

Appendix 1-2. Florida Private Landowner Survey Phase IV Report

This document contains two appendices for the FWC Landowner Survey Phase IV Report.

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Appendix 1: Cover Letters



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commissioners

Robert A. Spottswood
Chairman
Key West

Michael W. Sole
Vice Chairman
Tequesta

Joshua Kellam
Palm Beach Gardens

Gary Lester
Oxford

Gary Nicklaus
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Sonya Rood
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Executive Staff

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Thomas H. Eason, Ph.D.
Assistant Executive Director

Jennifer Fitzwater
Chief of Staff

Office of Conservation Planning Services

Jennifer Goff
Director

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: 850-488-4676

Hearing/voice impaired:

Dear landowner,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is seeking to learn more about how private landowners manage land and wildlife in Florida. You have been randomly selected as a private landowner who we are asking to complete the enclosed survey.

The owner who makes most of the decisions about your land in Florida should answer this survey. 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.

The questionnaire should take about 15 minutes to complete. Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential. Even if you aren't interested in wildlife, we would still like you to answer the survey so the results better represent all landowners in Florida. We hope that you will give your valuable time to provide us with this important information. The results of this survey will help FWC to improve educational materials, services, and programs that benefit landowners across the state.

Please complete this questionnaire as soon as you can, place it in the return envelope provided, and drop it in a mailbox; return postage has been covered.

If you would prefer to respond to the survey in an online format, please enter the following URL into an internet browser: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LandownerFWC

We will send two reminders of the survey to all addresses on this mailing list. To ensure response confidentiality we are unable to identify whether or not any individual has completed the survey. The reminders will be sent even if you have already completed the survey. If you would like to opt out of these reminders, we encourage you to send an email that includes your name and mailing address to landownersurvey@MyFWC.com.

Information on the survey findings will be mailed to this mailing list at the end of the study. Please direct any questions about this survey to landownersurvey@MyFWC.com. We look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Lutter".

Seth Lutter
Land Use Planning

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony T. Grossman".

Anthony Grossman
Landowner Assistance Program



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Hearing/speech-impaired:
800-955-8771 (T)
800 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

Dear landowner,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently sent you a mail survey about land and wildlife management in Florida. This is a reminder to please complete the survey if you have not already done so.

If you have already taken the survey:

Thank you! We are grateful for your help. Please do not fill out or submit the survey a second time.

If you have not taken the survey yet:

There is still time to respond! We have included a replacement survey here. Please fill out the enclosed survey and return it as soon as possible. Place it in the return envelope provided, and drop it in a mailbox. Return postage has been covered.

If you would prefer to respond to the survey in an online format, please enter the following URL into an internet browser: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LandownerFWC

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential. Even if you aren't interested in wildlife, we would still like you to answer the survey so the results better represent all landowners in Florida. The results of this survey will help FWC to improve educational materials, services, and programs that benefit landowners across the state. Information on the survey findings will be mailed to this mailing list at the end of the study.

We will send you one more postcard to remind you to take this survey. If you would prefer not to receive this reminder, we encourage you to send an email that includes your name and mailing address to landownersurvey@MyFWC.com.

Please direct any questions about this survey to landownersurvey@MyFWC.com.

We look forward to receiving your responses.
Sincerely,

Seth Lutter
Land Use Planning

Anthony Grossman
Landowner Assistance Program



Dear Landowner,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently mailed you a survey about your land and wildlife management interests in Florida. This is a final reminder to please complete the survey if you have not already done so.

If you have already taken the survey, thank you! Please do not fill out or submit the survey a second time.

If you have not taken the survey, please fill out the survey you previously received and return it as soon as possible. We value your point of view and want your voice to be heard. If you prefer, you can take the survey at this website:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/LandownerFWC

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Seth Lutter

Anthony Grossman

Appendix 3: Full Respondent Comments

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

General Outreach

"Be seen"

"listen" to the landowners

Be available Public education

Be flexible to working "outside of the box"

Be proactive.

Be respectful of private ownership and enterprise

Be sure to interact with hunt clubs and school students. Many landowners have trouble during hunting season and with kids trespassing onto property

Better communication

Better communication Concise info for resources and advice

Better follow up

Better follow up with landowner complaints I've made several in the last few years and never saw anyone

Communication

Communication

Communication and outreach

Continue follow up

Continue to be pleasant

Continue to contact owners for real problems!

Continue to work toward a balance of conservation interests as well as landowner/ steward interests

Don't do favors for richer people. Us small people are the ones that have kept wildlife going for years.

Education

Follow up on problems

Get the word out

Get the word out more about what options are available

Get to know them now before they are all gone!

Getting needed help over phone rather than computer

Don't know the things FWC offers. I would like to stock the 1/2 acre Cypress Pond with catfish, brim, or bass.

I think getting the word out that you are willing to help people with management and advice is a good start. I believe if they feel you will help they will take advantage.

Keep us informed Would [?] want land for donor tax reduction

Know what landowners are using their land for and how wildlife affects them or is affected by them (landowner)

Knowledge is power...

Let people know what is available- advertise

Let them know you are there and what exactly you do?

Let us know what is available and what they do. We have never heard from FWC about anything.

Let us know what's going on instead of sending surveys every million years so you receive a paycheck while doing nothing!

Let us know!

Listen more, talk less

Make landowners aware of your programs

Make more time for landowners

Make property owners more aware of your services.

More easily accessible

More education, general public knows nothing

More info related to biology

More local communication with field staff

More useful contact or communications.

More publicity

Not exactly sure what all FWC includes. Awareness of what you have to offer.

