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Tallahassee, Florida - August 16, 2005

Florida Hunting Summit a Success!

Sportsmen and women from across Florida gathered in Orlando on August 11-13, 2005, for the first 2005 Summit on the Future of Hunting in Florida. The purpose of the summit, which was organized by a steering team of leaders from the hunting community in Florida, was to address the alarming decrease in licensed hunters that has occurred over the past 20 years.

Bill Marvin, President of the Florida Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and chairman of the summit steering team, asserted that he was "gratified in the extent to which participants volunteered to help improve the outlook for the future of hunting in Florida."

A number of nationally known speakers addressed the attendees, covering topics such as the importance of private lands in the future of hunting to ensuring quality access to Florida's vast public land holdings. In addition, almost 100% of those attending agreed that Florida sportsmen must develop a unified and politically strong coalition to face the challenges of today and the future. Based upon a strong showing of support, the summit steering team unanimously supported having the Allied Sportsmen's Associations of Florida, which is based in Tallahassee, take the lead in organizing this coalition building effort.

"The Board of Directors and I are gratified that sportsmen and women from across Florida have shown confidence in our organization's abilities, and we look forward to reaching out to all sporting organizations to join with us as we build a politically strong and active organization that can make a real difference for Florida sportsmen." said Lane Stephens, executive director of Allied Sportsmen's Associations of Florida.

Sportsmen can learn more about the outcome of the Summit and about the developing sportsmen's coalition on the web at www.alliedsportsmen.org.

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