

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
WILD TURKEY PERMIT PROGRAM  
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

Abstract: This report documents activities of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) associated use of Wild Turkey Permit Funds during fiscal year 2009-2010. Permit fund revenues and expenditures totaled \$511,459 and \$525,875, respectively. Program activities encompassed management projects, turkey restoration monitoring, data analysis, technical assistance, and research and development. Funding for 47 management projects on 32 public wildlife management areas (WMAs) and one research project on two study sites was cost-shared with the Florida Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (FCNWTF) for a total funding amount of \$268,147. When considering other cooperator dollars and in-kind services, the total FWC / FCNWTF cost-share program was valued at \$778,801. Data management functions included the conducting and analysis of a spring turkey season harvest mail survey and an internet poll to determine constituent support for a rule proposal to limit methods of take on FWC established areas during spring turkey season. Several recently restored wild turkey populations were monitored in Holmes County, Guana River WMA and Everglades National Park. Research continued on Three Lakes WMA and Longino Ranch to evaluate improvements to nesting and brood rearing habitat through the Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project (UERP). UERP is a landscape-scale habitat management effort designed to restore native uplands for the benefit of numerous wildlife species. A wild turkey biologist position funded cooperatively by the United States Forest Service (USFS), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and FWC was continued and a new contract was executed that extends this position through fiscal year 2011-12. A second cooperative wild turkey biologist position cooperatively funded by Florida Division of Forestry (DOF), NWTF, and FWC to work primarily on State Forests was continued as well. Additionally, the FWC's Wild Turkey Management Program (WTMP) staff and cooperative wild turkey biologists provided technical assistance to various organizations, private citizens, the media, and agency personnel, including site visits to 64 WMAs, State Forests, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and Military Installations.

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The public has a strong interest in wild turkey management and hunting. The Osceola subspecies, which occurs only in peninsular Florida, often draws particular interest. Because the wild turkey occupies a wide variety of habitat on private and public lands in all 67 counties of Florida, a comprehensive program, involving management, restoration, technical assistance, data analysis, and research, is required. The FWC's WTMP coordinates these activities with other FWC programs and personnel, other state and federal agencies, conservation groups, private landowners, and the general public. The FWC uses revenues primarily from the sale of turkey permits to accomplish this work.

Florida Statutes that became effective on June 1, 1986 requires all individuals hunting wild turkeys in Florida to purchase and possess either a turkey permit or other license that includes this permit fee, unless exempt from permit requirements. Between June 1, 1986 and June 30, 2003, turkey permits were \$5 for resident and non-resident turkey hunters. Beginning July 1, 2003, the cost for a non-resident turkey permit increased to \$100. In 2007, the Florida Legislature appropriated additional budget for wild turkey management based on increased revenues from the sale of non-resident turkey hunting permits. The focus for expenditure of these additional funds is on management with particular consideration for partnering and cost-sharing opportunities with other agencies or organizations. All funds generated from turkey permits and associated licenses that provide this hunting privilege are to expand ongoing wild turkey management and research without detracting from other fish and wildlife programs.

Pursuant to statutory requirements, this report documents the revenues and expenditures associated with the turkey permit fund for fiscal year 2009-2010 and summarizes activities conducted by the FWC through the use of these funds.

**TURKEY PERMIT REVENUES AND PROGRAM EXPENDITURES**

The Florida Wild Turkey Stamp Act requires that generated revenues be expended for wild turkey research and management, with no more than 5% of gross revenues to be expended for administrative costs. During fiscal year 2009-2010, 28,427 resident turkey permits (\$5 each), 467 five-year resident turkey permits (\$25 each) and 2,292 non-resident turkey permits (\$100 each) were sold. The revenues from these permit sales, plus those derived from the sale of other licenses that included turkey hunting privileges (e.g., sportsman's, gold sportsman's, etc.), totaled \$511,459. Total expenditures were \$525,875. Expenditures included \$125,217 for salaries and benefits and \$349,142 for management and research. In addition to wild turkey permit funds, the FWC received \$50,000 in donated funds from the FCNWTF, a conservation organization dedicated to promoting wild turkey management, research, habitat protection, and hunting opportunities.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

The FWC's WTMP is charged with coordinating wild turkey management and research activities across the state and providing a statewide approach to conservation and management of Florida's wild turkey population. The goal, developed as part of the 10 year (i.e., 2008 – 2018) wild turkey strategic management plan, is to "Ensure healthy and sustainable wild turkey populations throughout the state while providing and promoting compatible uses of the resource." Such a broad program requires involvement of WTMP personnel in activities generally encompassed within five categories: management projects, population restoration, data analysis, technical assistance, and project development and research.

