



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER  
DIRECTOR

July 1, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: DAN FORSTER

SUBJECT: **NOTICE AND SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in the Game and Fish Code (Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Secs. 27-1-4 and 27-3-15), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend Department of Natural Resources rules governing the hunting of game animals and game birds on Wildlife Management Areas. The proposed rules (copy attached hereto), when adopted, will amend applicable rules of Chapter 391-4-2-.70, relating to Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands.

**SYNOPSIS AND MAIN FEATURES**

The purpose of hunting regulations is to manage Georgia's game birds and game animals according to sound principles of wildlife management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable natural resources. Changes to the existing rules reflect the need to adopt hunting regulations for a new wildlife management area (WMA).

This notice and synopsis of the proposed rule, together with an exact copy of proposed rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of all these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division web page ([www.gohuntgeorgia.com](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com)). Please call Denise Sargent (770) 918-6404 to request a copy.

Members of the general public will have an opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations at a public hearing scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28 in Tifton at the UGA Conference Center, 15 RDC Road. Any participant at the hearing may present data, make a statement or comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, either orally or in writing. Statements should be concise to permit everyone an opportunity to speak. Participants in the hearing are required to register on arrival and to notify the registering official of their intent to give a statement.

Memorandum – Notice and Synopsis of Proposed Rule Making

July 1, 2016

Page 2 of 2

Those unable to attend the hearings may submit comments on this proposed rule electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (770-918-6404) or by submitting written statements, before close of business on July 31, 2016. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Don McGowan at:

Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Game Management Section  
2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.  
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

The Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed rules and any comments received in the hearing process on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, Atlanta, GA. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

DF/jwb

Attachment: Proposed Regulations

SUBJECT	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
<b>391-4-2-.70 Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands.</b> Alapaha River WMA	Establishes regulated hunting opportunity for deer, turkey, small game, migratory birds and feral hog.	No Seasons	Proposed regulations provide 26 days of archery deer hunting opportunity; 13 days of buck only firearms deer hunting opportunity; 3 days of either-sex firearms deer hunting opportunity; 121 days of small game hunting opportunity; and, 51 days of turkey hunting opportunity.	The acquisition of this 6,870 acre tract in Irwin County along the Alapaha River will provide diverse hunting and fishing opportunity. This includes opportunities to hunt deer, turkeys, small game, and migratory birds. Proposed hunt opportunity is not expected to negatively affect wildlife populations present. The proposed regulations establish regulated hunting opportunities on this newly acquired state-owned Wildlife Management Area for the 2016-2017 hunting season.

**CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
BRIAN KEMP**

(Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Secs. 50-13-3, 50-13-4, and 50-13-6)

I do hereby certify that the attached amendments are correct copies, as promulgated and adopted on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2016.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Rule 391-4-2-.70 entitled "Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands" is hereby amended and reads as attached hereto.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 27-1-4 and 27-3-15.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_ day of August 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_ day of August 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**RULES  
OF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION  
CHAPTER 391-4-2  
HUNTING REGULATIONS  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

391-4-2-.70 Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands

391-4-2-.70 Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands. The following species may be hunted on State areas in accordance with restrictions set forth below except as prescribed in 391-4-2-.60 through 391-4-2-.68.										
Area	Deer, Archery Either-sex Except as Noted	Deer, Firearms Antlered Bucks	Deer, Firearms Either-sex	Deer, Primitive Weapons Either-sex Except as Noted	Bear	Turkey	Small Game and Furbearers	Migratory Birds Special Regulations	Special Regulations For - Raccoon Fox Bobcat Opossum	Feral Hogs
ALAPAHA RIVER WMA	Oct. 1-26, 2016; Sign-In	Oct. 28-29, Nov. 20-27, Dec. 8-11, 2016; Sign-In	Nov. 17-19, 2016; Check-In	No Season	No season	Mar 25-31, Apr 1-7, 2017; Quota 30, Sign-In  Apr 8 – May 15, 2017; Sign-In	Oct. 30—Nov. 15, Nov. 28-Dec. 6, Dec. 11, 2016-Feb 28, 2017	B		C
alapaha river wma										

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 27-1-4.