

Stormwater Treatment Area Alligator Harvest Units

Through a cooperative effort between the South Florida Water Management District and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, special alligator hunting opportunities are being offered on Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) in south Florida: STA-5, STA-1W North, and STA-1W South (maps of the areas follow). The STAs are constructed wetland impoundments designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus going into the Everglades ecosystem. The numerous levees, water control structures and monitoring equipment within the STAs are critical to the success of the phosphorus control program. Any damage to these facilities as a result of public access could restrict the continued public use of these areas.

The STAs differ from traditional alligator harvest units in several ways. Most notably, there are no motorized boats allowed. Alligator trapping activities must be conducted from boats that can be poled or paddled, or from the levees. Alligator hunters are required to enter and exit the area at a designated entrance, check in and out at the check station, record their harvest, and provide all requested information. Access to the area is limited to STA permit holders and their licensed agents. Non-participating observers may accompany alligator hunters in their immediate vicinity (100 feet or less); however, each hunting party is limited to two vehicles.

Harvest periods are also different from all other harvest units. Hunting is allowed on Friday and Saturday nights only (Saturday night hunts include Sunday morning), and are limited to the following dates:

1st Period: August 21 - 23, 28 - 30, and September 4 - 6

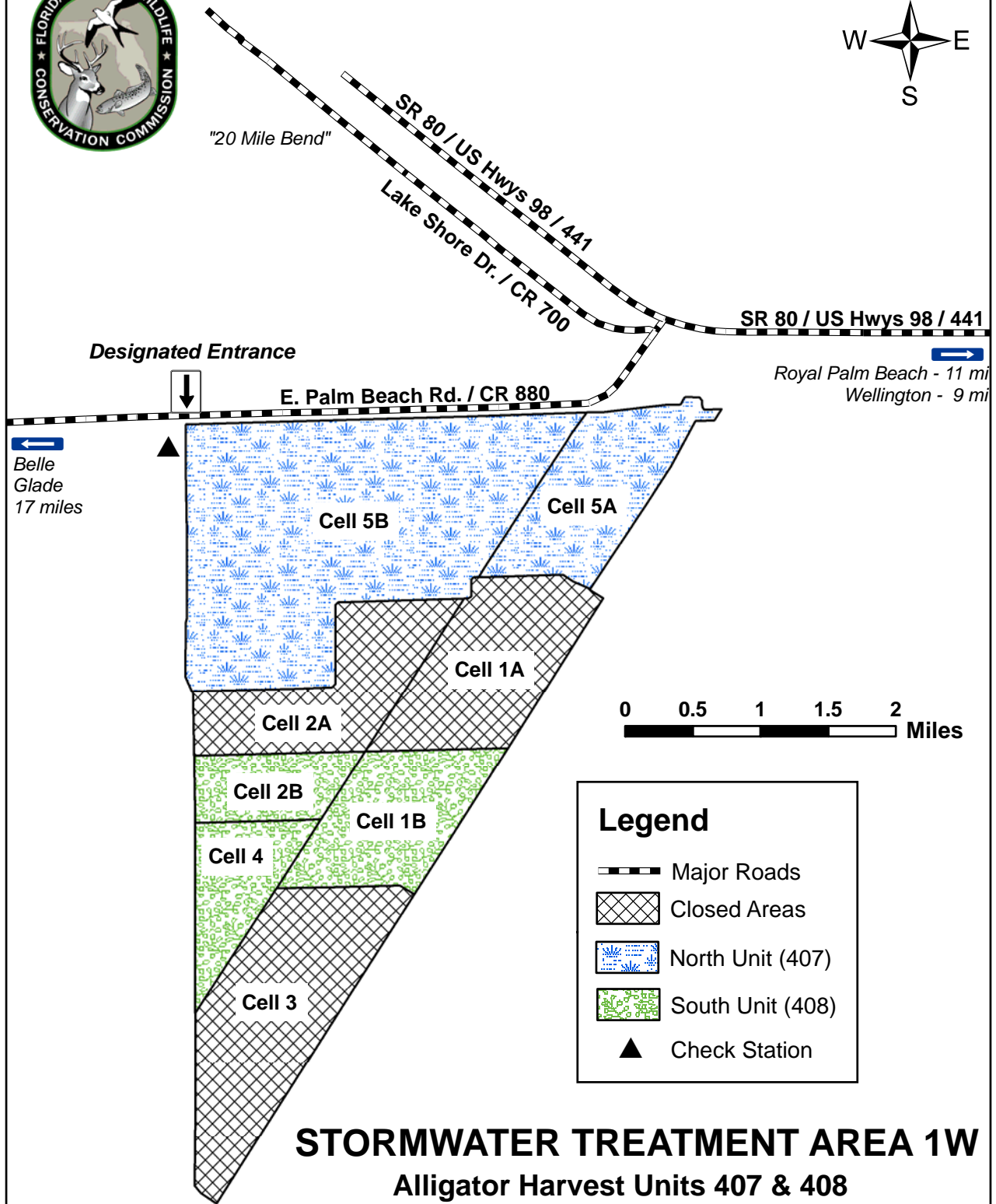
2nd Period: September 11 - 13, 18 - 20, and October 2 - 4

Open Period for any permit holder: October 9 - 11, 16 - 18, 23 - 25, and October 30 - November 1.

The STAs are open to public access as specified by the [South Florida Water Management District](#). Access for scouting by alligator hunt permit holders will be allowed prior to the hunting season. If you are awarded a permit for one of the STAs, you will be sent a letter containing the special rules and regulations for these hunts, and information on the scouting date will be included.

Previously, the sale of meat from alligators taken on the STAs was prohibited because of high mercury levels in Everglades alligators. However, recent data indicates that alligator meat from the STAs is safe for human consumption. Therefore, "mercury tags" are not issued with permits for these areas.

A Stormwater Treatment Area (STA-5) was first opened to alligator hunting in 2006, and, since that time, we have received a large number of positive comments about alligator hunting on these special areas. If you choose to apply for one of these hunts, we are confident that you will be satisfied with your selection. For more information about alligator hunting, visit [MyFWC.com\gators](#).



STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 1W

Alligator Harvest Units 407 & 408

6,670 Acres

Palm Beach County

