (quota of 50, no exemptions); prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the

taking of turkey during the spring turkey season; and no longer require hunters to check game during the small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 1 individual supported all of the proposed rules except the prohibition of the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season. 2 individuals supported the proposed three-point rule but did not support the proposed bag limits. 1 individual did not support the proposed three-point rule but supported the proposed bag limits. 1 individual did not support the proposed three point rule but did support the other proposed rules. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 6 Individuals

(r) **Rock Springs Run WMA** - allow possession of handguns on the area but prohibit their use for taking wildlife; require hunters to enter and exit only at designated entrances; require hunters to obtain a permit at the check station to hunt the West BMK portion of the area and require that hunters access the West BMK portion only from Old McDonald Road.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed handgun rule. 1 individual did not support the requirement to enter and exit at designated entrances.

Total 3 Individuals

(s) **Ross Prairie WMA** – no longer require that hunters check in and out at self-service boxes and report all game taken.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(t) **Seminole Forest WMA** – change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length and a bag limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the archery season; a bag limit of one antlered deer per permit, per person, per hunt during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons; allow only one quota permit per person, per hunt during all seasons which deer are legal to take; and prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during the spring turkey season.

Summary of Comments Received:

4 individuals supported all proposed rules. 10 individuals supported the proposed antler restrictions, but did not support changing the bag limit. 1 individual supported the proposed three-point rule and the proposed changes in the bag limit, but did not support the proposed rule to prohibit centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season. 1 individual did not support the proposed three-point rule but did support the proposed changes to the bag limit. 4 individuals did not support any of the proposed rules. 10 individuals did not support the proposed three-point rule or proposed changes in the bag limit. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 33 Individuals

(u) **Seminole Forest WMA – Lake Tracy Unit** – increase the quota for archery, muzzleloading gun, and general gun seasons from 10 to 20; increase quota for spring turkey season from 5 to 10; prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during the spring turkey season; and no longer require that hunters check in and out at self-service boxes and report all game taken.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 6 individuals made unrelated comments.

Total 7 Individuals

(v) **Seminole Ranch WMA** – allow centerfire rifles and pistols during the general gun season; and revise quota for the general gun hog hunt by issuing 25 permits by general gun quota application for the first two days of the season and provide 25 permits first-come, first-served at the check station for the last five days of the season.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rules.

Total 2 Individuals

(w) **Three Lakes WMA** – eliminate the second general gun dog hunt; and require camping equipment to be removed one day after the end of each season.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed camping rule. 1 individual supported the proposed camping rule but did not support the proposed rule to eliminate the second general gun dog hunt. 5 individuals did not support the proposed camping rule. Reasons cited for opposition to the camping rule were inconvenience of having to remove the camping equipment and the cost of fuel. *In response to these public comments, staff has modified the original proposal to allow camping equipment to remain on the area between the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons.*

Total 7 Individuals

(x) **Three Lakes WMA – Prairie Lake Unit** - allow waterfowl hunters to access the Lake Jackson boat ramp year-round during all open seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule.

Total 3 Individuals

(y) **Tiger Bay WMA** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles for the taking of turkey during the spring turkey season; and no longer require that hunters check in and out at self-service boxes and report all game taken.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules.

Total 1 Individual

(z) **Tiger Bay WMA – Rima Ridge Unit** – prohibit the use of centerfire rifles during the spring turkey season; and no longer require that hunters check in and out at self-service boxes and report all game taken.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules.

Total 1 Individual

(aa) **Tosohatchee WMA** – increase the camping fee from \$3 per car to \$4 per person to match the previous landowner’s fee structure; and add fish and frogs as legal to take.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules.

Total 1 Individual

(bb) **Triple N Ranch WMA** – establish a bag limit of one antlered deer per special-opportunity permit, per person, per season; establish a bag limit of one gobbler (or bearded turkey) per special-opportunity permit, per person, per season; allow only one special-opportunity permit to be utilized per person, per season; allow take of hogs with no size or bag limit; and allow authorized hunting equipment to be taken onto the area when vehicular access is allowed.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rules. 1 individual did not support the proposed rule to allow only one permit per person per season.

