



NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Pursuant to section 379.3001(6), Florida Statutes

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Prepared by the Staff of the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Hunting and Game Management

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Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Report

The 2006 Florida 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 on the status of hunting lands available to the public, required pursuant to section 379.3001(6), Florida Statutes ("No Net Loss of Hunting Lands").

This report describes the acreage managed by the Commission that was open to hunting during Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and the acreage managed by the Commission that was closed to hunting. 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. Other state agencies and water management districts that own or manage land are also required in section 379.3001(7), Florida Statutes, 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).

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 law also requires that the Commission expeditiously find replacement acreage for hunting to compensate for closures of any existing hunting land. Furthermore, 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.

Approximately 3,331,485 acres of Commission-managed public hunting land existed on the effective date of the act. The total acreage of Commission-managed public hunting lands existing June 30, 2015, is 3,485,373 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 153,888 acres of Commission-managed hunting lands, as of June 30, 2015.

It is important to note that in addition to the 3,485,373 acres of Commission-managed public hunting lands, there were approximately 2,445,374 acres of federally-owned lands in the wildlife management area system available for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2014-2015. This results in a total of 5,930,747 acres of land open for public hunting in Florida. The complete list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were open for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 is provided in Table 1. A list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were not open for public hunting, 36,575 acres, during Fiscal Year 2014-2015, is provided in Table 2. These lands were closed to public hunting prior to Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Table 3 provides information regarding Commission-managed lands that were removed from the wildlife management area system, 8,155 acres, during Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Please note that acreage figures reported herein may be revised based on final verification of these figures by cooperating landowners and agencies.

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area *</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
Northwest Region	Apalachee WMA **	Jackson	7,952
	Apalachicola WMA **	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	581,290
	Apalachicola WMA-Bradwell Unit **	Franklin/Leon/Liberty/Wakulla	1,420
	Apalachicola River WEA	Franklin/Gulf	82,975
	Aucilla WMA	Jefferson/Taylor	50,471
	Beaverdam Creek WMA	Liberty	1,317
	Blackwater WMA	Okaloosa/Santa Rosa	191,651
	Blackwater WMA-Carr Unit	Santa Rosa	590
	Blackwater WMA-Hutton Unit	Santa Rosa	7,629
	Box-R WMA	Franklin	11,216
	Chipola River WMA	Jackson	9,094
	Choctawhatchee River WMA	Bay/Holmes/Walton/Washington	57,998
	Econfina Creek WMA	Bay/Washington	41,433
	Eglin Air Force Base WMA **	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa/Walton	463,448
	Escambia River WMA	Escambia/Santa Rosa	35,413
	Flint Rock WMA	Wakulla/Jefferson	16,533
	Joe Budd WMA	Gadsden	11,133
	Juniper Creek WMA **	Calhoun	914
	L. Kirk Edwards WEA	Leon	1,782
	Lafayette WMA	Walton	3,160
Ochlocknee River WMA	Leon	2,790	
Perdido River WMA	Escambia	6,261	
Pine Log WMA	Bay/Washington	6,911	
Point Washington WMA	Walton	15,355	
Talquin WMA	Leon	3,053	
Tate's Hell WMA	Franklin/Liberty	185,041	

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Northwest Region (cont.)</u>	Tate's Hell WMA-Womack Creek	Franklin/Liberty	13,754
	Tyndall Air Force WMA**	Bay	14,400
	Wakulla WMA	Wakulla	4,045
	Yellow River WMA	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa	31,238
<u>North Central Region</u>	Alligator Lake SGA	Columbia	484
	Andrews WMA	Levy	3,501
	Bayard WMA	Clay	9,702
	Belmore WMA	Clay	8,737
	Big Bend WMA-Hickory Mound Unit	Taylor	14,427
	Big Bend WMA-Jena Unit	Dixie	11,651
	Big Bend WMA-Snipe Island Unit	Taylor	11,687
	Big Bend WMA-Spring Creek	Taylor	14,600
	Big Bend WMA-Tide Swamp Unit	Taylor	19,538
	Big Shoals WMA	Hamilton	2,140
	Camp Blanding WMA	Clay	39,728
	Cary WMA	Duval/Nassau	11,644
	Cedar Key Scrub WMA	Levy	4,988
	Citrus WMA	Citrus/Hernando	49,317
	Cypress Creek WMA	Hamilton	1,328
	Devil's Hammock WMA	Levy	6,769
	Flying Eagle WMA	Citrus	10,563
	Fort White Mitigation Park WEA	Gilchrist	1,610
	Four Creeks WMA	Nassau	13,060
	Goethe WMA	Levy	44,672
Grove Park WMA	Alachua	16,437	

