

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

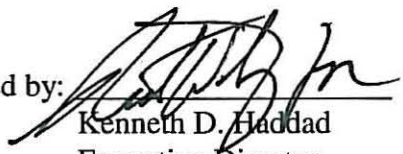
NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Pursuant to section 379.3001, Florida Statutes

Submitted by:



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Executive Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Date: 9-29-09

NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS
Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Report
September 29, 2009

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 on the status of hunting lands available to the public.

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 other state agencies and water management districts that own or manage land to report properties with acreage open 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 land acreage available for hunting opportunities on "Commission-managed lands" that existed on the effective date of the act (June 7, 2006). The provisions of the law 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. An initial and subsequent evaluations of lands in the Wildlife Management Area system revealed that approximately 3,331,485 acres of Commission-managed public hunting land existed on the effective date of the act (June 7, 2006).

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, 2009 is 3,479,276 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 147,791 acres in Commission-managed hunting lands, as of June 30, 2009.

It is important to note that in addition to the 3,479,276 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 2008-2009 fiscal year, resulting in a total of 5,777,101 acres of land open for public hunting. The complete list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during fiscal year 2008-2009 is provided in Table 1. A list of properties managed by the

Commission or cooperatively managed that were not open for public hunting during fiscal year 2008-2009 is provided in Table 2. The Commission has established several new Wildlife Management Areas and Small-Game Hunting Areas totaling 29,406 acres, which will be open for public hunting for the first time during fiscal year 2009-2010 (see Table 2 footnote). Table 3 provides information regarding Commission-managed lands that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during the fiscal year 2008-2009. Please note that acreage figures reported herein may be revised based 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 Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

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	190,311
Blackwater - Carr Unit	Santa Rosa	590
Blackwater - Hutton Unit	Santa Rosa	7,629
Box-R	Franklin	11,216
Brown Farm SGA	Holmes	38
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	19,992
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

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Table 1. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area*	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northwest Region (cont.)</u>		
Tate's Hell - Womack Creek	Franklin/Liberty	13,754
Tyndall Air Force **	Bay	29,276
Upper Chipola River	Jackson	7,334
Wakulla	Wakulla	4,045
Yellow River	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa	28,340
<u>North Central Region</u>		
Alligator Lake SGA	Columbia	484
Andrews	Levy	3,341
Bayard	Clay	9,702
Belmore	Clay	8,737
Big Bend- Hickory Mound Unit	Taylor	14,428
Big Bend- Jena Unit	Dixie	12,522
Big Bend- Snipe Island Unit	Taylor	10,689
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	7,355
Cedar Key Scrub	Levy	4,988
Citrus	Citrus/Hernando	49,317
Combs Farm SGA	Baker	35
Cypress Creek	Hamilton	1,328
Devil's Hammock	Levy	6,769
Flying Eagle	Citrus	10,247
Four Creeks	Nassau	13,060
Goethe	Levy	44,672
Grove Park	Marion	19,637
Gulf Hammock	Levy	24,625

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Table 1. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
<u>Wildlife Management Area *</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>North Central Region (cont.)</u>		
Hatchet Creek	Alachua	2,762
Holton Creek	Hamilton	2,531
Homosassa	Citrus	5,675
Jennings Forest	Clay	23,182
Little River	Suwannee	1,908
Lochloosa	Alachua	11,083
Log Landing	Dixie	1,147
Lower Econfina River	Taylor	2,387
Mallory Swamp	Lafayette	30,284
Middle Aucilla	Jefferson/Madison/Taylor	1,699
North Newberry	Alachua	65
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	17,872
Santa Fe Swamp WEA	Bradford	5,627
Steinhatchee Springs	Lafayette/Dixie/Taylor	20,909
Suwanee Ridge Mitigation Park WEA	Hamilton	1,425
Thomas Creek	Duval	1,753
Troy Springs	Lafayette	859
Twin Rivers	Madison/Hamilton/Suwannee	7,457
Twin Rivers - Blue Springs Unit	Hamilton	1,974

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Table 1. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area *	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Northeast Region		
Buck Lake	Brevard/Volusia	9,291
Bull Creek	Osceola	23,646
Caravelle Ranch	Putnam/Marion	26,841
Dunns Creek	Putnam	3,184
Emeralda Marsh SGA	Lake	6,476
Etoniah Creek	Putnam	7,185
Fort Drum	Indian River	20,858
Ft. McCoy	Marion	8,730
Guana River	St. Johns	9,815
Half Moon	Sumter	9,479
Jumper Creek	Sumter	10,552
Lake George	Putnam/Volusia	38,509
Lake George -Dexter Unit	Volusia	14,377
Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter	8,676
Little Big Econlockhatchee	Seminole	1,646
Marshall Swamp SGA	Marion	5,361
Matanzas	St. Johns	4,688
Ocala **	Lake/Marion/Putnam	385,349
Ocklawaha Prairie SGA	Marion	2,400
Ocklawaha River - Gore's Landing	Marion	2,917
Orange Creek SGA	Marion/Alachua	1,767
Relay	Flagler	19,682
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

