

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION

November 6, 2008



Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Recreation Proposal

Steve Coughlin, Director
Land Stewardship Division

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

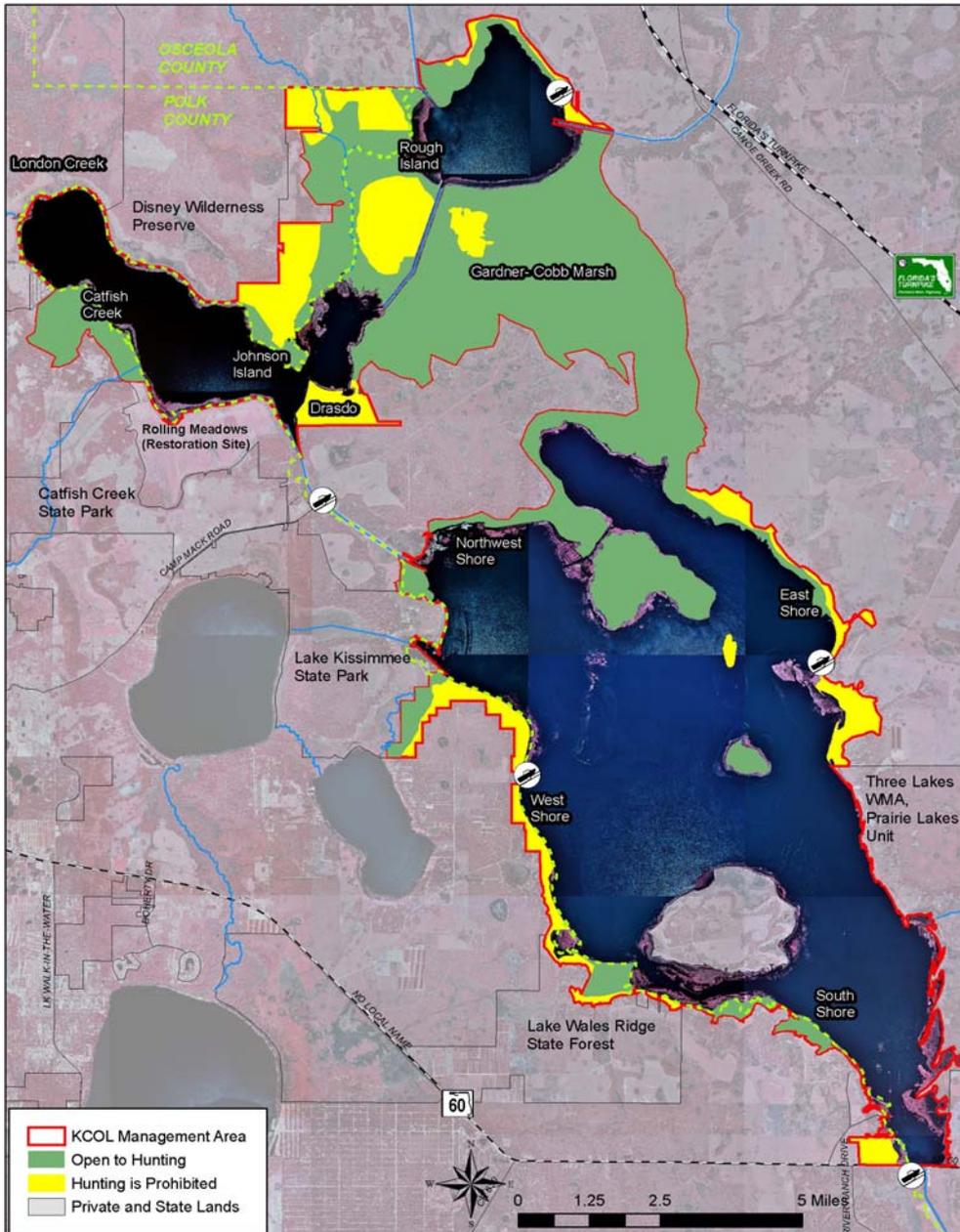
- **Composed of properties adjacent to Cypress Lake, Lake Hatchineha, and Lake Kissimmee.**
- **Approximately 72% of the area is open to some type of hunting.**
- **On-going effort to evaluate the remaining areas for hunting and other recreational uses.**

Public Input Process

- Informal discussions.
- Facilitated Stakeholder meetings.
- WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop meetings.
- Provide recommendations to expand recreational opportunities.

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

- Entire area currently open to non-hunting recreation.
- Portions of area currently open to hunting.