### **Management Projects**

With continuing changes in the quality and quantity of wild turkey habitat in Florida, habitat management efforts continue to be vital to the FWC's objective of maintaining turkey distributions across the state. Management funded by turkey permit revenue has primarily focused on the state's 5.8 million-acre WMA system because of the management opportunities they present, the recreational public-use of these lands, and their associated funding needs. Management activities, such as mowing, prescribed burning, wildlife plantings, native ground cover restoration, exotic species control, and the creation of wildlife openings, have enhanced habitat on these areas for wild turkeys and many other wildlife species.

During this past fiscal year, funds totaling \$259,017 were made available for 47 management projects on 32 WMAs (Table 1). Much of this management work has been accomplished through a cost-share program with the FCNWTF. In this regard, the FCNWTF donated \$48,207 to cost-share these WMA activities through their Super Fund program. The FWC provided \$210,810.02 of turkey permit funds as the FWC's cost-share match. In many cases, FWC or cooperating agencies provided equipment, personnel, and/or other funding for these WMA projects, resulting in a total WMA cost-share program value of \$664,276. Moreover, volunteers from the FCNWTF and other organizations assisted FWC personnel with projects on several WMAs. Thus, these projects generally provide substantial benefits for wild turkeys and other wildlife at a considerable cost savings relative to their overall value.

### **Wild Turkey Restoration**

Florida essentially completed its turkey population restoration efforts in 1970; however, areas have been identified from time to time where "maintenance" restoration efforts have been warranted. In this regard, in 1997, the FWC determined that turkey populations were low or non-existent in Holmes County. As a result, FWC closed the entire county to all turkey hunting and stocked 121 turkeys at 8 release sites. The FWC continues to monitor Holmes County for evidence of turkey population growth and expansion using annual bait-station surveys (no survey conducted in 2008). No turkeys or turkey sign were observed at any of 29 bait stations in 1997, prior to stocking. However, use of the 27 to 28 established stations (1 station was discontinued in 2000 due to landowner change and 1 was inadvertently omitted during 2009) by wild turkeys increased from 3 bait-stations visited in 2000 to 16 bait-stations visited in 2007. During the 2009 survey, 14 of 27 sites documented turkeys or turkey sign. Of those sites where turkeys were

documented during 2009, one site had not previously documented turkeys. Three of the sites where turkeys were documented during 2007 did not document turkeys during 2009. It should be noted that this does not necessarily indicate turkeys are no longer in the vicinity of these sites but is likely a result of a change in habitat conditions in the immediate vicinity of the bait station. While the total count for 2009 was down slightly from 2007, it should be pointed out that there were significant rain events during the last half of the survey period, which precluded the identification of tracks and sign at most bait-stations. Also, of the 13 bait stations where turkeys were not documented in 2009, five of these sites had turkeys documented within the vicinity of the site, but were not within the 0.5 mile established bait-station.

As a result of the documented increase and expansion of the turkey population in Holmes County, FWC opened a 3-day spring turkey season (1 bird bag limit) in 2006. All indications were that the 2006 – 2008 spring turkey hunts were quite successful, and a 16-day spring turkey season was implemented for the 2009 spring season. All reports indicate that the 2009 and 2010 spring hunts were a success under the 16-day season. Fall turkey hunting remains closed in Holmes County. Within the next year, we plan to further evaluate increasing turkey hunting opportunity in Holmes County based on the success of the hunts, results of the bait-station survey, and stakeholder input.

