

TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST
HAMILTON COUNTY



Photo courtesy of the Florida Forest Service

PREPARED BY
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

APPROVED ON
TBD, 2025

TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST



Approved by:

Richard Dolan, Director
Florida Forest Service

Date

James Roberts, Chief
Forest Management Bureau

Date

Land Management Plan Compliance Checklist

Required for State-owned conservation lands over 160 acres (Updated July 2022)

Instructions for managers:

Complete each item and fill in the applicable correlating page numbers and/or appendix where the item can be found within the land management plan (LMP). If an item does not apply to the subject property, please describe that fact on a correlating page number of the LMP. Do not mark an "N/A" for any items below.

For more information, please visit the stewardship portion of the Division of State Lands' website at: <http://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/land-stewardship>

Section A: Acquisition Information Items

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
1	The common name of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 9 (II.A.1)
2	The land acquisition program, if any, under which the property was acquired.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 10 (II.A.4)
3	Degree of title interest held by the Board, including reservations and encumbrances such as leases.	18-2.021	Page 11 (II.B.2)
4	The legal description and acreage of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 9 (II.A.2)
5	A map showing the approximate location and boundaries of the property, and the location of any structures or improvements to the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Exhibits B & D
6	An assessment as to whether the property, or any portion, should be declared surplus. <i>Provide Information regarding assessment and analysis in the plan, and provide corresponding map.</i>	18-2.021	Page 14 (II.D.3)
7	Identification of other parcels of land within or immediately adjacent to the property that should be purchased because they are essential to management of the property. <i>Please clearly indicate parcels on a map.</i>	18-2.021	Page 14 (II.D.2); Exhibit C
8	Identification of adjacent land uses that conflict with the planned use of the property, if any.	18-2.021	Page 14 (II.D.4)
9	A statement of the purpose for which the lands were acquired, the projected use or uses as defined in 253.034 and the statutory authority for such use or uses.	259.032	Page 3 (I.A); Page 10 (II.B.1)
10	Proximity of property to other significant State, local or federal land or water resources.	18-2.021	Page 9 (II.A.3); Exhibit F

Section B: Use Items

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
11	The designated single use or multiple use management for the property, including use by other managing entities.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 3 (I.A); Page 11 (II.B.3)
12	A description of past and existing uses, including any unauthorized uses of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 4 (I.B); Page 11 (II.B.4); Page 15 (II.D.6); Page 18 (II.E); Page 17 (III); Page 18 (IV); Page 28 (V); Page 30 (VI); Page 37 (VII)
13	A description of alternative or multiple uses of the property considered by the lessee and a statement detailing why such uses were not adopted.	18-2.018	Page 13 (II.D)

14	A description of the management responsibilities of each entity involved in the property's management and how such responsibilities will be coordinated.	18-2.018	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 15 (II.E.1)
15	Include a provision that requires that the managing agency consult with the Division of Historical Resources, Department of State before taking actions that may adversely affect archeological or historical resources.	18-2.021	Page 17 (III.C-D); Exhibit G
16	Analysis/description of other managing agencies and private land managers, if any, which could facilitate the restoration or management of the land.	18-2.021	Page 16 (II.E.6); Page 17 (III.C); Page 22 (IV.C.2-3); Page 37 (VI.F)
17	A determination of the public uses and public access that would be consistent with the purposes for which the lands were acquired.	259.032	Page 3 (I.A)
18	A finding regarding whether each planned use complies with the 1981 State Lands Management Plan, particularly whether such uses represent "balanced public utilization," specific agency statutory authority and any other legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of such property.	18-2.021	Page 12 (II.B.5)
19	Letter of compliance from the local government stating that the LMP is in compliance with the Local Government Comprehensive Plan.	BOT requirement	Page 14 (II.D.5); Exhibit S
20	An assessment of the impact of planned uses on the renewable and non-renewable resources of the property, including soil and water resources, and a detailed description of the specific actions that will be taken to protect, enhance and conserve these resources and to compensate/mitigate damage caused by such uses, including a description of how the manager plans to control and prevent soil erosion and soil or water contamination.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 8 (I.C Goal 7); Page 18 (IV); Exhibits K & L
21	*For managed areas larger than 1,000 acres, an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the property which shall include the potential of the property to generate revenues to enhance the management of the property provided that no lease, easement, or license for such revenue-generating use shall be entered into if the granting of such lease, easement or license would adversely affect the tax exemption of the interest on any revenue bonds issued to fund the acquisition of the affected lands from gross income for federal income tax purposes, pursuant to Internal Revenue Service regulations.	18-2.021 & 253.036	Page 3 (I.A); Page 11 (II.B.4)
22	If the lead managing agency determines that timber resource management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the managed area, a component or section, prepared by a qualified professional forester, that assesses the feasibility of managing timber resources pursuant to section 253.036, F.S.	18-021	Page 34 (VI.C)
23	A statement regarding incompatible use in reference to Ch. 253.034(10).	253.034(10)	Page 13 (II.D.1)

*The following taken from 253.034(10) is not a land management plan requirement; however, it should be considered when developing a land management plan: The following additional uses of conservation lands acquired pursuant to the Florida Forever program and other state-funded conservation land purchase programs shall be authorized, upon a finding by the Board of Trustees, if they meet the criteria specified in paragraphs (a)-(e): water resource development projects, water supply development projects, storm-water management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry. Such additional uses are authorized where: (a) Not inconsistent with the management plan for such lands; (b) Compatible with the natural ecosystem and resource values of such lands; (c) The proposed use is appropriately located on such lands and where due consideration is given to the use of other available lands; (d) The using entity reasonably compensates the titleholder for such use based upon an appropriate measure of value; and (e) The use is consistent with the public interest.

Section C: Public Involvement Items

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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24	A statement concerning the extent of public involvement and local government participation in the development of the plan, if any.	18-2.021	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 16 (II.E.4); Exhibits S, T, U
25	The management prospectus required pursuant to paragraph (9)(d) shall be available to the public for a period of 30 days prior to the public hearing.	259.032	✓
26	LMPs and LMP updates for parcels over 160 acres shall be developed with input from an advisory group who must conduct at least one public hearing within the county in which the parcel or project is located. <i>Include the advisory group members and their affiliations, as well as the date and location of the advisory group meeting.</i>	259.032	Page 16 (II.E.4); Exhibit T
27	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the advisory group for parcels over 160 acres	18-2.021	Exhibit T
28	During plan development, at least one public hearing shall be held in each affected county. Notice of such public hearing shall be posted on the parcel or project designated for management, advertised in a paper of general circulation, and announced at a scheduled meeting of the local governing body before the actual public hearing. <i>Include a copy of each County's advertisements and announcements (meeting minutes will suffice to indicate an announcement) in the management plan.</i>	253.034 & 259.032	✓
29	The manager shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in finalizing the required 10-year update of its management plan. <i>Include manager's replies to the team's findings and recommendations.</i>	259.036	Page 16 (II.E.4); Exhibit R
30	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the management review team, if required by Section 259.036, F.S.	18-2.021	Exhibit R
31	If manager is not in agreement with the management review team's findings and recommendations in finalizing the required 10-year update of its management plan, the managing agency should explain why they disagree with the findings or recommendations.	259.036	Exhibit R

Section D: Natural Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
32	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding soil types. <i>Use brief descriptions and include USDA maps when available.</i>	18-2.021	Page 19 (IV.A); Exhibit I
33	Insert FNAI based natural community maps when available.	ARC consensus	Exhibits L, P, Q
34	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding outstanding native landscapes containing relatively unaltered flora, fauna and geological conditions.	18-2.021	Page 21 (IV.C); Exhibits I, L, M
35	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding unique natural features and/or resources including but not limited to virgin timber stands, scenic vistas, natural rivers and streams, coral reefs, natural springs, caverns and large sinkholes.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 26 (IV.G)
36	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding beaches and dunes.	18-2.021	Page 25 (IV.E)
37	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding mineral resources, such as oil, gas and phosphate, etc.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 25 (IV.F)

38	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding fish and wildlife, both game and non-game, and their habitat.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 24 (IV.C.4); Exhibits L, M
39	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding State and Federally listed endangered or threatened species and their habitat.	18-2.021	Page 21 (IV.C.1); Exhibits L, M
40	The identification or resources on the property that are listed in the Natural Areas Inventory. <i>Include letter from FNAI or consultant where appropriate.</i>	18-2.021	Page 22 (IV.C.2); Exhibits L, P, Q
41	Specific description of how the managing agency plans to identify, locate, protect and preserve or otherwise use fragile, nonrenewable natural and cultural resources.	259.032	Page 5 (I.C); Page 17 (III.C,D); Page 18 (IV); Page 30 (VI.A-B); Page 37 (VII)
42	Habitat Restoration and Improvement	259.032 & 253.034	Page 18 (IV)
42-A.	Describe management needs, problems and a desired outcome and the key management activities necessary to achieve the enhancement, protection and preservation of restored habitats and enhance the natural, historical and archeological resources and their values for which the lands were acquired.	↓	Page 5 (I.C); Page 37 (VII)
42-B.	Provide a detailed description of both short (2-year planning period) and long-term (10-year planning period) management goals, and a priority schedule based on the purposes for which the lands were acquired and include a timeline for completion.		Page 5 (I.C)
42-C.	The associated measurable objectives to achieve the goals.		Page 5 (I.C)
42-D.	The related activities that are to be performed to meet the land management objectives and their associated measures. <i>Include fire management plans - they can be in plan body or an appendix.</i>		Page 5 (I.C); Page 30 (VI); Page 37 (VII)
42-E.	A detailed expense and manpower budget in order to provide a management tool that facilitates development of performance measures, including recommendations for cost-effective methods of accomplishing those activities.		Page 13 (II.C.4), Exhibit U
43	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of forest and other natural resources and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034	Page 9 (II.A.2); Page 10 (II.A.4); Page 12 (II.C); Page 37 (VII); Exhibits E, J, M, Q, S
44	Sustainable Forest Management, including implementation of prescribed fire management	18-2.021, 253.034 & 259.032 ↓	Page 30 (VI); Exhibit N
44-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 1); Page 30 (VI); Page 37 (VII)
44-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 1)
44-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 1)
44-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 30 (VI); Page 37 (VII)
44-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4), Exhibit U
45	Imperiled species, habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration or population restoration	259.032 & 253.034	Page 21 (IV.C)
45-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	Page 7 (I.C Goal 4); Page 21 (IV.C.1); Page 37 (VII)
45-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 7 (I.C Goal 4); Page 21 (IV.C.1); Page 37 (VII)
45-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 7 (I.C Goal 4)

45-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 21 (IV.C.1); Page 37 (VII)
45-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4), Exhibit U
45-F	Assess the feasibility of managing the lands > 40 contiguous acres as a recipient site for gopher tortoises consistent with rules of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as prepared by the agency or cooperatively with a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wildlife biologist.	259.105	Page 25 (IV.C.6)
45-G	Economic feasibility of establishing a gopher tortoise recipient site, including the initial cost, recurring management costs and the revenue projections.	259.105	Page 25 (IV.C.6)
46	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of exotic and invasive plants and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034	Page 44 (VI.D); Exhibit O
47	Place the Arthropod Control Plan in an appendix. If one does not exist, provide a statement as to what arrangement exists between the local mosquito control district and the management unit.	BOT requirement via lease language	Exhibit V
48	Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control	259.032 & 253.034 ↓	Page 44 (VI.D)
48-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).		Page 7 (I.C Goal 5); Exhibit O
48-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 7 (I.C Goal 5)
48-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 7 (I.C Goal 5)
48-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 35 (VI.D,E); Page 37 (VII)
48-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4), Exhibit U

Section E: Water Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
49	A statement as to whether the property is within and/or adjacent to an aquatic preserve or a designated area of critical state concern or an area under study for such designation. <i>If yes, provide a list of the appropriate managing agencies that have been notified of the proposed plan.</i>	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 12 (II.B.7)
50	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding water resources, including water classification for each water body and the identification of any such water body that is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water under Rule 62-302.700, F.A.C.	18-2.021	Page 19 (IV.B); Exhibits J, K
51	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding swamps, marshes and other wetlands.	18-2.021	Page 20 (IV.B.4)
52	***Quantitative description of the land regarding an inventory of hydrological features and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034	Page 19 (IV.B); Page 37 (VII)
53	Hydrological Preservation and Restoration	259.032 & 253.034 ↓	Page 19 (IV.B)
53-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 7); Page 19 (IV.B)
53-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 7)
53-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 7)
53-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 7); Page 19 (IV.B)

53-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U
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Section F: Historical, Archeological and Cultural Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
54	**Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding archeological and historical resources. <i>Include maps of all cultural resources except Native American sites, unless such sites are major points of interest that are open to public visitation.</i>	18-2.018, 18-2.021 & per DHR's request	Page 17 (III.B); Exhibit G
55	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of significant land, cultural or historical features and associated acreage.	253.034	Page 17 (III.B); Exhibit G
56	A description of actions the agency plans to take to locate and identify unknown resources such as surveys of unknown archeological and historical resources.	18-2.021	Page 17 (III.C,D); Exhibit H
57	Cultural and Historical Resources	259.032 & 253.034	Page 17 (III)
57-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	Page 8 (I.C. Goal 6)
57-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 6)
57-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 6)
57-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 17 (III.C,D)
57-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U

**While maps of Native American sites should not be included in the body of the management plan, the DSL urges each managing agency to provide such information to the Division of Historical Resources for inclusion in their proprietary database. This information should be available for access to new managers to assist them in developing, implementing and coordinating their management activities.