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Table 1. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area *	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northeast Region (cont.)</u>		
Seminole Forest - Lake Tracy Unit	Lake	9,265
Seminole Ranch	Orange	6,000
Three Lakes	Osceola	54,628
Three Lakes - Prairie Lakes Unit	Osceola	8,859
Tiger Bay	Volusia	19,644
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 Ranch Preserve	Charlotte/Lee	16,612
Babcock/Webb	Charlotte	64,874
Babcock/Webb - Punta Gorda WTF SGA	Charlotte	884
Babcock/Webb - Yucca Pens Unit	Charlotte/Lee	14,577
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/SGA	Polk/Osceola	7,426

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Table 1. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

Florida Administrative Region		
Wildlife Management Area *	County	Acres Open for Public Hunting
Southwest Region (cont.)		
Kissimmee River PUA/SGA	Osceola/Okeechobee/Highlands/Glades	28,595
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	6,034
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	7,486
Starkey Wilderness Preserve	Pasco	14,105
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. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
 (cont.)

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
<u>Wildlife Management Area *</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>South Region (cont.)</u>		
Stormwater Treatment Area 5 SGA	Hendry	7,680
Stormwater Treatment Area C-23/24 Reservoir SGA	St. Lucie	1,139

* Areas listed are Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) unless otherwise designated. 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

** Area includes federally-owned lands

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Table 2. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
Area *	County	Acres Not Open for Public Hunting
<u>Northwest Region</u>		
Alligator Point CWA	Franklin	145
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
Bell Ridge Longleaf WEA †	Gilchrist	720
Bird Islands CWA	Duval	2
Brannan Field Mitigation Park WEA	Clay/Duval	386
Fort George Inlet CWA	Duval	10
Fort White Mitigation Park WEA	Gilcrest	1,329
Lafayette Forest WEA †	Lafayette	2,148
Watermelon Pond WEA †	Alachua	1,287
<u>Northeast Region</u>		
Brevard Coastal/Salt Lake-Grissom Parkway	Brevard	1,256
Brevard Coastal/Salt Lake-Micco Expansion	Brevard	222
Brevard Coastal/Salt Lake-Ten Mile Ridge	Brevard	181
Jennings Cave CWA	Marion	2
Lake Tohopekaliga- Makinson Island	Osceola	132
Lake Tohopekaliga- Paradise Island	Osceola	98
Matanzas Inlet CWA	St. Johns	28
Split Oak Mitigation Park WEA	Orange/Osceola	1,689
<u>Southwest Region</u>		
Alafia Banks CWA	Hillsborough	75
Anclote River Islands CWA	Pasco/Pinellas	5
Bullfrog Creek WEA	Hillsboro	833
Chinsegut Nature Center WEA	Hernando	1,179

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Table 2. Properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were closed to public hunting during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
(cont.)

<u>Florida Administrative Region</u>		
Area *	County	Acres Not Open for Public Hunting
<u>Southwest Region (cont.)</u>		
Crooked Lake WEA †	Polk	1,147
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park WEA	Lee	768
Janet Butterfield Brooks WEA †	Hernando	319
Lake Wales Ridge WEA	Highlands	11,990
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
<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	3,089
Pelican Shoal CWA	Monroe	1
Rookery Island CWA	Collier	5
Spirit of the Wild WMA-Caloosahatchee Tract	Hendry	160

*The following area designations apply:
 SGA - Small Game Hunting Area
 WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area
 WMA - Wildlife Management Area
 CWA- Critical Wildlife Area

**Area includes federally-owned lands

†New area approved to be open for public hunting in FY 2009-2010

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

Table 3. Commission-managed lands that were removed from the Wildlife Management Area system during Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and are no longer open for public hunting.

Florida Administrative Region

Wildlife Management Area	County	Acreage Removed	Reasons for the Change
<u>Northwest Region</u>			
Blue Water Creek WMA	Escambia	21,300	Request from private landowner, RMS Timberlands LLC to remove lands.
Schneider Farms SGA	Escambia	50	Request from private landowner, Royce Schneider Farms to remove lands.
<u>North Central Region</u>			
Bass Farm SGA	Baker	50	Request from private landowner, Mr. Trevor Bass, to remove lands.
Bennett Farm SGA	Alachua	40	Request from private landowner, Mr. Benny Jo Bennett to remove lands.

*The following area designations apply:
SGA - Small Game Hunting Area
WMA - Wildlife Management Area