The 10,000-acre Guana River WMA in northeastern Florida historically supported turkeys, but indiscriminant hunting and habitat degradation due to lack of prescribed fire, are believed to have resulted in the population decline. Improved habitat management since state acquisition of the property has restored wild turkey habitat values on this area. Natural and man-made barriers (i.e., urban development) isolated this WMA from other wild turkey populations. Therefore, the chances were low for turkeys to repopulate the area by moving in from surrounding property. Consequently, in December 2002, FWC biologists and volunteers from the FCNWTF trapped 35 wild turkeys (15 males and 20 females) from nearby private lands and released them on Guana River WMA. Camera surveys and routine observations by FWC personnel, and other reliable sources, indicated successful reproduction and population increase. As a result, a limited hunt (6 quota permits for each of 2, 3-day hunts) was implemented for the 2009 spring turkey season. Check-station data indicate 4 turkeys were harvested during 29 man-days of hunting effort during the 2010 spring turkey season, making it a successful turkey hunt. Monitoring of this turkey population will continue so that staff can ensure that the reestablished hunting opportunities are consistent with population status.

A turkey restoration project began in 2000 for the Everglades National Park at the request of the National Park Service (NPS) and the FCNWTF. The original release of 29 turkeys (7 males and 22 females) resulted in documented reproduction, but monitoring by the NPS suggested that while these turkeys survived, numbers were not increasing as desired. A supplemental stocking occurred in January 2006, which involved the release of 31 turkeys (11 males and 20 females). A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FWC and the NPS called for improved monitoring by the NPS of these recently released birds. Preliminary results documented

successful reproduction during the 2006 – 2009 nesting seasons. While the MOA only included monitoring through the 2009 nesting season, we are currently working with the NPS to continue monitoring efforts.

### **Data Collection, Management, and Analysis**

One role of the WTMP is to conduct an annual mail survey of spring turkey hunters. Through this process, a stratified random sample of licensed turkey hunters is surveyed to generate estimates of turkey harvest, hunter effort, and hunter satisfaction. For the 2009 spring turkey season, 16,000 survey forms were mailed (21% of licensed turkey hunters) and included two follow-up mailings to those who did not respond to previous mailings. A total of 5,099 valid responses were received (32 percent response rate). Harvest estimates derived from this survey between 1988 and 2009 are summarized in Table 2. The 2010 spring turkey season mail survey was mailed to 15,400 license holders during June 2010, with the third mailing scheduled to occur sometime in September 2010. The WTMP also collects and maintains harvest data from WMAs with check stations. These data are used to determine area-specific hunter success rates. Harvest data and hunter success rates can, in some instances, be useful as an indicator of the status of an area's wild turkey population and/or the quality of its turkey hunting opportunities.

Additionally, the WTMP, with primary assistance from the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), analyzed data from an annual survey (1998-2006) of hunters participating in Special-Opportunity Turkey Hunts and developed a manuscript which was presented at the 2009 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) conference in Atlanta, GA and the manuscript will also be published in the 63<sup>rd</sup> SEAFWA Proceedings. These hunts were created in 1997 to provide quality hunting opportunities and increase interest in hunting in Florida, particularly on public land. The analysis investigated elements affecting permit application rates, current trends in and determinants of hunter satisfaction, and the relationship between hunter success and level of satisfaction. Taken as a whole, the goals established for the program were achieved during these first 10 years. The harvest index for this period averaged 8.7 hunter-days per turkey harvested, and the harvest was composed of greater than 89% adult gobblers. More than 90% of hunt participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience. Hunter success rates for the 2010 Special-Opportunity Turkey Hunts are presented in Table 3.

Because of increasing concern of Florida's turkey hunters with respect to the use of rifles and large shot size as legal methods of take for turkey hunting in Florida, the Commission directed FWC staff to evaluate this issue. As part of this evaluation, WTMP staff developed an internet poll to gauge support for a rule proposal to limit firearms to shotguns using number 2 shot or smaller during spring turkey season on FWC established public hunting areas, while continuing to allow for legal bows and crossbows. In an attempt to increase response to the internet poll, a news release was sent out statewide, FCNWTF members were notified, and an email was sent to 24,274 licensed turkey hunters with information concerning the rule proposal and a link to the internet poll. A total of 2,547 valid responses were received, with 77.7 percent of respondents in support of the rule proposal.