Section G: Facilities (Infrastructure, Access, Recreation)

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
58	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of infrastructure and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034	Page 12 (II.C); Exhibit D
59	Capital Facilities and Infrastructure	259.032 & 253.034	Page 12 (II.C.)
59-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	Page 8 (I.C. Goal 8); Page 12 (II.C.)
59-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 8); Page 12 (II.C.)
59-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 8); Page 12 (II.C.)
59-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 12 (II.C); Page 28 (V)
59-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U
60	*** Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of recreational facilities and associated acreage.	253.034	Page 28 (V); Exhibit D
61	Public Access and Recreational Opportunities	259.032 & 253.034	Page 28 (V)
61-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)
61-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)
61-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)

61-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).		Page 11 (II.B.4); Page 16 (II.E.5,6); Exhibits A, B, C, D
61-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U

Section H: Other/ Managing Agency Tools

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
62	Place this LMP Compliance Checklist at the front of the plan.	ARC and managing agency consensus	✓
63	Place the Executive Summary at the front of the LMP. Include a physical description of the land.	ARC and 253.034	Page 1 (Executive Summary)
64	If this LMP is a 10-year update, note the accomplishments since the drafting of the last LMP set forth in an organized (categories or bullets) format.	ARC consensus	Page 4 (I.B); Exhibit A
65	Key management activities necessary to achieve the desired outcomes regarding other appropriate resource management.	259.032	Page 5 (I.C.); Page 37 (VII)
66	Summary budget for the scheduled land management activities of the LMP including any potential fees anticipated from public or private entities for projects to offset adverse impacts to imperiled species or such habitat, which fees shall be used to restore, manage, enhance, repopulate, or acquire imperiled species habitat for lands that have or are anticipated to have imperiled species or such habitat onsite. The summary budget shall be prepared in such a manner that it facilitates computing an aggregate of land management costs for all state-managed lands using the categories described in s. 259.037(3) which are resource management, administration, support, capital improvements, recreation visitor services, law enforcement activities.	253.034	Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U
67	Cost estimate for conducting other management activities which would enhance the natural resource value or public recreation value for which the lands were acquired, include recommendations for cost-effective methods in accomplishing those activities.	259.032	Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U
68	A statement of gross income generated, net income and expenses.	18-2.018	Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit U

*** = The referenced inventories shall be of such detail that objective measures and benchmarks can be established for each tract of land and monitored during the lifetime of the plan. All quantitative data collected shall be aggregated, standardized, collected, and presented in an electronic format to allow for uniform management reporting and analysis. The information collected by the DEP pursuant to s. 253.0325(2) shall be available to the land manager and his or her assignee.

**TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST
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**TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST
EXHIBITS**

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Arthropod Control Plan.....	Exhibit V

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEAD AGENCY: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Forest Service (FFS)
COMMON NAME: Big Shoals State Forest
LOCATION: Hamilton County
ACREAGE TOTAL: 1,814.47 acres

Historic Communities	Natural	Approximate Acreage*
Basin swamp		59
Bottomland forest		159
Depression marsh		21
Dome swamp		134

Historic Communities	Natural	Approximate Acreage*
Mesic flatwoods		1,349
Sandhill		10
Wet flatwoods		63

* Acreage discrepancies may occur based on FNAI polygons

TIITF LEASE AGREEMENT NUMBERS: 4836

USE: Single ____ Multiple X

MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Florida DACS, Florida Forest Service
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida DEP, Division of Recreation and Parks
Suwannee River Water Management District
Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

RESPONSIBILITY

General Forest Resource Management
Wildlife Resources and Laws
Recreation and Parks Management
Water Resource Protection and Restoration
Historical and Archaeological Resource Management

DESIGNATED LAND USE: Multiple-Use State Forest
SUBLEASES: None
ENCUMBRANCES: None
TYPE ACQUISITION: Florida Forever and Hamilton County Funds, Suwannee River Water Management District.
UNIQUE FEATURES: BSSF is part of Big Shoals Public Lands (BSPL). Four Mile Branch
ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL: Two (2) known sites
MANAGEMENT NEEDS: Restoration and maintenance of native ecosystems
ACQUISITION NEEDS: 532 Acres of Optimal Management Boundary
SURPLUS ACREAGE: None
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: BSSF Liaison Committee, Management Plan Advisory Group
Public Hearing, Acquisition and Restoration Council - - - - -

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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR DIVISION OF STATE LANDS USE ONLY)

ARC Approval Date: _____ TIITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

I. Introduction

Big Shoals State Forest (BSSF) consists of 1,814.47 acres of the 3,956.46-acre Big Shoals Public Lands (BSPL). The state forest portion is located on the northern side of Big Shoals State Park in Hamilton County. Located in the southeastern corner of Hamilton County, this property (formerly known as the Brown Tract) was purchased from the Nature Conservancy by the state of Florida in 1986 through the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program. It was designated as a state forest in March 1989.

There are several natural community types within BSSF. BSSF is dominated by mesic flatwoods, with bottomland forests, wet flatwoods, basin swamps and cypress domes being well represented. A perennial stream, Four Mile Branch, flows through Big Shoals and into the Suwannee River. The diversity of natural communities hosts a wealth of plant and animal biodiversity including pitcher plants and thriving white-tailed deer populations.

A. General Mission and Management Plan Direction

The primary mission of the Florida Forest Service (FFS) is to “protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations.”

Management strategies for BSSF emphasize the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 253.034(2)(a) and 589.04(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.). Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of Florida, and that is consistent with the purpose for which BSSF was acquired. Multiple-use management for BSSF will be accomplished with the following strategies:

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives;
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities for multiple interests;
- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened, or rare, and other components of biological diversity, including game and non-game wildlife, and plants;
- Protect known archaeological, historical, and cultural resources;
- Restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions, related water resources, and the health of associated wetlands and aquatic communities; and
- Provide research and educational opportunities related to natural resource management.

This management plan is provided according to requirements of Sections 253.034, 259.032, and 373, F.S., and was prepared utilizing guidelines outlined in Section 18-2.021 of the Florida Administrative Code, F.A.C. It is not an annual work plan or detailed operational plan but provides general guidance for the management of BSSF for the next ten-year period and outlines the major concepts that will guide management activities on BSSF. Though not part of this plan, each state forest also updates and maintains five-year action plans for silviculture, ecology, prescribed fire, roads and bridges, boundary maintenance, and recreation. These internal plans are updated annually with the current year serving as the annual operations plan for the forest.

B. Past Accomplishments

Records of past management activities and public use on BSSF have been compiled monthly and are available from the Forest Manager. A table has been prepared for this plan that summarizes the accomplishments for each of the past 20 years. See Exhibit A. The table does not attempt to account for all activities on BSSF but summarizes major activities. It does not list the multitude of daily activities and public interactions involved in managing BSSF. Since the approval of the previous management plan in 2005, there have been numerous events, developments, and accomplishments. Among the most notable have been the following:

- Assisted FWC with Check Station Road improvement project.
- Updated the timber inventory on 3,498 acres
- Site prepped 183 acres with herbicide
- Planted 236,000 containerized longleaf pine seedlings on 387 acres
- Planted 28,180 containerized South Florida slash pine seedlings on 55 acres
- Conducted seedling survival checks on 204 acres
- Chopped 85 acres before and after silvicultural practices
- Treated 393 acres with herbicide before and after silvicultural practices
- Mowed 120 acres before and after silvicultural practices
- Invasive species control nine (9) acres total, including: 3.10 acres of Japanese climbing fern, 3 acres of mimosa, and 3 acres of sweet tanglehead
- Marked 839 acres of timber
- Cruised 735 acres of timber
- Harvested 534 acres of timber, totaling 46,793 tons for approximately \$825,276
- Conducted prescribed burning on 7,816 acres
- Inventoried 3,498 acres across 239 plots
- Provided visitor services to about 223,136 visitors a year
- Cleared four (4) miles of the Woodpecker Trail across multiple events over time
- Held several special events including bicycling, horseback riding, and OOF hunts
- Conducted two (2) programs / tours
- Monitored two (2) archaeological sites
- Rebuilt Road 1 and eight (8) miles of road
- Built and repaired eight (8) bridges
- Graded 2.5 miles of road
- Installed 8 culverts
- Added four (4) low water crossings
- Marked and maintained 44 miles of state forest boundary
- Mowed 165 miles of road
- Maintained 104 miles of firelines
- Maintained 33 miles of trail
- Recorded 705 inmate hours
- Cleared 5 miles of roads impacted by Hurricane Irma
- Improved 60 acres of wild turkey habitat through NWTF grant
- Acquired 138 acres known as the Chasteen Property from Alachua County Conservation Trust

C. Goals / Objectives for the Next Ten-Year Period

The following goals and objectives provide direction and focus of management resources for the next ten-year planning period. Funding, agency program priorities, and the potential for wildfire or other natural disasters during the planning period will determine the degree to which these objectives can be met. Management activities on BSSF during this period must conserve, protect, utilize, and enhance the natural and historical resources and manage resource-based public outdoor recreation, which is compatible with the conservation and protection of this forest. Most of the management operations will be conducted by the FFS, although appropriate activities will be contracted to private sector vendors or completed with the cooperation of other agencies. All activities will enhance the property's natural resource or public recreation value.

The management activities listed below will be addressed within the ten-year management period and are defined as short-term goals, long-term goals, or ongoing goals. Short-term goals are goals that are achievable within a two-year planning period, and long-term goals are achievable within a ten-year planning period. Objectives are listed in priority order for each goal. Other activities will be completed with minimal overhead expense and existing staff.

➤ GOAL 1: Sustainable Forest Management

Objective 1: Continue to update and implement the Five-Year Silviculture Action Plan including reforestation, timber harvesting, prescribed burning, restoration, and timber stand improvement activities and goals. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual updates of the Five-Year Silviculture Action Plan completed
- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Silviculture Action Plan (acres treated)

Objective 2: Continue to implement the FFS process for developing stand descriptions and conducting forest inventory, including maintaining a GIS database containing forest stands, roads, prescribed burns, timber sales, and other attributes (including, but not limited to: rare, threatened, and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, and invasive species locations). (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Update GIS database and re-inventory all attributes as required by FFS procedures
- Number of acres inventoried during this planning cycle

➤ GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreation Opportunities

Objective 1: Maintain public access and recreation activities that are compatible with multiple-use management including but not limited to horseback riding, bicycling, hiking, and hunting. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Number of visitor opportunities per day

Objective 2: Continue to safely integrate human use into BSSF, following the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan, and update annually. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual updates of the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan completed
- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan

Objective 3: Continue to involve and meet with the Liaison Committee. The purpose of Liaison Committee meetings is to facilitate communication between the FFS and committee members (and the groups they represent) about state forest management and to obtain feedback from these entities. The Liaison Committee consists of local residents, community leaders, special interest group representatives (vendors, hunters and other recreational users, etc.), environmental group representatives, and other public / private entities. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Liaison Committee remains organized
- Annual meetings continue

Objective 4: Maintain cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to develop specific hunting season quotas and bag limits, and to address hunting issues which are to be agreed upon at an annual cooperators meeting between FFS and FWC. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual letter on agreed-upon hunting issues
- Updated rules posted and WMA brochures available online at MyFWC.com

Objective 5: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreation areas on BSSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreation opportunities will fall under the scope of multiple-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, and ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition. (Short-term objective)

Performance Measure: List of viable access points and visitor opportunities for consideration

Objective 6: Maintain cooperation with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to improve the equestrian trailhead and parking area. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Improvement completed

Objective 7: Recruit volunteers and volunteer organizations to assist with recreation and / or resource management. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Number of volunteers and organizations that assist with projects
- Number of hours provided by volunteers

➤ **GOAL 3: Habitat Restoration, Improvement, and Fire Management**

Objective 1: The BSSF currently contains approximately 1,481 acres of fire-dependent communities. BSSF staff will plan and conduct prescribed burns in a manner that benefits these fire-dependent natural communities within the forest. To achieve an average fire-return interval of two (2) to four (4) years for most fire-dependent communities, FFS will attempt to conduct prescribed burns on an average of approximately 375 to 750 acres per year. Currently, FFS staff estimates 1,200 acres at BSSF are within the desired fire-return interval. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual number of acres burned
- Number of acres burned within target fire-return interval

Objective 2: Continue to annually update and implement the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan and the prescribed burning goals. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual updates of the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan completed
- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan (acres treated)

Objective 3: Reduce the threat of wildfire within the wildland urban interface on BSSF and the surrounding community through a comprehensive mitigation strategy that includes evaluating vegetative fuels near residential areas and identifying potential fuel reduction projects constructing and maintaining firelines and utilizing prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risk. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Evaluations completed
- Should the evaluations determine that fuel reduction is necessary, number of acres treated for fuel reduction
- Existing firelines maintained through mowing and harrowing

Objective 4: Utilize prescribed fire to enhance restoration of native groundcover. Evaluate areas where native groundcover has been eliminated or heavily impacted from historical land use on a case-by-case basis for alternative methods to address reestablishment of native groundcover. Restore native groundcover from historical land use where practical or heavily impacted. (Long-term objective)

Performance Measure: Number of acres restored

➤ **GOAL 4: Listed and Rare Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration**

Objective 1: In cooperation with FWC, maintain a Wildlife Management Strategy addressing wildlife species for BSSF, with emphasis on imperiled species and associated management prescriptions for their habitats. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Imperiled species management strategy completed
- Baseline listed and rare species list completed for BSSF

Objective 2: In consultation with FWC, implement survey and monitoring protocols, where feasible, for listed and rare species. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Number of species for which monitoring is ongoing

➤ **GOAL 5: Invasive Species Management and Control**

Objective 1: Continue to follow and annually update the Five-Year Ecological Plan for BSSF, to locate, identify, and control invasive species. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Total number of acres identified and successfully treated
- Annual updates of the Five-Year Ecological Plan completed
- Continue to maintain BSSF invasive database information annually

➤ **GOAL 6: Cultural and Historical Resource Management**

Objective 1: Ensure all known cultural and historical sites are recorded in the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) Florida Master Site File. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Documentation of known sites

Objective 2: Monitor recorded sites annually and send updates to the DHR Florida Master Site File as needed. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Number of sites monitored. Reports submitted to DHR

Objective 3: Maintain at least one (1) qualified staff member as an Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) Monitor. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Number of local staff trained as ARM monitors

➤ **GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration**

Objective 1: Protect water resources during management activities through the implementation of all applicable Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs). (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Percent compliance with Silviculture BMPs

Objective 2: Conduct or obtain a site assessment / study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs. (Short-term objective)

Performance Measure: Assessment conducted

Objective 3: Close, rehabilitate, or restore roads, fire lines, and trails that are causing hydrologic alterations or negatively impacting water quality. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: Total number of roads, firelines, and trails closed, rehabilitated, and / or restored

➤ **GOAL 8: Capital Facilities and Infrastructure**

Objective 1: BSSF staff, along with help from volunteers and / or user groups, will continue maintenance of one (1) information kiosk, one (1) trailhead, five (5) parking areas to include one (1) designated for equestrians and other for hunting, 3.9 miles of trails, and four (4) miles of primary roads. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measure: The number of existing facilities, miles of roads, and miles of trails maintained

Objective 2: Continue to follow the Five-Year Roads and Bridges Management Plan and update annually. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Roads and Bridges Management Plan
- Annual updates of the Five-Year Roads and Bridges Management Plan completed

Objective 3: Continue to implement the Five-Year Boundary Survey and Maintenance Management Plan and update annually. Approximately 20% of BSSF boundary will be remarked annually as necessary, which includes harrowing, reposting signage, and repainting boundary trees. (Ongoing objective)

Performance Measures:

- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Boundary Survey and Maintenance Management Plan
- Percentage of forest boundary maintained each year
- Annual updates of the Five-Year Boundary Survey and Maintenance Management Plan completed

II. Administration Section

A. Descriptive Information

1. Common Name of Property

The common name of the property is Big Shoals State Forest (BSSF).