Timeline

- **November, 2008 – Present and discuss proposal at Water Resources Advisory Commission meeting.**
- **December, 2008 – Resolution to Governing Board.**
- **December, 2008 – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rule making.**

Recreation and Hunting Format -- General

- Property to be established by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Designate hiking and kayaking trails.
- Adopt statewide hunting seasons.
- Hog hunting year-round and at night in accordance with statewide hunting regulations.
- Continued use of hog dogs and retrievers but prohibit deer dogs.
- Prohibit harvest of antlerless deer – all seasons.



Hunting Format-Area Specific West and East Shores

West Shore and North/South Marsh Areas of East Shore

- **Currently closed to hunting.**
- **Recommendation is to open areas for small game, turkey, waterfowl, and hog hunting.**
- **Prohibit the use of center-fire rifles.**
- **Deer hunting not considered due to size of area.**

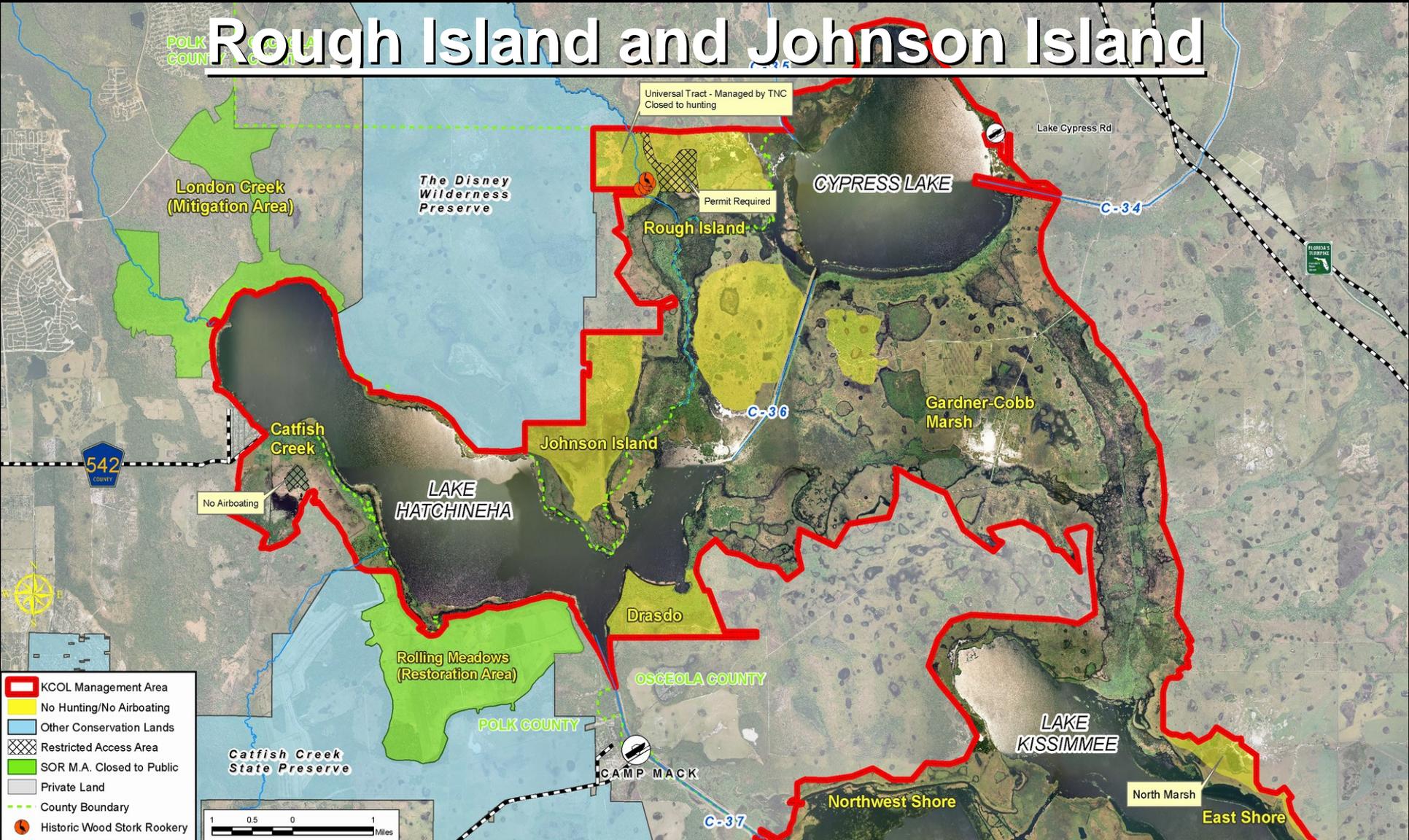


Hunting Format Area Specific Northwest Shore

Northwest Shore

- **Currently open for all types of hunting including deer hunting.**
- **Recommendation is to continue with current hunt program.**
- **Prohibit the use of center-fire rifles.**
- **Firearm regulations consistent with other Lake Kissimmee shoreline properties.**

