



NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Pursuant to section 379.3001(6), Florida Statutes

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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

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## **NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LANDS Fiscal Year 2015-2016 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 2015-2016, 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, 2016, is 3,481,597 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 150,112 acres of Commission-managed hunting lands, as of June 30, 2016.

It is important to note that in addition to the 3,481,597 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 2015-2016. This results in a total of 5,926,971 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 2015-2016 is provided in Table 1. A list of properties managed by the Commission or cooperatively managed that were not open for public hunting, 39,551 acres, during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is provided in Table 2. These lands were closed to public hunting prior to Fiscal Year 2015-2016. No Commission-managed lands were removed from the lands available for public hunting during Fiscal Year 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Northwest Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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	41,193
Eglin Air Force Base WMA**	Santa Rosa/Okaloosa/Walton	463,448
Escambia River WMA	Escambia/Santa Rosa	35,413
Escribano Point WMA	Santa Rosa	4,057
Flint Rock WMA	Wakulla/Jefferson	15,974
Joe Budd WMA	Gadsden	11,133
Juniper Creek WMA**	Calhoun	914
L. Kirk Edwards WEA	Leon	1,782
Lafayette WMA	Walton	3,160
Ochlockonee 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 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Northwest Region (cont.)**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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	27,208

**North Central Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**North Central Region (cont.)**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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	2,400
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	2,086
Watermelon Pond WEA	Alachua	4,687

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**Table 1.** Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Northeast Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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
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 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Northeast Region (cont.)**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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

**Southwest Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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	15,230
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

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**Table 1.** Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Southwest Region (cont.)**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
Hilochee WMA	Lake/Polk	9,369
Hilochee WMA-Osprey Unit	Polk	6,093
Kicco WMA	Polk/Osceola	6,647
Kissimmee River PUA	Osceola/Okeechobee/Highlands/Glades	27,215
Lake Marion Creek WMA	Polk/Osceola	8,028
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

**South Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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
Okaloacoochee Slough WMA	Hendry/Collier	34,722
Picayune Strand WMA	Collier	71,135



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**Table 1.** Commission-managed lands open for public hunting in FY 2015-2016 (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**South Region (cont.)**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Open for Public Hunting</b>
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
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,926,971</b>

\*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 2015-2016 (closed before FY 2015-2016)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Northwest Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
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

**North Central Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
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

**Northeast Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
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
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes-Rolling Meadows Unit	Polk/Osceola	1,800
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

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**Table 2.** Commission-managed lands not open to public hunting in FY 2015-2016 (closed before FY 2015-2016) (cont.)

**Commission Administrative Region**

**Southwest Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
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
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

**South Region**

<b>Area*</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres Not Open for Public Hunting</b>
ABC Islands CWA	Collier	75
Big Marco Pass CWA	Collier	30
Bill Sadowski CWA	Dade	700
Bird Island CWA	Martin	8
Caxambas Pass CWA	Collier	1
Deerfield Island Park CWA	Broward	56
Florida Keys WEA	Monroe	4,262
Pelican Shoal CWA	Monroe	1
Rookery Island CWA	Collier	1
Second Chance CWA	Collier	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,551</b>

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\*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