Total 2 Individuals

(cc) **Twelve Mile Swamp WMA** - allow take of hogs with no size or bag limit.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual supported the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual

(27) 68A-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas -

The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns on WEAs pursuant to Chapter 790, F.S., subject to state and federal law, provided the gun is securely encased in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent during periods when the take of wildlife with the gun is prohibited; allow wild hogs to be taken on WMAs from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset during any season open for the taking of game mammals or wild hogs, with no size or bag limit unless provided by area-specific rule; allow the take of wild hogs by the use of any method allowed for the taking of game mammals; prohibit the transport of wild hogs alive; allow the take of non-protected mammals during any season open for the taking of game mammals, with no size or bag limit unless provided by area-specific rule; and prohibit target practice except at a shooting range or Commission-sponsored event.

Summary of Comments Received:

2 individuals supported the proposed rule changes.

Total 2 Individuals

(28) 68A-17.005 Specific Regulations for Wildlife and Environmental Areas - The proposed rule changes include non-substantive technical changes, such as grammatical corrections, language standardization or clarification of existing rules and would revise or establish specific area regulations on WEAs as follows:

(a) **Royce Unit: Lake Wales Ridge** - establish two new hog-only weekend hunts (quota of 20 per hunt, no exemptions); establish two new 3-day archery hunts (quota of 10 per hunt, no exemptions); delete quota permit requirement for small game season; and no longer require hunters to check in or check game at the check station.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(b) **Suwannee Ridge WEA** - allow dogs on leashes for trailing wounded game and eliminate the fishing season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(c) **CREW WEA** - establish a 28-day small game season; prohibit the take of bobcat and otter; and allow the take of wildlife with dogs only during general gun and small game seasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

One individual supported the rule proposals. One organization supported the rule proposals. *The landowner requested that FWC withdraw the portion of the rule proposal to allow registered and licensed motorcycles on named and numbered roads because the road system is not sufficiently developed on this area.*

Total 1 Individual
 1 Organization (CREW Land & Trust)

(d) **John C. and Mariana Jones / Hungryland** - extend the small game season from 16 days to 28 days; expand the migratory game bird season to match the statewide season; change the definition of legal to take for antlered deer to those having three or more points on at least one antler, each point one inch or more in length; and allow motorized vehicles on named or numbered roads and in designated parking areas unless otherwise posted as closed.

Summary of Comments Received:

One individual supported the rule proposals. Three individuals did not support the antler restriction portion of the proposal. *In addition to comments received from the public regarding the proposed rules for the area, a targeted survey of area hunters was conducted to help gauge the level of support for the proposed 3-point antler restriction. The results of the survey will be reported separately.*

Total 4 Individuals

(e) **John G. and Susan H. Dupuis, Jr.** - allow the mobility-impaired season to start prior to general gun season; allow the take of migratory birds during migratory bird season when it coincides with archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, general gun for mobility-impaired, and small game seasons; allow registered and licensed motorcycles; and eliminate quotas for general gun hog hunts.

Summary of Comments Received:

Two individuals supported the rule proposals. Three individuals did not support the rule proposals. Comments were supportive of allowing the general gun for mobility-impaired season to start prior to general gun season.

Total 5 Individuals

(f) **Southern Glades WEA** – establish a 114-day small game season.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(29) 68A-18.004 Regulations in Wildlife Refuges - The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns on Wildlife Refuges pursuant to Chapter 790, F.S., subject to state and federal law.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(30) 68A-20.005 Specific Fish Management Area Regulations - The proposed rule would prohibit the taking of fish and wildlife with firearms on 35 fish management areas (unless otherwise specified in rules for a specific fish management area) eliminating the total prohibition against possession of firearms on these areas; eliminate the following lakes as fish management areas: lakes Lorna Doone (14 acres, Orange County), Richmond (38 acres; Orange County), Kirkman Pond (4 acres; Orange County) and Lake Dot (3 acres; Seminole County); prohibit possession and use of cast nets in lakes Ivanhoe (Orange County) and Santiago (Orange County); allow the dates Joe Budd Pond FMA (Gadsden County) is open to public fishing during daylight hours from July through September to be established by executive order; provide for multiple designated entry points; exempt alligator hunt participants from check-in requirements; and change the names of lakes East Pasture and West Pasture to Pine Lakes on Tenoroc Fish Management Area (Polk County).