2. Legal Description and Acreage

Access to BSSF is from US Highway 41, north on County Road 135. The entrance to Big Shoals area is accessed from County Road 135 to Old Goodwin Bridge Road. See Exhibit B. The total acreage of BSSF is 1,814.47 acres. The property is located in all or part of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 of Township 2 South, Range 16 East, Sections 33 and 34 of Township 1 South, Range 16 East, Section 27 of Township 1 South, Range 16 East, and also Section 27 of Township 1 South, Range 13 East in Hamilton County, Florida. BSSF's tracts and acreage are shown in Exhibit E. Acreage acquired by funding source is identified in Table 1.

Table 1. BSSF Acreage by Funding Source

Funding Source	Acres
CARL	1,672.51
Florida Forever	141.96

A complete legal description of lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF) is on record at the Suwannee Forestry Center, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands in Tallahassee, and the FFS State Office in Tallahassee.

3. Proximity to Other Public Resources

Lands managed by state, federal, or local governments for conservation of natural or cultural resources that are located within approximately 15 miles of the BSSF are included in Exhibit F and Table 2.

Table 2. Nearby Significant Public Conservation Lands

Tract	Agency	Distance
Big Shoals Conservation Area	SRWMD	Adjacent S
Big Shoals State Park	DRP	Adjacent S
Deep Creek Conservation Area	SRWMD	0.5 miles S
Swift Creek Conservation Area	SRWMD	1.3 miles SW
Suwannee Valley Conservation Area	SRWMD	1.5 miles SW
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park	DRP	1.7 miles W
Osceola National Forest	USDA	4.9 miles E
Woods Ferry Conservation Area	SRWMD	5.4 miles W
Bay Creek Conservation Area	SRWMD	5.7 miles NE
Belmont Conservation Area	SRWMD	7.3 miles N
Camp Branch Conservation Area	SRWMD	8.6 miles W
Benton Conservation Area	SRWMD	9.3 miles N
Cypress Creek Conservation Area	SRWMD	9.3 miles N
Alligator Lake Park and Recreation Area	SRWMD	12.3 miles SE
Olustee Creek Conservation Area	USDA	13.9 miles SE
Fort Union Conservation Area	SRWMD	14.1 miles NW

DRP – Florida Division of Recreation and Parks
 USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

SRWMD – Suwannee River Water Management District

4. Property Acquisition and Land Use Considerations

Originally purchased from the Nature Conservancy in 1986 with funds from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program, the property currently comprises approximately 1,814.47 acres. Prior to this management plan, Big Shoals State Forest was jointly managed as part of Big Shoals Public Lands and primarily used for farming and cattle grazing.

Big Shoals State Forest resides amongst conservation lands jointly managed by the Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). In March 2023, an additional 141.96-acre parcel, known as the Chasteen parcel, was acquired through the Florida Forever conservation program. All TIITF-acquired parcels are identified in Table 3.

Table 3. Parcel Acquisition

Parcel Name	TIIT Lease No.	Lease Date	Acres
Brown Tract	3592	3/15/1989	1,672.51
Chasteen	3592	3/29/2023	141.96

B. Management Authority, Purpose, and Constraints

1. Purpose for Acquisition / Management Prospectus

The main objectives identified by the CARL program for purchasing the property were to:

- Manage and protect the natural resources of BSSF
- Provide public access and recreational use

- Protect in perpetuity the largest whitewater area in Florida, along with the unique vistas, upland areas, river floodplain, and cultural resources of the Suwannee River, while providing outstanding resource-based recreation opportunities to Florida residents and visitors.

2. Degree of Title Interest Held by the Board

The TIITF hold fee simple title to the 1,814.47 acres of BSSF in Hamilton County. Intergovernmental Lease Agreement No. 3592, between TIITF and FDACS, provides authority for FFS to manage BSSF.

3. Designated Single or Multiple-Use Management

BSSF is managed under a multiple-use concept by the FFS, under the authority of Chapters 253 and 589, F.S. The FFS is the lead managing agency as stated in TIITF Management Lease No. 3592.

Multiple-use management is the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, and water resources so they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all these resources and considering the relative values of the various resources. Local demands, acquisition objectives, and other factors influence the array of uses that are compatible with and allowed on any specific area of BSSF. This management approach is believed to provide for the greatest public benefit, by allowing compatible uses while protecting overall forest health, native ecosystems, and the functions and values associated with them.

4. Revenue Producing Activities

Numerous activities on BSSF provide for multiple uses, as well as generate revenue to offset management costs. Revenue-producing activities will be considered when they have been determined to be financially feasible and will not adversely impact management of BSSF. Current and potential revenue-producing activities for the BSSF include, but are not limited to:

- *Timber Harvests* – Timber harvests on BSSF will be conducted to improve forest health, promote wildlife habitat, restore plant communities, and provide additional benefits.
- *Recreation Fees* – Fees are currently collected for vendor / special use permits as applicable. Fees will be assessed for any future improved day-use areas or camping established on the forest.
- *Apiary Leases* – There are currently no apiary lease sites on BSSF.
- *Fuelwood Sales* – Permits are sold for the cutting and collection of firewood in designated areas of BSSF where past fire suppression has led to severe oak encroachment.
- *Miscellaneous Forest Product Sales* – Other miscellaneous forest product sales, including but not limited to, palm fronds and berries, pinecones, and pine straw, may be considered.

5. Conformation to State Lands Management Plan

Management of BSSF under the multiple-use concept complies with the State Lands Management Plan and provides optimum balanced public utilization of the property. Specific authority for the FFS's management of public land is derived from Chapters 253, 259, and 589 F.S.

6. Legislative or Executive Constraints

FFS makes every effort to comply with applicable statutes, rules, and ordinances when managing BSSF. For example, when public facilities are developed on state forests, every effort is made to comply with Public Law 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act. As new facilities are developed, the universal access requirements of this law are followed in all cases except where the law allows reasonable exceptions (e.g., where handicap access is structurally impractical or where providing such access would change the fundamental character of the facility being provided).

There are no known legislative or executive constraints specifically directed toward BSSF.

7. Aquatic Preserve / Area of Critical State Concern

BSSF is not within an aquatic preserve or an area of critical state concern, nor is it in an area under study for such designation.

C. Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

1. Property Boundaries Establishment and Preservation

BSSF boundaries, 14.5 miles in total, are managed by state forest personnel in accordance with the guidelines of the State Forest Handbook. There are twelve (12) gates throughout BSSF that require periodic maintenance. State forest boundaries are maintained by periodic clearing, repainting and reposting, and placement of state forest boundary signs by FFS personnel. The boundaries are identified in Exhibit B.

2. Improvements

Major recreation facilities on BSSF include the Equestrian Trailhead and Horse Trail, and Woodpecker Trail. See Exhibit D for a map of the buildings and improvements at BSSF. Buildings / Recreation infrastructure present on the BSSF include:

- Equestrian Trailhead
- Woodpecker Trail
- Horse Trail

3. On-Site Housing

There are no (0) residences on BSSF. Housing is prioritized based on FFS policy.

FFS may establish on-site housing (mobile / manufactured home) on BSSF if deemed necessary to alleviate security and management issues. The need and feasibility for BSSF will be evaluated and established if considered appropriate by the Center Manager and approved by the FFS Director. Prior to the occurrence of any ground disturbing activity for establishing on-site housing, a notification will be sent to the DHR and Florida Natural

Areas Inventory (FNAI) for review and recommendations. This type of housing will not exceed three homes per location with the possibility of more than one on-site housing location occurring if considered necessary by the Center Manager and approved by the Director.

4. Operations Infrastructure

a. Operations Budget

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024 the total operating budget for BSSF was \$275,437.74. This amount includes expenses, contractual services, Other Personal Services Employment (OPS), etc. A summary budget for BSSF is contained in Exhibit U. Implementation of any of the activities within this management plan is contingent on availability of funding, other resources, and other statewide priorities.

b. Equipment

To carry out the mission of the FFS, equipment assigned to the BSSF includes: one (1) pickup truck, one (1) UTV, one (1) farm tractor, and two (2) attachments for the farm tractor.

c. Staffing

One (1) Forestry Supervisor II is assigned to BSSF who also has duties on Twin Rivers State Forest. Other personnel from the Suwannee Forestry Center are occasionally used to assist with management activities at BSSF.

The Forestry Supervisor II will work to achieve the goals outlined in this management plan. Recreation planning and management activities as well as resource management and planning activities, such as trail flagging / identification, recreation facility placement, timber cruising, and sale administration, etc., are the responsibility of the Forestry Supervisor II under the direction of the Operations Administrator and Center Manager. Forest operations, such as road maintenance, operations / recreation facility maintenance, prescribed burning, etc., are the responsibility of the Forest Area Supervisor under the direction of the Operations Administrator and Center Manager.

To supplement the staff assigned to BSSF, the Forestry Supervisor II is responsible for recruiting interested volunteers who can bring needed experience and skills to assist with the management of the BSSF recreation program, as well as resource management activities.

Additionally, a State Forest Liaison Committee comprised of private citizens and representatives of forest user groups meets bi-annually to provide input on forest management activities and share ideas with FFS staff to improve the state forest.

D. Additional Acquisitions and Land Use Considerations

1. Alternate Uses Considered

No alternate uses are being considered at this time. Alternate uses will be considered as requests are made and will be accommodated as appropriate if they are determined to be compatible with existing uses and with the management goals and objectives of BSSF. Uses

determined as incompatible include but are not limited to: water resource development projects, water supply projects, storm-water management projects, sewage treatment facilities, linear facilities, off highway vehicle use, dumping, mining, and oil well stimulation (e.g. hydraulic fracturing / fracking), or as determined by law, regulation, or other incompatible uses as described elsewhere in the management plan. Deadhead logging is not compatible with nor considered an appropriate use within or adjacent to BSSF boundaries. Although no water resources projects are being considered at this time on SRWMD-owned lands within BSSF, they should not be precluded.

2. Additional Land Needs

There are 10 parcels of land totaling 532 acres adjacent to the property which should receive priority for acquisition because they would benefit the management of the property. See Exhibit C.

3. Surplus Land Assessment

On conservation lands where FFS is the lead manager, FFS assesses and identifies areas for potential surplus land. This assessment consists of an examination of resource and operational management needs, public access and recreational use, and GIS modeling and analysis.

The evaluation of BSSF by FFS has determined that all of the forest is being managed and operated for the original purposes of acquisition, as well as center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a) F.S. Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of Florida.

4. Adjacent Conflicting Uses

There are no known inholdings with conflicting uses.

FFS will cooperate with adjacent property owners, prospective owners, or prospective developers to discuss methods to minimize negative impacts on management, resources, facilities, roads, recreation, etc., and discuss ways to minimize encroachment onto BSSF.

BSSF is fragmented by County Road 135 and Southeast 94th Street. These roads are a primary consideration when planning and conducting prescribed burns due to smoke management concerns. Furthermore, when appropriate, FFS will coordinate with DRP for joint efforts in recreation management, trail maintenance, closures for prescribed burning, and other recreational opportunities for the public.

5. Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan

This plan was submitted to the Planning and Development Division of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners for review and compliance with its local comprehensive plan. See Exhibit S.

6. Utility Corridors and Easements

BSSF has two (2) inholdings with ingress and egress access easements: a) a Florida Park Service road to access the southern side of property, and b) a powerline easement which is collocated at the FWC Check Station located where Road 70 meets CR 135. Currently there is one (1) established utility corridors on BSSF.

FFS does not favor the fragmentation of natural communities with linear facilities. Consequently, easements for such uses will be discouraged to the greatest extent practical. The FFS does not consider BSSF suitable for any new linear facilities. When such encroachments are unavoidable, previously disturbed sites will be the preferred location. The objectives, when identifying possible locations for new linear facilities, will be to minimize damage to sensitive resources (e.g., listed species and archaeological sites), minimize habitat fragmentation, limit disruption of management activities, including prescribed burns, and limit disruption of resource-based multiple use activities such as recreation.

Collocation of new linear facilities with existing corridors will be considered but will be used only where expansion of existing corridors does not increase the level of habitat fragmentation and disruption of management and multiple-use activities. FFS will further encourage the use of underground cables where scenic considerations are desirable as well as encourage the development of use of wildlife crossings for unavoidable roadway development projects. Easements for such utilities are subject to the review and approval of the TIITF and the SRWMD. Requests for linear facility uses will be handled according to the Governor and the Cabinet's linear facilities policy.

E. Agency and Public Involvement

1. Responsibilities of Managing Agencies

FFS is the lead managing agency, responsible for overall forest management and public recreation activities, as stated in TIITF Management Lease No. 3592. Pursuant to the management lease, the lead managing agency may enter into further agreements or to subleases on any part of BSSF. DRP, is the lead managing agency for the Big Shoals State Park that shares an internal boundary with BSSF.