Open to suggestions

Remembering some landowners are a business. Their decisions are based on business income.

Respect

Some landowners live in other states. More difficult for us to complete all tasks or attend meetings.

Stay on top of things

Survey may be a good start

Take time and become friends with the landowners

These questionnaires are the only contact we have had from FWC in the last 25 years.

This survey is a good start

This survey is a great start, making landowners aware of available programs

This survey is surely an introduction. It's a good cause I support your work!

To be honest, in 25 years of living here, I have had no contact with FWC. So, I really have no opinion. This being said, if there is a need to reach out to landowners, this is a start.

We live in California and have limited ability to interact with your agency.

Your doing it now

Just keep reaching out. I think they're doing good but always need more manpower.

Let it publicly be known of available programs through ads to make your efforts more widely evident. You have a good mission.

Put info on myfwc.com Arlo Kane is great!

Personnel

By having employees who have the knowledge to understand the rules or facts to properly inform the private land owners when depredation permits are issued by game biologist to harvest deer at night. Neither the FWC employees or the law enforcement agreed or understood the programs in 2010. I was an innocent victim as a result of FWC employees. This caused myself and other private landowners to be fined and loss of hunting license for 1 year. FWC took no responsibility for their lack of knowledge which cost private landowners money and embarrassment.

Have your employees learn how to answer phone calls and return phone calls! Just being honest!

Have IQ above 10! Genuine knowledge and ability

Having more FWC personnel to interact with landowners

High turnover in FWC makes establishing relationships difficult

Hire more biologists rather than foresters.

Hire more staff and increase budget for assistance

learn to do there jobs better and HELP the wildlife, manage there property for the benefit of the animals and the people then maybe they can help the private landowners

Make it easier to get ahold of an officer. Send us a list with phone numbers of officers in our area.

Open themselves up and not be so stuck up. They act like you're below them.

Reaction time when called

The constant turnover of your people has resulted in ZERO follow-up by FWC employees following my interactions and their visits to my farm.

When landowner contacts FWC (Hot line on license) and gives phone number to operator at least receive a call back.

Networking

Consider having personnel co-located w/ USDA-NRCS-FSA - for access purposes

Cooperate with UF/IFAS. Build relationships with private agricultural organizations.

More interaction- attend local meetings of interested parties- maybe Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, extension type meetings just to build relationships

None. They need to go to meetings- introduce themselves to organizations like the FL Growers Blueberry Association, meet growers and ranchers through seminars etc.

Utilize consulting network Private-public partnerships

Work w/ county farm organizations, Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Assn, County Extension

Involvement with local Ag and land groups/ associations. Cattleman Assoc., Horse owner groups that use public lands, bee keepers, small livestock groups

Assistance

Do costshare as with other BMPs

Guidance/ oversight for prescribed burning

Help clear lakes and ponds

Help make clean streams and clean water canals available for fishing, boating, entertainment

Help with the cost of planting a few acres (20) of milkweed and wildflower

How to grow grass in sand?

How to have healthier pastures by eliminating certain weeds and ants

How to help wildlife with land bridges

I have been informed by FWC that costsharing programs are no longer available due to lack of funds. It would be helpful to fund these programs

It would be nice to have access to mapping capabilities to meet requirements for WTD doc permits. Talking to staff has been less than productive about mapping large properties. Difficult for absentee landowners and managers.

More help in Panhandle for Hurricane Michael damage

Offer financial assistance to remove exotics from lakes and land.

Provide more cost share/ technical assistance programs

Tax relief for conservation properties equivalent to that given to farmers

Workshops

Local workshop

Local workshops in small counties

More direct contact More workshops

More available newsletters, workshops/invitations, etc.

Offer more workshops that teach us useful skills and give us knowledge on land and wildlife management issues

Offer workshops AFTER business hours, or on weekends. Publish workshop schedules well in advance. Don't hide info on assistance programs.

Put workshops on Internet so they are accessible for 24 hrs/ 7 days/wk. Stronger laws to punish poachers- enforce them!

Schedule visits and have local seminars

Send landowners announcements of planned workshops so they can attend

The workshops we used to have were informative, would be nice for that to happen again

They are most helpful. I go to Stewardship forest property tours and always learn something I can use.

Workshops, town hall meetings

Hands on classes, Info

Continue outreach at environmental events

HAVE A WORKSHOP IN MY AREA IE:SILVERSPURS CLUBHOUSE KENANSVILLE

Hold local meetings to educate what is available and how to apply

How about a weekend workshop for those of us still working? Difficult to take a day off work to attend.

Providing Information

Accessible information- I do not like using the internet and impersonal contacts

Certain info on what is available

Contact landowner with brochure outlining available programs/ services. My family has owned 140 acres since 1942 and we have not received any information except this survey.

Contact them as with this survey. Email would work well and be more cost effective.

I have numerous other interactions with FWC. I received this survey from a database of FL landowners. I suggest sending an informational 'flier' to this entire database outlining FWC services and include contact info.

I like your website updates and red-tide alerts. Magazines/ monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly- you can charge a small fee to cover cost. Advertise in Woods and Water Perry FL.

I think outreach efforts (like this survey) are helpful. In addition to gathering information on landowners needs, it also provides information on services available (resources) through the FWC.

I would like to be more aware of opportunities to learn and improve my property.

