

# Florida Private Landowner Survey



Conducted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

**Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential.  
No identifiable information will be linked to your responses.**

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- ✓ If this survey is received by a company or other organization, please have a person knowledgeable about the organization's land in Florida answer this survey on behalf of the organization.
  - ✓ In this survey, wildlife means all types of wild animals that are not domesticated, including reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals.
  - ✓ When answering the questions in this survey, please consider all land that you (or the organization you represent) currently own, manage, or lease in Florida. There are no right or wrong answers.
- 
- 

## **LAND STEWARDSHIP AND HABITAT**

1. Do you own, lease, or manage at least 20 acres of land in Florida?  
 No                       Yes
2. Before this survey, had you heard of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)?  
 No                       Yes
3. In the last 5 years, how many acres of the following have you established (i.e., planted, naturally regenerated) on your property?  
Wildlife food plots \_\_\_\_\_ acres  
Native trees (such as native pine, oak, cypress) \_\_\_\_\_ acres  
Native groundcover  
(such as wire grass, bluestem grass, partridge pea) \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Cover photo: Eastern Meadowlark by Andy Wraithmell, FWC

# LAND STEWARDSHIP AND HABITAT

4. In the last 5 years, have you used any of the following management practices on your property? *Mark all that apply*

General management	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed fire <input type="checkbox"/> Exotic vegetation control <input type="checkbox"/> Roller chopping or other mechanical vegetation treatment
Livestock production	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed/ rotational grazing <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock exclusion from streams, wetlands, or natural waterbodies
Silviculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Stand thinning <input type="checkbox"/> Longer rotation (30+ years) for saw/pole production <input type="checkbox"/> Understory/ brush management <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven-age stand management
Row crops/sod production	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover crops <input type="checkbox"/> Field borders/ wildlife plantings <input type="checkbox"/> Water conservation

5. In the last 5 years, how many of each of the following have you maintained or installed on your property?

Nest boxes (such as bird houses or bat boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife feeders (such as bird feeders) \_\_\_\_\_

6. In the last 5 years, were there any habitat management actions you wanted to take but were unable to?

No

Yes

7. What actions did you want to take?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What prevented you?

\_\_\_\_\_

## LAND STEWARDSHIP AND HABITAT

Through the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system, the FWC partners with private landowners who voluntarily choose to lease land for public access. These cooperative areas are managed for conservation and recreation.

9. Would you be interested in participating in the Wildlife Management Area system through this type of voluntary lease arrangement?

No

Yes

Maybe

Not applicable

10. If you were to participate in the WMA system, would you be interested in voluntarily allowing public access for any of the following activities?

Fishing

Hunting

Wildlife viewing

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

None of these

11. Does your property border any existing Wildlife Management Areas?

No

Yes

Not sure

12. Do you have any comments or suggestions for FWC about the Wildlife Management Area system?
- 
- 

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

1. In the last 5 years, what types of wildlife have caused problems on your property?
- 
- 

2. In the last 5 years, what types of problems have you had with wildlife on your property? *Mark all that apply*

Crop damage

Game species predation

Livestock predation/ injury

Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Other property damage

Threat to human safety

None

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

3. In the last 5 years, have you attempted to control problem wildlife on your property?

No

Yes

4. How did you attempt to control problem wildlife on your property? *Mark all that apply*
- Contacted a professional for assistance
  - Installed fences or other barriers
  - Removed attractants such as unsecured garbage or other food sources
  - Hazed problem wildlife
  - Trapped problem wildlife
  - Lethally removed non-protected problem wildlife
  - Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you contact any of the following organizations to assist you with controlling problem wildlife? *Mark all that apply*
- Commercial nuisance wildlife operator
  - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
  - University of Florida extension (IFAS)
  - Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - I didn't contact anyone to assist me in controlling problem wildlife

*Florida landowners may enroll in Forestry or Agriculture related Wildlife Best Management Practices. These BMPs provide a voluntary alternative to incidental take permitting for state listed fish and wildlife.*

6. Before this survey, had you heard of the Wildlife Best Management Practices for state listed fish and wildlife?

No

Yes, but not enrolled

Yes, I am enrolled

7. How interested are you participating in this type of program?
- Not at all interested
  - Slightly interested
  - Moderately interested
  - Highly interested

# LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

*Land management plans provide landowners with guidance on how to manage habitat and wildlife on their property. Having a plan is not required, although some landowners find them useful.*

1. Before starting this survey, were you aware that some government agencies assist landowners with preparing land management plans?
- No                       Yes

2. Do you have a written management plan(s) for your property?
- No                       Yes

<p>3. Who prepared the written plan(s)? <i>Mark all that apply</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Myself or my family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private contractor/ consultant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My staff</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> USDA NRCS or Farm Service Agency</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Florida Forest Service/ Division of Forestry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>): _____</p> <p>4. Does the plan(s) include wildlife and habitat management?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No                      <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>5. What year was the most recent plan prepared? Year _____</p> <p>6. Have you taken actions to implement the plan?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No                      <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>
---

7. If you do not currently have a management plan, how interested are you in using a land management plan in the future?
- Not at all interested       Slightly interested       Moderately interested       Highly interested

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

*Several government agencies offer reimbursement programs to offset the costs of helping to conserve wildlife habitat.*

1. Before starting this survey, were you aware that some government agencies provide financial assistance for wildlife habitat improvement?