FFS will cooperate with the DHR regarding appropriate management practices on historical or archaeological sites on the property as stated in Section 267.061, F.S. FFS will consult DHR prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities as required per DHR guidelines.

FWC assumes law enforcement responsibilities, enforces hunting regulations, cooperatively sets hunting season dates with FFS, and conducts other wildlife management activities with input from FFS.

The SRWMD will be consulted and involved in matters relating to water resources and hydrological restoration as appropriate.

2. Law Enforcement

Primary law enforcement responsibilities will be handled by FWC law enforcement officers. Rules governing the use of BSSF are stated in Chapter 5I-4, F.A.C. FWC will enforce fish and wildlife regulations and aid in enforcing state forest rules. FWC does not currently have an officer dedicated to patrolling and enforcement on BSSF. This task is shared among multiple FWC officers who also patrol and enforce laws on properties and waterways outside of BSSF.

The FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) will assist with open burning and wildfire investigations as needed. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office provides additional assistance as needed.

Special rules under Chapter 5I-4, F.A.C. were promulgated for FDACS-FFS to manage the use of state lands and better control traffic, and to oversee recreation and other uses on BSSF.

3. Wildland Fire

The FFS has the primary responsibility for prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires wherever they may occur. The FFS shall provide leadership and direction in the evaluation, coordination, allocation of resources, and monitoring of wildfire management and protection (590.01, F.S.). The FFS also has the responsibility of authorizing prescribed burns (590.02 [1][i], F.S.).

4. Public and Local Government Involvement

This plan has been prepared by FFS and will be carried out primarily by the FFS. FFS responds to public involvement through liaison committees, management plan advisory groups, public hearings, and through ongoing direct contact with user groups. Land Management Review Teams, as coordinated by the Division of State Lands, have conducted reviews of management plan implementation in 2013, 2017 and 2022. See Exhibit R. The review team's recommendations were addressed in this plan, as appropriate.

The plan was developed with input from the BSSF Management Plan Advisory Group and was reviewed at a public hearing on June 26, 2025. A summary of the advisory group's meetings and discussions, as well as written comments received on the plan, are included in Exhibit T. The ARC public hearing and meeting serve as an additional forum for public input and review of the plan.

5. Volunteers

Volunteers are important assets to BSSF. Volunteer activities may occur as one-time events or in association with recurring projects and routine maintenance. Additional volunteer recruitment will continue to assist furthering the FFS's mission.

6. Friends of Florida State Forests

Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc. (FFSF) is a Direct Support Organization of the Florida Forest Service. FFSF supports management activities and projects on Florida's state forests. FFSF is established by Florida Statute, supports programs within Florida's state forests and

is governed by a board of directors representing all areas of the state. Through community support, FFSF assists the FFS to expand opportunities for recreation, environmental education, fire prevention, and forest management within Florida's state forests.

The FFSF program is referenced in Chapter 589.012, F.S. For more information visit: www.floridastateforests.org.

III. Archaeological / Cultural Resources and Protection

A. Past Uses

Big Shoals Public Lands, which includes BSSF and the areas surrounding the conservation lands, have a history of human habitation due to the existence of the Suwannee River and several springs. White Springs, the settlement that developed around the springs, was also known to plantation and pioneer families as “Rebel’s Refuge” during the Civil War. The timber industry fueled the town’s incorporation in 1885, and the downtown spring was developed into a prosperous vacation destination. Until a fire in 1911 destroyed most of the town, White Springs boasted more than 500 hotel and boarding rooms. Throughout the 20th century, the local economy and use of the land in the area was largely based on agriculture and forestry. Before the property was acquired in 1986, Occidental Agriculture Chemical Product Company owned the mining rights to BSPL and other adjacent parcels (Big Shoals State Park Management Plan, 2024).

This property was leased for farming prior to state purchase and ownership.

B. Archaeological and Historical Resources

A review of information contained in the Florida Department of State, DHR, Florida Master Site File has determined there are 2 recorded archaeological sites and no (0) historical cemeteries within the designated area for BSSF. Currently, none of the known sites on BSSF are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and none are eligible. See Table 4 and Exhibit G for a cultural resource roster.

Table 4. Archaeological and Historical Sites on BSSF

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type
HA00326	Observation Platform	AR
HA00369	Top Bay	AR

AR – Archaeological Site

Sensitive Areas maps are provided to personnel to help identify locations where protection is critical. Periodic monitoring by staff and law enforcement is also important to protection efforts. Where cultural sites are part of current or future public use areas and DHR approves, interpretation may be utilized to inform and educate the public.

C. Ground Disturbing Activities

Representatives of DHR and FNAI will be consulted prior to the initiation of proposed ground disturbing activity as required per DHR guidelines. FFS will make every effort to protect known archaeological and historical resources. FFS will follow the “Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands”

and will comply with all appropriate provisions of Section 267.061(2)(a,b), F.S. See Exhibit H. Any significant ground disturbing activity proposal will be submitted to DHR's Compliance and Review office for review prior to undertakings and allow the Division a reasonable opportunity to comment. Ground disturbing activities not specifically covered by this plan will be conducted under the parameters of the Interim Management Guidelines.

D. Survey and Monitoring

Currently two (2) local district FFS staff is trained by DHR as an Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) monitor. The is trained as an archaeological monitor and serves as the primary contact for historical issues. FFS will pursue opportunities for additional personnel to receive ARM Monitor training to facilitate protection of cultural resources. FFS will consult with public lands archaeologists at DHR as necessary to determine an appropriate priority and frequency of monitoring at each of the listed sites, and any protection measures that might be required. Unless required on a more frequent basis, all archaeological and historical sites within the state forest will be monitored at least annually. FFS field staff will monitor the listed sites to note condition and any existing or potential threats.

Any known archaeological and historical sites will be identified on maps to aid state forest personnel and if necessary, law enforcement personnel in patrolling and protecting sites. Applicable surveys will be conducted by ARM monitors or contracted archaeologists during the process of planning and implementing multiple-use management activities. FFS personnel will remain alert for any environmentally significant resource discoveries and protective actions will be taken as necessary. In addition, FFS will seek the advice and recommendations of DHR regarding any additional archaeological survey needs. Trained monitors will oversee limited types of ground-disturbing activities in which DHR recommends monitoring. FFS will utilize the services of DHR Public Lands archaeologists, when available, to locate and evaluate unknown resources, and to make recommendations in the management of known resources.

IV. Natural Resources and Protection

The primary purpose for FFS management of BSSF is protection of the largest whitewater area in Florida and its unique vistas, upland areas, river floodplain, and cultural resources of the Suwannee River through a stewardship ethic to assure these resources will be available for future generations. Management activities will be executed in a manner to minimize soil erosion and maintain and protect / enhance the hydrological resources on BSSF. If problems arise, corrective action will be implemented by FFS staff under the direction of FFS's Forest Hydrology Section. Efforts will be made to monitor and protect BSSF's waterbodies and their associated water quality and native plants and animals.

BSSF falls within the jurisdiction of the SRWMD. FFS will coordinate with SRWMD and / or FDEP, as necessary, on activities pertaining to water resource protection and management. Any activities requiring water management district permits will be handled accordingly. FFS will work with SRWMD to ensure that levels and quality of ground and surface water resources are appropriately monitored.

A. Soils and Geologic Resources

1. Resources

Soil information for BSSF was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The major soils listed by the NRCS include: Albany fine sand; Mascotte-Mascotte; Blanton sand; Mascotte and Plummer soils; and Pelham sand. Detailed information on all soils present on BSSF may be found in Exhibit I.

2. Soil Protection

Management activities will be executed in a manner that minimizes negative impacts to the soil. As problems arise, corrective action will be implemented by FFS staff under the direction of the FFS Forest Hydrology Section in conjunction with recommendations as contained in the most current version of the Florida Silviculture BMP Manual.

Significant soil erosion from drainage ditches have caused washouts on BSSF, and most notably include scouring of the Woodpecker Trail. FFS staff are planning on repairing the areas of trail that have washed out by filling holes and then repaving the areas on the trail that have been damaged. FFS staff will also assess drainage ditches to see if improvements can be made, such as water bars and turn outs, to prevent damage to the trail in the future.

B. Water Resources

The water resources on BSSF perform essential roles in the protection of water quality, groundwater recharge, flood control, and aquatic habitat preservation. In the interest of maintaining these valuable resource functions, state forest management personnel will work with the FFS Hydrology Section to incorporate wetlands restoration into the overall resource management program as opportunities arise, particularly where wetlands systems have been impaired or negatively impacted by previous management activities or natural disasters. See Exhibit K for map of the water resources on BSSF.

1. Resources

Water resources on BSSF include Four Mile Branch, which flows from the northern boundary of the state forest and exits the southern boundary of the forest; flowing through BSSP and into the Suwannee River. Four Mile Branch is fed through smaller ephemeral streams flowing from areas of basin swamp. Further, Long Branch, a tributary of the Suwannee River, flows south through the northeastern edge of the Chasteen parcel before emptying into the Suwannee River. See Exhibit K for map of the water resources on BSSF.

2. Water Classification

The FDEP's Standards Development Section reports that all of the surface waters within and adjacent to BSSF are classified as Class III Waters (Fish Consumption; Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-Balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife), which is the statewide default classification under Rule 62-302.400, F.A.C.

According to subsection 62-302.700(9), F.A.C., there are no Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) within BSSF. However, the adjacent area is covered by the Big Shoals

OFW, per subparagraph 62-301.700(9)(f)6., F.A.C., and the Suwannee River Special Water OFW, per subparagraph 62-302.700(9)(i)34., F.A.C. These OFWs are both in Hamilton and Columbia counties. See Exhibit J.

3. Water Protection

An objective for the acquisition and management of this public land was to protect the largest whitewater area in Florida and its unique vistas, upland areas, river floodplain, and cultural resources of the Suwannee River. Concerns over a continuous, usable source of fresh water requires emphasis on protecting this vital resource. Water resource protection measures, at a minimum, will be accomplished using BMPs as described in the most current version of Silviculture BMP Manual. The FFS will coordinate with the appropriate district office and/or DEP, as necessary, on activities pertaining to water resource protection and management. Any activities requiring water management district permits will be handled accordingly. The FFS will work with the SRWMD to ensure that levels and quality of ground and surface water resources are appropriately monitored.

4. Swamps, Marshes, and Other Wetlands

Maintenance of naturally occurring wetland communities is a high priority and will be accomplished through appropriate management activities, including prescribed fire and adherence to Silviculture BMPs. In addition to the waterways (Long Branch and Four Mile Branch), BSSF contains approximately 373 acres in four (4) hydric communities: basin swamp, bottomland forest, depression marsh, and dome swamp. Maintenance of naturally-occurring wetlands communities is a high priority and will be accomplished through appropriate management activities, including prescribed fire when necessary, and adherence to Silviculture BMP.

5. Wetlands Restoration

Wetlands restoration objectives on BSSF include erosion control, restoration of hydrology, and restoration of wetland plant and animal communities. To achieve these objectives, restoration activities may involve road and soil stabilization, water level control structure removal or installation, invasive species control, site preparation and re-vegetation with native wetlands species, and project monitoring. These activities may be conducted individually or concurrently and implemented by FFS personnel or by non-FFS personnel under mitigation or contractual agreements. Wetland restoration projects should be conducted in conjunction with other restoration activities indicated elsewhere in this plan.

The FFS will cooperate with SRWMD, FDEP, Hamilton County, and municipalities to monitor any declines in surface water quality or suspected contamination of groundwater in the region and monitor land use zoning changes on properties bordering BSSF. Water resource protection measures, at a minimum, will be accomplished through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the FFS's Silviculture Best Management Practices manual.

Where applicable, BSSF, with assistance from the FFS Forest Management Bureau, may pursue funding to develop and implement wetlands restoration projects.

Additionally, cooperative research among FFS, other state agencies, and the federal government will provide valuable information in determining future management objectives of wetland restoration.

Wetlands restoration will be coordinated with the SRWMD and BSSP as applicable. Any activities requiring permits from the water management district will be handled accordingly and will follow the latest edition of the FFS Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

6. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

Currently, BSSF does not reside in an active BMAP zone.

A Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) is a "blueprint" for restoring impaired waters by reducing pollutant loadings to meet the allowable loadings established in a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). It represents a comprehensive set of strategies, including, but not limited to: permit limits on wastewater facilities, urban and agricultural best management practices, conservation programs, financial assistance, and revenue generating activities, all designed to implement the pollutant reductions established by the TMDL. These broad-based plans are developed with local stakeholders, as they rely on local input and local commitment, and are adopted by Secretarial Order to be enforceable.

A BMAP is developed as part of the Department's TMDL Program and represents the collaborative efforts of stakeholders to identify current and planned management actions to achieve pollutant load reductions required by the TMDL.

The BMAP provides for phased implementation under subparagraph 403.067(7)(a)1, F.S. The phased BMAP approach allows for the implementation of projects designed to achieve incremental reductions, while simultaneously monitoring and conducting studies to better understand the water quality dynamics (sources and response variables) in the watershed.

C. Flora and Fauna Resources

1. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

The intent of FFS is to manage BSSF in a manner that will minimize the potential for wildlife species to become imperiled. FFS employees continually monitor the forest for threatened or endangered species while conducting management activities. Specialized management techniques may be used, as necessary, to protect or increase protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species, as applicable for both plants and animals. See Table 5.

Table 5. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species Documented on BSSF

Common Name	Scientific Name	FNAI Global Rank*	FNAI State Rank*	Federal Status*	State Status*
Plants					
Chapman's sedge	<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	G3	S3	N	N
Florida toothache grass	<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	G2	S2	N	E
Florida mapleleaf	<i>Cyclonaias kleiniana</i>	G2G3	S2	N	N
Insects					
King's hairstreak	<i>Satyrium kingi</i>	G3G4	S2	N	N
Amphibians					
Gopher frog	<i>Lithobates capito</i>	G2G3	S3	N	N
Reptiles					
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	G5	S4	SAT	FT(S/A)
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	G3	S3	N	N
Timber rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	G4	S3	N	N
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	G3	S2?	T	FT
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	G3	S3	N	ST
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	G3	S3	N	E
Pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	G4	S3	N	ST
Birds					
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	G5	S3	N	N
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	G4	S2	LT	LT
Mammals					
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	G5	S3	N	N

* STATUS / RANK KEY

FNAI Global Rank: G1 = Critically Imperiled, G2 = Imperiled, G3 = Very Rare, G4 = Apparently Secure, G5 = Demonstrably Secure, GH = Possibly Extinct, GNR = Element not yet ranked (temporary), G#? = Tentative rank, T# = Taxonomic Subgroup; numbers have same definition as G#'s.