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>North Central Region (cont.)</u>		
Gulf Hammock WMA	Levy	23,991
Hatchet Creek WMA	Alachua	2,760
Holton Creek WMA	Hamilton	2,531
Homosassa WMA	Citrus	5,675
Jennings Forest WMA	Clay	23,269
Koon Farm SGA	Lafayette	40
Lafayette Forest WEA	Lafayette	1,958
Little River WMA	Suwannee	2,203
Lochloosa WMA	Alachua	11,149
Log Landing WMA	Dixie	5,015
Lower Econfina River WMA	Taylor	3,007
Mallory Swamp WMA	Lafayette	31,225
Middle Aucilla WMA	Jefferson/Madison/Taylor	2,245
North Newberry SGA	Alachua	40
Osceola WMA**	Baker/Columbia	266,270
Potash Corp-White Springs WMA	Hamilton	3,992
Potts WMA	Citrus	4,155
Raiford WMA	Bradford/Union	9,141
Ralph E. Simmons Memorial WMA	Nassau	3,630
Santa Fe Swamp WEA	Bradford	7,326
Steinhatchee Springs WMA	Lafayette/Dixie/Taylor	24,422
Suwannee Ridge Mitigation Park WEA	Hamilton	1,425
Thomas Creek WMA	Duval	2,429
Troy Springs WMA	Lafayette	1,750
Twin Rivers WMA	Madison/Hamilton/Suwannee	9,289
Twin Rivers WMA-Blue Springs Unit	Hamilton	1,973
Watermelon Pond WEA	Alachua	4,231

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
Northeast Region	Buck Lake WMA	Brevard/Volusia	9,291
	Caravelle Ranch WMA	Putnam/Marion	27,251
	Charles H. Bronson WMA	Seminole/Orange	11,672
	Dunns Creek WMA	Putnam	3,184
	Emeralda Marsh SGA	Lake	6,476
	Etoniah Creek WMA	Putnam	7,185
	Fellsmere Area 1 SGA	Indian River	4,189
	Fort Drum WMA	Indian River	20,858
	Gores Landing WMA	Marion	4,357
	Guana River WMA	St. Johns	9,815
	Half Moon WMA	Sumter	9,554
	Herky Huffman Bull Creek WMA	Osceola	23,646
	Jumper Creek WMA	Sumter	10,552
	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	Polk/Osceola	21,028
	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes-Rolling Meadows Unit	Polk/Osceola	1,800
	Lake George WMA	Putnam/Volusia	39,642
	Lake George WMA-Dexter Unit	Volusia	14,377
	Lake Monroe WMA	Volusia	3,098
	Lake Panasoffkee WMA	Sumter	8,676
	Little Big Econlockhatchee WMA	Seminole	7,156
	Marshall Swamp WMA	Marion	6,445
	Matanzas WMA	St. Johns	4,688
	Ocala WMA**	Lake/Marion/Putnam	385,349
	Ocklawaha Prairie SGA	Marion	2,400
	Orange Creek SGA	Marion/Alachua	3,423
	Richloam WMA	Sumter/Hernando/Pasco/Lake	58,146
	Richloam WMA-Baird Unit	Sumter	11,567
Rock Springs Run WMA	Lake/Orange	14,046	

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>	
<u>Northeast Region (cont.)</u>	Ross Prairie WMA	Marion	3,527	
	Salt Lake WMA	Brevard	7,805	
	Seminole Forest WMA	Lake	12,616	
	Seminole Forest WMA-Lake Tracy Unit	Lake	9,311	
	Seminole Ranch WMA	Orange	6,000	
	Three Lakes WMA	Osceola	54,611	
	Three Lakes WMA-Prairie Lakes Unit	Osceola	8,859	
	Tiger Bay WMA	Volusia	19,644	
	Tiger Bay WMA-Rima Ridge Unit	Volusia	11,548	
	T.M. Goodwin SGA	Brevard	6,482	
	Tosohatchee WMA	Orange	30,701	
	Triple N Ranch WMA	Osceola	16,295	
	Upper St. Johns River Marsh WMA	Brevard/Indian River	120,386	
	<u>Southwest Region</u>	Arbuckle WMA	Polk	13,530
		Avon Park WMA**	Highlands/Polk	80,000
Babcock Ranch Preserve		Charlotte/Lee	16,612	
Babcock/Webb WMA		Charlotte	64,874	
Babcock/Webb WMA-Punta Gorda WTF		Charlotte	884	
Babcock/Webb WMA-Yucca Pens Unit		Charlotte/Lee	14,577	
Chassahowitzka WMA**		Hernando	34,597	
Croom WMA		Hernando/Sumter	20,595	
Green Swamp WMA		Polk/Lake/Sumter	50,692	
Green Swamp WMA-West Unit		Pasco	34,335	
Hickory Hammock WMA		Highlands	3,791	
Hilochee WMA		Lake/Polk	9,369	
Hilochee WMA-Osprey Unit		Polk	6,093	

