

# Welcome

Thank you for joining us tonight



- Please sign in on the Sign In sheets
- Pick up comment cards at the registration table

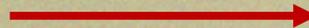


Please turn your cell phones to silent

# Collaborating to Improve Dog Hunting Stewardship on the Ocala National Forest



Honoring  
the Past  
and  
Ensuring  
a Future



# Why we are here...

***We need your help***



- Short presentation
- Hold and bring your ideas to the tables



Honoring the  
Past  
and  
Ensuring a  
Future





# USDA Forest Service

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



**"Caring for the land and serving people."**

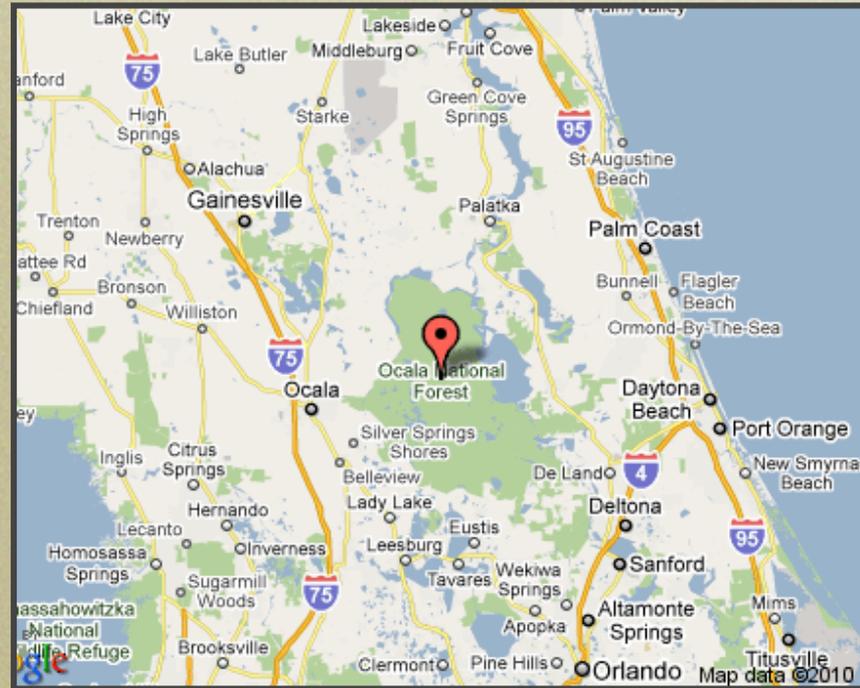


# FWC

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



# The Ocala National Forest



- One of the first designated Wildlife Management Areas in Florida
- Currently provides variety of deer, fox, turkey and small game hunts



The Forest provides vital wildlife habitat and multiple recreational opportunities. More people in Central Florida means more visitors and potentially more overlapping activities. The Forest provides vital wildlife habitat and multiple recreational opportunities.







# What is resource damage?

- Disturbance to wildlife
- Destruction of wildlife habitat
- Erosion
- Spread of invasive species
- Damage to cultural sites



# FS designated roads to stop resource damage but the problems continue...

- Between 2008 & 2010, all unauthorized travel-ways were revegetated and closed in Paisley / Shockley area of the Forest.
  - **Cost of \$500,000**
  - **Work Days – 80**
- Spring 2016 Road Survey found
  - 60% of the closed travel-ways had been re-opened
  - With approximately 80 new travel-ways coming off of main roads.



Pink dots indicate unauthorized travel-way use



# Unauthorized use causes problems that are expensive to restore



Trespass on OHV Trail



Vegetation Lost



Wetlands Damaged



# Forest problems that need your help:

- Driving on closed roads / cross-country
- Blocking roads during a hunt
- Casting dogs into closed areas
- Trespassing on private land
- Littering / dumping
- Vandalism
- Confrontations with other forest users



# Other Forests have...

## Desoto National Forest

- Implemented dog permitting system

## Francis Marion National Forest

- Dog hunting on Wednesday and Saturday only
- Rotating block hunting

## Osceola National Forest

- Moved over 5,000 acres from dog hunting to still hunting

## Kisatchie and Conecuh National Forests

- Banned dog hunting from the forest due to resident complaints



# Continued resource damage could force these options...



- More road closures in sensitive areas
- Targeted law enforcement
- Reduced dog season
- Smaller dog hunt area
- Additional regulations for the dog hunt area
- And the last resort:  
Eliminate dog hunting





# Here's how you can help

- Report Violators
- Pass along the message of resource protection



**1-888-404-3922**



# How you can help...

- Know where you are on the Forest
  - Get the free Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)
  - Visit the Know where to Go table
- Only drive on numbered or named roads



# How you can help... (continued)

- Don't open closed roads
- Pack it in – pack it out



# Help others to...

- Respect the Environment & Wildlife
- Report illegal activities immediately
- Respect Property & Landowners
- Show Consideration of Non-Hunters
- Know and Obey the Law



# Some of the next steps are...

- Having meetings twice a year with dog hunting club officers (pre and post hunt).
- Work together with dog hunting groups on road closure efforts.
- Continued enhanced reporting of illegal road use.
- Better communication about temporary closures around Pinecastle Range, watershed restoration projects, and rule changes.



Please visit the information tables and leave your suggestions and comments with us.



Help Preserve Your Heritage

**Thank you for coming tonight**

