

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Rich Virgil, P.E., Field Operations Division

DATE: August 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Expanding Special Hunt Programs on District Lands

Agenda Item Background:

In June 2013, the Governing Board authorized the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to utilize District lands for the Youth Hunting Program of Florida and hunts for injured active-duty service members or injured honorably discharged veterans. Since then, these programs have been well received and supported by program participants and recreational user groups. Now, FWC would like to expand its use of District lands to similar programs provided by the FWC's Hunter Safety Section.

District staff request authorization to coordinate with FWC to identify and incorporate additional programs and hunts on District lands. FWC and the District will work closely together to select appropriate District lands these additional programs can be operated on. These programs will continue to be administered by FWC, and will allow individuals to participate in a variety of experiences, including hunting, mentoring, safety techniques, camping, outdoor and environmental education, and nature appreciation, on identified District lands. FWC will work with partnering organizations to provide these opportunities, including selecting and/or verifying participants and ensuring volunteers are provided, as needed, to assist.

FWC and the District will ensure that the implementation of these programs will be compatible with on-going land management activities, project implementation, and other public uses. Approval of this resolution will provide additional public hunting and recreation opportunities on District lands.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

This Governing Board item supports the District's core mission and strategic goals by allowing for public recreation consistent with Section 373.1391, F.S.. The Land Resources Bureau within the Field Operations Division is responsible for implementing this item and administering public recreation on District lands.

Funding Source:

This item does not require the expenditure of District funds.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-0802