Rough Island and Johnson Island

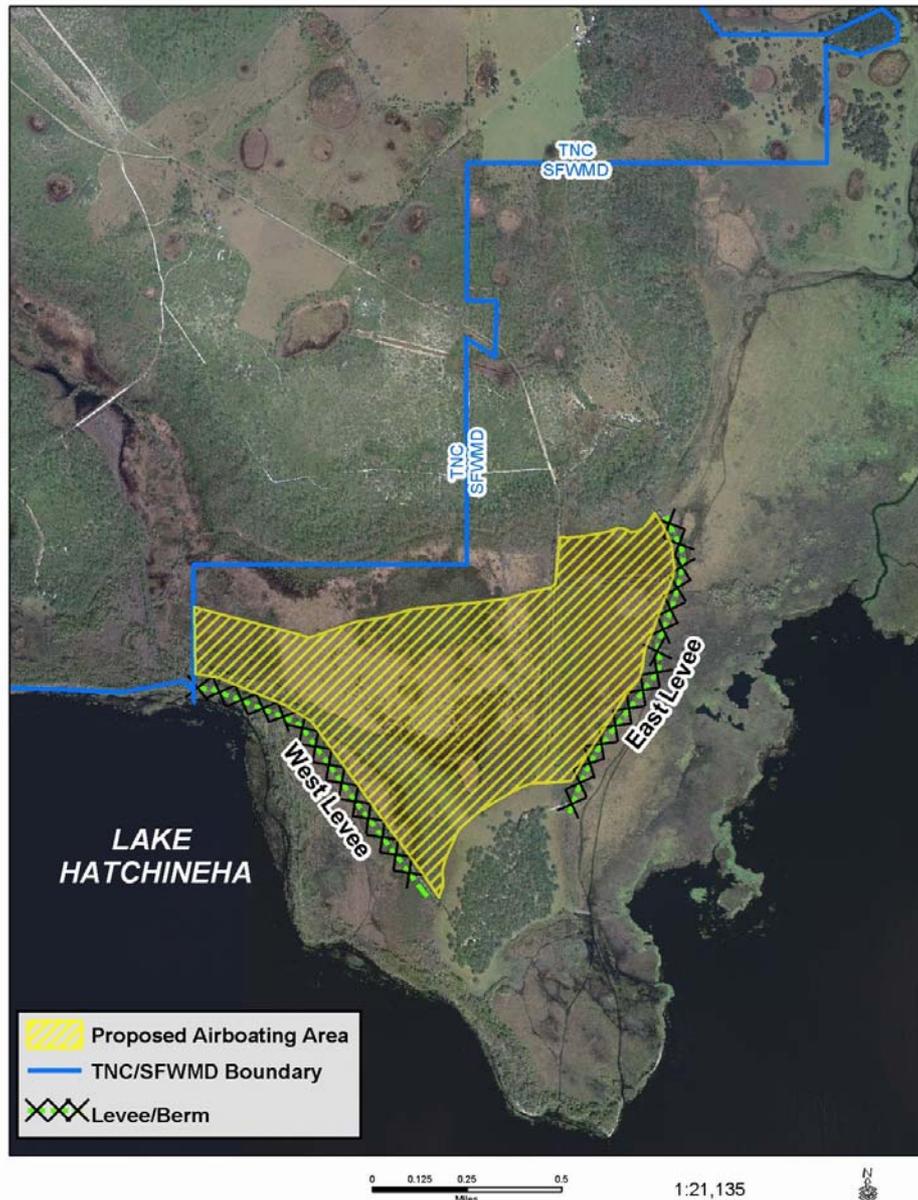


Hunting Format – Area Specific

Rough Island and Johnson Island

- Recommendation is to open areas currently identified as closed to hunting for small game, turkey, waterfowl, hog, and deer hunting.
- Maintain permit requirement for portion of Rough Island and Ike Hammock closure per District rule.
- Maintain Universal mitigation tract as no-hunting area.

