

Background Report
Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Establishment Orders and Rules
WMA Disestablishment and Repeal of Associated Area Specific Rules
Consent Agenda Items 1b, c and d, and 2a-d
March 4, 2009

Frog Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is 460 acres and owned by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). This area is being withdrawn from the WMA system at the request of the landowner because a portion of this area will be undergoing construction, starting in June or July 2009, for a new canal (part of the C111 spreader canal project) as part of the Everglades Restoration Project. Withdrawing this area requires the Commission to disestablish the area and repeal all area specific rules [Rule 68A-15.064(6)]. Staff is working with the SFWMD to find a new location for the dove field.

San Pedro Bay WMA is 17,872 acres and part of the Recreational User Pay Program. The landowner has decided to withdraw this area from the program. Staff is still working to locate additional lands to compensate for this loss. Withdrawing this area requires the Commission to disestablish the area and repeal all area specific rules [Rules 68A-15.062(22) and 68A-9.004(1)(b)2. and (c)2.]. Even with this loss, total acreage open to hunting within the WMA system is still above the baseline acreage established on the effective date (June 7, 2006) of the No Net Loss of Hunting Lands legislation (section 379.3001, Florida Statutes).

Robert Brent WMA is 8,532 acres and part of the Recreational User Pay Program. The landowner has decided to withdraw this area from the program. Staff is still working to locate additional lands to compensate for this loss. Withdrawing this area requires the Commission to disestablish the area and repeal all area specific rules [Rules 68A-15.063(8) and 68A-9.004(1)(b)5. and (c)5.]. Even with this loss, total acreage open to hunting within the WMA system is still above the baseline acreage established on the effective date (June 7, 2006) of the No Net Loss of Hunting Lands legislation (section 379.3001, Florida Statutes).