FNAI State Rank: S1 = Critically Imperiled, S2 = Imperiled, S3 = Very Rare, S4 = Apparently Secure, S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida, SH = Possibly Extinct, S#? = Tentative Rank.

Federal Status (USFWS): LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, N = Not currently listed, C = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened. SAT, T(S/A) = threatened due to similarity of appearance. A species that is threatened due to similarity of appearance with another listed species and is listed for its protection. Species listed as T(S/A) are not biologically endangered or threatened and are not subject to Section 7 consultation.

State Status (FWC): Animals: FE = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the USFWS, FT = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the USFWS, F(XN) = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida, FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance, ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FWC, SSC = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FWC, N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Plants: LE = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act; LT = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered; CE = Commercially Exploited; N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

2. Florida Natural Areas Inventory

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and significant ecological resources throughout Florida. FNAI has reported the following:

a. Element Occurrences

FNAI element occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. For animals and plants, element occurrences usually indicate a viable population of the species. In addition to the species in Table 5, FNAI reports a few documented Element Occurrences of rare or endangered species within the vicinity of the property. See Exhibit L.

Documented habitat includes: basin swamp, bottomland forest, depression marsh, dome swamp, sandhill, wet flatwoods, and mesic flatwoods.

b. Likely and Potential Habitat for Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare or threatened species may occur on or near BSSF. Rare species and communities that have not been documented but that are likely or potential at the site are listed in Exhibit L.

FNAI recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species before expansions or alterations are made to any facilities.

3. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) reports records of listed species occurrences or critical habitats around or within the confines of the property. This includes state and federally listed endangered or threatened species.

Specific findings by the FWC include:

- a.** Records of Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) are found on or within one mile of BSSF.
- b.** Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas within one mile of the property for eastern indigo snake, Florida black bear, and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).
- c.** BSSF is located within an area of significant Species Richness which indicates the total number of species within potential habitat identified in a specific location.
- d.** BSSF is within Priority Wetlands, which are wetlands significant to listed wetland-dependent vertebrates.

These data represent only those occurrences recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers. The database does not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Also, data on certain species are not entered into the database on a site-specific basis. Therefore, one should not assume that an absence of occurrences in their database indicates that species of significance do not occur in the area. See Exhibit M.

FWC recommends the review of management guidelines in the published FWC Gopher Tortoise Management Plan to guide management actions for the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) on BSSF. The FWC Gopher Tortoise Management Plan provides beneficial

resource guidelines for habitat management and monitoring of the gopher tortoise. For reference, the FWC Gopher Tortoise Species Management Plan can be accessed at www.MyFWC.com.

FWC recommends the review of management guidelines in FWC's published Species Action Plans for the management of imperiled, rare, and focal bird species. The FWC Species Action Plans provide beneficial resource guidelines for habitat management and monitoring of the respective species. For reference, the FWC Species Action Plans can be accessed at www.MyFWC.com.

4. Game Species and Other Wildlife

Wildlife management plays an important role in the management of resources on BSSF. FWC provides cooperative technical assistance in managing the wildlife and fish populations, determining hunting seasons, establishing bag and season limits, and overall law enforcement on BSSF.

Notable wildlife species inhabiting BSSF include Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

BSSF supports a small population of feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*). Nuisance trapping may be utilized to control this population.

Non-game species will be managed and protected through the restoration and maintenance of native ecosystems found on BSSF. The current State Forest Handbook gives additional details for such things as snag management and retention.

5. Survey and Monitoring

FFS may implement species-specific management plans developed by FWC and other agencies as applicable. FFS will cooperate with FWC and other agencies in the development of new wildlife management plans and monitoring protocols, as necessary. Such plans will be consistent with rule and statute promulgated for the management of such species.

a. Gopher Tortoises

Belt transect surveys for gopher tortoise burrows have been conducted by FFS and FWC staff opportunistically, as needed, but generally in advance of land management activities that may impact tortoises (e.g., timber harvest). All surveys are done in cooperation with FWC.

The FFS follows and utilizes the Best Management Practices for gopher tortoises to assist in meeting management objectives for both the species and the communities in which it is found.

b. Florida Black Bear

FFS will continue to cooperate with FWC to implement FWC's Florida Black Bear Management Plan, with emphasis on maintaining sustainable black bear populations in suitable habitats throughout Florida for the benefit of the species and people.

c. Listed Plant Species

All known locations of listed or rare flora are GIS mapped and location data are shared with FNAI.

d. Other Rare Biota Surveys

Surveys are done as time and staffing allow. High quality plant communities continue to incur ad hoc surveys for both invasive plants and animals. The FFS will utilize FWC Species Action Plans for guidance both monitoring populations and for habitat management recommendations for rare and imperiled species, where appropriate.

Most of the isolated wetlands have received a cursory biological survey, with rare and significant plant and animal species observed and documented. Assistance will be offered to FWC for gopher tortoise burrow commensal monitoring, as well as monitoring for other rare species, as appropriate.

During routine management activities, incidental sightings of rare animals and plants are GIS mapped by FFS staff. All rare species data are collected and sent to FNAI annually.

6. Gopher Tortoise Recipient Site Feasibility Assessment

The FFS has assessed the feasibility of establishing a gopher tortoise recipient site on BSSF. Soil drainage classes present across the majority of the forest range from somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained; often either frequently flooded or with a degree of surficial saturation during the wetter months of the year. There are a few small areas which have soils that are moderately well drained to excessively drained but lack sufficient acreage. See Exhibit I. Therefore, despite the property totaling just over 1,800 acres in size, the FFS has determined there are no suitable soils for gopher tortoise recipient site establishment on BSSF.

D. Sustainable Forest Resources

FFS practices sustainable multiple-use forestry to meet BSSF resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar capability of the future. Sustainable forestry involves practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, and aesthetics. This is accomplished by maintaining and updating accurate estimates of standing timber in order to assure that the timber resources retain their sustainability. Forest inventories will be updated on a continual basis according to guidelines established by the FFS Forest Management Bureau.

E. Beaches and Dune Resources

No beaches or dunes occur on BSSF.

F. Swamps, Marshes, and Other Wetlands

BSSF contains approximately 373 acres in four (4) hydric communities: Basin swamp, bottomland forest, depression marsh and dome swamp. Maintenance of naturally occurring wetland communities is a high priority and will be accomplished through appropriate

management activities, including prescribed fire, when necessary, adherence to Silviculture BMPs.

G. Mineral Resources

No mineral deposits of commercial value are known to exist on BSSF.

H. Unique Natural Features and Outstanding Native Landscapes

BSSF is located about half a mile from the Big Shoals in the Suwannee River, for which the property is named, are the largest whitewater rapids in Florida. The property is connected to the river by Big Shoals State Park.

I. Research Projects / Specimen Collection

Research projects may be conducted on BSSF on a temporary or permanent basis for the purpose of obtaining information that furthers the knowledge of forestry and related fields. FFS cooperates with other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions, whenever feasible, on this type of research. FFS will consider assisting with research projects when funds and manpower are available.

All research to be considered on BSSF must be in accordance with the guidelines stated in the State Forest Handbook. Any requests for research should be submitted in writing to the appropriate field staff to be forwarded to the Forest Management Bureau for approval. Requests must include: a letter outlining the purpose, scope, methodology, and location of the proposed research. Requests are subject to review by FFS Foresters, Biologists, the Forest Health Section, and the Forest Hydrology Section, as appropriate. Authorization to conduct research will require that the investigator provide copies of any reports or studies generated from any research to the FFS and the BSSF staff. Other special conditions may be applicable, and the authorization may be terminated at any point if the study is not in compliance.

Research projects, studies, and / or specimen collections that have been initiated on the property within the last 20 years include:

- University of Georgia, Dr. Joseph L. Corn. 2005. Tick surveillance on thirty-one (31) Florida State Forests.
- University of Georgia, Dr. Joseph L. Corn. 2009. Tick surveillance on thirty-one (31) Florida State Forests.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. July 7, 2015. Collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera*, and *Hymenoptera*.
- University of Florida, Iwan Molgo; Dr. Pam Soltis and Dr. Doug Soltis. July 24, 2015. Genetic traits within the genus *Callista*. Investigate parentage and ploidal levels in conjunction with its morphology and natural history.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. March 3, 2017. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- University of North Carolina, Robert Schoonover and Alan Weakley. March 31, 2017. Genetic and morphological analyses of *Trichostema* populations throughout the southeastern United States to better understand species distribution and evolutionary trends.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. March 1, 2018. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.

- University of Florida, Riley Gott and Dr. Jacqueline Miller. March 2, 2018. Biology and systematics of the Florida duskywings (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae: *Erynnis*).
- University of North Carolina, Robert Schoonover and Alan Weakley. March 27, 2018. Genetic and morphological analyses of *Trichostema* populations throughout the southeastern United States to better understand species distribution and evolutionary trends.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. January 29, 2019. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- University of Florida, Riley Gott and Dr. Jacqueline Miller. December 6, 2019. Renewal for biology and systematics of the Florida duskywings (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae: *Erynnis*).
- University of Florida, Riley Gott and Dr. Jacqueline Miller. January 23, 2020. Renewal for biology and systematics of the Florida duskywings (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae: *Erynnis*).
- Boise State University, Roger Rosentreter. March 1, 2020. Lichen collection vouchers.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. March 2, 2020. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- Florida State University, Dr. Austin Mast. May 1, 2020. Plant voucher specimen collection for the Florida Panhandle and North Florida state forests.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. March 7, 2021. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- Florida State University, Dr. Austin Mast. July 3, 2021. Plant voucher specimen collection for the Florida Panhandle and North Florida State Forests.
- Boise State University, Roger Rosentreter. October 6, 2021. Renewal of Lichen collection vouchers.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. April 3, 2022. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Traci Castellon. September 6, 2022. Indigo snake research and monitoring to address three (3) components of the United State Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) recovery strategy.
- Boise State University, Roger Rosentreter. January 5, 2023. Renewal of Lichen collection vouchers.
- University of Florida, Dr. Andrew Warren. June 1, 2023. Renewal to collect insect voucher specimens for *Lepidoptera*, *Coleoptera*, *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera*.
- Adventure Scientists, Jessica Eggers. July 2, 2023. Collect tuliptree samples for genetic research from all state forests located in D-1 to D-12.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Kendyl Hassler. July 5, 2023. Long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*) and Eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) occurrence, habitat use and diet composition within the Florida Wildlife Corridor study area in North Florida.

J. Ground Disturbing Activities

Although the FFS's approach to handling ground disturbing activities is identified in other sections of this plan, the FFS's overall approach to this issue is summarized here. FFS recognizes the importance of managing and protecting sensitive resources and will take steps to ensure that such resources are not adversely impacted by ground disturbing activities. Sensitive resources include areas such as known sensitive species locations; archaeological, fossil, and historical sites; and ecotones, wetlands, and water resources. The process for

evaluating and obtaining approval for ground disturbing activities is outlined in Appendix 2.A.6. of the State Forest Handbook. When new pre-suppression firelines, recreation trails, or other low-impact recreation site enhancements are necessary, their placement will be reviewed by state forest field staff to avoid sensitive areas. For ground disturbing activities such as construction of buildings, parking lots, and new roads, the FFS will consult with FNAI, DHR, WMD, and ARC, as appropriate.

V. Public Access and Recreation

The primary recreation objective is to provide the public with passive outdoor recreation activities that are dependent on the natural environment. FFS will continue to promote and encourage public access and recreational use by the public while protecting resources and practicing multiple-use management.

Periodic evaluations will be conducted by FFS staff to monitor recreation impacts on resources. Modifications to recreational uses will be implemented should significant negative impacts be identified. New recreation opportunities and facilities, which are compatible with the primary goals and responsibilities of the FFS, will be considered only after FFS determines their compatibility with other forest uses and forest resources. Assessment of visitor impacts, outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities, and proposed changes will all be addressed in the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan updates.

A. Existing Recreation Opportunities

Recreation opportunities at BSSF include hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, hunting, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and photography. See Exhibit D for a map of the Recreation, Facilities, and Improvements.

1. Forestry Station Office

Visitors can obtain information and speak with staff about the forest from the Center Office located at 137 SE Forestry Cir, Lake City, FL 32025 or at the Live Oak Forestry Station located at 7620 133rd Rd, Live Oak, FL 32060.

2. Education and Public Outreach

Big Shoals State Forest is also one of many designated sites on FWC's Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. This trail is not only about birds; but also promotes butterflies, natural communities, and trail sites. All our programs and public contacts stress the importance of the forest being managed under the multiple-use concept. At least seventy (70) species of birds can be found on BSSF.

3. Recreation and Trails

There are two (2) trails partially located on BSSF. A 1.5-mile section of the Equestrian Trail traverses the southern portion of the property before winding south onto Big Shoals State Park property. The trailhead is located at the intersection of Road 2 and Road 40 and includes a field for parking and an informational kiosk. The Woodpecker Trail runs through 3.4 miles of BSSF, more or less winding through the forest from west to east. However, the trailheads are located at the western and eastern ends of Road 1 on Big Shoals State Park property. The Woodpecker Trail is a paved biking and hiking trail with two benches, one kiosk, one informational sign, and three bridges.

B. Planned Recreation Opportunities

FFS will continue to assess plans for additional recreation opportunities based on demand, carrying capacity, demographics, and impact to the resources on BSSF. All planned improvements may be completed as staff and funding permits. Both terrestrial and aquatic resources and related activities will be evaluated. Any plans will be incorporated into the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan on file at BSSF. FFS will continually reach out to user groups to communicate its needs and concerns with our user groups, cooperators, and visitors.