Additionally, all WMA cooperators and landowners were notified of the rule proposal and requested to submit comments.

### **Technical Assistance**

The WTMP, other FWC personnel, and the two cooperative wild turkey biologists are often called upon to provide information to internal agency personnel, personnel with other agencies, various organizations, private landowners, the media, and the general public concerning wild turkeys. Such assistance covers a wide range of topics including questions on wild turkey history and management, survey techniques, nuisance and crop depredation complaints, hunting information and opportunities, data collection, and research issues.

Agency Assistance -- FWC and other agency personnel frequently request assistance concerning turkey population surveys, turkey management on WMAs and other public hunting lands, and funding for management projects. During 2009-2010, the WTMP and the cooperative wild turkey biologists visited 64 WMAs, State Forests, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and Military Installations to provide input on wild turkey management, hunting regulations, participate in turkey surveys, or discuss funding opportunities for management projects. In addition, the WTMP continued to work cooperatively with the Northwest Florida Water Management District to maintain wildlife openings on the Choctawhatchee River WMA to provide positive public relation values and habitat benefits to the restored turkey population in Holmes County.

Public Assistance – The public frequently requests information on turkey hunting and management. The FWC usually handles such requests by phone, e-mail, or regular mail service to distribute appropriate information. Sometimes requests are best addressed through personal contact and on-site visits. This fiscal year, WTMP personnel and cooperative wild turkey biologists made 6 on-site visits to private landowners to discuss techniques to reduce nuisance or crop depredation problems caused by wild turkeys and 23 on-site visits to discuss habitat management options for benefiting wild turkeys. The FWC also provided information to the public through various news releases, magazine articles, brochures, and media contacts both internally and through media outlets provided by the NWTF.

The WTMP and wild turkey cooperative biologists gave presentations and/or manned displays and interacted with attendees at the following events: Florida/Georgia Game Series - Wild Turkey Management Workshop at the Rosemary Plantation, FWC/UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) /NWTF Landowner Field Days in Ebro, Marianna, and Ft. Meade, landowners and other agency staff at UF IFAS Stewardship workshops in Lake County, St. John's County, and Arcadia, Tall Timbers Youth Hunting Field Day, Outdoor Heritage Festival at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, several state agency meetings including the Division of Forestry, South Florida Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District, members of the Glades County Audubon Chapter, Southeastern Outdoor Press Association Conference, South Florida Agriculture Conference, two elementary schools within the Volusia County school district, Big Buck Expo in Lakeland, UF Milton Wildlife Expo, Earth Day in

Bushnell, Gander Mountain Wild Turkey Workshop in Jacksonville, Fall and Spring Hunting Classic at Bass Pro Shops in Orlando, and to attendees of multiple State and Local NWTF chapter events, youth events (JAKES), and Women in the Outdoors (WITO) events, along with various presentations to civic organizations.

The FWC works closely with the NWTF throughout the year. This relationship was highlighted at the February 2007 FWC Commission meeting with the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among the FWC, the NWTF, and the FCNWTF. This document provides support to continue the many mutually beneficial interests and activities of each party. Some of the related activities in which the FWC participated last year included attendance of three FCNWTF board meetings, the FCNWTF Superfund committee meeting, the NWTF National Convention, and the FCNWTF Volunteer Appreciation and Awards banquet. Additionally, the partnership between the FWC and NWTF was officially recognized at the June 2010 Commission meeting with Mr. George Thornton, NWTF Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF Chief Conservation Officer, and Mr. Bill Marvin, NWTF National Board Member in attendance

The WTMP administers a wild turkey registry program, which awards certificates to hunters harvesting an outstanding gobbler. Depending on the area where the turkey was harvested, either an Osceola (Florida) subspecies or the Eastern subspecies Outstanding Gobbler certificate is awarded for gobblers meeting minimum standards (at least an 11-inch beard and 1 ¼-inch spurs). A certificate is also awarded for youth hunters who harvest their first gobbler. Since the program's inception in 2001, 407 Outstanding Osceola, 115 Outstanding Eastern, and 239 First Gobbler certificates have been awarded.