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(31) 68A-21.002 Establishment - The proposed rule would delete all rules related to the establishment of wild hog areas as part of a suite of rule change proposals to change the way wild hogs are managed resulting in a simplified set of regulations. The entire chapter on wild hog areas is proposed for deletion because wild hog areas will no longer be established.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(32) 68A-21.004 General Regulations Relating to Wild Hog Areas - The proposed rule would delete all regulations related to wild hog areas as part of a suite of rule change proposals to change the way wild hogs are managed resulting in a simplified set of regulations. The entire chapter on wild hog areas is proposed for deletion because wild hog areas will no longer be established.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(33) 68A-23.002 General Methods of Taking Freshwater Fish - The proposed rule would allow use of cast nets of any mesh size in the South Region; redefine species to be taken with a dip net, cast net, trap, or minnow seine as golden shiners of any size and other freshwater non-game fish, including catfish, less than eight inches total length.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(34) 68A-23.003 Commercial Fishing Devices; Provision for Use in Certain Waters - The proposed rule would require all fishing devices authorized by this section to be clearly and legibly marked with the harvester's name and address while being used or possessed in or upon the waters of the state.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(35) 68A-23.004 Lawful Methods for Using Trotlines and Bush Hooks or Set Lines - The proposed rule would require all fishing devices authorized by this section to be clearly and legibly marked with the harvester's name and address while being used or possessed in or upon the waters of the state.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual made comments that supported the proposed rule change and also suggested a change unrelated to the proposed rule.

Total 1 Individual
 0 Organizations

(36) 68A-23.005 Bag Limits, Length Limits, Open Season: Freshwater Fish - The proposed rule would delete the three-fish bag limit and 18-inch or greater total length limit for striped bass north and west of the Suwannee River and would establish a statewide aggregate bag and length limit for striped bass, white bass, or sunshine bass of twenty fish no more than six of which may be 24 inches or greater in total length; change the black bass length regulation on Lake Okeechobee from a 13 to 18-inch slot-size limit to an 18-inch or greater minimum length limit; establish a 10-inch or greater minimum length limit for harvest of black crappie on Lake Okeechobee and would include in the boundary definition for Lake Okeechobee that portion of the C-41-A Canal, from the intersection of the C-38 Canal upstream to the S-84 structure; change the black bass regulation on Lake Trafford from a bag limit of five fish only one of which may be 14 inches or greater in total length to a five fish bag limit of which all fish must be 18 inches or greater in total length and only one fish may be 22 inches or greater in total length.

Summary of Comments Received:

Staff of US Fish and Wildlife Service and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission met with FWC staff on October 10, 2007 to hear concerns that the proposed rule to consolidate regional rules for striped bass, white bass and sunshine bass into the current aggregate bag and length limit in effect in the Florida peninsula for all three species would adversely affect efforts to restore and manage genetically unique populations of Gulf race striped bass in river systems of the Florida panhandle. As a result, staff from the three organizations agreed to work to develop an alternative proposed rule to provide the benefits of a consolidated rule for these three species and ensure adequate protection for restoration of Gulf race striped bass. For this reason, staff is recommending withdrawal of the proposed rule from consideration for this rule cycle.

No comments were received concerning proposed rules relating to lakes Okeechobee and Trafford. However, two public meetings have been scheduled for November 14 and 15 in Clewiston and Okeechobee City to provide additional opportunity for public comment on proposed rules for Lake Okeechobee.