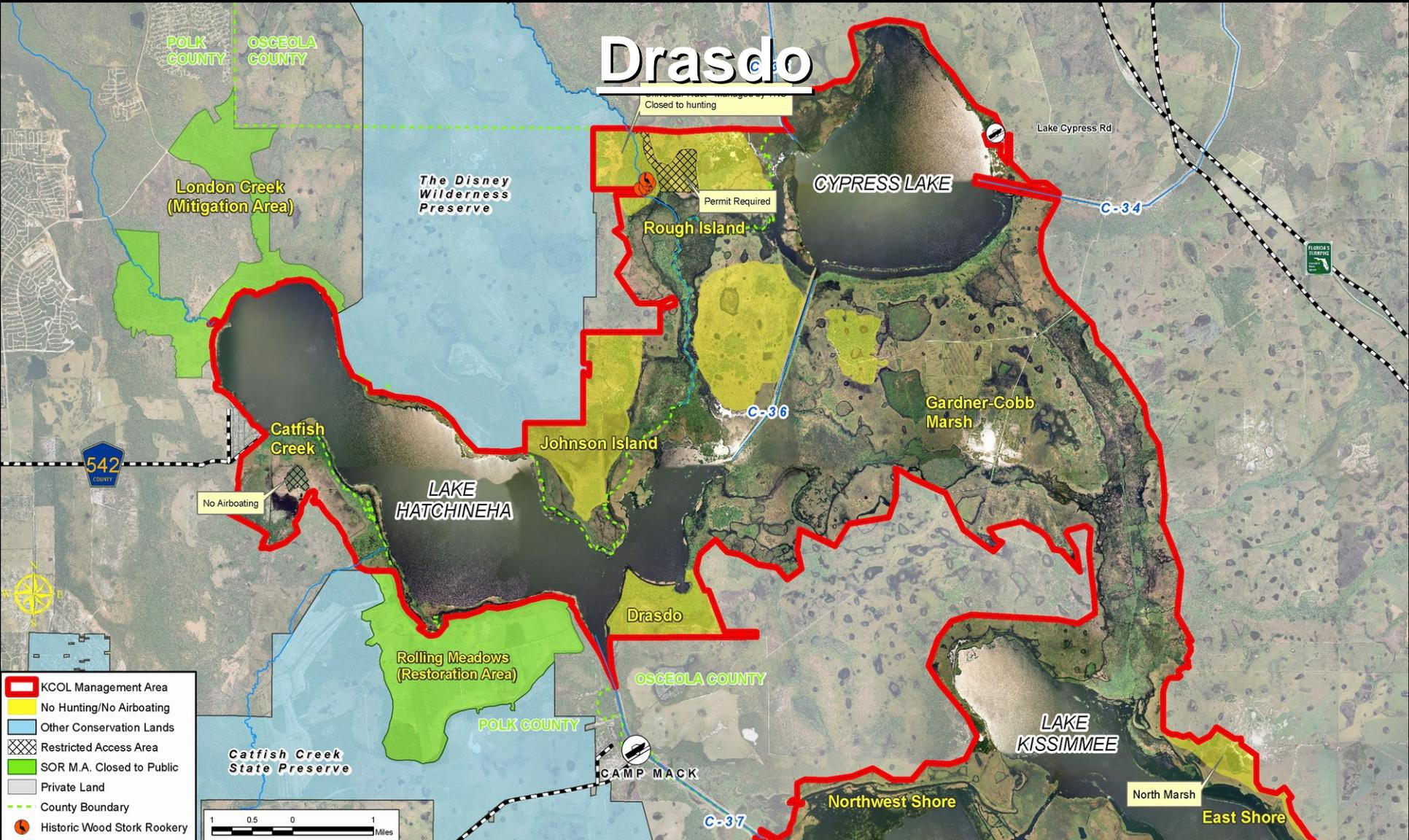
Hunting Format – Area Specific



Johnson Island Unit

Johnson Island Airboat use

- Airboats currently prohibited within interior of Johnson Island.
- Airboat use requested to facilitate hunting access.
- Recommend seasonal airboat access into the southern marsh area of Johnson Island.
- Proposed as a one year trial to be evaluated for compliance.



Hunting Format – Area Specific

REVISED 04/10/08

Drasdo

- **Currently closed to hunting.**
- **Surrounded by private property and only accessible by boat.**
- **Limited in size and no direct connection to other public lands.**
- **Recommendation is to open the area to small game, turkey, waterfowl and hog hunting.**
- **Isolated area considered not large enough to support sustainable deer hunting under non-quota format.**

Hunting Format – Area Specific

Summary

- **Proposal reflects careful consideration of comments heard through a variety of forums.**
- **Continue to develop hiking and kayaking opportunities.**
- **Includes agreed upon regulation changes such as the prohibition on harvest of antlerless deer, and the use of dogs for deer hunting that will benefit the deer population.**
- **Increases the percent of the area open to hunting from 72% to 96%.**

Summary (cont ...)

- Proposal presented at Water Resources Advisory Commission Recreation Issues Workshop meeting on October 6, 2008.
- If approved, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will initiate rule development with a proposed effective date of fall of 2009.

Discussion and Questions