1. Public Access and Parking

Within this ten-year planning cycle, other parking and access points will be evaluated. A secondary access point will be considered where Road 8 meets CR 135. This access point would require a new parking area and signage instructing visitors on how to pay the day use fee. Additional parking areas on Road 8 and Road 1 will also be evaluated, along with a new trailhead and parking area on the Chasteen parcel. Current parking areas and forest access points will continually be evaluated for improvements. The existing trailhead may need to be redesigned to allow for a larger parking area using previously impacted sites. Improvements to the horse trail head and parking area will be considered. Improvements that will be considered for this trailhead include a pavilion, pitcher pump, improved driving surface, and a fence. Parking and access issues will be addressed annually as the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan is updated and documented impacts are reviewed.

2. Recreation Trails

Within this ten-year planning cycle, suitable locations will be explored for additional recreation trails. Input from user groups will be considered in any trail improvements. The construction, maintenance, and improvements of hiking, nature, and equestrian trails will be ongoing. Foot bridges and boardwalks may need to be installed on trails to mitigate impacts in wetland areas. The 3.4-mile portion of the Woodpecker Trail located on BSSF will need to be completely resurfaced within the 10-year period, but periodic maintenance will be required until resurfacing to fix any potholes or other hazards that are created by erosion/scouring and tree roots. A new trail will be planned for construction on the Chasteen tract. This trail will include a parking area with a trailhead and kiosk, as well as additional kiosks and educational signage along the trail identifying any significant management activities or features. Additional multi-use, equestrian, cycling, nature, and hiking trails may be evaluated, planned, and installed on BSSF.

3. Environmental Education

Environmental education activities on BSSF are displayed on kiosks and conducted through guided tours and hands-on events by request. Targeted groups include the general public, school and youth groups, and various user groups. BSSF partners with other organizations to provide various in person events throughout the year. Information in the kiosks will continually be updated to remain current and relevant. Additional kiosks will be added to the two (2) existing benches along the Woodpecker Trail. Informational signs will also be added along the trail to identify and educate users about prescribed fire and the different ecosystems that the trail passes through.

4. Amenities (Pavilions, Docks, Bathrooms, etc.)

During this ten-year planning period, FFS will assess the feasibility of installing additional pavilions at sites that are to be determined. Pavilions may be installed at various locations on BSSF if future demands create a need for them. Pitcher pumps are also being planned for installation. At least one water source should be added as an equestrian amenity at the Equestrian trailhead. Culverts will need to be replaced or added to prevent further erosion in spots along the Woodpecker Trail. All other existing amenities and kiosks may be replaced, upgraded, or improved as needed. Additional amenities that may be assessed during this ten-year planning period include but are not limited to: bear-proof trashcans, gates, educational displays, signs, fencing, potable water sources, boardwalks, and culverts. Any amenity installed will provide a positive benefit for forest users.

C. Hunter Access

Regulated hunting and fishing on Florida's state forests are managed cooperatively with the FWC. FWC regulates recreational hunting in the Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area, an approximately 2,140-acre portion of the property that includes FFS and SRWMD lands. The entire 1,814.47 acres of BSSF is within the WMA.

Hunting season dates, limits, and methods are established annually by FWC, in cooperation with FFS. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) regulations are updated annually and are identified in the current WMA brochures provided by FWC at www.MyFWC.com. Non-hunting recreation users are encouraged to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and season dates before visiting BSSF.

D. Education

FFS is receptive to forming partnerships with local K-12 schools and / or universities for the development and implementation of educational opportunities on BSSF upon request from the local school district. If partnerships are developed, the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan will provide more insight to management activities as they pertain to future educational opportunities BSSF may provide to the public.

VI. Forest Management Practices

A. Prescribed Fire

Forest management practices on BSSF are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socio-economic benefits to Floridians. Management practices on BSSF include prescribed fire, which is an effective tool in controlling the encroachment of shrubs and off-site hardwoods, stimulating the recovery of native herbaceous groundcover, and promoting the regeneration of native pines.

FFS utilizes a fire management program on state forests that includes wildfire prevention, detection and suppression, and prescribed burning. This program is the responsibility of FFS's Suwannee Forestry Center and is detailed in the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan. Emphasis will be placed on prescribed burning, wildfire prevention, and education to help reduce wildfire occurrence on BSSF.

A Fire History chart detailing the recent history of prescribed burns and wildfires at BSSF is available in Exhibit N.

FFS has two (2) fire towers and two (2) tractor-plow units located throughout Hamilton County. Additional support is available from neighboring counties. District personnel and equipment will be used for pre-suppression practices, establishment of firebreaks, rehabilitation of existing firelines, construction of new firelines, maintenance of perimeter firebreaks, and prescribed burning at BSSF.

The prescribed burning program developed for BSSF produces multiple benefits. The objectives of prescribed burning on BSSF include facilitating forest management operations, enhancing wildlife and listed species habitat; decreasing fuel loading, enhancing public safety, and restoring, maintaining, and protecting all native ecosystems, ecotones, and their ecological processes. FFS personnel are responsible for planning and implementing the annual prescribed burn program for BSSF, which will consist of dormant and growing season burns. An update to the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan is developed each year by FFS staff. All burns conducted on BSSF are executed by Florida Certified Prescribed Burn Managers in accordance with Chapters 590.125, F.S. and 5I-2 F.A.C.

According to FNAI, historic, fire-dependent natural communities on BSSF are estimated to have occupied 1,636 acres and to have burned at approximately two (2) to four (4) year intervals. Current fire-dependent communities encompass 1,481 acres. Some historically fire-dependent communities have been altered through past land use practices, which inhibits the ability to meet objectives with prescribed fire alone. Based on current conditions and management objectives, BSSF will plan for 375 to 750 acres to be prescribed burned annually. Priority ranking of burn units is used to keep fire-return intervals maintained while slowly adding additional acreage. Meeting prescribed fire goals will be largely dependent on weather conditions, available personnel, and statewide emergency situations such as wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disaster response and relief. Currently it is estimated that approximately 1,200 acres of BSSF are within the desired fire-return interval.

1. Fire Management

The fire management plan serves as a working tool and an informational document for BSSF. The plan provides guidelines regarding wildfire suppression and prescribed fire management. It will specify burn units, burn unit prescriptions, appropriate fire-return intervals, and fire pre-suppression planning. The plan may be reviewed and amended as necessary. The use of prescribed fire in the management of timber, wildlife, and ecological resources on BSSF is necessary if the FFS is to fulfill the goals and objectives stated in this plan including: enhancing and restoring native plant communities, managing protected species, and managing timber, recreation, historical, and other resource values. The fire management plan and its objectives shall reflect and incorporate these multiple-resource objectives.

- a. Prescribed Fire:** Prescribed fire is the most important land management tool, both ecologically and economically, for managing vegetation and natural communities and for perpetuating existing wildlife populations in Florida. Forest operation records and staff

experience should be combined with the FNAI inventory and assessment (2023) to identify areas that may require mechanical or chemical treatments in conjunction with prescribed fire to restore a more natural vegetative structure.

- b. Burn Unit Plans:** Each prescribed fire will be conducted in accordance with FFS regulations and state law (Chapter 5I-2 F.A.C., Chapter 590, F.S.) and have a burn unit plan (or prescription). Each prescription will contain, at a minimum, the information, as required by Section 590.125(3), F.S., needed to complete the FFS Prescribed Burn Plan Form FDACS 11461.

Aerial ignition may be considered for large burn units where this tactic can be cost effective for larger acreages. Consideration should be given to rotating burn units between dormant and growing season burns over time. Fire-return intervals for a burn unit are recommended to fall within the natural, historic range for the dominant natural community or communities within a given burn unit.

Based upon available species survey data, burn units within a prescription that have listed wildlife species shall explicitly state their presence and any restrictions or requirements relative to prescribed burning in proximity to these species or habitats. These may include time of year, pre-burn preparation, fire-return intervals, and other burn parameters.

B. Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

FFS utilizes a comprehensive wildfire management approach on state forests that includes an ongoing program of wildfire prevention, detection and suppression, and prescribed burning. Implementation of this program is the responsibility of FFS's Suwannee Forestry Center. Emphasis will be placed on consistent accomplishment of prescribed burning goals and community outreach to increase public understanding of wildfire prevention and the benefits of prescribed fire.

The FFS has three paramount considerations regarding wildfires and are established in priority order:

- 1) Protection of human lives
- 2) Protection of improvements
- 3) Protection of natural resources

All procedures regarding wildfire will follow the State Forest Handbook and the BSSF Fire Management Plan.

1. Suppression Strategies

If a wildfire occurs on BSSF there are two (2) alternative suppression strategies as defined below:

- a. Contain and Control** is defined as a suppression strategy where a fire is restricted to a certain area by using existing natural or constructed barriers that stop the fire's spread under the prevailing and forecasted weather until it is out. This strategy allows the use of environmentally sensitive tactics based on fuels, fire behavior, and weather conditions that keep a wildfire from burning a large area or for a long duration.

- b. **Direct Suppression** is defined as a suppression strategy where aggressive suppression tactics are used to establish firelines around a fire to halt its spread and to extinguish all hotspots. This alternative is used whenever there is a threat to human life, property, private lands, and / or critical natural or cultural resources. This strategy should also be used when the total district fire load dictates that crews not be involved with individual fires for any longer than necessary.

Appropriate suppression action will be that which provides for the most reasonable probability of minimizing fire suppression cost and critical resource damage, consistent with probable fire behavior, total fire load, potential resource and environmental impacts, safety, and smoke management considerations. The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used for all suppression actions.

2. **Smoke Management**

Caution will be exercised to prevent a public safety or health hazard from the smoke of any prescribed burn or wildfire. Prescribed burns must pass the smoke screening procedure and be conducted by a certified burner. If smoke threatens to cause a safety hazard, then direct, immediate suppression action will be taken.

3. **Firebreaks and Firelines**

A system of permanent firebreaks will be developed and maintained around and within the boundaries of BSSF to guard against fires escaping from and entering the forest. Such firebreaks will consist of natural barriers, roads, trails, permanent grass strips, and where appropriate, well-maintained harrowed lines. All pre-suppression firebreaks will meet the established Silvicultural BMP criteria.

During wildfire suppression, the use of water and foam, permanent firebreaks, natural barriers, and existing roads and trails for firelines can be used when human life, safety, property, and resource considerations allow. Plowed and / or bladed lines will be used for initial installation of firelines in heavy fuels and in cases where it's considered necessary to protect life, property, or resources and / or to minimize threats to firefighters. Plowed and bladed lines will be rehabilitated, and BMPs implemented as soon as practical after the fire is suppressed.

4. **Sensitive Areas**

BSSF retains on file in the state forest headquarters an Environmentally Sensitive Area Map that identifies protected sites such as critical wetlands and archaeological and historical sites known to occur on the state forest. FFS personnel are aware of these areas in the event of a wildfire. Special precautions will be followed when prescribed burning in sensitive areas on BSSF. When possible, fire staff will avoid line construction in wetland ecotones and other areas throughout the forest.

5. **Firewise Communities**

FFS has implemented a Firewise community approach for prevention statewide. Specifically, in the area adjacent to or nearby BSSF, efforts in this regard will continue to identify communities at risk and to contact their representatives.

6. Adjacent Neighbor Contacts

The staff at BSSF maintains a list of neighbors that have requested they be notified in advance of prescribed burns. These families are contacted by telephone or email with potential sites and dates of anticipated prescribed burns.

7. Post-Burn Evaluations

A post-burn evaluation is required for each prescribed burn on the state forest to assess impacts on timber and habitat. Based on the evaluations after prescribed fires in particular, decisions will be made on the effectiveness of the prescribed burn and improvements that can be made in the future. A historical fire record for all significant fires and prescribed burns will be maintained. This will be accomplished using completed burn plans and the maintenance of GIS data. These records are intended to provide data for future management decisions.

C. Sustainable Forestry and Silviculture

Timber is a valuable economic and ecological resource, and timber harvesting for the purposes of generating revenue, improving stand viability, forest health, wildlife, and ecological restoration and maintenance is critical to the silvicultural objectives on the state forest.

1. Strategies

The following silvicultural strategies will apply to silvicultural practices on BSSF:

- a. To restore and maintain forest health and vigor through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and reforestation, both naturally and artificially, with species native to BSSF.
- b. To create, through natural or artificial regeneration, uneven-aged, and even-aged management, a forest with both young and old growth components that yields sustainable economic, ecological, and social benefits.

2. Silvicultural Operations

Silvicultural operations on BSSF will be directed toward improving forest health, wildlife habitat, ecological and economical sustainability, as well as toward recovery from past management practices prior to state acquisition that are not in accordance with the objectives of this plan. Stands of off-site species with merchantable volume will be scheduled for harvest, followed by reforestation with the appropriate tree species. Herbicide applications may be necessary to control woody competition and to re-establish desired native overstory and groundcover species. Site preparation methods may include prescribed fire, mechanical vegetation control, and / or herbicide applications. Herbicides used will be registered for forestry use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and will not adversely affect water resources.

Prescribed fire is the most desirable method of vegetation control in fire-dependent ecosystems. However, due to the existence of areas where fuel loads have reached dangerous levels, or urban interface dictates prescribed fire is not suitable, mechanical or chemical vegetation control may be used. Mechanical and / or chemical vegetation control will be utilized where appropriate as determined by FFS staff for wildlife enhancement, fuel mitigation, and reforestation.

Maintenance and restoration of timber stands and natural communities through timber harvesting will include thinning for maintenance, regeneration harvests applicable to the species present and clear-cutting to remove off-site species.

All silvicultural activities, including timber harvesting and reforestation, will meet or exceed the standards in FFS's Silviculture BMPs and the State Forest Handbook, and will follow the Five-Year Silviculture Action Plan.

3. Forest Inventory

The purpose of a forest inventory is to provide FFS resource managers with information and tools for short and long-range resource management and planning. Ten percent of BSSF forest will be re-inventoried annually to provide an accurate estimation of the standing timber and to ensure that stands will be managed sustainably.

Timber / forestry resources available on the property include loblolly, longleaf, slash, and small pockets of sand pine. In addition, there are mixed hardwoods and cypress found throughout BSSF.