Increase awareness of programs

Information about information and publications

Information like this

Magazines would be more useful than other methods of communication

Mail a basic booklet

MAIL INFORMATION ABOUT OPTIONS, BUT DO NOT VISIT UNLESS ASKED

Monthly newsletters via email w/ listings of workshops (youtube even), availability of site visits by area; wildlife [?] specific

More communication/ newsletters monthly/quarterly

More info (even like this)

MORE PUBLICATION OF THE PURPOSE OF FWC AND WHAT THEY CAN OFFER. I KNOW OF NOTHING THEY CAN DO FOR LANDOWNERS. LOCAL ADS IN SMALL TOWN NEWS PAPERS WITH MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN CIVIC CENTERS LIKE SCHOOLS OR COUNTY AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS.

More written material

Need mailed info from each section/speciality. Don't know what they do and how they do it.

Newsletter in email

Newsletter!

Perhaps send a newsletter or magazine with management information, technical assistance opportunities and grants.

Publicize somehow more info by social media or emails or mail. Never hear or know a way to learn.

Through your educational efforts via school systems and website information.

Write a [column?] of information for landowners on forestry publications both electronic and physical

We have a three-quarter mile long drive. We hate it when a gopher tortoise or snake gets run over, we could use advice on how to protect these animals.

Written materials, website

Visits

Be available to talk, visit.

Do the best you can to visit landowners to give advice. Also providing written material. Thank you

Face to face contact routinely

Go talk with them

Large tracts (over 100 acres) assign a rep. to make personal contact

Meeting at the ranch would be helpful

On site visits would be most productive

personal contact

Personal contact

Personal visits

Routinely scheduled visits

Spend more time in the field

Stop by private land get to know owners and their problems. There is some good contact but not widespread

Stop in, chat, and have a cup of coffee

Visit us and let us know that you are around and what you are doing and can we help or can you help us

Visits

Visits

Visits to property

Regulations

Address high fences- have fence setbacks from adjoining owners, etc.

Allow to kill 2 does per season- all seasons. Not just doe days.

Assist with feral hog population explosion and alligators

1) Conduct outreach programs 2) Stop making more complex rules and regulations 3) Write regulations that are easy to understand

Demonstrate effective outcomes Problem solving as a goal Be more than the game warden

Decrease bear population, decrease coyote population

Deer trophy programs

Do away with coyotes, eradicate yellow flies to help the deer population

Find a solution to control popcorn tree invasion (chinese tallow)

Fire ants and jewgrass

Go back to supporting hunting and fishing instead of complicating game rules

Give 100 yard buffer around land to keep private or public hunting around[?] private property

Have better control of problem wildlife encroaching our property from Arbuckle State Park

Keep trying Protect the buffer preserve in Indian River and Brevard counties

Laws and statutes in FL. Too [?] Help!

Leave them alone landowner should be able to manage their property

Leave us alone

Letting private landowners to build more man made lakes for wildlife

Listen and make decisions based on factual information and not the personal belief's of a biologist that say changes are made "due to public comment". Quit designing surveys that you know are skewed towards those that hunt public land verse those who actually own land, pay taxes and create beneficial wildlife habitat.

Listen to concerns about deer population

Manage both wildlife and hunters on public land. Quotas on public land is a necessity for wildlife.

My neighbors burn property when wildlife is being born or nesting. This should stop!

Need more consistency in application of regulations between branch offices

Quit confiscating land

Solutions to control the coyotes and bears- which destroy our property and livestock

Stop restricting me

Stop solar panels

Stop telling landowners to convert natural ecosystems into pine plantations. Completely rewrite all so called "best management practices" which all favor forestry.

Stop use of high wire fence

We are concerned about FWC endangering native animals (darting/ trapping/ molesting/ regulating)

Work on getting rid of hogs

You could start by opening a bear season. It is ridiculous that I feel it necessary to walk the 150 yards from my deer stand to my house after hunting, armed. But, with 2 sows with cubs, and one very large very hungry bear on camera in my feedplot, 100 yards from my cleaning shed, minutes after I finished cleaning my deer kill, knowing he passed said cleaning shed on his way to the feed plot, I certainly was compelled to arm myself this past season. It is ridiculous that city dwelling bunny huggers miles away, mandate regulations in my backyard.

Your new deer regulations should not include hunters over 70 years of age

Visibly mark boundaries to prevent trespassing by hunters

Enforcement

A focus on cooperative ventures, less aggressive accusatory intervention from FWC law enforcement

Arrest more poachers

Better protection of private property from poachers, trespassers, "meth heads", etc. Strive for better ethics from some "pseudo ethical" hunters... mobility impaired

Catch trespassers and thieves

Change enforcement attitudes

Do not act like you are the gestapo

Don't make any more rules

Dumping deer carcass on private property is an ongoing problem. FWC is shorthanded therefore enforcement has been negligent.

Educate above enforcement

Have more game wardens for addressing poachers

Help us with poaching violators

Landowners with game on their property want to take care of it- they really don't need the FWC very often- there are definitely exceptions to this rule but most landowners want to protect wildlife. The very worst offenders sneak onto your property or shoot wildlife from the road. Game wardens do not get paid enough to make it a worthwhile profession. Finally I know of at least one officer who is the worst offender I've ever seen. They [FWC biologists] have the expertise but not the money.

More one-on-one meetings with game officials- showing up at a friendly dove shoot w/ 10+ game officials in a sneaky manner doesnt impress me!

Need to see FWC as more than the game warden

Need more officers

The wildlife officers need to learn- i.e. have an extensive working knowledge of native and exotic flora and fauna. Would like to see greater appreciation by individual officers for wildlife and their needs.

To not fly over turkey hunters during turkey season with helicopter! And hover Over

We welcome FWC law enforcement on our ranch (see #2 above) [large # of interactions with LE]

When you call on a poaching respond

Praise

Arlo Kane is a great ambassador. Tony Grossman is a great advocate.

