


MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

RUSTY GARRISON  
DIRECTOR

December 7, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: Rusty Garrison 

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 consistent with 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 tract of an existing 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 Sonja Daniels (833) 557-3303 to request a copy.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (706-557-3350) or by submitting written statements by close of business on December 31, 2018. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Don McGowan at:

Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Game Management Section  
2067 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 at the January 16, 2019 meeting at 9:00 a.m. at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, Atlanta, GA. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

RG/dpm

Attachment: Proposed Regulations

**Public Participation Plan for  
Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to the  
Wildlife Management Areas  
(Hilliard Tract/Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA)**

Amendments to the 2017-2019 hunting regulations related to Wildlife Management Areas are being considered. These consist of establishing regulated turkey hunting opportunity on the Hilliard Tract of Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA. Public input is an important component of the decision-making process. The plan for receiving and considering public input includes publicly noticing the proposed regulations and the submission of written, verbal and electronic comments.

WRD staff will brief the Board of Natural Resources on the proposed amendments in draft form. The proposed amendments will be publicly noticed as required under the Administrative Procedures Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-3-4, will be forwarded to legislative counsel and 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. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to submit written comments to WRD by mail or electronically. Following the public notice, the Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed rule and any comments received at their January 16, 2019 meeting at 9:00 a.m. at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, Atlanta, GA.

**Schedule for Public Participation on Proposed Amendments to  
Hunting Regulations 2017-2019 Hunting Seasons**

<b>Description of Action</b>	<b>Action Date</b>
Present proposed amendments to Board's Wildlife Resources' Committee	12/5/2018
APA notice distributed, posted on website and provided to legislative counsel	12/7/2018
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed regulations	12/31/2018
Final approval of regulations by Board of Natural Resources	1/16/2019

SUBJECT	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
<p><b>391-4-2-.70 Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands.</b></p>				
<p>Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA/Hilliard Tract</p>	<p>Establishes regulated hunting opportunity for turkey</p>	<p>No Seasons</p>	<p>Proposed regulations provide 16 days of quota turkey hunting opportunity and 3 days for a Department-sponsored "Hunt and Learn" hunt. The bag limit during the regular quota hunts will be 1 gobbler per hunter per hunt period. The bag limit during the Hunt and Learn hunt will be the regular state season limit.</p>	<p>This newly acquired 7,090 acre tract in Marion County currently provides opportunities to hunt deer, small game, and migratory birds with current regulations the same as the pre-existing Blackjack Crossing Tract of Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA. The proposed 2019 turkey season provides a combined 19 total days of hunting – 16 of which will be 2 separate quota hunts of 40 hunters each. The remaining 3 days will consist of a "Hunt and Learn" hunt. The proposed hunt opportunity is not expected to negatively affect the turkey population present.</p>

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2018.

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 2018.

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

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

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_ day of August 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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, Primitive Weapons Either-sex Except as Noted	Deer, Firearms Antlered Bucks	Deer, Firearms Either-sex	Bear	Turkey	Small Game and Furbearers	Migratory Birds	
Chat-tahoochee Fall Line WMA-Hilliard Tract						Apr. 6-14, and Apr. 22-28, 2019; Quota 40; 1 gobbler limit per hunter for each hunt period. SIGN-IN			

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Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA Hilliard Tract						Hunt and Learn – Apr. 19-21, 2019		
No hunting feral hogs or coyotes during the management season May 16-31. Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during turkey season with the appropriate lawful weapons. No horseback riding. No bicycles except for the purpose of hunter access.								

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