

Land Management Activity Summary

October 2006

Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris*



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Prescribed Fire

- No burning was conducted October which is outside of the typical burn season of February to August
- Most management areas used this month as an opportunity to update burn prescriptions and clear overgrown firelines



Clearing firelines for the upcoming burn season, these in KICCO were disked by FWC staff.

Exotic Control

- 5,067 acres treated
 - Lake Marion Creek
 - Shingle Creek
 - Southern Glades
 - Kissimmee Chain of Lake
 - Reedy Creek
 - Loxahatchee Mit. Bank
 - Tibet-Butler
 - Allapattah
 - Pennsuco



The Div. of Forestry created a fuel free fire buffer by removing a strip melaleuca near the Holly Lakes mobile home park in Broward County.

Vegetation Management: 3,427 acres

- DuPuis (50 acres): Palm thinning continued
- Upper Lakes (3150 acres): primarily mowing
- Allapattah: downed trees cleared from the campsite area
- Kissimmee River: (125 acres) recreation area mowing and 80 acres of hardwoods were rollerchopped at the Packingham / Buttermilk Sloughs restoration site.
- L-31N small game area (100 acres) mowing of Pennisetum



Hardwood rollerchopping at the Packingham / Buttermilk Sloughs restoration site at KICCO.

Other Land Management

- Garage roof was replaced at Pearce Lockett
- An old barn was demolished at Allapattah
- 10 miles of firelines were disked and 10 miles of the main road were graded at DuPuis
- 5 miles of trail maintenance at Reedy Creek
- Mowed and graded the oak creek boat launch road on the Kissimmee River
- 20 miles of damaged, stolen, and vandalized signs replaced at Model Lands

Barn demolition at Allapattah



New roof on Pearce Lockett estate garage



10-26-09-34

Wildlife Management

- DuPuis
 - 8 red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs) were reintroduced in specially made nest cavities by FWC biologists



An RCW enjoys its last meal of bloodworms before staying overnight in its new home



FWC biologists insert RCWs into nest boxes in the evening and cover the entry with a screen.



In the morning the screen is removed with a pull string



An RCW checking out its new territory following its release



Employee Spotlight

The Recreation rulemaking team was recognized as the District “Team of the Month” at the October Governing Board Meeting. Great Job Team!!



Recreation

- Fall Hunting Seasons occur throughout the District during October. These programs are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation District in close consultation with the District.



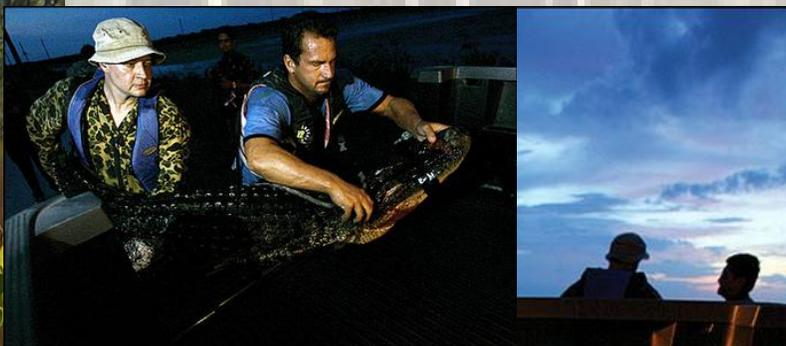
Allapattah in Martin County is one of several new areas opened to hunting for the first time



A youngster’s first deer taken at KICCO

Recreation (Continued)

- First Alligator Hunts held at STA 5 in Hendry County



The Bonita Daily News
‘Primitive’ alligator hunting

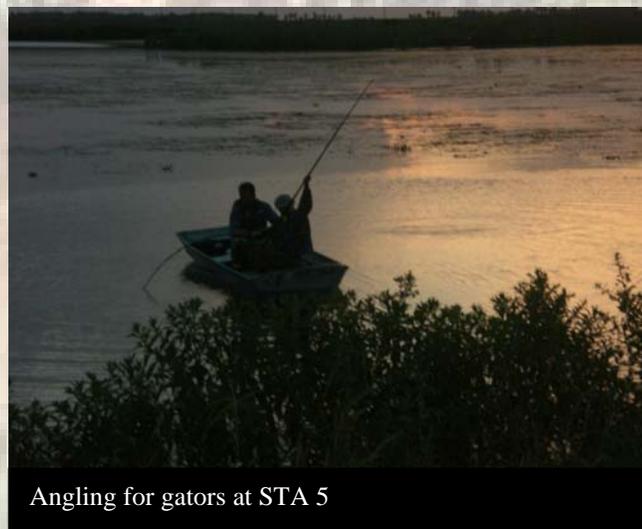
Paddling a small canoe through an alligator-infested reservoir, Steven Whitman sits a thin sheet of fiberglass away from being on the menu of the beasts he hunts.

It's early Saturday morning, opening night of the first ever-alligator hunt at a South Florida Water Management District reservoir, and the prehistoric creatures appear more curious of their new visitors than spooked. This also is the first-ever "primitive" hunt organized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

A spotlight beam through the black moonless night reveals the danger Whitman is charging into — hundreds of glowing red eyes from a pack of alligators so thick the hunter could seemingly walk to shore across their backs. After he broke his knife on the first catch of the night, he improvised by using a flathead screwdriver and a hammer to kill his two alligators.

The Okeechobee sportsman joined about 20 others who pulled permits for the motorless hunt.

Hunters are restricted from using motorized watercraft, creating another layer of danger and sport. South Florida Water Management District officials placed the no-motor restriction on the hunt because the reservoir filters pollutants such as phosphorus from the water flowing to the northern Everglades. Florida Fish and Wildlife officials had no problem selling all 51 permits for the non-motorized hunt.



Angling for gators at STA 5

Planning

- A land managers meeting was held at CREW
- A land management planning Splash page was created in partnership with DPI
- A multi-site cooperative agreement with Martin County was approved by the County Commission
- The North County Land Managers Meeting was held at DuPuis



Three years worth of panoramic photopoint monitoring at Sandhill Crane is beginning to show the benefits of restoration efforts, including shredding the understory. The benefits can be seen in a more natural groundcover composition and structure