Doing fine

Doing good already

FWC does a fantastic job

FWC does a great job with our natural resources and the public.

I am sure they do a good job

I am very satisfied with all the help I have received. Biologist, Joe Vaughn, is the best!!

I assume they do a pretty good job now

I think they are doing a great job.

I think things are working well at this time.

Keep up the good work!

Love to talk to your biologists and work with you all

No recommendations. My experience/ interactions with FWC personnel over the years has been extremely helpful and positive.

None- doing a good job

None I think they are doing a good job.

None- my interactions with Mr. Buchanan and his service were excellent

None, they do great job

They are doing fine

They do a great job as is.

They're doing a great job!

Miscellaneous

Become more of a service/ assistance agency. The legislature or the constitution has delegated to FWC jurisdiction over real property rights - One- you need credibility by serving and assisting

Landowners need to generate income from the land

Moved in the last 4 years to FL. Had no info about FWC?!?

None I may want to develop the property in the future, but no I just pay taxes and HOA fees

None, I am selling property

Not sure, half of my property has been determined as flood plain since I bought it in 2005

Provide more of a choice in Levy County gator trappers

The reason for not improving wildlife is because when I first established food plots and feeders hunting season opened and it was non-stop orange vests walking my fence line during hunt season. Every weekend half a dozen hunters walking the fence. It seemed I was baiting for them.

If you have any additional comments, please write them below:

General Outreach

1- House with 10 acres and adjoining 30 acres of pine. Damaged by Hurricane Michael- all for sale. I am apportioning 86 [?]. 2- 34 acres on FL HW 20 with 3 springs, Want to keep for water rights- leave to children. 3- 2/9 of 170 acres with grist mill with both stones. Children own the other 7/9. Would like to turn minimum acres over to county or state to provide an old grist mill public park. About \$90,000 timber loss in Hurricane. Would like to sell [?] timber.

As we are new to the area we look forward to interaction with a variety of services- finances, manpower and time are our greatest challenges. Thank you.

Cleaning out muck and debris from fresh water stream would help clean water to flow naturally and provide fish, birds, and animals, with fresh, clear, flowing water. Thank for help and necessary finances.

Control burning help My fear is the fire getting out of control

Early burning and fire ants have caused the demise of ground nesting birds in my area such as quail and meadow larks. Uncontrolled spread of Brazilian peppers in Brevard county is a disgrace.

Help me get rid of the vultures!

Help with hog problem Replant the pine trees destroyed by hurricane

I have my own plan assisted by my timber mgt from Ahala forest mgt. Still waiting on FSA assistance for Hurricane Michael Damage- extensive! Registered on 12-6-18... nothing but crickets!

I have many trees which have taken over perhaps I could have them culled to my financial benefit. I could use if the property was fenced.

I heard years ago that an agency had a program for property management. Once signed into a program, the property was obligated permanently, even if I sell it, the next owner is subject to the same obligations. If true, my interest quickly falls to zero.

I love seeing deer on my property! I don't hunt. I run a business so I am busy- otherwise I would put nest boxes up for bluebirds- maybe in time I will.

I would be interested in bee keeping if you are involved in this area.

I would really like to provide more habitat for wildlife but I don't have time to wade through rules that don't have much common sense. Also some financial help and a list of people who can provide manpower would be beneficial.

I would welcome technical assistance from FWC for land and wildlife mgt- especially turkey habitat

If there are coniferous evergreen trees or other trees available to the public from the state, we would plant and care for them.

I'm interested in perpetuating the use of the entire 25 acres in sustainable agriculture, but possibly combined with eco-tourism, wildlife management etc. and Not having my kids sell it off for development. Any info on that?

I'm interested in raising the quail population it is almost nonexistent on our property

I'm sure you all know what you're doing. Thank you

Many of us have land that should be kept natural in perpetuity, and would welcome the opportunity to sell our development rights. FWC should be using its influence with state leaders to expand the use of Amend 4 funds in purchase of Conservation Easements from willing sellers. Money talks, and developers have a lot of money!

Might be interested in some help controlling duckweed in our lake.

My property is used for pasture for cattle. I don't feel this applies to me however. I do want to put up some bat houses in the future. Just not enough time in the day to do things. Thank you.

Need more help from FDAC's in prescribe burning land. Too expensive to hire out.

Need someone to clean my pond for green growth have plenty of fish in it

Over the years I have applied for several financial assistance land programs. I've never received a penny and I am always told that there is not enough money. A lot of these programs are a waste of time and are just for show.

Please see comments inside. Wish I could be more help, but I am in the process of selling my property.

Reform property tax laws to give an incentive to landowners to maintain their property in a natural condition. Stop encouraging industrial forestry and the clearing of land for livestock. Prohibit free ranging dogs in rural areas. Increase assistance for prescribed fire.

So called "best management practices" are complete bullshit that helps foresters not wildlife. The FWC is a political organization controlled by the legislature which favors growth over conservation, and does the bidding of farmers and foresters who continue to rape our state. Many of the FWC staff biologists are knowledgeable and hardworking but they are silenced by the political appointees who run the FWC, and especially the DEP.

Thanks for reaching out. I may make use of LAP in the near future if I can allocate time to the improvement of my and the surrounding lands

The government offers a lot of benefits to females and minority groups. The same should be offered to white males. Why am I as a female eligible for a \$300,000 ag loan and my husband isn't because he is a white male? It feels like reverse discrimination.

