



## Chassahowitzka SCUBA diving rule fact sheet

68A-15.061

Aug. 8, 2018

- The Chassahowitzka SCUBA diving rule will become effective on **Aug. 9**. This rule requires SCUBA divers to register to dive anywhere in the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- Eagles Nest site is NOT closing.
- The registration process will be online and no cost, and can be accessed at: <https://public.myfwc.com/CrossDOI/PermitMe>.
- The WMA entry fee will still apply.
- SCUBA diver registration information will be clearly posted on signs at the WMA entry/check station and at the Eagles Nest site.
- The rule requirement to register **only** applies to SCUBA diving and SCUBA divers.
- The rule/registration language includes several recommendations related to SCUBA diving training. *These are recommendations only and not requirements.*
- There is a requirement that all SCUBA divers be **at least 18 years of age**.
- There is currently no annual pass provision; *each diver must register for each separate dive.*
- Divers are required to have the completed proof of registration in their possession and present either a paper or e-copy to a Commission law enforcement officer upon request.
- Failure to secure the no-cost registration is a violation of state rules and could result in a citation.

### **Background:**

The rule would prohibit SCUBA diving on Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, except by individuals at least 18 years of age that have completed a no-cost electronic SCUBA diving registration with the Commission. The registration that the proposed amendment creates, provides general and area-specific safety information for potential SCUBA divers. The registration also requires SCUBA divers to acknowledge risk, assume risk, and accept release of liability, prior to conducting SCUBA diving activities on Chassahowitzka. Registered Divers must present a copy of the completed registration if requested by the Commission and registration does not eliminate the Chassahowitzka daily use permit fee.

***The FWC prioritizes public safety while balancing access, freedoms and opportunities for the public to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities.***



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