



St. Johns River Water Management District

Michael A. Register, P.E., Executive Director

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August 13, 2024

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner
Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Roger Young
Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Re: St. Johns River Water Management District No-Net-Loss of Hunting Lands Annual Report
for Fiscal Year 2023–2024

Dear President Passidomo, Speaker Renner, and Director Young:

Pursuant to *Florida Statute* 379.3001, the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) submits the attached report listing District-managed properties that were open or closed for hunting during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023–2024. In FY 2023–2024, a total of 385,626 acres of District-owned lands were open to hunting through 33 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), five Public Small Game Hunt Areas, (PSGHAs), and six properties that are used for youth and/or Operation Outdoor Freedom hunts. Two of the properties are used for multiple hunt purposes. This report reflects no change in acres open to hunting from last year's totals.

Hunting management reflects a balance of recreational opportunities offered to the public, which has been achieved through the involvement of the many user groups who recreate on lands owned or managed by the District. The District is proud of the achieved balance.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or Brian Emanuel, chief of the Bureau of Land Resources, at (386) 329-4377. The District looks forward to continued cooperation in the statewide effort to provide resource-based recreational opportunities on public conservation lands.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Register, P.E.
Executive Director

GOVERNING BOARD

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Management Area	Total acres (2024)	Lead Manager	Wildlife Management Area	Acres Open to Hunting	Acres Not Open to Hunting	County
9A Mitigation Parcels	326	SJRWMD			326	Duval
Austin Cary Forest	567	UF			567	Alachua
Bayard Conservation Area	10,537	SJRWMD	Bayard WMA	6466	4071	Clay
Belmore State Forest - Satsuma Tract	3,526	FFS	Operation Outdoor Freedom	3526		Clay
Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area	969	SJRWMD			969	Clay
Black Sink Prairie	397	SJRWMD			397	Marion
Blue Cypress Conservation Area	42,843	SJRWMD	Upper St. Johns River Marsh WMA	42173	670	Indian River
Buck Lake Conservation Area	9,627	SJRWMD	Buck Lake WMA	9597	30	Brevard, Volusia
Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area	23,324	FWC	Herky Huffman/Bull Creek WMA	23196	128	Osceola
Canaveral Marshes Conservation Area	10,966	SJRWMD			10966	Brevard
Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area	6,608	FWC	Caravelle Ranch WMA	6608		Putnam
Cary State Forest	2,415	FFS	Cary State Forest and WMA	2415		Nassau
Charles H. Bronson State Forest	9,790	FFS	Charles H. Bronson State Forest WMA	9790		Orange, Seminole
Clark Bay Conservation Area	5,135	SJRWMD	Tiger Bay WMA	3745	1390	Volusia
Crescent Lake Conservation Area	3,583	SJRWMD	Operation Outdoor Freedom	3374	209	Putnam, Volusia
Deep Creek Conservation Area	5,953	SJRWMD			5953	Putnam, St. Johns
Deep Creek Preserve	3,656	Volusia County			3656	Volusia
Dunns Creek Conservation Area	3,152	SJRWMD	Dunns Creek WMA	3152		Putnam
Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area	706	SJRWMD			706	Orange
Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area	6,577	SJRWMD	Emeralda Marsh PSGHA	5112	1465	Lake
Faver-Dykes State Park	4,866	FDEP - State Parks			4866	St. Johns
Fellsmere Water Management Area	10,035	SJRWMD	Fellsmere Area 1 PSGHA	4165	5870	Indian River
Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area	20,950	SJRWMD	Fort Drum WMA	20750	200	Indian River
Four Creeks Forest	10,604	FFS	Four Creeks WMA	10169	434	Nassau
Freedom Commerce Center	93	SJRWMD			93	Duval
Gemini Springs County Park	207	Volusia County			207	Volusia
Gourd Island Conservation Area	515	SJRWMD			515	St. Johns
Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park	8,715	SJRWMD			8715	Orange
Haw Creek Preserve	1,041	Flagler County			1041	Flagler
Heart Island Conservation Area	13,645	SJRWMD	Lake George WMA	11471	2173	Volusia
Hull Swamp Conservation Area	2,386	SJRWMD			2386	Volusia
Indian Lake State Forest	101	FFS			101	
Indian River Lagoon Preserve State Park	366	FDEP - State Parks			366	Brevard
Jennings State Forest	12,482	FFS	Jennings Forest WMA	10341	2141	Clay, Duval
John M. Bethea State Forest	24,310	FFS	Osceola WMA	24310		Baker
Julington-Durbin Preserve	2,042	SJRWMD			2042	Duval, St. Johns
