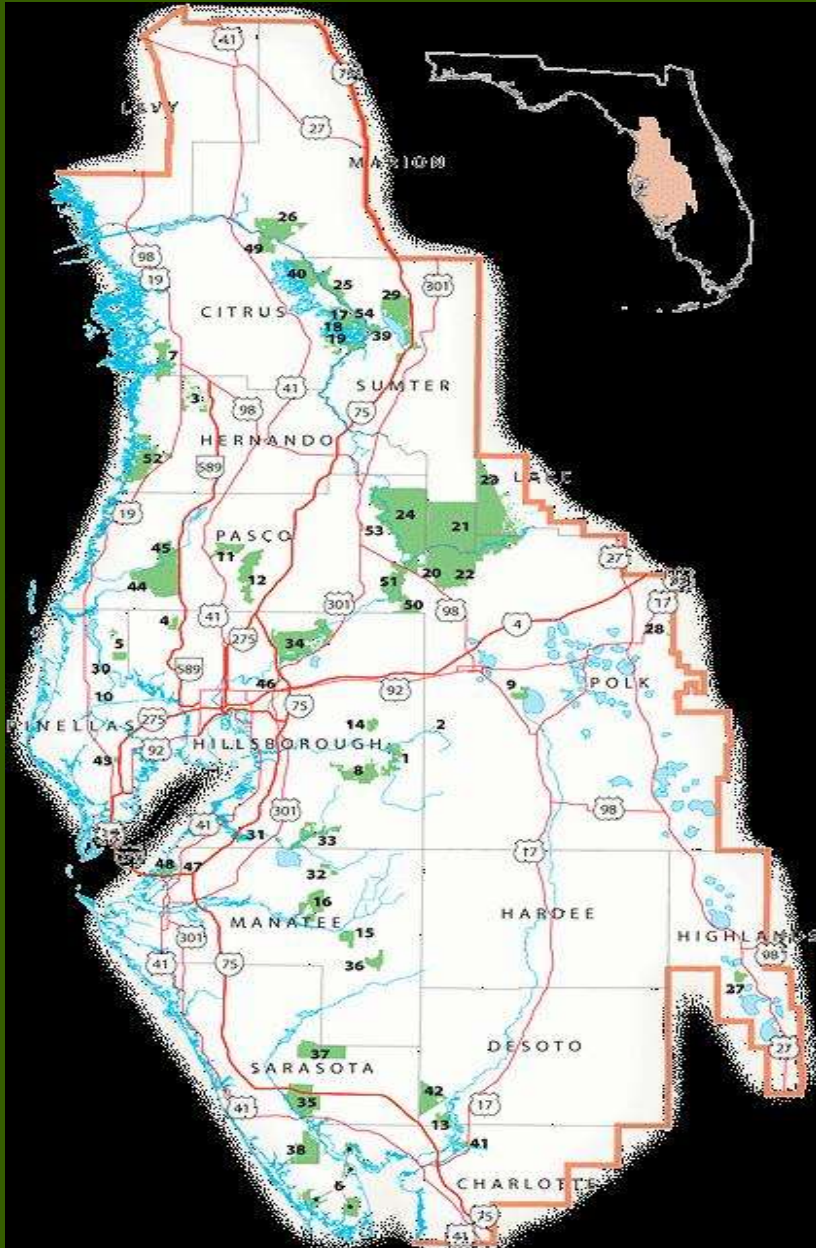


Hunting & District Lands

Current & Future Uses with Hunting as a Focus.



Hunting & District Lands



Southwest Florida Water Management District has 54 tracts spanning 16 counties and encompassing more than 380,000 acres.

Hunting & District Lands

- Users can enjoy hiking on every tract in District control.
- Most parcels offer:
 - Cycling
 - Equestrian riding
 - Picnicking
 - ADA accessibility



Hunting & District Lands

Of the 54 lands under district control, only 10 allow regular hunting during the FWC's regular and quota hunt programs on under 143,000 acres.

Two of these lands are by Special Opportunity permit only.

Only 1 requires no quota hunt permit of any kind. The rest are open to hunting less than 1/3 of the hunting season.

Southwest Florida District Land hunts account for less than 5% of the total available hunting opportunities in Florida.

Hunting & District Lands

Both St. Johns River WMD and South Florida WMD allow hunting on over 2/3 of their tracts and have significantly more populations in closer proximity to many of the lands available where concurrent use takes place daily.

Hunting & District Lands

Successful partnerships in SJRWMD alone include:

Bayard

Emeralda Marsh

King's Road

Lochloosa

Seminole Ranch

Caravelle Ranch

Little Big Econ

Osceola

Salt Lake

Buck Lake

Fort Drum

Lake George

Ocklawaha Prairie

Twelve Mile Swamp

Four Creeks

Lake George

Ralph Simmons

Tiger Bay

Dunns Creek

Hatchet Creek

Lake Monroe

Orange Creek

Bull Creek

Jennings Forest

Matanzas

Rima Ridge

Triple N Ranch

...And many more!

Hunting & District Lands



Safety Concerns Unfounded

- No history of non- hunter injuries or deaths
- No accidental shootings of non-hunters
- No physical confrontations by hunters
- FWC mandatory hunter's safety course is a model for other states

Hunting & District Lands

Concurrent Users are Safe

- Hikers & Cyclists on trails
- Equestrians on Trails & Roads
- Paddlers on moving or open waterways
- Camp sites restricted to hunting
- Hunters get into remote areas
- Notice of hunting activity



Hunting & District Lands

Hunting is Safe

- Occurance of fatalities is less than .001%
- Most injuries are non-fatal & self inflicted
- #1 cause of injury is falling from tree stand
- Most common incidents occur during wing shooting
- Injuries usually occur within the injured party's group
- Total average occurrences are less than .01%
- No history of injury to non-hunters in Florida

Hunting & District Lands



Hunting, Lessons & Bonding

- Brings more families afield
- Teaches ecology & stewardship
- Personal connection with nature
- Responsibility and self reliance
- Engages youth with hands on experience & life lessons

Hunting & District Lands

Hunters, like John James Audubon & Theodore Roosevelt, were some of the first conservationists. That love affair with nature lives on today in the heart of the hunter. Legal hunting by sportsmen has never caused the extinction of any species. In fact, hunters do more for the environment than any other single user group.



Teddy Roosevelt Florida Deer Hunt 1902

Hunting & District Lands



Hunting related organizations spend countless dollars and hours working for Florida's wildlife and natural lands.

Hunting & District Lands

- Hunting sustains the economies of many rural Florida towns
- Hunting goods sales bring Pitman-Robertson funds to the State's economy
- Hunting promotes tourism and commerce
- Hunting sustains the acquisition of wild lands
- Hunters & hunting related organizations lead the way in environmental protection

Hunting & District Lands

Proposed Hunting Use on District Lands

Includes opening 35 additional properties to hunting & encompassing more than 169,000 acres of available land for concurrent use within the District, utilizing FWC approved frameworks already in place on other WMA tracts.

Hunting & District Lands

District Land is public land and belongs to all of us. Hunters do not want to displace other users. They simply want to share in the stewardship and enjoyment of the land. Concurrent use is not impossible, it's a reality.



Hunting & District Lands



Thank You