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Southwest Region (cont.)</u>		
Kicco WMA	Polk/Osceola	7,426
Kissimmee River PUA	Osceola/Okeechobee/Highlands/Glades	27,215
Lake Marion Creek WMA	Polk/Osceola	8,083
Lake Panasoffkee SGA	Sumter	647
Lake Wales Ridge - Royce Unit WEA	Highlands	2,641
Lower Hillsborough WMA	Hillsborough	2,774
Myakka State Forest SGA	Sarasota	7,295
Upper Hillsborough WMA	Pasco/Polk	5,178
Walk-in-the-Water WMA	Polk	6,034
Weekiwachee WMA	Hernando	2,845
<u>South Region</u>		
Allapattah Flats WMA	Martin	20,945
Big Cypress WMA**	Collier/Monroe/Miami-Dade	728,273
Crew WEA	Lee/Collier	28,908
Dinner Island WMA	Hendry	21,714
Everglades WMA	Miami-Dade/Broward/Palm Beach	671,831
Fisheating Creek WMA	Glades	18,380
Frog Pond North SGA	Miami-Dade	100
Holeyland WMA	Palm Beach/Broward	35,350
J.W. Corbett WMA	Palm Beach	60,498
John G. & Susan H. Dupuis WEA	Martin/Palm Beach	21,935
Jones/Hungryland WEA	Martin/Palm Beach	16,969
Okaloochee Slough WMA	Hendry/Collier	34,722
Picayune Strand WMA	Collier	71,135
Rocky Glades SGA	Miami-Dade	5,143
Rotenberger WMA	Palm Beach/Broward	29,700
Southern Glades WEA	Miami-Dade	30,080
Spirit of the Wild WMA	Hendry	7,486
Stormwater Treatment Area 1 WEST SGA	Palm Beach	6,770

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Table 1. Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (cont.)

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Open for Public Hunting</u>
South Region (cont.)	Stormwater Treatment Area 5 SGA	Hendry	16,508
	C-23/24 Reservoir	St. Lucie	1,139
	Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 SGA	Palm Beach	16,772
	Stormwater Treatment Area 2 SGA	Palm Beach	16,655
		Total	5,930,747

*The following area designations apply:

- PUA – Public Use Area
- SGA - Small-Game Hunting Area
- WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area
- WMA -Wildlife Management Area
- WTF - Water Treatment Facility

** Area includes federally-owned lands

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Table 2. Commission-managed lands not open to public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (closed before FY 2014-2015)

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Northwest Region</u>	Alligator Point CWA	Franklin	66
	Gerome's Cave CWA	Jackson	2
	Judges Cave WEA	Jackson	37
	St. George Causeway CWA	Franklin	32
	Tyndall CWA**	Bay	200
<u>North Central Region</u>	Amelia Island CWA	Nassau	10
	Bell Ridge Longleaf WEA	Gilchrist	720
	Bird Islands CWA	Duval	6
	Brannan Field Mitigation Park WEA	Clay/Duval	386
	Fort George Inlet CWA	Duval	10
<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
	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
	Alafia Banks CWA	Hillsborough	16
	Bullfrog Creek WEA	Hillsboro	833
	Chinsegut Nature Center WEA	Hernando	853
Crooked Lake WEA	Polk	1,147	
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park WEA	Lee	768	
<u>Southwest Region</u>			

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Table 2. Commission-managed lands not open to public hunting in FY 2014-2015 (closed before FY 2014-2015) (cont.)

<u>Area *</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</u>
<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>		
<u>Southwest Region (cont.)</u>		
Janet Butterfield Brooks WEA	Hernando	319
Lake Wales Ridge WEA	Highlands	12,381
Little Estero Island CWA	Lee	6
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
Tenoroc Fish Management Area	Polk	7,348
<u>South Region</u>		
ABC Islands CWA	Collier	75
Big Marco Pass CWA	Collier	30
Bill Sadowski CWA	Dade	700
Bird Island	Martin	8
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	1
	Total	36,575

*The following area designations apply:

- CWA - Critical Wildlife Area
- SGA - Small-Game Hunting Area
- WEA - Wildlife and Environmental Area
- WMA - Wildlife Management Area

** Area includes federally-owned lands

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Table 3. Commission-managed lands removed from the wildlife management area system during Fiscal Year 2014-2015

<u>Commission Administrative Region</u>	<u>Area*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acreage Removed</u>	<u>Reasons for the Change</u>
<u>Northeast Region</u>	Nassau WMA	Nassau	8,155	Request from private landowner, Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. to remove lands.
	Total			8,155

*The following area designations apply:
 WMA - Wildlife Management Area