4. Timber Sales

Timber sales are advertised for competitive bids and sold on a per unit or lump sum basis. All timber sales are conducted according to guidelines specified in the State Forest Handbook.

5. Cattle Grazing

There are currently no cattle leases on BSSF.

D. Invasive Species Control

FFS employees continually monitor BSSF for invasive species while conducting management activities. FFS will locate, identify, and apply control measures with the intent to eradicate or control invasive species. Table 6 lists the general treatment strategy, acres impacted, and population stability trend for invasive plant species occurring on BSSF. Also, see Exhibit O.

On-going maintenance and monitoring strategies are outlined in the Five-Year Ecological Management Plan which is developed to locate, identify, and control invasive plant species. Occurrences of invasive species are recorded in the BSSF GIS database and are monitored and treated annually as funding permits. The GIS database is updated as new infestations are discovered.

Adjacent landowners who are known to have these species on their property will be approached to cooperate on control measures. FFS works to control the spread of invasive species by decontaminating agency equipment and equipment used by private contractors according to the State Forest Handbook.

FFS will enlist support from FWC in efforts to control invasive animals. Feral hogs are present on BSSF but are not believed to occur in significant numbers at this time.

Training in the identification and control of invasive species will be scheduled for personnel as time and resources permit. Training concerning invasive plants will be coordinated with the Forest Management Bureau's Forest Health Section. Control of invasive species will be target specific and use a variety of methods including appropriately labeled and efficacious herbicides.

Table 6. Invasive Plant Species Occurring on BSSF

Common Name	Scientific Name	Treatment Strategy	Acres Impacted	Increasing /Decreasing
Japanese climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Spot Treatment with herbicide / Biocontrol	0.1	Decreasing
Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Spot Treatment with herbicide	0.1	Decreasing
Sweet tanglehead	<i>Heteropogon melanocarpus</i>	Unknown / Herbicide resistant	0.1	Increasing
Bamboo	<i>Bambusoideae sp.</i>	Spot Treatment with herbicide	Unknown	Increasing
Showy rattlesbox	<i>Crotalaria spectabilis</i>	Spot treatment with foliar herbicide	Unknown	Increasing
Coral ardisia	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	Spot treatment with foliar herbicide	Unknown	Increasing

E. Insects, Disease, and Forest Health

Currently, there are no significant insect or disease problems on BSSF. In the event of a forest pest outbreak, BSSF resource managers will consult with the Forest Management Bureau's Forest Health Section to formulate an appropriate and effective response.

In compliance with Section 388.4111, F.S. and in Section 5E-13.042, F.A.C., all lands have been evaluated and subsequently designated as environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive. Such designation is appropriate and consistent with the previously documented natural resources and ecosystem values and affords the appropriate protection for these resources from arthropod control practices that would impose a potential hazard to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources existing on this property. The local arthropod control agency in Hamilton County will be notified of the approval of this plan documenting this designation.

As a result, prior to conducting any arthropod control activities on BSSF, the local agency must prepare a public lands control plan that addresses all concerns that FFS may have for protecting the natural resources and ecosystem values on the state forest. In this regard, FFS will provide the local agency details on the management objectives for BSSF. This public lands control plan must comply with FDACS guidelines and use the appropriate FDACS form. The plan must then be approved and mutually adopted by the county, FFS, and FDACS, prior to initiation of any mosquito control work. Should the local mosquito control district not propose any mosquito control operations on the property, no arthropod control plan is required. See Exhibit V.

F. Use of Private Land Contractors

The forest manager makes ongoing evaluations of the use of private contractors and consultants to facilitate the total resource management activities of this state forest. The opportunities for outsourcing land management work include:

1. Herbicide applications
2. Restoration activities
3. Reforestation
4. Site preparation activities
5. Timber harvesting
6. Biological assessments and mapping
7. Contractors for fixed capital and infrastructure improvements

VII. Proposed Management Activities for Natural Communities

In 2023, FNAI completed an inventory and natural community mapping project on BSSF. Current and historic natural community cover types can be found in Exhibits P and Q, and Table 7. The inventory included managed and altered community types which are habitats that have been impacted by humans and do not fit into FNAI's Natural Community Classification. See Tables 8 and 9.

Table 7. Natural Community Types

Community Type	Historic Acres*	Current Acres*
Basin swamp	59	59
Bottomland forest	159	158
Depression marsh	21	21
Dome swamp	134	134
Mesic flatwoods (including restored areas)	1,349	1,163
Sandhill	10	0
Wet flatwoods	63	61
Managed and other altered community types**	0	199
TOTAL	1,795	1,795

* Rounding errors exist

** See Tables 8 & 9

Table 8. Managed Landcover Type

Community Type	Current Acres*
Pine plantation	43
TOTAL	43

* Protocol as described in Appendix 2 of FNAI's "Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida", 2010 Edition.

Table 9. Other Altered Landcover Types

Landcover Type	Current Acres*
Abandoned field/pasture	24
Artificial Pond	1
Clearing/regeneration	11
Successional hardwood forest	120
TOTAL	156

* Protocol as described in Appendix 2 of FNAI's "Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida", 2010 Edition.

For the purposes of this management plan, restoration is defined as the process of returning ecosystems to the appropriate structure and species composition, based on soil type, representative species present, and hydrology. Management during this ten-year period will begin with a forest-wide assessment of the fuel loading, timber densities, reforestation needs, and groundcover in order to develop a five-year comprehensive action plan for prescribed burning and other management activities across BSSF. Strategies may include thinning pine stands, mowing, or chopping in areas of heavy fuel buildup, application of both dormant and growing season fires, and / or the use of herbicides to control hardwoods / hardwood regeneration. Site preparation and reforestation may be required to increase pine stocking in stands with very poor stocking or in restoration efforts. Fire-return intervals are included as a guide and may vary depending upon specific conditions and are intended to attain desired forest and resource management goals. See Table 10.

Table 10. Prescribed Fire Interval Guide on BSSF

Community Type	Historic Fire-return Intervals**	BSSF Fire Frequency Goal (Local)	Comments
Basin swamp	5 – 100	2 – 4	Burns with adjacent communities
Bottomland forest	N/A	N/A	We burn the surrounding flatwoods on a 2-to-4-year rotation to establish natural ecotone
Depression marsh	2 – 4	2 – 4	
Dome swamp	5 – 100	2 – 4	Ecotones burn with adjacent communities
Mesic flatwoods*	2 – 4	2 – 4	
Pine plantation	N/A	2 – 4	Burns with adjacent sandhill
Sandhill	1 – 3	1 – 3	Burns with adjacent forest communities
Wet flatwoods	3 – 5	3 – 5	

* Includes restoration community acreage

** As determined by FNAI

The following community descriptions, existing condition descriptions, and management recommendations are taken from a 2023 FNAI mapping project report and the Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida (FNAI 2010), as well as from the knowledge and experience gained by FFS during forest inventory efforts and routine field work on BSSF.

To achieve the objectives outlined in this plan, the following management activities will be performed in the natural and managed communities at BSSF during the next ten-year planning

period. Goals, desired conditions, standards, and guidelines provide management area direction. These goals and desired conditions may take many planning cycles to attain.

A. Basin Swamp

Description:

Basin swamps are mostly isolated wetlands vegetated with hydrophytic trees and shrubs that can withstand an extended hydroperiod. Basin swamps are highly variable in size, shape, and species composition. They are typically large and/or embedded in a non-pyrogenic community and thus are not as heavily influenced by frequent fires in the surrounding landscape as dome swamps.

Basin swamps at BSSF have a closed canopy of large pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) with occasional slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*). The subcanopy fills the small gaps in the canopy and is composed of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*), and loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*). Tall shrubs are sparse to moderately dense, dominated by loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), with occasional titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*). Herbs are variable and include Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*), arrowheads (*Sagittaria* spp.), lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), beaksedges (*Rhynchospora* spp.), and royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*).

Basin swamps appear as medium to dark grey with the rough texture of a closed canopy in the historic photographs.

Current Conditions:

There are two (2) basin swamps mapped on the property. One is a large basin on the northeast side of the property, accessible from SE 94th Street. The other basin swamp is a small remnant on the northwestern edge of the property and was historically connected to a much larger basin swamp off property to the west (visible on historic photographs), which has since been destroyed for phosphate mining.

Basin swamps at BSSF have a closed canopy of pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) with occasional slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*). Subcanopy trees are occasional with sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*). Tall and short shrubs are dense toward the swamp edges and sparse at the interior. Shrubs include sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Virginia willow (*Itea virginica*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina* var. *foliosiflora*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). Herbs are sparse with occasional Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*). Vines such as bristly greenbrier (*Smilax hispida*) are occasional.

Fire Regimes:

Fire intervals are variable and depend on such factors as dominant vegetation, fire exposure, and drought. The interior of basin swamps may go without fire for decades or even centuries while the exposed outer edges can be more susceptible to frequent fire. Basin swamps that are situated within the matrix of a pyrogenic community, such as mesic flatwoods, will likely burn more frequently than basin swamps positioned within a matrix of mesic or hydric hammock. Basin swamps within BSSF are usually burned with adjacent upland communities.

Management Needs:

Little active management is required for this community type. Burning adjacent fire-adapted communities and allowing fire to enter basin swamps naturally with the adjacent uplands is desirable. Exclusion of fires can lead to hardwood encroachment and peat accumulation. Hydrologic disturbances such as ditches, firebreaks, and roads should be minimized, if not avoided altogether in this community.

B. Bottomland Forest**Description:**

Bottomland forest is a deciduous, or mixed deciduous/evergreen, closed-canopy forest on terraces and levees within riverine floodplains and in shallow depressions. Found in situations intermediate between swamps (which are flooded most of the time) and uplands, the canopy may be quite diverse with both deciduous and evergreen hydrophytic to mesophytic trees. Bottomland forests occur on low-lying, seasonally flooded and/or saturated soils of a riverine floodplain. Bottomland forests are inundated for a portion of the wet season but may dry out during the late spring. This variability accounts for the mixed canopy species composition.

At BSSF, bottomland forest has a closed canopy composed of mature to old growth swamp laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). The subcanopy fills any small gaps in the canopy and includes younger canopy species as well as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), and occasional slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*). The tall shrub layer is sparse, consisting mainly of sapling red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). The short shrub layer is moderately open; common species are red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia pavia*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), bluestem palmetto (*Sabal minor*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The herbaceous layer is moderately dense and patchy; dominant species are slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), spoon-flower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*), and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*) are occasional.

Floodplain swamps are also present as narrow inclusions within bottomland forests at BSSF. These areas have a mature, closed canopy dominated by pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), a sparse shrub layer represented by Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), and a sparse herbaceous layer with sedges (*Carex* sp.), slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*), and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*).

Bottomland forest is evident on the historic aerial photography as medium to dark gray linear patterns with the rough texture of a closed canopy.

Current Conditions:

Most bottomland forests at BSSF are in good condition, with structure and species composition similar to desired future conditions. In addition to the dominant species noted above, other shrubs include American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) and Carolina buckthorn

(*Frangula caroliniana*). Additional herbs include Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*), netted chain fern (*Lorinseria areolata*), and cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*). Vines are common and include crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), muscadine (*Muscadinia rotundifolia*), laurel greenbrier (*Smilax laurifolia*), and eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

The bottomland forest in the northeastern portion of the property is in poor condition with heavy ground disturbance from old roads. Weedy herbs are common here including beggarticks (*Bidens alba* var. *radiata*), yankeeweed (*Eupatorium compositifolium*), and woodsorrel (*Oxalis* sp.). Several invasive species were noted here including coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*), wax begonia (*Begonia cucullata*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*), and elephant ear (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*).

Fire Regimes:

Bottomland forest is not a fire-maintained natural community.

Management Needs:

Little active management is required for the majority of bottomland forests on the property. Management should focus on removing invasive plant species where they are concentrated in areas of heavy disturbance.

C. Depression Marsh

Description:

Depression marsh is typically a shallow, usually rounded depression of sand substrate with concentric bands of herbaceous vegetation or subshrubs. Depression marshes typically occur in landscapes occupied by fire-maintained matrix communities such as mesic flatwoods, where fires frequently burn through these small marsh communities.

Depression marshes on BSSF are herb dominated with few shrubs and trees. There may be a canopy of a few swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), particularly along the outer edges. Common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) may be present as a tall shrub scattered throughout the marsh. Short shrubs are occasional, usually at the outer edges of the marsh. Typical short shrubs are willow herb (*Decodon verticillatus*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), and fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*). Herbaceous cover is dense throughout, dominated by clustered sedge (*Carex glaucescens*), maidencane (*Hymenachne hemitoma*), and Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*). Other common species are wetland white bluestem (*Andropogon dealbatus*), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), Carolina redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliana*), and yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris* sp.)

The signature for depression marsh on the historic photographs appears black and smooth, sometimes speckled with light gray throughout or at the edges. The black color is indicative of open water whereas the light grey speckles are trees.

Current Conditions:

Most depression marshes on BSSF have at least a few scattered trees such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*), and water oak (*Quercus*

nigra). A sparse to moderate layer of tall shrubs may be present around the perimeter of the marsh. Common species are red maple, common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*). Short shrubs are sparse to moderate in the outer half of depression marshes as well. Dominant species are willow herb (*Decodon verticillatus*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). Herbaceous cover is moderate to dense, dominated by clustered sedge (*Carex glaucescens*), maidencane (*Hymenachne hemitoma*), and Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*). Additional herb species include broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus* ssp. *solutus*), Carolina redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliana*), primrosewillow (*Ludwigia* sp.), rosy camphorweed (*Pluchea baccharis*), bunched beaksedge (*Rhynchospora cephalantha* var. *cephalantha*), and Elliott's yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris elliotii*).

Fire Regimes:

Because of their small size and shallow depth, depression marshes historically burned through along with the surrounding upland community. Presently, prescribed fires should be allowed to burn into depression marshes when the surrounding uplands burn. Prescribed fires in the growing season may have a better chance to encroach into the deep, peat-accumulated centers thereby controlling the buildup of peat and the encroachment of woody species. Depression marshes are usually burned with adjacent upland communities.

