

From: [Thompson, Charles](#)  
To: [Carla Burrmann](#)  
Subject: RE: Hunters lake  
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:36:57 PM  
Attachments: [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[Hernando Co Tussock project.pdf](#)  
[Hunters Lake Grant Map.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Carla, it was great getting to survey the lake with you on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. The lake looks to be in good shape in terms of aquatic plants, we have a healthy composition of native species both submerged and emersed leading to excellent water clarity. For water quality parameters, we may have to reach out to the district for that data. Our cooperator SWFWMD routinely surveys the lake for control of target species such as burrhead sedge, water hyacinth, and hydrilla. Treatments in the past few years have been limited to maintenance levels of burrhead sedge namely. When minimal hydrilla is found, it's at the boat ramp and treated immediately to prevent spread to the rest of the lake. SWFWMD also maintains any species encroaching on the access canal leading from the boat ramp to the lake to keep access open for boaters.

The access and usability of Hunters Lake can vary over time due to water levels. When low, the lake can become inaccessible from the public ramp due to the shallow nature of the access canal. There are also many coves around the lake whose shallow depth can limit access when water levels are low. There is no water control structure on this lake, so water levels are entirely dependent on rain fall. As seen in the 1940's imagery (attached), prior to development, this is the natural state of the lake with many shallow and marsh-like coves. The vegetation we observed confirms that.

Tussocks are a natural occurrence on some lakes, namely ones with mucky bottoms or lily pads that can become un-lodged from the lake bottom and float up in one large mud mat, once exposed to air these mats can then begin to grow grasses, sedges, and eventually other weedy species such as primrose willow. FWC's invasive plant management section (IPM) does not control tussocks unless they block the main access to the lake or inhibit navigation on rivers. If the tussocks are comprised of target exotic species such as burrhead sedge, we will treat for those species, but not the tussock in general. Our aquatic habitat restoration sister section within FWC, AHRES, will sometimes do enhancement projects that include the removal of tussocks if it is determined that it would benefit the habitat for wildlife. These projects can be vetted through Anna Laws within this region of the state.

Looking through some historical documents, I came across a joint project between FWC and Hernando County for tussock removal on Hunters Lake. I'll attach the documents in the email. I cannot speak to the portion of FWC's involvement since that occurred before my tenure and the previous regional biologist has since retired. It appears we may have paid for some of the tussock removal as it pertained to maintaining the bird rookery island from being connected with the mainland, a habitat benefit for those species, but not in removing tussocks from the coves to benefit

homeowner access. I'm pretty sure this work would have gone through the AHRES program and not ours and it's possible the county piggy-backed off the proposal / bid side of things as well as worked with the college for disposal site. I have a feeling any tussock work the residents are looking for would have to go that route with the county.

Overall, the lake is in good shape. There is no additional work that IPM could be doing in terms of vegetation control that would relieve homeowner complaints. It seems low water levels and tussock formation are the main issues at play here. It's possible the AHRES section could look at the lake to see if a habitat enhancement project is warranted but from what I saw, the tussocks in question are all in areas that would not benefit the wildlife, only homeowners. If the county felt obliged to take on such projects, they could and I'm sure we would approve an aquatic plant control permit for that purpose. IPM would also permit tussock control to homeowners through the same permitting process should they choose to do so.

Cheers,

*Charles Thompson*

Regional Biologist



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Division of Habitat and Species Conservation  
Invasive Plant Management Section  
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**From:** Carla Burrmann <cburrmann@co.hernando.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Charles <Charles.Thompson@MyFWC.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Hunters lake

**[EXTERNAL SENDER]** Use Caution opening links or attachments

Hi Charlie – this is a reminder email for you. Please send me a follow-up email to our site visit on Hunter’s Lake. It would be most helpful if your email would include/address the below items.

- Summary of site visit
  - Health of lake
  - Nuisance/exotic species present
  - Tussock presence (is amount an issue)
  - Water quality
  
- Potential needs for the lake
  - Tussock removal?
  - Vegetation control (SWFWMD) – do we need to increase spraying? Would harvesting floating vegetation help?
  
- What can the county do to address any issues noted during site visit?

TY, Carla.