No                       Yes

2. In the last 5 years, have you participated in any financial assistance programs that included wildlife habitat improvement?

No                       Yes                       Not eligible

3. Who provided the financial assistance? *Mark all that apply*

- USDA NRCS or Farm Service Agency  
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
 Florida Forest Service/ Division of Forestry  
 Water Management District  
 Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. What habitat improvement activities did you conduct with the financial assistance?

---

---

5. How interested are you in participating in a financial assistance program to improve wildlife habitat on your property in the future?

Not at all interested       Slightly interested       Moderately interested       Highly interested

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. Before starting this survey, were you aware that government agencies provide technical workshops on wildlife habitat improvement?

No  Yes

2. In the last 5 years, have you participated in any technical workshops on wildlife habitat improvement?

No  Yes

3. Who provided the workshop(s)? *Mark all that apply*

- USDA NRCS or Farm Service Agency  
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
 Florida Forest Service/ Division of Forestry  
 Water Management District  
 University of Florida extension (IFAS)  
 Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. How interested are you in attending a technical workshop on how to improve wildlife habitat in the future?

Not at all interested  Slightly interested  Moderately interested  Highly interested

5. Which topics would you like covered in a technical workshop? *Mark all that apply*

- Integrating wildlife into land use  
 Prescribed burning  
 Exotic vegetation control  
 Timber management  
 Cooperative management with neighboring landowners  
 Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_

6. How would you prefer to receive information or advice on land management? *Mark all that apply*

- Talk to a neighbor  Email/ E-newsletter  
 Talk to an expert  Internet  
 Visits to my property  Workshop/ conference  
 Written materials (magazines, brochures)  Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_  
 I don't want/ need information

## INTERACTIONS WITH THE FWC

1. How have you interacted with the FWC in the past 5 years?

*Mark all that apply*

- FWC visited my property
- Attended an FWC workshop
- Attended a public meeting that involved FWC
- Received technical assistance from FWC
- Received financial assistance from FWC
- I contacted FWC with a concern (*please explain*):

---

Other (*please explain*):

---

2. Approximately how many interactions have you had with FWC **law enforcement** in the past 5 years?

- None
- 1- 5 interactions
- 6- 10 interactions
- 11- 15 interactions
- 16- 20 interactions
- More than 20 interactions

3. Approximately how many interactions have you had with FWC **biologists** in the past 5 years?

- None
- 1- 5 interactions
- 6- 10 interactions
- 11- 15 interactions
- 16- 20 interactions
- More than 20 interactions

4. What recommendations do you have for how the FWC can improve its working relationship with private landowners in Florida?

---

---

---

## INTERACTIONS WITH THE FWC

5. How would you rate FWC staff performance for the following?

	<b>Very Poor</b> ▼	<b>Poor</b> ▼	<b>Average</b> ▼	<b>Good</b> ▼	<b>Excellent</b> ▼
Conducting outreach to private landowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing useful financial assistance programs to landowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explaining the reasoning behind land stewardship programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing useful technical assistance to private landowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b> ▼	<b>Disagree</b> ▼	<b>Neutral</b> ▼	<b>Agree</b> ▼	<b>Strongly Agree</b> ▼
FWC biologists share my values regarding land stewardship for wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FWC biologists have the expertise to advise landowners about land stewardship.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust the rules and procedures of FWC to ensure that I am treated fairly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*These questions are to help us understand general characteristics of private landowners in Florida. As with the rest of the survey, your responses are voluntary and confidential. If you are responding on behalf of a company or other organization, please skip to #5.*

1. What is your age?  
 18- 29                       40- 49                       60- 70  
 30- 39                       50- 59                       70+
  
2. Are you?  
 Male                               Female
  
3. Are you? *Mark all that apply*  
 White                               Native American  
 Asian                                 Latino/Hispanic  
 African American               Other
  
4. Is your primary residence in Florida?  
 No                                       Yes
  
5. Which of the following best describes your Florida land ownership?  
 Individual                               Family trust/ estate  
 Joint (spouse/family/friends)       Corporation/ business  
 Family partnership or family LLC/LLP  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What land uses do you have on the property that you own, lease, or manage in Florida? *Mark all that apply*  
 Range/pasture                       Cypress forest  
 Row crops/crop fields       Hardwood forest  
 Wetlands                               Pine forest  
 Residential                               Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. How many acres of land do you own, lease, or manage in Florida?  
 20- 49 acres                       501- 1000 acres  
 50- 100 acres                       1001- 5000 acres  
 101- 500 acres                       Over 5000 acres

## COMMENTS

We greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. If you have any additional comments, please write them below:

## **Thank you for your time and effort!**

To return this questionnaire, place it in the business reply envelope provided, and drop it in the mail (return postage has been covered).

For more information please visit:

**FWC Landowner Assistance Program**

[www.MyFWC.com/LAP](http://www.MyFWC.com/LAP)

**Florida Land Steward Partnership**

<http://flsteward.org>