



# **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

## **NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Fiscal Year 2006-2007**

**Pursuant to section 372.0025, Florida Statutes**

Submitted by: s/ Kenneth D. Haddad Date: September 28, 2007

Kenneth D. Haddad

Executive Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS**  
**FY 2006-2007 Report September 28,**  
**2007**

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).

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 (June 7, 2006). The provisions of this section also require that 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."

The initial No Net Loss of Hunting Lands report was submitted by the Commission on September 29, 2006, and reported that approximately 3,256,000 acres of "Commission-managed" public hunting lands existed on the effective date of the act (June 7, 2006). After further review, Commission staff identified errors in the acreage calculations and determined the corrected acreage for Commission-managed public hunting lands existing on June 7, 2006 was 3,310,220 acres. The primary reason for the error was that a portion of the Osceola Wildlife Management Area is state-owned (65,309 acres) and qualifies as Commission-managed lands. This acreage was reported as federally-owned land in the initial report.

Since the first No Net Loss of Hunting Lands report, lands have been added and removed from the Wildlife Management Area system. The total acreage for Commission-managed public hunting lands existing on June 30, 2007 is 3,341,513 acres. Therefore, decisions and actions taken by the Commission since the adoption of the No Net Loss of Hunting Lands legislation have resulted in a net increase in Commission-managed hunting lands during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

It is important to note that in addition to the 3,341,513 acres of Commission-managed public hunting lands, there were approximately 2,319,090 acres of federally-owned lands in the Wildlife Management Area system available for public hunting during the 2006-2007 fiscal year, resulting in a total of 5,660,603 total acres of land open for public hunting. The complete list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for hunting during fiscal year 2006-2007 is provided in Table 1. Information regarding properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were not open for public hunting during fiscal year 2006-2007 is provided in Table 2. Information regarding properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during the 2006-2007 fiscal year is provided in Table 3. Please note that acreage figures reported herein are subject to technical correction, and this report may be revised depending on final verification of these figures by cooperating landowners and agencies.

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

**Table 1.** Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u> Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Apalachicola	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	580,674
Apalachicola- Bradwell Unit	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	1,420
Apalachicola River (WEA)	Franklin/Gulf	94,320
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	8,397
Choctawhatchee River	Bay/Holmes/Walton/Washington	56,433
Econfina Creek	Bay/Washington	36,866
Eglin Air Force Base	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa/Walton	463,448
Escambia River	Escambia/Santa Rosa	34,771
Flint Rock	Wakulla/Jefferson	15,267
Joe Budd	Gadsden	11,108
L. Kirk Edwards (WEA)	Leon	688
Lafayette	Walton	3,160
Ochlockonee River	Leon	2,790
Perdido River	Escambia	5,456
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

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**Table 1.** (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Wildlife Management Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
Upper Chipola River	Jackson	7,334
Wakulla	Wakulla	4,045
Yellow River	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa	16,863
<b><u>North Central Region</u></b>		
Alligator Lake (SGA)	Columbia	484
Andrews	Levy	3,341
Bayard	Clay	6,411
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 Clay	2,410
Camp Blanding	Duval/Nassau	39,728
Cary	Levy	2,813
Cedar Key Scrub	Citrus/Hernando	4,838
Citrus	Hamilton	47,028
Cypress Creek	Levy	1,328
Devil's Hammock	Citrus	6,769
Flying Eagle	Levy	9,563
Goethe	Marion	44,672
Grove Park	Levy	19,637
Gulf Hammock	Hamilton	24,625
Holton Creek	Citrus	2,531
Homosassa	Clay	4,156
Jennings Forest		23,182

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<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Wildlife Management Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
Lochloosa	Alachua	11,083
Lower Econfina River	Taylor	2,387
Mallory Swamp	Lafayette	29,463
Middle Aucilla	Jefferson/Madison/Taylor	1,699
Nassau	Nassau	13,892
Osceola	Baker/Columbia	266,270
Potash Corp-White Springs	Hamilton	3,992
Potts	Citrus	7,408
Raiford	Bradford/Union	8,990
Ralph E. Simmons Memorial	Nassau	3,630
San Pedro Bay	Madison/Taylor	21,248
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
Watermelon Pond (SGA)	Alachua	57
<b><u>Northeast Region</u></b>		
Buck Lake Bull	Brevard/Volusia	9,291
Creek Caravelle	Osceola	23,646
Ranch Dunns	Putnam/Marion	26,467
Creek	Putnam	3,184
Emeralda Marsh (SGA)	Lake	6,476
Etoniah Creek	Putnam	7,185