At the February 2010 Commission meeting, a youth turkey season was approved to occur the weekend prior to the regular spring turkey season statewide on private lands to be effective for the 2011 spring turkey season. These hunts are designed for youth under 16 years of age that are supervised by an adult 18 years of age or older. While properly licensed adults may participate in the hunt (i.e., call), the adult is prohibited from harvesting a turkey. After the statewide youth turkey season was approved, WTMP staff began working with FWC Public Hunting Area's Biologists and WMA staff to identify public lands that can support a quality turkey hunting experience and to seek support of WMA cooperators or landowners for offering these additional youth turkey hunting opportunities. Currently, draft rule proposals are being developed to offer these youth turkey hunts on 82 WMAs for consideration at the November 2010 Commission meeting. If subsequently approved by the Commission at the February 2011 meeting, these youth turkey hunts would be effective for the 2012 spring turkey season.

### **Research and Development**

FWC conducted research on wild turkey survival, reproductive success, and habitat-use associated with management treatments (i.e. prescribed fire, roller-chopping, and timber thinning) designed to restore "native range" vegetation in central and southern Florida. To determine the effects of upland habitat restoration on wild turkeys, research was performed on the portion of Three Lakes WMA

enrolled in the Upland Ecosystem Restoration Program (UERP) in Osceola County (24,700 ac) and on Longino Ranch (8,000 ac), a private ranch in Sarasota County managed for multiple objectives, which included upland habitat restoration. UERP is a large-scale initiative involving numerous landowners and agencies designed primarily to improve habitat for northern bobwhite quail and to restore native plant and wildlife communities through the use of frequent prescribed treatments at the landscape level.

FWC staff, UF students, and volunteers captured and radio-tagged 56 female turkeys (30 on Three Lakes WMA; 26 on Longino Ranch) from January through early March 2010. In addition, 11 hens on Three Lakes WMA and 10 hens on Longino Ranch surviving from the previous year were monitored. Hens were located during the nesting and brood-rearing period to obtain habitat-use and home-range information. To determine microhabitat characteristics at nesting and turkey-use sites, researchers sampled vegetation at nest sites and at close-range telemetry locations of non-incubating hens. Researchers sampled vegetation at these locations and at a randomly selected comparison site within the same Florida Natural Areas Inventory habitat type at each location. Vegetation sampling included measurements of tree basal area and stem counts, lateral cover, palmetto canopy cover, other ground cover, and shrub height. These measurements will be used to determine characteristics of upland vegetation associated with use by wild turkeys and then compared to management treatment responses. Portions of this research project for fiscal year 2009-2010 were funded through the cost-share program with the FCNWTF in the amount of \$9,130. In this regard, the FCNWTF donated \$1,793 to cost-share this research project through their Super Fund program and the FWC provided \$7,337 of turkey permit funds as the FWC's cost-share match. Cost-share funds were primarily used for operating expenses (e. g. fuel, vehicle repair). In addition to the cost-share funding provided, turkey permit funds (\$27,329.49) were also used for the research contract with UF that covered graduate student stipends and associated UF expenses.

In 1973 and 1977, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (now the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) conducted statewide assessments of wild turkey distributions. The WTMP completed a similar survey during 2001. The WTMP is overseeing additional analysis of this distribution and relative abundance data, specifically, using geographic modeling to relate turkey population distributions and relative abundance to vegetative communities, land ownership, harvest records, and other pertinent information. When these models are completed, the WTMP will be better able to focus management on particular areas of the state that have suitable turkey habitat but low turkey populations. In addition, the WTMP is currently working to develop an internet based mapping system to conduct a similar survey during 2011 that will be used to determine changes in wild turkey distribution and relative abundance during the previous 10 years to further prioritize management efforts.

