



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Pursuant to section 379.3001, Florida Statutes

Submitted by:  Date: 9/23/08
Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS
Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Report
September 23, 2008

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 379.3001, Florida Statutes (formerly section 372.0025, Florida Statutes).

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 lead or cooperative management authority, or privately owned lands that are leased or managed by the Commission.

Under the provisions of section 379.3001(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. In fiscal year 2006-2007, an evaluation of lands in the Wildlife Management Area system revealed that approximately 3,310,220 acres of "Commission-managed" public hunting land existed on the effective date of the act (June 7, 2006). Upon further review, Commission staff identified an error in the acreage calculations and determined that the corrected acreage for Commission-managed public hunting lands existing on June 7, 2006 was 3,331,485 acres. The reason for the error was that a portion of the Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area is state-owned (21,265 acres) and qualifies as Commission-managed lands. This acreage was reported as federally-owned land in previous reports.

Since the effective date of the act, lands have been added and removed from the Wildlife Management Area system. The total acreage of Commission-managed public hunting lands existing on June 30, 2008 is 3,395,832 acres. 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 of 64,347 acres in Commission-managed hunting lands, as of June 30, 2008.

It is important to note that in addition to the 3,395,832 acres of Commission-managed public hunting lands, there were approximately 2,297,825 acres of federally-owned lands in the Wildlife Management Area system available for public hunting during the 2007-2008 fiscal year,

resulting in a total of 5,693,657 acres of land open for public hunting. The complete list of Commission-managed lands that were open for hunting during fiscal year 2007-2008 is provided in Table 1. Information regarding Commission-managed lands that were not open for public hunting during fiscal year 2007-2008 is provided in Table 2. It should be noted that the Commission has established several new Wildlife Management Areas and Small-Game Hunting Areas totaling 27,597 acres that will be open for public hunting for the first time during fiscal year 2008-2009 (see Table 2 footnote). Information regarding Commission-managed lands that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during the 2007-2008 fiscal year is provided in Table 3. Please note that acreage figures reported herein 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 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Northwest Region		
Apalachee	Jackson	7,952
Apalachicola	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	581,271
Apalachicola- Bradwell Unit	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	1,420
Apalachicola River (WEA)	Franklin/Gulf	94,320
Aucilla	Jefferson/Taylor	47,622
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	15,247
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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No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2007-2008.

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northwest Region (cont.)</u>		
Schneider Farms (SGA)	Escambia	50
Upper Chipola River	Jackson	7,334
Wakulla	Wakulla	4,045
Yellow River	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa	16,863
<u>North Central Region</u>		
Alligator Lake (SGA)	Columbia	484
Andrews	Levy	3,341
Bayard	Clay	6,411
Bass Farm (SGA)	Baker	50
Bennett Farm (SGA)	Alachua	40
Big Bend- Hickory Mound Unit	Taylor	14,428
Big Bend- Jena Unit	Dixie	12,522
Big Bend- Snipe Island Unit	Taylor	11,687
Big Bend – Spring Creek	Taylor	14,600
Big Bend - Tide Swamp Unit	Taylor	18,338
Big Shoals	Hamilton	2,140
Camp Blanding	Clay	39,728
Cary	Duval/Nassau	2,813
Cedar Key Scrub	Levy	4,838
Citrus	Citrus/Hernando	49,317
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

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No Net Loss of Hunting Lands

Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region

<u>Wildlife Management Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>North Central Region (cont.)</u>		
Homosassa	Citrus	4,156
Jennings Forest	Clay	23,182
Little River	Suwannee	1,908
Lochloosa	Alachua	11,083
Lower Econfina River	Taylor	2,387
Mallory Swamp	Lafayette	30,284
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
Suwannee 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	26,467
Dunns 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 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Northeast Region (cont.)		
Fort Drum	Indian River	20,858
Ft. McCoy	Marion	8,688
Guana River	St. Johns	9,815
Half Moon	Sumter	9,479
Jumper Creek	Sumter	10,552
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	58,146
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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Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northeast Region (cont.)</u>		
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	11,548
T.M. Goodwin (PWA/SGA)	Brevard	6,482
Tosohatchee	Orange	30,701
Triple N Ranch	Osceola	16,295
Twelve Mile Swamp	St. Johns	19,696
Upper St. Johns River Marsh	Brevard/Indian River	117,336
<u>Southwest Region</u>		
Arbuckle	Polk	13,530
Avon Park	Highlands/Polk	80,000
Babcock/Webb	Charlotte	65,758
Babcock/Webb - Punta Gorda WTF (SGA)	Charlotte	884
Babcock/Webb - Yucca Pens Unit	Charlotte/Lee	13,693
Chassahowitzka	Hernando	33,919
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	10,231
Hilochee - Osprey Unit (SGA)	Polk	6,093
Kicco (WMA and SGA)	Polk/Osceola	7,426
Kissimmee River (PUA/SGA)	Osceola/Okeechobee/Highlands/Glades	28,595
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 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Southwest Region (cont.)		
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
South Region		
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	12,735
J.W. Corbett	Palm Beach	60,288
Okaloacoochee Slough	Hendry/Collier	34,722
Picayune Strand	Collier	71,135
Rotenberger	Palm Beach/Broward	29,297
Rocky Glades (SGA)	Miami-Dade	278
Southern Glades (WEA)	Miami-Dade	31,380
Spirit of the Wild	Hendry	7,646
Stormwater Treatment Area 1 WEST (SGA)	Palm Beach	6,770
Stormwater Treatment Area 2 (SGA)	Palm Beach	9,195
Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 (SGA)	Palm Beach	16,772

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Table 1. (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during FY 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>South Region (cont.)</u>		
Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (SGA)	Hendry	5,120
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 2007-2008.

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
Area*	County	Acres Not Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northwest Region</u>		
Alligator Point CWA	Franklin	145
Brown Farm SGA ^a	Holmes	38
Gerome's Cave CWA	Jackson	2
Judges Cave WEA	Jackson	37
St. George Causeway CWA	Franklin	32
Tyndall CWA	Bay	10
<u>North Central Region</u>		
Amelia Island CWA	Nassau	10
Belmore WMA ^a	Clay	8,737
Bird Islands CWA	Duval	2
Brannan Field Mitigation Park WEA	Clay/Duval	386
Combs Farm SGA ^a	Baker	35
Fort George Inlet	Duval	10
Fort White Mitigation Park WEA	Gilcrest	1,329
Four Creeks WMA ^a	Nassau	13,060
Hatchett Creek WMA ^a	Alachua	2,762
Log Landing WMA ^a	Dixie	1,147
North Newberry SGA ^a	Alachua	65
Thomas Creek WMA ^a	Duval	1,753
<u>Northeast Region</u>		
Jennings Cave CWA	Marion	2
Matanzas Inlet CWA	St. Johns	28
Split Oak Mitigation Park WEA	Orange/Osceola	1,689

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Table 2. (cont.) Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during FY 2007-2008.

Florida Administrative Region		
Area*	County	Acres Not Open for Public Hunting
<u>Southwest Region</u>		
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
Alafia Banks CWA	Hillsborough	75
Bullfrog Creek WEA	Hillsboro	833
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park WEA	Lee	768
Chinsegut Nature Center WEA	Hernando	1,179
Lake Wales Ridge WEA	Highlands	11,841
Little Estero Island CWA	Lee	25
<u>South Region</u>		
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

* New area approved to be open for public hunting in FY 2008-2009.

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Table 3. Commission-managed lands that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during FY 2007-2008 and are no longer open for public hunting.

Florida Administrative Region

<u>Wildlife Management Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acreage Removed</u>	<u>Reasons for the Change</u>
<u>North Central Region</u>			
Watermelon Pond SGA*	Alachua	57	Request from private landowner, Mr. Trevor Bass, to release lands.

*- Small Game Hunting Area