

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



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September 29, 2006

The Honorable Tom Lee
President
The Florida Senate
Suite 409, The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Mr. President:

House Bill 265 adopted during the 2006 Session of the Florida Legislature, Chapter 2006-98, Laws of Florida, requires the annual submission of a report to the Legislature regarding "no net loss of hunting lands" (section 372.0025, F.S.). Enclosed is our report in compliance with these requirements for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year.

If you would like additional information, please contact me at 850-487-3796 or Mr. Nick Wiley, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management, at 850-488-3831. Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth D. Haddad".

Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director

kdh/pas
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Jane Hayes, Staff Director, Senate General Government Appropriations Committee
Mr. Wayne Kiger, Staff Director, Senate Environmental Preservation Committee



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Pursuant to section 372.0025, Florida Statutes

Submitted by:

Kenneth D. Haddad

Date: September 29, 2006

Kenneth D. Haddad

Executive Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS
FY 2005-2006 Report
September 29, 2006

The 2006 Legislature took action to commit the State of Florida to preserving hunting lands and hunting opportunities for the future. This document constitutes the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (Commission) annual report to the Legislature required pursuant to section 372.0025, Florida Statutes (HB 265/2006 Session, Ch. 2006-98, Laws of Florida). This represents the initial report following adoption of the legislation that became effective June 7, 2006.

Provisions of the statute require an annual report describing the acreage managed by the Commission that was closed to hunting during the previous fiscal year, the reasons for the closures, and the acreage managed by the Commission that was opened to hunting to compensate for closures of existing land. Additional provisions require state agencies and water management districts that own or manage land to report properties with acreage open for hunting and closed to hunting during the previous fiscal year (except for right-of-way lands, parcels under 50 acres, and state parks). As defined in statute, "Commission-managed lands" are lands owned by the Commission, lands owned by the state over which the Commission holds management authority, or privately owned lands that are leased or managed by the Commission.

Under the provisions of section 372.0025(4), Florida Statutes, "Commission land management decisions and actions, including decisions made by private owners to close hunting land managed by the Commission, shall not result in any net loss of habitat land acreage available for hunting opportunities on Commission-managed lands that exists on the effective date of this act. The Commission shall expeditiously find replacement acreage for hunting to compensate for closures of any existing hunting land. Replacement lands shall, to the greatest extent possible, be located within the same administrative region of the Commission and shall be consistent with the hunting discipline that the Commission allowed on the closed land."

An evaluation of lands in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system determined that approximately 3,256,000 acres of "Commission-managed" public hunting land existed on June 7, 2006. In addition, approximately 2,377,000 acres of federally owned lands in the WMA system were available for public hunting during fiscal year 2005-2006, resulting in a total of 5,633,000 total acres of land open for public hunting in the WMA system. It should be noted that acreage figures reported herein are subject to technical correction, and this report will be revised depending on final verification of these figures by cooperating landowners and agencies.

The complete list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for hunting during fiscal year 2005-2006 is provided (see Table 1). Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were not open for public hunting during fiscal year 2005-2006 are also provided (see Table 2).

Decisions and actions taken by the Commission since the adoption of the No Net Loss of Hunting Lands statute resulted in a net increase in Commission-managed hunting lands (see Table 3) during fiscal year 2005-2006. An action approved at the request of a private landowner during fiscal year 2005-2006, but prior to the adoption of the statute, resulted in the removal of 4,631 acres from Flint Rock WMA. The Commission has established several new WMAs totaling 28,150 acres that will be open for public hunting for the first time during fiscal year 2006-2007 (see Table 2 with footnote).

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northwest Region</u>		
Apalachee	Jackson	7,952
Apalachicola	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	582,094
Apalachicola River (WEA)	Franklin/Gulf	89,928
Aucilla	Jefferson/Taylor	47,532
Blackwater	Okaloosa/Santa Rosa	191,148
Blackwater - Carr Unit	Santa Rosa	590
Blackwater - Hutton Unit	Santa Rosa	5,089
Blue Water Creek	Escambia	21,300
Box-R	Franklin	7,597
Choctawhatchee River	Bay/Holmes/Walton/Washington	56,433
Econfina Creek	Bay/Washington	37,419
Eglin Air Force Base	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa/Walton	463,448
Escambia River	Escambia/Santa Rosa	34,771
Flint Rock	Wakulla/Jefferson	19,898
Joe Budd	Gadsden	11,108
L. Kirk Edwards (WEA)	Leon	688
Ochlockonee River	Leon	2,790
Pine Log	Bay/Washington	6,911
Point Washington	Walton	11,172
Robert Brent	Gadsden/Liberty	8,532
Talquin	Leon	3,053
Tate's Hell	Franklin/Liberty	187,710
Tate's Hell - Womack Creek	Franklin/Liberty	13,754
Tyndall Air Force	Bay	29,276
Schneider Farms (SGA)	Escambia	50
Upper Chipola River	Jackson	7,334
Yellow River	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa	16,863