## **PROGRAM DIRECTION**

To further expand wild turkey management efforts throughout Florida, a cooperative wild turkey biologist position was established through a 3-year



partnership contract beginning in 2007 with the FWC, USFS, and NWTF and was recently extended for an additional three year period through fiscal year 2011-2012. Due to the success of this initial cooperative position, a second 3-year partnership contract was executed in 2008 between the FWC, DOF, and NWTF for a second cooperative wild turkey biologist, and an individual was hired for this position in September 2008 to further promote and achieve the mission of the WTMP. Despite a vacancy in our FWC, DOF, and NWTF cooperative position during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of fiscal year 2009-2010, a new biologist was hired and began work in July 2010. The NWTF serves as the employer for both of these positions and provides the necessary funding to complete work on the ground. However, the multiple partners coordinate closely on the development of an annual work plan and provide specific oversight for accomplishment of defined activities during Steering Committee meetings held bi-annually. The WTMP works to incorporate priority items identified in Florida's 10-year strategic plan for wild turkey management into the annual work plans for each of these positions.

FWC's Wild Turkey Standing Team is composed of staff from several organizational units (i.e., Hunting and Game Management, Law Enforcement, FWRI, Habitat and Species Conservation, and Community Relations) and includes 2 associate members from the NWTF. This team provides input and assistance to ongoing program activities and emerging issues such that broad-based viewpoints from within the agency are represented and specific tasks are assigned as appropriate. In this regard, the team completed a 10-year strategic plan for wild turkey management during fiscal year 2007-08, and efforts are currently underway to implement this plan based on priority tasks and the included implementation schedule.

Legislation approved during the 2009 Legislative Session increases resident turkey permit (\$5 to \$10) and non-resident turkey permit (\$100 to \$125) fees effective July 1, 2010 and also allows the expenditure of up to 10 percent of turkey permit funds for promoting the cultural heritage of hunting, primarily through youth programs. These fee increases are projected to increase turkey permit revenue by \$200,000 based on current license sale totals. Over the next year, WTMP staff will be working with FWC's Wild Turkey Standing Team and stakeholders to develop a spending plan for these additional revenues to best meet the needs of the wild turkey resource in Florida. In addition, staff will develop a legislative budget request to increase spending authority for the WTMP when additional turkey permit revenue amounts are determined.

The FWC embraces the goal of the wild turkey strategic plan, which is to "Ensure healthy and sustainable wild turkey populations throughout the state while providing and promoting compatible uses of the resource." Moreover, the WTMP will continue to provide excellent customer service, increase positive contacts with conservation organizations, develop additional partnerships, and provide quality hunting areas, all of which benefit wild turkeys in the State of Florida.