We are in the cattle business. Our property includes some forested land. We are interested in encouraging animals (deer, turkey, etc.) on our property.

The FWC is needed and performs a necessary and important service

We purchased our 40 acres to preserve in a long-term plan. Eventually, we would like to replant with longleaf pine.

We would be interested in replanting 80 acres and managing for wildlife if there is financial assistance.

We gladly provide answers to this survey. We would be extra interested in receiving info re: whats available. We lost quite a bit of income due to Irma but have no clue on how to get help.

What are the income limitations [for financial assistance]?

Where to find other sources of trees and sources to find help with planting crews.

Would like recommendations on how to improve wildlife habitat. Through thinning trees and brush and plantings

Would like to establish bee apiary

You really need to do something more with cogon grass it is spreading all over the place and crowding out native plants that act as cover for birds and small animals and could be a big fire risk. It doesn't do much good if I treat my property for cogon grass it blows in from the roadside or my neighbors

ASSISTANCE

Government regulation not preferred Government incentives not preferred Meaningful expertise appreciated

First time I have received any information of this type

Further contact would be appreciated

FWC- this is a good start to reaching out to private landowners

Haven't interacted with FWC Questions concerning FWC resources Need more public exposure so we are aware

I am a little confused on how to answer. I have 400 acres that I really can't take advantage of what seems to be offered. However, I have 1100 acres with a partner that this would be very advantageous. I have looked for this kind of help but didn't receive guidance. Please contact me to look into these programs.

I am aware that our FWC agents are understaffed and underfunded. A concerted effort needs to be made in educating the public school children, hunters, and even law enforcement about wildlife, interactions with wildlife, and wildlife management. It was very helpful when agents gave talks to civic organizations. We should do the same with schools and with any other available venue. Ignorance seems to cause the worst problems for wildlife.

I believe this is a good survey. I was not aware of some of the assistance programs. Thank you

I have really benefited and enjoyed the help and advice of Tony Grossman and Mark Alliston (sp?) over the years.

I have almost 90% destruction of my timber and forest from Hurricane Michael. Also my spring fed pond is breach from hurricane damage. The beavers are actually helping to keep the level up slightly with a small dam. Most of my fruit trees made it through the storm. My pond feeds into econfina creek, I still have bass in the pond, but the level is extremely low. I could use some help repairing the breach and clearing access to my pond. Thank you.

I live in Texas and currently working on Grandmothers house that my sister and I inherited. We come to Florida once or twice a year. Would like to discuss timber management. We'll be in Florida in October.

I purchased land as I found a piece at a fair price. I plan to retire there and for the next 3 years (prior to moving) getting educated in land use and a plan for a wonderful active retirement will be great. Thank you.

I think many landowners resist government involvement with their land because so much interaction is regulatory or punitive. If you can change that impression, you can change their attitude and get more cooperation form landowners and, therefore, accomplish your objectives as they relate to this program.

I wish you were still publishing Florida Wildlife

I would be happy to speak to an agent of FWC or receive information on programs. I will look at websites listed below.

I would like to know more about climate change/ global warming and its impact on Florida and what Florida is doing about it. Rick Scott tied everyone's hands, no one could speak freely.

I would like to know what programs they offer. We have wild turkeys and deer here a lot. But we do NOT allow hunting on our farm. My interest mainly concern the Cypress Pond.

I would like to learn more about FWC for potential partnerships in the future.

I would like to receive information.

In the future I hope FWC will be able to secure the funding necessary to continue providing landowner assistance programs throughout the state. The assistance and advice of FWC personnel such as Arlo Kane, NW Regional Coordinator, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, are invaluable to the landowner and program success. Please accept my apology for the delinquency in my response.

Might be wise to try to work with something you do. But I need to deal with someone willing to work with me not against my interests. I have multiple varied properties.

More direct mailing More workshops

More program visibility would be helpful. I was unaware of several of your areas of assistance.

My family has owned land since land could be owned. I have added substantially to my families [?]. If you have technicians who own land you should say so. Landowners trust other landowners because they have skin in the game. You should use a landowner [personnel?]. Your staff are not landowners so they have no real comprehension of landowners.

Please send information to me.

Thank you for making the effort to communicate. Genuine officer courtesy will be respected and appreciated.

Thank you for making us more aware of your programs and services. We would like more information on how to utilize some of your services.

The biologist I dealt with in 2010 didn't know about crop maturity to legally issue depredation permit. He should not have issued me a depredation permit which caused me to be in violation of program but FWC took no responsibility for this lack of knowledge. Don't offer any services or programs unless being fully understood by those FWC employees who implement the programs. The private landowner is who suffers not the FWC employee. It cost me \$10,000. Plus no hunting privileges for 1 year. Attorney fees cost a lot.

The land has many species, they are flourishing, we help alot and things are good. We were taught by FWC people and paperwork in the past. It is helpful. Thank you for your good work!

This survey really fired me up just knowing that there is a government entity out there interested. Please feel free to contact me

We appreciate what you do just need to make people more aware of how you can help them.

We have a combined 180 acres, but do not live there yet. Looking forward to learning about FWC programs when we move in 3 years! Environment and wildlife conservation is very important to us.

*We like to do something profitable using the land citrus is not good please recommend. Thanks.
Now it is leased to cattle field*

We planted 100,000 pines. People who work for the state do not listen to me. I am in the woods every day and know what I am talking about

When all involved cooperate positive outcomes results, without cooperation little progress is made

Work with Farm Organizations (Maybe you do?)

Would appreciate educational material for pond mgt.

Would like to speak with someone about alternative to current plan and possible changes and would like to find way to transplant and exchange deer for new stock and stop the inbreeding taking place.