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**Table 1.** (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<b>Florida Administrative Region</b>		
<b>Wildlife Management Area *</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
Ft. McCoy	Marion	8,688
Guana River	St. Johns	9,815
Half Moon	Sumter	9,479
Jumper Creek	Sumter	10,512
Lake George	Putnam/Volusia	36,368
Lake George -Dexter Unit	Volusia	14,377
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	12,616
Seminole Forest - Lake Tracy Unit	Lake	4,293

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<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Wildlife Management Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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/SGA)	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	117,336
<b><u>Southwest Region</u></b>		
Arbuckle Avon	Polk	13,530
Park	Highlands/Polk	80,000
Babcock/Webb	Charlotte	65,770
Babcock/Webb - Punta Gorda WTF (SG )	Charlotte	884
Babcock/Webb - Yucca Pens Unit	Charlotte/Lee	13,242
Chassahowitzka	Hernando	31,453
Croom	Hernando/Sumter	20,595
Fussell Farm (SGA)	Polk	40
Green Swamp	Polk/Lake/Sumter	50,692
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/Gla es	23,433
Lake Marion Creek	Polk/Osceola	9,469



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**Table 1.** (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Wildlife Management Area *</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
Myakka State Forest (SGA)	Sarasota	7,295
Upper Hillsborough	Pasco/Polk	5,178
Walk-in-the-Water	Polk	5,958
<b><u>South Region</u></b>		
Allapattah Flats (WMA/SGA)	Martin	20,945
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
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
Rocky Glades (SGA)	Miami-Dade	158
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

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<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b><u>Wildlife Management Area *</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u></b>
Stormwater Treatment Area C-23/24 Reservoir (SGA)	St. Lucie	1,139

\* 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

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**Table 2.** Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
Gerome's Cave CWA	Jackson	2
Judges Cave WEA	Jackson	37
St. George Causeway CWA	Franklin	32
Tyndall CWA	Bay	10
<b><u>North Central Region</u></b>		
Amelia Island CWA	Nassau	10
Bird Islands CWA	Duval	2
Brannan Field Mitigation Park WEA	Clay/Duval	386
Fort George Inlet	Duval	10
Fort White Mitigation Park WEA	Gilcrest	1,329
<b><u>Northeast Region</u></b>		
Jennings Cave CWA	Marion St.	2
Matanzas Inlet CWA	Johns Volusia	28
Ponce de Leon Inlet CWA	Orange/Osceola	14
Split Oak Mitigation Park WEA		1,689
<b><u>Southwest Region</u></b>		
Alafia Banks CWA	Hillsborough	
	Hillsboro	75
Bullfrog Creek WEA	Lee	833
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park WEA	Hernando	768
Chinsegut Nature Center WEA	Highlands	1,179
Lake Wales Ridge WEA	Lee	11,841
Little Estero Island CWA		25

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**Table 2.** Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during FY 2006-2007.

<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>		
<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
<b><u>Southwest Region (cont.)</u></b>		
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
<b><u>South Region</u></b>		
ABC Islands CWA	Collier	75
Big Marco Pass CWA	Collier	60
Bill Sadowski CWA	Dade	700
Caxambas Pass CWA	Collier	1
Deerfield Island Park CWA	Broward	56
Florida Keys WEA	Monroe	2,344
Pelican Shoal CWA	Monroe	1
Rookery Island CWA	Collier	5

\*The following area designations apply:

CWA - Critical Wildlife Area

SGA - Small Game Hunting Area

WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area

WMA - Wildlife Management Area

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**Table 3.** Commission-managed lands that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during FY 2006-2007 and are no longer open for public hunting.

<b><u>Florida Administrative Region</u></b>			
<b>Wildlife Management Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Removed Acreage</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
<b><u>Northwest Region</u></b>			
Flint Rock	Wakulla	- 4,631	Request by landowner, St. Joe Timber Co. to release lands.
<b><u>North Central Region</u></b>			
San Pedro Bay	Madison/Taylor	- 7,438	Request from private landowner, Foley Timber Company to release lands.