Table 1. Wildlife Management Area projects funded through the FWC/NWTF cost-share program during fiscal year 2009-2010. (WMA = Wildlife Management Area, WEA = Wildlife and Environmental Area, SF = State Forest, NF = National Forest)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>FWC/NWTF Cost-share Funding</b>	<b>Other Cooperator Funding</b>
J.W. Corbett WMA	Prescribed Burning	\$7,600	\$23,336
Apalachicola River WEA	Tree & Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$15,000
J.W. Corbett WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$14,000
Fisheating Creek WMA	Exotic Plant Treatment	\$7,600	\$21,240
Camp Blanding WMA	Prescribed Burning	\$1,500	\$2,500
Chassahowitzka WMA	Roller chopping	\$7,600	\$10,000
Green Swamp West Unit	Turkey Survey & Cameras	\$3,000	\$2,500
Dexter Mary Farms Unit	Heavy Mowing	\$5,500	\$2,050
J.W. Corbett WMA	Exotic Plant Treatment	\$7,600	\$6,000
Apalachicola River – Sauls Unit	Wildlife Planting	\$5,000	\$15,000
Green Swamp WMA	Roller chopping	\$7,600	\$10,000
Blackwater-Hutton Unit	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$27,270
Blackwater SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$38,375
Pine Log SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$16,086
Osceola NF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$27,000
Hungryland WEA	Prescribed Burning	\$7,600	\$23,336
Big Bend WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$6,300	\$5,250
Box R WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$3,870	\$4,000
Fisheating Creek WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$2,499	\$981
Chassahowitzka WMA	Mowing	\$7,000	\$5,000
Green Swamp West Unit	Mowing	\$3,000	\$2,000
Camp Blanding WMA	Wildlife Planting & Mowing	\$3,600	\$2,500
Tates Hell SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$3,180	\$5,000
Dinner Island WMA	Ground Cover Restoration	\$7,600	\$6,605
Andrews WMA	Tree Trimming	\$2,500	\$1,000
Kissimmee River PUA	Mulching	\$7,600	\$10,500
KICCO WMA	Dozer Rental - Roller chopping	\$7,600	\$4,500
Hilochee WMA	Mowing	\$7,600	\$4,200
Apalachicola - Bradwell Unit	Mowing	\$2,350	\$1,100
Apalachee WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,085	\$27,000
Apalachicola NF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$9,344	\$5,640
Point Washington SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$7,600	\$20,360
Blackwater SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$1,689	\$769
Bull Creek WMA	Roller chopping	\$7,600	\$1,500
Hungryland WEA	Mechanical Treatment	\$7,600	\$3,000
Green Swamp WMA	Mowing	\$5,000	\$3,000
Twin Rivers SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$5,700	\$2,500
Camp Blanding WMA	Turkey Survey	\$1,500	\$500
Raiford WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$5,400	\$2,500
OK Slough WMA	Herbicide & Native Seed	\$7,600	\$6,237
Big Shoals WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$2,000	\$750
Richloam SF/WMA	Wildlife Planting	\$2,000	\$0
Seminole Forest - Lake Tracy Unit	Wildlife Planting	\$2,000	\$0
Big Bend WMA	Lime for Food Plots	\$6,775	\$10,600
Dinner Island WMA	Tree & Shrub Planting	\$2,500	\$6,604
OK Slough WMA	Herbicide for Habitat Restoration	\$6,725	\$7,970
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$259,017</b>	<b>\$405,259</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$664,276</b>

Table 2. Spring turkey season harvest estimates and 95% confidence limits for available mail survey data analyzed since 1988.

Year	Estimated Harvest	95% Confidence Limits
1988	15,774	12,249 - 19,298
1989	17,245	15,518 - 18,972
1990	16,173	14,463 - 17,883
1991	15,675	11,647 - 19,701
1992	10,897	9,786 - 12,007
1993	12,569	10,938 - 14,201
1994	14,237	12,487 - 15,988
1995 <sup>a</sup>	na	na
1996	15,067	13,624 - 16,510
1997	19,358	18,185 - 20,531
1998	23,419	21,546 - 25,291
1999	21,613	19,687 - 23,538
2000 <sup>b</sup>	15,446	14,749 - 16,144
2001	14,214	13,571 - 14,856
2002	15,495	14,814 - 16,176
2003	15,509	14,752 - 16,265
2004	17,241	16,529 - 17,953
2005	25,057	23,521 - 26,593
2006	21,507	20,366 - 22,648
2007	24,353	23,391 - 25,315
2008	27,296	25,930 - 28,662
2009	25,859	24,705 - 27,014
2010 <sup>c</sup>	-	-

<sup>a</sup> Mail survey was not conducted.

<sup>b</sup> The survey instrument was substantially changed, thus the harvest estimate is not readily comparable to previous years. Additionally, inconsistencies with the license database have likely contributed to the observed fluctuations in estimates.

<sup>c</sup> Data not yet available.

Table 3. Harvest, hunter pressure (total man-days of hunting effort), and hunter success (number of days of hunting effort per turkey harvested) for Special-Opportunity Turkey Hunts for the 2010 spring turkey season.

Wildlife Management Area	Harvest	Hunter Pressure	Hunter Success
Dexter/Mary Farms WMA	23	115	5.0
Ft. Drum WMA	8	40	5.0
Fisheating Creek WMA	11	59	5.4
Lake Panasoffkee WMA	12	73	6.1
Triple N Ranch WMA	18	109	6.1
Homosassa WMA	6	39	6.5
Green Swamp West WMA	36	291	8.1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>6.6</b>