You people do nothing and do not contact landowners, except for every million years so that you can get a paycheck out of my tax dollars!

REGULATIONS

1) Opening WMA's in NW Florida to all day hunting during spring gobbler, bad move 2) State Cobia regulations too little, too late make them a gamefish

AS A LANDOWNER/HUNTER I HAVE LEARNED THAT HANDICAP HUNTER,S NO LIMMITS HAVE REDUCED HARVESTABLE BUCKS, NO FOODPLOTS IN PUBLICK AREAS REDUCE QUALITY HUNTING IN FL. WMAs. USE DESERET RANCHES AS A MODEL

Catch limit on redfish needs to be increased to at least 2/ person/ day.

Changing doe week to an oddly placed 2-3 days ruined a family Thanksgiving tradition for me and my grandchildren. They can no longer hunt does over TG weekend. The complicated game laws with multiple zones, times, and bag limits have become another way our govt takes and discourages young hunters and fishermen and women. I fear for the future of the outdoor sports! I'd suggest reducing the emphasis on conservation b/c it gives the impression of caring more for the critters than for the sportsmen who pay the bills! Still enforce the laws and regs but reduce the number and complexity of regs. Most of the regs are of questionable value. I don't think using taxpayer dollars to pay landowners is good stewardship of these funds.

Don't want red tape with Government

Game rules have gotten too complicated and seem to be designed to prevent hunting. Doe week shortened without good data. There are still too many does to bucks. Rules for released quail are too complicated and seem unnecessary also expensive for operators of game farms. Too much lip service to conservation!

Have a FWC biologist and officer follow up on feral swine control and safety hunting zones establishment surrounding our property. Thank you.

I just wished the Forestry Dept. would stop taking out the scrub oaks and oak trees these trees produced food for your wildlife that feed your bears and deer, turkeys in our area this is why the

poor bears go looking for food. I at one time had problems, but when I found out these bears would be trapped and put to death I was against that. We the people took their land, and like any other animal they are trying to live. I live next to Lake Tracy unit off of Maggie Jones road in Eustis FL. Would love to see FL buy 1 lg piece of property in this area for the animals. This is such a sad problem with the bears that they have no where to live. I just wished people that live in my area, off Royal Trails, would learn how to live in an area where there is Bears. I wished FL would buy up more land, if all the tax payers chip in \$5.00 on their taxes it could be done. Any more there will not be any more bears, if FWC keeps putting bears down. I myself have learned to live around these bears. One year I did have a mother bear, that cam in and killed chickens. I was upset at first but when I found out if FWC trapped them they, the bears would be put to death. I am not for that so I sat and watched the mama and 3 cubs stuff dead chickens in forks of trees, for a later meal I just laughed about it whats a few chickens to hungry bears. I say, cut out all Draw hunts in the Lake Tracy unit off Maggie Jones road, and leave it for the animals. During hunting season these animals have no where to go except in people's yards. And then you hear them bitch. In this area you have hunting clubs all over and then you have packs of dogs, running anything they can. Myself, I enjoy going out of a morning drinking a cup of coffee and watching the wildlife, walking around. I just wished I could see fox squirrels around. This is a scene that you can't see in the city. Thank you.

I'm interested in the findings of the 3 point antler rule. What is your assessment? Personally, I have seen more larger and pointed bucks in the last season.

It would greatly benefit private landowners if a boundary was set for hunting in the Chaz. The good hunters know the closer to civilization the deer are less skittish, and if food plots are close. They should be more respectful of private property and land owners next to the Chaz. Stay off their fence lines etc. FWC staff is awesome back here.

It is extremely difficult to acquire doe permits- surrounding states allow doe harvest w/ out difficulties as Florida

My property is adjacent to Deltona- a large residential community. During dry spells, the cattle water tanks here provide the only water source for miles around. Additionally, due to more and more dense development, the farm functions as a food source and refuge to many species of waterbirds, deer, turkeys, and sand cranes. I would very much like to seed the wetlands and other areas with some types of suitable forage,. Current policies seem to doom several areas to the spread of development which threaten water quality (and quantity), wildlife habitat, and food production potential.

Need more boat ramps in Gadsden County no matter who runs or owns boat ramp property (county, state, FWC) and more parking at the few that we have now.

Our land is set aside for nature and wildlife conservation! Unfortunately Walton County encourages barrow pits and landfills to fulfill their needs instead of landowners and residents. See current Rockhill Road barrow pit land use change from agricultural/ residential to "extraction": current exception has protections and will be eliminated! They will probably turn it into a landfill after removing all the soil. Very sad. "Azland Waste Services". Maybe you should attend county commission meeting on July 25!

Recommend that there should be more protection for deer/ bucks with lg. no. of antlers. This blood line should be continued for larger bucks.

Shorten buck season, more day on doe season ratio 5 to 1

Start to manage the bag limits of the deer season. 2 antlered deer per day is obscene. Florida has the most liberal limits in USA. The species has every disadvantage. (2) bucks per years implement a tag or check in like most other states. Why should any hunter be allowed to take more than (2) bucks per year? No one I know that hunts is starving.

Stop preventing me, a buyer, from developing my property

Strongly disagree with biologist and burn managers on public lands especially hardwood devastation.

Unwise use of public lands- state making major changes to natural habitat such as cutting trees for birds/ signif. reducing cattle grazing ex: AP bombing range. Overgrowth now due to lack of use.

We can't allow the uneducated public allow FWC Board of Directors to be in fear of public outcry to avoid properly controlling the black bear in Florida. They have to be managed!