Lake Apopka North Shore	19,727	SJRWMD			19727	Lake, Orange
Lake George Conservation Area	11,756	SJRWMD	Lake George WMA	11372	383	Putnam, Volusia
Lake George Forest - Volusia County	7,967	Volusia County	Lake George WMA	7862	105	Volusia
Lake Harris Conservation Area	474	SJRWMD			474	Lake
Lake Jesup Conservation Area	5,728	SJRWMD			5728	Seminole
Lake Monroe Conservation Area	7,514	SJRWMD	Lake Monroe WMA	3096	4418	Volusia
Lake Norris Conservation Area	3,681	SJRWMD			3681	Lake
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge	2,384	USFWS			2384	Volusia
Little-Big Econ State Forest	8,640	FFS	Little Big Econ WMA	6249	2391	Seminole, Volusia
Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area	10,654	SJRWMD	Lochloosa WMA	9115	1540	Alachua
Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve	2,814	SJRWMD	FWC Youth Hunt	1443	1371	Alachua
Longleaf Pine Preserve - Volusia County	4,272	Volusia County			4272	Volusia
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway	61	FDEP - State Parks	Caravelle Ranch WMA	61		Putnam
Matanzas State Forest	4,658	FFS	Matanzas State Forest and WMA	4658		St. Johns
Micco Water Management Area	458	SJRWMD			458	Brevard
Moses Creek Conservation Area	2,173	SJRWMD			2173	St. Johns
Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve	105	FDEP-CAMA			105	Indian River
Murphy Creek Conservation Area	4,742	SJRWMD			4742	Putnam
Newnans Lake Conservation Area	6,968	SJRWMD	Hatchet Creek WMA/FWC Youth Hunts	6273	695	Alachua
North Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	218	SJRWMD			218	Volusia
North Region Mitigation Archipelago	1,300	SJRWMD			1300	Clay, Duval, Putnam
North Sebastian Conservation Area	134	Indian River County			134	Indian River
Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration Area	6,296	SJRWMD	Ocklawaha Prairie PSGHA/OOF	2349	3947	Marion
Orange Creek Restoration Area	3,543	SJRWMD	Orange Creek PSGHA	3403	140	Alachua, Marion
Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area	340	Indian River County			340	Indian River
Palm Bluff Conservation Area	4,170	SJRWMD			4170	Volusia
Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park	203	FDEP - State Parks			203	Alachua
Pellicer Creek Conservation Area	2,534	SJRWMD			2534	Flagler
Pine Island Conservation Area	928	Brevard County			928	Brevard
Princess Place Preserve	1,053	Flagler County			1053	Flagler
Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park	3,996	FDEP - State Parks			3996	Duval
Ralph E. Simmons Memorial State Forest	3,638	FFS	Ralph E. Simmons Memorial State Forest WMA	3638		Nassau
Rice Creek Conservation Area	6,295	SJRWMD	Caravelle Ranch WMA	696	5599	Putnam
River Lakes Conservation Area	41,166	SJRWMD	Upper St. Johns River Marsh WMA	26765	14401	Brevard
Rock Springs Run	533	FDEP - State Parks			533	Lake, Orange
Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area	5,349	FWC	Salt Lake WMA	5043	306	Brevard
Sand Lakes Restoration Area	1,255	SJRWMD	FWC Youth Hunt	1255		Indian River
Sebastian Storm Water Park	176	City of Sebastian			176	Indian River
Seminole Ranch Conservation Area	29,545	SJRWMD	Salt Lake WMA, Seminole Ranch WMA	9503	20042	Brevard, Orange, Seminole, Volusia
Seminole State Forest	3,533	FFS	Seminole Forest WMA	2939	594	Lake
Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area	5,618	SJRWMD	Silver Springs Forest WMA	5598	20	Marion
South Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	599	SJRWMD			599	Lake, Orange, Seminole
Spruce Creek Preserve	139	Volusia County			139	Volusia
St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park	14,987	FDEP - State Parks			14987	Brevard, Indian River
Stokes Landing Conservation Area	277	SJRWMD			277	St. Johns
Sunnyhill Restoration Area	10,491	SJRWMD	Operation Outdoor Freedom	4142	6349	Marion
T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area	6,520	FWC	T.M. Goodwin PSGHA	6254	266	Brevard
Thomas Creek Conservation Area	5,525	SJRWMD	Thomas Creek WMA	2456	3069	Duval, Nassau
Three Forks Conservation Area	47,428	SJRWMD	Upper St. Johns River Marsh WMA	42091	5337	Brevard
Tiger Bay State Forest	11,813	FFS	Rima Ridge - Tiger Bay WMA	11148	665	Volusia
Tosohatchee State Preserve	261	FWC	Tosohatchee WMA	261		Orange
Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area	7,595	FWC	Triple N Ranch WMA	7595		Osceola
Turnbull Hammock Conservation Area	2,436	SJRWMD			2436	Volusia
Twelve Mile Swamp Conservation Area	21,126	SJRWMD			21126	St. Johns
Wekiva River Buffer Conservation Area	3,137	SJRWMD			3137	Seminole
West Region Mitigation Archipelago	198	SJRWMD			198	Lake
Wiregrass Prairie Preserve	1,401	Volusia County			1401	Volusia
		TOTALS	% Open to Hunting			
SJRWMD Managed/Owned	623,547		61.84%	385626	237923	