

## Florida to loosen park gun restrictions

*by UPI*

MIAMI -- Florida will be getting a jump on the rest of the nation in terms of looser restrictions on firearms in national parks. The state Legislature, with little debate, passed new rules relating to hunting laws for state parks and some federal wilderness areas that will go into effect July 1. The new rules will be in place by the time the federal government is expected to announce a new plan that would require National Parks to conform to state gun laws. The debate in Washington has been spiced up by the arguments that guns will lead to an increase in violence -- or less violence, according to the theory that tourists with guns will be able to defend themselves against wild animals and human criminals. Florida wildlife officials aren't buying into it. They told the Miami Herald Monday that the earlier gun restrictions were aimed at curbing poaching.

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