We have close to 400 acres that since 1980 have designated it Betejay Springs Wildlife Refuge. We protect it from hunting and allow rehab. animals to be released here at a safe place. Seems we don't get any respect from TOR Management FWC for our efforts- seem all they want is to promote hunting! And dog hunting that we are totally against. Cruel!

While I do understand the need for regulations, and your attempts to manage the deer herd for the betterment of all, broad ranging regulations regarding such are B_S_. When I have genetically poor bucks in my deer herd, exhibiting undesirable traits, I should be allowed to take those animals. Ridiculous regulations mandating how many points, and how long horns must be, allow undesirable traits to be passed on to however many future bucks in the herd. Age of that buck, does not change that. In one case in my experience recently, at least 3 bucks expressing undesirable traits were sired by one buck that would not fit your specified horn criteria for at least 4 years after sporting a rack. Those bucks were at least 3 years of age before they met the defined criteria for take. If the one buck sired only 2 fawns each season, that is 8 deer in the herd carrying those undesirable genetic traits, not 3, before he was eligible for take under your regulations. Fact is, he went totally nocturnal, before he was eligible to be taken, and he sired far more than that before dying of old age. This is not to mention regulations limiting the number of deer taken each season, while incorporating language regarding depredation permits. If the population is high enough to mandate a depredation permit, obviously the need for limiting take is questionable, in your broad encompassing regulations. As for FWC's management of the present bear population in the state, the 2015 season allowed, proved beyond all shadow of doubt, that FWC has not a clue what the bear population truly is in the state of Florida, although hunters repeatedly told FWC during public meetings on the Black Bear Management Plan that the population was higher than suggested. When the unit containing the last 2 counties in the state that had a legally allowed bear season, because bear migrate out of the Okefenokee Swam into those 2 counties, reported only 2 kills, and I have neighbors reporting 8 bear in a single group passing through their feed plots, reporting 17 different bear on camera in their backyard in a matter of 5 months, and I can drive 3 miles down one road and count a dozen or more different bear tracks crossing said road, knowing at least 2 bear that frequent that stretch of road routinely were not among those tracks seen, there are certainly MORE than 2 bear residing here, to be taken. The management plan is out of line. Period! There are FAR MORE BEAR in the state of Florida than FWC admits. Unfortunately, it is obvious that the only thing that gets the

attention of FWC on this matter, is NUMEROUS demands to the Governor's Office for a bear season, for the sake of human safety, following several bear attacks on humans. Is there some reason people have to be attacked to get a season opened on Bear in the state of Florida? Furthermore, the Black Bear Management Plan cited studies that would suggest the population should have been 4 times that claimed in 2012 meetings on said plan. And, studies in the Ocala National Forest on reproduction to adulthood proved that survival rate in the state of Florida was twice that of the study cited in the management plan. That study would have placed bear population in the state in 2012 at 24 - 30 thousand bear, and expanding exponentially at a far greater rate than suggested. Open a damn season on them, and manage them! Quit conceding to the special interest groups!! And, quit obfuscating all game regulations to the point that no one wants to hunt or fish anymore. The hunting and fishing regulations in this state are reaching a point where everyone needs a damn degree in law to participate in any outdoor activity beyond birdwatching. It is absolutely ridiculous. No, I don't want to participate in your programs, I don't want you anywhere near my land with all of your B_S_ regulations. That is the stewardship you people are fostering in this state; thank you!

General Information

[We] own approximately 90,000 in Escambia and Santa Rosa City, FL. Managed by Resource Management Service. Land is leased to hunting clubs and under QDMA management.

90 acres, mostly pasture scattered trees especially on or near fence rows. About 5 or 6 acres of woods. Very wildlife friendly, little or no hunting.

After H. Michael in Oct. my 40 acres of trees have become 40 acres and 40 trees. I'm too old to do much cleaning up, burning, etc.

As a PhD biologist and scientist, I have credentials for assessing and managing our property without too much outside help.

Before Hurricane Michael I had approx. 20+ acres of pine and hardwood forest. All that is left is a few trees, the rest are broken or uprooted. It will be years before it could be restored if ever.

Biologists were great. IFAS helpful Federal- a little too much bureaucracy Thanks!

Can't rate FWC biologist- because haven't met one.

Commission is doing a great job for Florida - Thank you

Except for land around my home, the remainder has grown naturally for the past 30 (about) years!

Farm is in permanent pasture and leased for hay and grazing

Glad to participate. Hope my info is helpful!

Good luck and hope for your success!

Great to do this. Wildlife habitat needs all the help it can get.

Had head in, way in Aug 2018. Nothing done since

Have left land natural to preserve natural life cycles of wildlife without human interference. My grandmother ___ was born in Paxton FL. Left my dad, then me the land hoping to leave a small piece of FL as it was found without much of a human footprint. I have supported their wishes and philosophy for 50+ years. Thank you for your efforts on a daily basis. My wife often sees FWC reps at the annual Marina conference. I'm a bit cautious when a government agency offers money to private citizens [on question re: financial assistance]

I am 98- not too interested in the plot. By the way no envelope was included.

I am a retired City Planner and very familiar with your agency. Great job always!

I am an elderly lady and don't care to receive surveys like this.

I am anti- local, state and federal. I am pro America. God bless.

I am glad to complete this survey.

I am sorry that my answers are so general- this should be my husband's task, but he has passed away.

I appreciate FWC and all the enforcement people I have encountered. Thank you

I appreciate getting to participate in this survey even though I did not offer much. I have a grandson who keeps me informed.