Total 0 Individuals
2 Organizations

(37) 68A-24.002 Methods of Taking Fur-Bearing Animals; Possession; Open Season -

The proposed rule would allow the possession of guns in accordance with Chapter 790, F.S.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(38) 68A-24.005 Transporting and Shipping Live Raccoons - The proposed rule would allow the transportation of live nuisance raccoons for euthanasia.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(39) 68A-25.004 Regulations Governing the Operation of Alligator Farms - The proposed rule would prohibit the alteration of the locking mechanism of CITES tags.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 organizations indicated general support for the proposed rule change.

Total 3 Organizations (Richloam Sportsman Assoc., Avon Park AFR Hunters, River Ranch Hunter Assoc.)

(40) 68A-25.031 Regulations Governing Alligator Egg and Hatchling Collections on Lands Not Included in Alligator Management Programs - The proposed rule would eliminate references to specific quotas and the numbers of tags that may be requested, make hatchling tags non-refundable, and allow agents of other licensed alligator farmers to assist hatchling collection permittees with collections if in the presence of the alligator farmer under whom they are licensed.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 organizations indicated general support for the proposed rule changes.

Total 3 Organizations (Richloam Sportsman Assoc., Avon Park AFR Hunters, River Ranch Hunter Assoc.)

(41) 68A-25.032 Regulations Governing the Establishment of Alligator Management Programs - The proposed rule would expand the options for establishing non-hatchling quotas to include any unused quota from the previous year and establishing provisions for utilizing previous years' data to establish alligator nest and hatchling collection quotas similar to the provisions for non-hatchling quotas; eliminate the slot limit restriction; allow agents of other licensed alligator trappers and farmers to assist permittees with non-hatchling, hatchling, and egg harvests if in the presence of the alligator trapper or farmer whom they are licensed under; prohibit the alteration of the locking mechanism of CITES tags; and clarify that the use of a light in conjunction with listed methods of take is permissible.

Summary of Comments Received:

3 organizations indicated general support for the proposed rule changes.

Total 3 Organizations (Richloam Sportsman Assoc., Avon Park AFR Hunters, River Ranch Hunter Assoc.)

(42) 68A-25.042 Regulations Governing Statewide Alligator Trapping, Permitting, Taking and Sale - The proposed rule would clarify the use of baited wooden pegs and expand the legal methods of take to include the use of artificial lures; allow agents of other licensed alligator trappers to assist permittees if in the presence of the alligator trapper under whom they are licensed; clarify that taking of alligators does not include the activities of driving the vessel or the use of a light; prohibit the alteration of the locking mechanism of CITES tags; clarify that the use of a light in conjunction with listed methods of take is permissible; and extend the legal hunting hours to 1 hour before sunset and 1 hour after sunrise.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 individual indicated general support for clarifying the rules and 2 individuals suggested extending the hunting hours by an additional ½ hour before sunset and ½ hour after sunrise. 3 organizations indicated general support the proposed rule changes. 1 other organization suggested that countywide harvest permits not be subjected to harvest period partitioning and be valid from the start to the end of the harvest season. *Staff support the suggestion to extend the legal hunting hours, but are opposed to creating differences for the countywide harvest permits to minimize confusing program participants and needlessly complicating the program.*

Total 3 Individuals
4 Organizations (Richloam Sportsman Assoc., Avon Park AFR Hunters, River Ranch Hunter Assoc., Dragon Slayers of Florida)

(43) 68A-27.002 Provision for Harassment of Endangered, Threatened and Species of Special Concern on Airport Property - The proposed rule would clarify by reference how species may be addressed on airport property for public safety reasons.

Summary of Comments Received:

No comments were received on this rule proposal.

(44) 68A-31.001 Regulations Relating to Commission Managed Shooting Ranges (New) - The proposed rule would prohibit the possession of open containers of intoxicating beverages; allow public access on unsupervised ranges from sunrise to sunset; allow public access on supervised shooting ranges as established by order of the Executive Director; and prohibit unsafe or destructive shooting.

Summary of Comments Received:

1 organization (Trail Lakes Conservationists) supported the rule proposals, but requested a Commission-managed shooting range in Dade or Broward County.

Total 1 Organization