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>North Central Region</u>		
Alligator Lake (SGA)	Columbia	484
Andrews	Levy	3,341
Bayard	Clay	6,324
Big Bend- Hickory Mound Unit	Taylor	14,428
Big Bend- Jena Unit	Dixie	12,522
Big Bend- Spring Creek Unit	Taylor	14,600
Big Bend - Snipe Island Unit	Taylor	11,687
Big Bend - Tide Swamp Unit	Taylor	18,338
Big Shoals	Hamilton	2,410
Camp Blanding	Clay	39,728
Cary	Duval/Nassau	2,813
Cedar Key Scrub	Levy	4,838
Citrus	Citrus/Hernando	47,028
Cypress Creek	Hamilton	1,328
Devil's Hammock	Levy	6,769
Flying Eagle	Citrus	9,563
Goethe	Levy	44,672
Grove Park	Marion	19,637
Gulf Hammock	Levy	24,625
Holton Creek	Hamilton	2,531
Homosassa	Citrus	4,156
Jennings Forest	Clay	23,182
Little River	Suwannee	1,908
Lochloosa	Alachua	11,083
Lower Econfina River (SGA)	Taylor	2,392
Mallory Swamp	Lafayette	29,463
Middle Aucilla	Jefferson/Madison/Taylor	1,699
Nassau	Nassau	13,892

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>North Central Region (cont.)</u>		
Osceola	Baker/Columbia	266,270
PCS Phosphate	Hamilton	3,992
Potts	Citrus	7,408
Raiford	Bradford/Union	8,990
Ralph E. Simmons Memorial	Nassau	3,630
San Pedro	St. Johns	28,686
Santa Fe Swamp (WEA)	Bradford	5,627
Steinhatchee Springs	Lafayette/Dixie/Taylor	20,909
Suwanee Ridge Mitigation Park (WEA)	Hamilton	1,425
Troy Springs	Lafayette	859
Twin Rivers	Madison/Hamilton/Suwannee	7,457
Twin Rivers - Blue Springs Unit	Hamilton	1,974
<u>Northeast Region</u>		
Buck Lake	Brevard/Volusia	9,291
Bull Creek	Osceola	23,646
Caravelle Ranch	Putnam/Marion	26,410
Dunns Creek	Putnam	3,184
Emeralda Marsh (SGA)	Lake	6,476
Etoniah Creek	Putnam	7,145
Fort Drum	Indian River	20,858
Ft. McCoy	Marion	8,688
Half Moon	Sumter	9,479
Guana River	St. Johns	9,815
Jumper Creek	Sumter	10,512
Lake George	Putnam/Volusia	36,330
Lake George -Dexter Unit	Volusia	14,377

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northeast Region (cont.)</u>		
Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter	8,676
Little Big Econlockhatchee	Seminole	1,646
Matanzas	St. Johns	4,688
Ocala	Lake/Marion/Putnam	382,408
Ocklawaha Prarie (SGA)	Marion	2,400
Ocklawaha River - Gore's Landing	Marion	2,917
Orange Creek (SGA)	Marion/Alachua	1,767
Relay	Flagler	19,672
Richloam	Sumter/Hernando/Pasco/Lake	56,313
Richloam – Baird Unit	Sumter	11,567
Rock Springs Run	Lake/Orange	14,053
Ross Prairie	Marion	3,527
Salt Lake	Brevard	7,805
Seminole Forest	Lake	15,997
Seminole Forest - Lake Tracy Unit	Lake	3,473
Seminole Ranch	Orange	6,000
Three Lakes	Osceola	52,976
Three Lakes - Prairie Lakes Unit	Osceola	8,859
Tiger Bay	Volusia	19,579
Tiger Bay – Rima Ridge Unit	Volusia	11,503
T.M. Goodwin (PWA)	Brevard	6,482
Tosohatchee	Orange	30,701
Triple N Ranch	Osceola	15,391
Twelve Mile Swamp	St. Johns	19,696
Upper St. Johns River Marsh	Brevard/Indian River	111,966