***Carla S. Burrmann, M.S.***

**Manager**

•Aquatic Services and Waterways

•Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL)

Hernando County

Email: [cburrmann@hernandocounty.us](mailto:cburrmann@hernandocounty.us)

Phone: 352-754-4737 | Mobile: 352-238-2918

16161 Flight Path Dr.

Brooksville, FL 34604

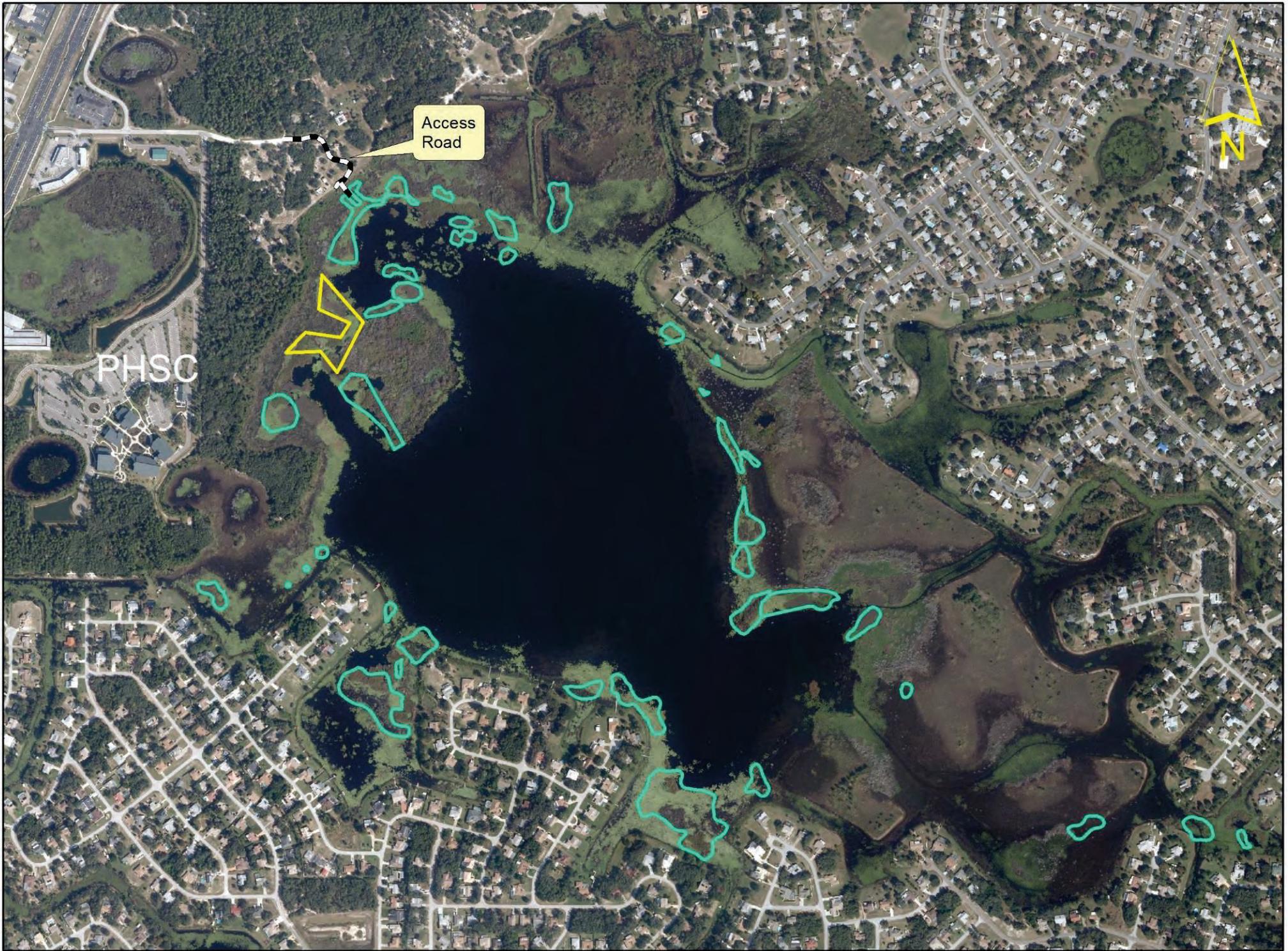
Website: [Parks and Recreation](#)

# HUNTERS LAKE RESTORATION



**PHSC**  
Pasco-Hernando State College





Access  
Road

PHSC

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

# Pasco-Hernando State College Partnership Land Use Agreement Provides Deep Water Access to Lake



## Tussock Removal Project

Scale - Not To Scale  
Mapped by - Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
Map Date - 10/28/2019



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# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal



# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal



# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal



# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal



# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal



# Hunters Lake Tussock Removal





Southeast Basin,  
Eastpoint Ct



Southeast Basin,  
Eastpoint Ct



Southeast Basin,  
Eastpoint Ct



Southeast Basin,  
Cactus Cir



Middle Basin,  
Rusk Cir



Middle Basin,  
Rusk Cir



Middle Basin



North Shoreline  
Kimball Ct



Northwest Shoreline  
PHSC Parcel



Northwest Shoreline  
PHSC Parcel



Northwest Shoreline  
PHSC Parcel



# SUMMARY

- 15.5 acres of tussock were removed
  - (County 14 acres, FWC 1.5 acres)
- County's total cost was \$121,010
  - \$68,250 - tussock harvesting (Texas Aquatics)
  - \$52,760 - work completed by DPW – site prep, piling and drying tussock, hauling material, site restoration