I believe in stewardship of the land, also of wildlife as long as they stay in balance. I have provide some feed plots to wildlife, and I always feed wildlife in my own ways feeding

I bought this property for investment. I hear that some was decimated by hurricane Michael. You have my permission to use the property, esp for wildlife preservation, as long as I am not held responsible for any liability.

I co-own 2 properties through an inheritance. We're currently trying to sell one of them, and will probably do so with the other at some point as well.

I do not believe I am the right person for this survey

I harvested timber in 1999, I will let God replant. I made 32,000 for the timber.

I have 100 acres and I was told my farm is not big enough for any gov. assistance

I have left some of the questions blank as I did not know what all FWC encompasses

I have never visited my property that I inherited from my mother. I have received a letter from a man who wanted to lease my land for hunting. I have received letters from developers. I don't like people prying into my land records. It's harassment. I plan to visit my property this year. I am leaving my property to my son when I die, he can decide what to do.

I have owned 20 acres of pine forest land for around 25 years. The land remains in its natural state with no active management.

I like the job FWC does and I like to see their presence around the state.

I live out of state however I practice land management at home state. I know the work involved and due to distance and equipment I can not implement a program. Thank you.

I own 32+ acres of wooded property which is unused. It is maintained by mother nature only.

I own vacant land next to a sub-division that has very little wildlife habitat potential.

I sold a part of my land but the rest lays as uncontrolled timber land with a little wet land. Has water running through it as well. But good dry frontage.

I was not aware of any of these programs. I have not been to the property for many years. I do rent about 40 acres to a neighbor who I believe grazes cattle on it.

I'm 91 on walker but have son and grandson that will take over.

I'm sorry I have not been more helpful. I have a man who helps me with the timber etc. but because of my age and health i have not been active in management. Also with the massive hurricane around Blountstown I have not been able to get in or stay in the area.

It is great to see you are trying to improve your contact relations!

I've owned my land for about 3 yrs. This is the 1st involvement with FWC.

Keep up the good work!

Keep up the good work!

Keep up the good work.

Land development program

Land for sale

Let them leave- god nature will take care. Tough will survive- darwins theory. There is little humans can alter.

Lived on property since 1954 Saw no Deer or turkey or long legged chickens until mid 70s though there were deer at cemetery Hells Acers and Maxwell and Schochley Prop. Now everybody feeds them bad- practice. Sincerely, regular stupid idiot

Majority of property currently for sale 20 ac + 16 ac parcels

Most of my land is in native timber

Most of the land is in a trust that is leased for pasture land. I have no contact on a regular basis with that individual (please do not send this survey again)

My farm is lcoated between High Springs and Newberry FL one mile east of the Alachua Gilchrist County line. I was raised on this farm. In my younger days, dove, quail, and gopher tortoises were plentiful. No deer or squirrels were present at all. Now its reversed. Squirrels are plentiful and I see deer sign frequently. Coyotes are plentiful. They were probably the demise of the gopher t. and quail population. The coyote was introduced into an environment with no natural predators.

My husband passed away 4/24/19

Not much help, I suspect. But good effort by FWC.

Nothing about gopher turtles- Have plenty of these

Our 20 acres of land are available for sale.

Our donkey keeps coyotes and other predators from our cows and horses or raises an alarm. With only 36 acres, mostly pastures, and no water, we don't have much of a habitat for local wildlife.

Own 80 acres in the Panhandle. Don't do anything with it. Before we bought it in 2004 it had been rented out to a hunting club. Located in Walton County

Phone if needed

Property is for sale

Quail habitat restoration (more than 5 years ago)

Save the tax payers money.

Sorry for not being able to answer a lot of questions.

Spotting of turkey and calling in spring seems to be going down each year

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you for reaching out to private landowners!

Thank you for your service

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank your officers for all the long hours and work they do to protect our wildlife

Thanks

Thanks

Thanks for all you do

Thanks for the opportunity.

The land is hunting residential. It is not developed yet. It is held in trust, specified to be given to a daughter. However, it can be sold before the beneficiaries get the trust settlement.

The particular parcel you are inquiring about is 48 ac. held for future development on a major highway. No kind of management in place

The properties in question are held in a family trust and are currently being liquidated by the family, hence we are not pursuing these wildlife and land use management opportunities.

This was mailed to my Family LLP. I also won land individually- All totaled 60 acres with 3 20 acre tracts

Three party ownership- two will do

To my knowledge 55 acres has never been burned off. Husband died 4 years ago from cancer. More dead trees pines and oak this year- tried to have them cut down close to house but they cost too much money. Trees were small when we built the house but now they are bigger and danger of falling on the house. I have 10 brier goats, one donkey, two dogs, two cats, 12 chickens. Have free range deer and turkeys.

Try to grow veggies for the year (peas, corn, okra) deer eats it all

Very limited hunting on my property. Reported bear sighting and panther sighting on the property.

We are selling all our vacant land that isn't under development.

We are using one [management plan] just not in writing

We managed 40,000 acres

We have as many as 100 turkeys grazing the pastures. Sandhill cranes, eagles & osprey from the LWNWR, gopher tortoises. When planting a garden, wildlife takes its share. We also have deer grazing pasture.

We keep up and do well with our property- planted pines and wildlife

We live on the farm where my husband was born and have been married 56 years. Our son leases the majority of our land for a hay operation. We feed birds and enjoy watching them as well as the deer and turkeys (and of course squirrels and fox squirrels) that live in our wooded areas.

You are welcome to visit anytime call me and I will be home.

You didn't ask much about silviculture, of course that's more land use.