

## Chris Linsbeck

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**From:** Victoria Anderson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Chris Linsbeck  
**Cc:** Lisa Morgan; Pamela Hare  
**Subject:** Restricting Hunting and Boat Ramp Access-Hunter's Lake LR#22-252  
**Attachments:** FWC Correspondence 05122019.pdf

Good afternoon Chris,

The above referenced legal request was re-assigned to me. Please see my response below:

**Question:** Possible Hunting Restrictions on Hunter's Lake?

**Response:** The County lacks the authority to regulate duck hunting on Hunter's Lake. The Florida Constitution vests the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("the FWC") with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and hunting activities. On or about March 26, 2019, the Board requested the FWC establish a bird sanctuary and restrictive hunting in the man-made canals and waterways connected to Hunter's Lake. The Board specifically stated that the request was limited to the property of residents and/or Hernando County, not the open water of Hunter's Lake (considered State waters). On or about May 12, 2019, the FWC approved the requested restriction/designation for the canals and waterways connected to Hunter's Lake. The FWC also opposed "any portion of the main body of Hunter's Lake" being designated as either a "Sanctuary or Restricted Hunting area." (See the attached FWC correspondence).

**Question:** Can County restrict boat ramp access from hours to sunset to sunrise?

**Response:** Yes, the County may designate hours of operation for publicly owned/operated boat ramps. In accordance with the authority granted by virtue of Fla. Const. art. VIII, § 1(g), F.S. § 125.01, the Board has power to adopt ordinances and resolutions necessary for the exercise of its powers and may enact ordinances not inconsistent with general law. Currently, there are no laws prohibiting the County from establishing hours of operation for county owned/operated boat ramps. Hernando County-owned/operated boat ramps are under the control and upkeep of the Hernando County Parks Department. The director may establish hours of operation for the use and facilities at each park, including public boat ramps. (See Art. I, Sec. 22-6).

I hope this answers your questions, please let me know if you have any additional questions or if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Victoria

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