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

<u>Wildlife Management Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Southwest Region</u>		
Arbuckle	Polk	13,530
Avon Park	Highlands/Polk	80,000
Babcock/Webb	Charlotte	65,770
Babcock/Webb - Punta Gorda WTF (SGA)	Charlotte	884
Babcock/Webb - Yucca Pens Unit	Charlotte/Lee	13,242
Chassahowitzka	Hernando	31,453
Croom	Hernando/Sumter	20,595
Green Swamp	Polk/Lake/Sumter	49,768
Green Swamp - West Unit	Pasco	34,335
Hickory Hammock	Highlands	3,791
Hilochee	Lake/Polk	9,607
Hilochee - Osprey Unit (SGA)	Polk	6,336
Kicco (WMA and SGA)	Polk/Osceola	7,426
Kissimmee River (PUA/SGA)	Osceola/Okeechobee/Highlands/Glades	23,433
Lake Marion Creek	Polk/Osceola	9,469
Lake Wales Ridge - Royce Unit (WEA/SGA)	Highlands	2,641
Myakka State Forest (SGA)	Sarasota	7,295
Upper Hillsborough	Pasco/Polk	5,178
Walk-in-the-Water	Polk	5,958
<u>South Region</u>		
Big Cypress	Collier/Monroe/Miami-Dade	565,848
Crew (WEA)	Lee/Collier	28,540
Dinner Island	Hendry	21,714
Everglades	Miami-Dade/Broward/Palm Beach	671,831
Fisheating Creek	Glades	18,272

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

<u>Wildlife Management Area *</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>South Region (cont.)</u>		
Frog Pond	Miami-Dade	470
Holeyland	Palm Beach/Broward	35,350
John G. & Susan H. Dupuis (WEA)	Martin/Palm Beach	21,935
Jones/Hungryland (WEA)	Martin/Palm Beach	10,294
J.W. Corbett	Palm Beach	60,288
Okaloacoochee Slough	Hendry/Collier	34,722
Picayune Strand	Collier	71,135
Rotenberger	Palm Beach/Broward	28,760
Southern Glades (WEA)	Miami-Dade	31,380
Spirit of the Wild	Hendry	7,486
Stormwater Treatment Area 1 WEST (SGA)	Palm Beach	6,770
Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 (SGA)	Palm Beach	16,772
Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (SGA)	Hendry	5,120

*Areas listed are part of the wildlife management area system. Specific area/use designations within the WMA system apply as follows:

PUA – Public Use Area

PWA – Public Waterfowl Area

SGA - Small Game Hunting Area

WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area

WMA - Wildlife Management Area

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 2. Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region

<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Northwest Region</u>		
Alligator Point CWA	Franklin	145
Gerome's Cave CWA	Jackson	2
Judges Cave WEA	Jackson	37
Lafayette Creek WMA ^a	Walton	3,160
St. George Causeway CWA	Franklin	32
Tyndall CWA	Bay	10
Wakulla WMA ^a	Wakulla	4,045
<u>North Central Region</u>		
Amelia Island CWA	Nassau	10
Bird Islands CWA	Duval	2
Brannan Field Mitigation Park WEA	Clay/Duval	386
Fort White Mitigation Park WEA	Gilcrest	1,329
<u>Northeast Region</u>		
Jennings Cave CWA	Marion	2
Matanzas Inlet CWA	St. Johns	28
Ponce de Leon Inlet CWA	Volusia	14
<u>Southwest Region</u>		
Alafia Banks CWA	Hillsborough	75
Bullfrog Creek WEA	Hillsboro	833
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park WEA	Lee	768
Lake Wales Ridge WEA	Highlands	13,259
Little Estero Island CWA	Lee	25
Little Gator Creek WEA	Pasco	566
Moody Branch Mitigation Park WEA	Manatee	960
Myakka River CWA	Sarasota	1
Perry Oldenberg Mitigation Park WEA	Hernando	368
Platt Branch Mitigation Park WEA	Highlands	1,973

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 2. (cont.) Properties managed by FWC or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during FY 2005-2006.

Florida Administrative Region		
<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>South Region</u>		
ABC Islands CWA	Collier	75
Allapattah Flats SGA ^a	Martin	20,945
Big Marco Pass CWA	Collier	60
Bill Sadowski CWA	Dade	700
Caxambas Pass CWA	Collier	1
Chinsegut Nature Center WEA	Hernando	1,179
Deerfield Island Park CWA	Broward	56
Florida Keys WEA	Monroe	2,344
Pelican Shoal CWA	Monroe	1
Rookery Island CWA	Collier	5
Spit Oak Mitigation Park WEA	Orange/Osceola	1,689

*The following area designations apply:

CWA - Critical Wildlife Area

SGA - Small Game Hunting Area

WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area

WMA - Wildlife Management Area

^a New area approved to be open for public hunting in FY 2006-2007.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 3. Commission-managed lands that were closed to public hunting during FY 2005-2006 or opened to public hunting to compensate for closures.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area	County	Removed Acreage	Added Acreage	Acreage Change	Reasons for the Change
<u>Northwest Region</u>					
Econfina Creek WMA	Bay/Washington	851	1,271	420	Request by the landowner* based on an exchange and purchase of properties

*Northwest Florida Water Management District

Note: removed and added acreage are reported pursuant to section 372.0025, F.S., (effective June 7, 2006).