# Pasco-Hernando State College Partnership Land Use Agreement



## Tussock Removal Project

Scale - Not To Scale  
Mapped by - Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
Map Date - 10/29/2018



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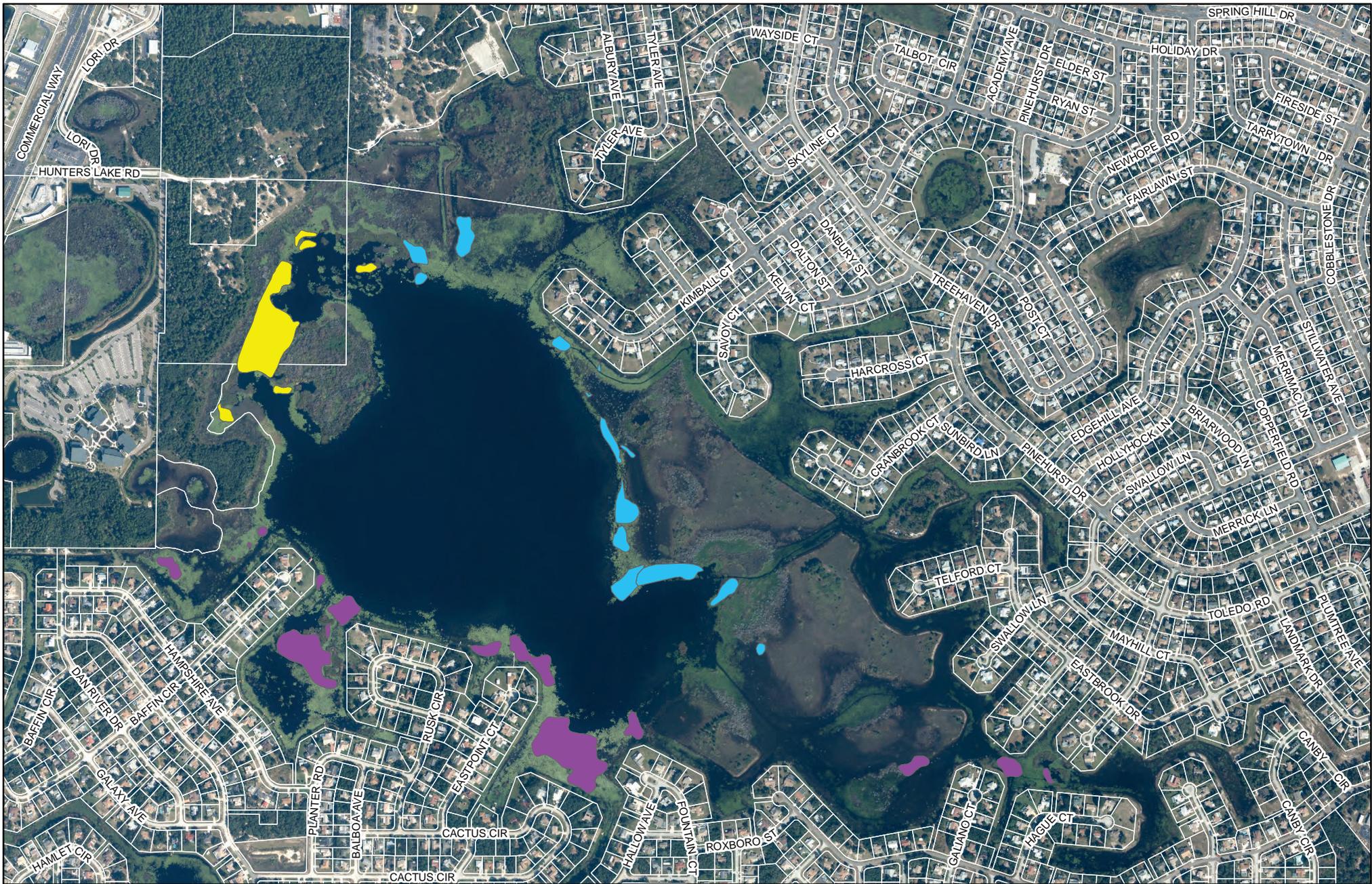


## RECOMMENDATION



Staff recommend approving the landowner agreement with Pasco Hernando State College and authorize the Chairman's signature.





### Legend

- FWC Grant - 4.80 Acres
- Wells Fargo Grant - 9.12 Acres
- Future Grant Submission - 5.08 Acres

## Hunters Lake Tussock Islands Proposed Grant Areas

Scale - Not To Scale  
 Mapped by - Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
 Map Date - 11/18/2015



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