

2009-2010

Volunteer Program Annual Report



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

The FWC benefits from the skills, experiences and dedication of our volunteers, and in turn, we strive to offer volunteers a fulfilling, meaningful and satisfying volunteer experience.

Fiscal year 2009-2010 (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) was an extremely productive and successful year for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) volunteer program. The volunteer program continues to grow in terms of the number of volunteers and volunteer hours as well as the type and scope of projects and tasks for which volunteers contribute their time and efforts. The FWC benefits from the skills, experiences and dedication of our volunteers and, in turn, we strive to offer volunteers a fulfilling, meaningful and satisfying volunteer experience.

In 2009-2010, FWC volunteers made a positive impact by assisting with activities such as facilities/grounds maintenance, wildlife research, biological sampling and monitoring, habitat restoration, laboratory work and education and outreach.

Agency Statistics

2009-2010 volunteer hours	108,154.25
Value of volunteer hours	\$2,255,016 ¹
Full time equivalent (FTE)	~52 positions

Statistics by Division/Office/Institute

Division/Office/Institute	Volunteer Hours
Division of Hunting and Game Management	31,535.50
Division of Marine Fisheries Management	4,040.50
Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management	1,336.25
Division of Law Enforcement	18,861.50
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute	21,612.10
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation	25,559.40
Office of Recreation Services	5,063.50
Office of Executive Director	145.50

Total volunteer hours increased by 12% from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010, a value increase of \$350,000.

(Footnotes)

¹ Value calculated using Independent Sector 2009 national estimate on value of a volunteer hour: \$20.85 (http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

Volunteer Program Highlights

Division of Hunting and Game Management

Hunter safety volunteers contributed 31,016 hours to continue the heritage of hunting by teaching youth the knowledge and skills needed to be safe, responsible hunters.

- Volunteers hosted 560 classes resulting in 13,284 graduates, a 15-year high.
- Roger Mitchell of Plant City was named hunter safety volunteer of the year. Roger taught 24 hunter safety classes, serving as a chief instructor for 19, and certifying 950 students.



This would not have been possible without the 8,000 volunteers who assisted with educating young anglers about fishing techniques, marine habitats, ethical angling and marine conservation.

Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Kids saltwater-fishing clinic volunteers contributed 3,979 hours.

- Since 1996, more than 44,000 children and 29,000 parents have participated in kids saltwater-fishing clinics. This would not have been possible without the 8,000 volunteers who assisted with educating young anglers about fishing techniques, marine habitats, ethical angling and marine conservation.



Stock Enhancement Research Facility (SERF) volunteers:

- Contributed 2,003 hours.
- Assisted hatchery staff during the grading, tagging and release of hatchery-reared red drum.
- Assisted staff at local outreach events such as the Florida State Fair, Marine Quest, Florida Sportsman fishing shows and outdoor shows.



Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management

Tenoroc Fish Management Area (FMA) volunteers:

- Contributed an estimated 600 hours.
- Assisted staff with hosting 32 events at Tenoroc FMA in Polk County, including school programs, nature festivals and fishing derbies.
- Assisted biologists with relocating 49 largemouth bass and 1,500 black crappie from Medard Reservoir (Hillsborough County) to Tenoroc FMA.
- Assisted biologists in FWC's Southwest region with relocating 660 largemouth bass from Medard Reservoir to Lake Thonotosassa (Hillsborough County) as part of a research study.
- Assisted staff biologists in collecting largemouth bass population data over a two-month period on six Tenoroc FMA lakes.
- Assisted in the building of rock-beds for fish spawning habitat along bank fishing areas of four Tenoroc FMA lakes: 35 rock-beds (6,820 feet total) were built.



Volunteers assisted staff with hosting 32 events at Tenoroc Fish Management Area in Polk County.

Division of Law Enforcement

Division of Law Enforcement Reserve Officers:

- Contributed 18,861.5 hours.
- Assisted the FWC Division of Law Enforcement in its mission to protect the state's wildlife, fresh and saltwater aquatic life and human resources.



Fish and Wildlife Research Institute volunteers contributed 21,612 hours assisting with research and outreach projects.

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

FWRI herpetological research volunteers:

- Contributed 887.5 hours.
- Assisted with dip-netting for striped newts and gopher frog tadpoles to collect data for a State Wildlife Grant program titled "Survey of winter-breeding amphibian species in the peninsula."



FWRI marine mammal research volunteers:

- Contributed 4,243 hours.
- Assisted Fish and Wildlife Research Institute biologists with marine mammal monitoring, research, rescue and health assessment.



FWRI black bear research program volunteers:

- Contributed 1,766 hours.
- Assisted with black bear research and assisted at Florida black bear festivals, educating the public on black bear habitat, feeding habits and management techniques.



Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

Ridge Rangers volunteers:

- Contributed 8,339 hours to conserve endangered habitat and species on the Lake Wales Ridge.
- Won the Prudential-Davis Productivity Award. This award recognizes and rewards state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses.
- Removed 8,300 feet of old barbed wire fencing and 30.8 tons of old tires and debris from conservation lands on the Lake Wales Ridge.
- Planted 700 endangered scrub lupine seedlings at the FWC's Lake Blue conservation area and continue to monitor and maintain the seedlings.
- Used GPS units to map locations of invasive plant species on two tracts (totaling 1,201 acres) of the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.
- Assisted with Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat enhancement efforts and participated in amphibian, invertebrate and wildlife surveys.



Ridge Rangers volunteers removed 8,300 feet of old barbed wire fencing and 30.8 tons of old tires and debris from conservation lands on the Lake Wales Ridge.

FWC WMA/WEA volunteers:

- Contributed 10,456.75 hours.
- Assisted area managers with facilities and grounds maintenance, land management, wildlife surveys and habitat enhancement efforts.



Office of Recreation Services

Chinsegut Nature Center volunteers:

- Contributed 4,845.5 hours.
- Participated in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Rare Invertebrate Survey, collecting two species of beetles never before documented on the Chinsegut WEA.
- Participated in the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network citizen science project to assess distribution and population trends of common and imperiled butterfly species.
- Assisted FWC biologists with Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest surveys, nestling banding and nest site habitat enhancement
- Assisted with facilities and grounds maintenance, invasive species removal and year-round educational programs and festivals.



Volunteers contributed 4,845.5 hours to the Chinsegut Nature Center, assisting with festivals, educational programs, citizen science projects and facilities and grounds maintenance.