Management Needs:

Depression marshes depend on fire to maintain their herbaceous dominance and prevent shrub growth. Fires should be allowed to burn completely across depression marshes. Early growing season burns are recommended to control encroaching shrubs when feasible. Strictly burning in the winter may promote establishment of hardwoods and shrubs. Any hydrological disturbances, such as ditches, firebreaks, and roads, should be avoided.

D. Dome Swamp

Description:

Dome swamps are isolated, forested depressions occurring in fire-maintained communities. This community's characteristic profile is formed by smaller trees in shallow waters along the outer edge, while taller trees grow in the deeper interior of the swamp.

Dome swamps on BSSF have a closed canopy of pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) with occasional swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*). Cypress may be absent and replaced by swamp tupelo in some dome swamps. The subcanopy, if present at all, should contain younger members of the canopy. The tall shrub layer is sparse or absent and may include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). The short shrub layer is sparse to moderate, typically dominated by fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*). Other species include sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), seedling southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Tamala palustris*). The herbaceous layer is highly variable and may be sparse to dense. Typical herbs include clustered sedge (*Carex glaucescens*) and Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*). Other common species are broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), witchgrasses

(*Dichanthelium* sp.), maidencane (*Hymenachne hemitoma*), spoon-flower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*), sugarcane plumegrass (*Erianthus giganteus*), and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*).

Dome swamps appear on historic photography as medium to dark isolated forested patches within mesic flatwoods.

Current Conditions:

Dome swamps on BSSF have a closed canopy of widely spaced pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*). Swamp tupelo-dominated swamps are less frequent and tend to have a sparse canopy over dense herbaceous vegetation. The subcanopy includes red maple (*Acer rubrum*), loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), and sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*). The tall shrub layer is typically sparse, and includes red maple (*Acer rubrum*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). The short shrub layer is sparse to moderate and typically dominated by fetterbush. Other occasional shrub species are sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and Virginia marsh St. John's wort (*Persea virginicum*). The herbaceous layer is in dense patches, scattered throughout. Clustered sedge (*Carex glaucescens*) and Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*) are the dominant herbs. Other common species are broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), threeway sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum* var. *arundinaceum*), manyflower marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), climbing hempvine (*Mikania scandens*), royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), smartweed (*Persicaria* sp.), spoon-flower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*), sugarcane plumegrass (*Erianthus giganteus*), and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*).

Fire Regimes:

Fire is essential for the maintenance of dome swamps. The fire frequency is greatest at the periphery of the dome swamp where a normal fire cycle might be as short as 3 to 5 years, compared to the 100-year fire cycle for the interior portions where moisture is greater. Fires from surrounding upland communities should be allowed to burn into dome swamp edges to maintain the herbaceous ecotone and prevent shrubby and invasive plant encroachment.

Management Needs:

Prescribed fires from neighboring flatwoods should be allowed to burn the edges and, in many cases, through dome swamps in order to maintain the typical diverse ecotone and interior herbaceous cover. Avoid placement of firebreaks or plow lines in dome swamps and their ecotones. Maintain the natural hydrology as much as possible. A reduction in hydroperiod can promote invasion of mesic species, which can eventually allow hardwoods to replace cypress and swamp tupelo.

E. Mesic Flatwoods (Including Restoration Areas)

Description:

Mesic flatwoods are fire-maintained, southern pine forests with little or no mid-story and a fairly dense low shrub and herb layer. Most occur on relatively flat terrain with moderate to poor drainage. Longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*) and other southern pine species form the canopy. There is little or no subcanopy or tall shrubs, other than pine recruitment. The

relatively open pine canopy and moderate shrub layer allows ample light penetration for a diverse assemblage of herbaceous species.

Mesic flatwoods at BSSF have a canopy of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) may be present but are not dominant. Hardwoods should not be present in the canopy or subcanopy. Tall shrubs are infrequent to absent. The short shrub layer is moderately dense. Common shrubs include saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), blue huckleberry (*Gaylussacia tomentosa*), coastalplain staggerbush (*Lyonia fruticosa*), slimleaf pawpaw (*Asimina angustifolia*), and fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*). Herbaceous cover is moderately dense in openings in the shrubs. Dominant species are southern wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) and Curtiss' dropseed (*Sporobolus curtissii*). Other common species are witchgrass (*Dichanthelium* sp.), broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), tailed bracken fern (*Pteridium pseudocaudatum*), hairsedge (*Bulbostylis* sp.), *Carex* sp., Florida threeawn (*Aristida rhizomophora*), Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*), and whip nutrush (*Scleria triglomerata*). Earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*) and yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) are infrequent.

Mesic flatwoods on BSSF may have inclusions of upland pine throughout. Early land survey records from 1826 note some of the pine lands as “undulating” which may indicate the characteristic rolling terrain landscape of upland pine. Natural community points recorded by FNAI in 2007 also have some notable canopy/subcanopy species such as southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*) and pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) within the mesic flatwoods. No evidence of upland pine was observed during the 2023 ground-truthing effort. Extensive land clearing in the uplands is evident even in the 1937 photography, which causes further difficulty in determining if upland pine was present historically.

Mesic flatwoods is visible on the historic photography as a medium gray with black dimples (scattered trees). Clearing in the mesic flatwoods is evident in the 1937 and 1946 aerial photography as bright white with dimples.

Current Conditions:

Currently mapped mesic flatwoods at BSSF are variable in structure, composition, and levels of disturbance. These areas typically have a canopy dominated by loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) with a few scattered longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). The subcanopy may have a sparse to moderate cover of hardwoods including sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The tall shrub layer is sparse to moderately dense and dominated by oak trees. Other tall shrubs are loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), sweetgum, and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). Short shrub cover in oak invaded flatwoods is sparse. Common species are slimleaf pawpaw (*Asimina angustifolia*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), and deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*). Herbaceous cover is extremely sparse, suppressed by a dense layer of pine and oak litter. Occasional species include broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), tailed bracken fern (*Pteridium pseudocaudatum*), southern wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*), capillary hairsedge

(*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*), witchgrass (*Dichanthelium* sp.), whip nutrush (*Scleria triglomerata*), and Curtiss' dropseed (*Sporobolus curtissii*). Vines are common and include yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), muscadine (*Muscadinia rotundifolia*), earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*), saw greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*), and cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*).

Better quality mesic flatwoods are present in a few small areas at slightly lower elevations. These flatwoods have a canopy of longleaf pine and slash pine. There is no subcanopy except for a few young pines. The tall shrub layer generally has a few invading water oak, sweetgum, and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The short shrub layer is dense with occasional openings. Saw palmetto is the dominant cover, but gallberry, blue huckleberry (*Gaylussacia tomentosa*), coastalplain staggerbush (*Lyonia fruticosa*), and fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*) are common. Other shrub species include red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), fourpetal St. John's wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*), dwarf live oak (*Quercus minima*) and winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum* var. *copallinum*). Herb cover is sparse to moderate, dominated by Curtiss' dropseed, southern wiregrass, and broomsedge bluestem. Other common species include Florida threeawn (*Aristida rhizomophora*), purple bluestem (*Andropogon cretaceus*), tall elephantsfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*), slender flattop goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), whitehead bogbutton (*Lachnocaulon anceps*), blazing star (*Liatris* sp.), and silkgrass (*Pityopsis* sp.). Greenbrier and yellow jessamine are occasional.

A substantial portion of the historic mesic flatwoods, particularly in the southern and eastern halves of the property, have a history of clearing/conversion to pine plantations. Most of these areas are in various stages of restorative treatments including pine thinning, herbicide application, and planting longleaf pine. These have been mapped as restoration mesic flatwoods. The canopy here is typically sparse due to pine thinning. Canopy trees include slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), and occasional remnant longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). There is little to no subcanopy except the occasional live oak and/or water oak (*Quercus nigra*). There is planted longleaf pine typically in the short shrub layer. Shrubs include groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), fourpetal St. John's wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*) water oak, live oak, winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum* var. *copallinum*), sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*), southern dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), and shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*). Herb species are usually weedy and may be sparse to dense. Typical herbs include bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), pinebarren flatsedge (*Cyperus ovatus*), witchgrasses (*Dichanthelium* spp.), tall elephantsfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*), Canadian horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), slender flattop goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), climbing hempvine (*Mikania scandens*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), rustweed (*Polypremum procumbens*), tailed bracken (*Pteridium pseudocaudatum*), cupscale (*Sacciolepis* sp.), and licoriceweed (*Scoparia dulcis*). Vines are occasional and include muscadine (*Muscadinia rotundifolia*), earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*), saw greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*), and cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*).

Fire Regimes:

The fire return interval for mesic flatwoods is every 2 to 4 years. Restoration areas and severely hardwood encroached areas should be burned closer to the 2-year interval, depending on hardwood density, to reduce shrubs and promote an open, grassy understory. Frequent fires are

critical for preserving the structure of the flatwoods, preventing woody encroachment, and reducing weedy competition.

Management Needs:

Mesic flatwoods depend on frequent, low-intensity fires to maintain an open structure and a diverse herbaceous layer. Many plant species in mesic flatwoods rely on these fires for reproduction. Management should focus on conducting prescribed burns every 2 to 4 years, with restoration and hardwood encroached areas being closer to the 2-year interval. Growing season fires are more effective at controlling shrubs and hardwood encroachment than winter burns and should be considered when fuel loading and weather conditions allow.

Roller chopping should be avoided in areas that support wiregrass and other native species. Although roller chopping is effective at reducing hardwood cover, it increases weedy species and reduces natural perennial groundcover herbs, particularly wiregrass.

F. Sandhill

Description:

Sandhills are forests of southern pines with a sparse understory of deciduous oaks and a fairly dense ground cover of grasses and herbs on rolling hills of well-drained sands. The most typical associations are dominated by longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*).

There is one small area mapped as historic sandhill on the northeastern addition to BSSF. This area, though already completely cleared on the 1937 photographs, is mottled with visible bright white patches, likely areas of open sand, compared to the medium grey of the surrounding uplands. LiDAR imagery also reveals this area to be elevated compared to the surrounding uplands.

Current Conditions:

The historic sandhill mapped on BSSF is currently mapped as abandoned field / abandoned pasture. The canopy and subcanopy are sparse to moderate with planted loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Tall and short shrubs are occasional with American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), pricklypear (*Opuntia* sp.), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Herbs are moderate to dense, primarily with bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) and a few other species including false foxglove (*Agalinis* sp.), yankeeweed (*Eupatorium compositifolium*), slender flattop goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), pale meadowbeauty (*Rhexia mariana*), and bluecurls (*Trichostema* sp.). Large patches of sand are frequent throughout this area.

Fire Regimes:

Sandhills are a fire climax community, being dependent on frequent ground fires every 1 to 3 years to reduce hardwood competition and to perpetuate pines and grasses.

Management Needs:

If restoration to the historic natural community is the goal, an extensive effort would be required. The planted loblolly pine canopy will be removed and replaced with longleaf pine

or slash pine, based on the likelihood of flooding. Reintroduction of fire would be needed, and some planting of perennial grasses such as southern *wiregrass* may be beneficial.

G. Wet Flatwoods

Description:

Wet flatwoods are flat, poorly drained communities of scattered, southern pines with a diverse understory of hydrophytic herbs and low shrubs.

Wet flatwoods are characterized by a dense groundcover of wiregrass and a wide variety of other herbaceous species. The pine canopy is typically made up of one or a combination of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), slash pine (*P. elliottii*), or pond pine (*P. serotina*). The subcanopy, if present, can contain a few scattered trees or shrubs such as sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), dahoon (*Ilex cassine*), titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), and/or wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*). Typical short shrubs are sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), blue huckleberry (*Gaylussacia tomentosa*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), southern bayberry, swamp bay, and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Herb cover is moderate to dense, dominated by southern wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*), beaksedges (*Rhynchospora* spp.), nutrushes (*Scleria* spp.), Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*), and yellow-eyed grasses (*Xyris* spp.).

Wet flatwoods are present in low, small areas throughout BSSF. Most of these areas form a linear transitional ecotone between mesic flatwoods and wetlands such as dome and basin swamps. Wet flatwoods are usually a darker shade of gray than the mesic flatwoods on the historic aerial photography.

Current Conditions:

Wet flatwoods on BSSF have a canopy of slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Other canopy species include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). Lack of fire has contributed to a moderate to dense subcanopy of red maple, sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and occasional pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). There is a moderately dense tall shrub layer that includes most hardwood canopy/subcanopy species, along with gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*). The short shrub cover is variable, ranging from sparse to dense. Typical short shrubs include tall shrub species along with sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), blue huckleberry (*Gaylussacia tomentosa*), common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Herb cover may be absent if the shrub layers are extremely dense and/or leaf litter is heavy. If present, common herb species are broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), wetland white bluestem (*Andropogon dealbatus*), clustered sedge (*Carex glaucescens*), slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), maidencane (*Hymenachne hemitoma*), beaksedges (*Rhynchospora* spp.), nutrushes (*Scleria* sp.), Virginia chain fern (*Anchistea virginica*), and yellow-eyed grasses (*Xyris* spp.). Vines are common and include muscadine (*Muscadinia rotundifolia*) and cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*).

Fire Regimes:

Historically, the fire return interval in wet flatwoods is 3 to 10 years. For management purposes, prescribed fires may be more advisable on a 3-to-5-year cycle. This reduces woody encroachment, sustains herbaceous species, and aids in preventing heavy fuel loads that can lead to catastrophic wildfires.

Management Needs:

Wet flatwoods at BSSF are associated with and can be managed along with mesic flatwoods. As with the mesic flatwoods, hardwood encroachment is an ongoing issue. Prescribed burns of the surrounding mesic flatwoods should be allowed to burn across these areas every 3 to 5 years. Prescribed burns burning the late spring and early summer months should be considered as fuel loading and weather conditions allow.

H. Managed Landcover Types

Pine plantations and pastures represent vegetative communities that the FFS manages as integral components of the agency's multi-use management approach. These managed communities provide both ecological benefits, such as wildlife habitat for gopher tortoises and ground and surface water filtration, as well as opportunities for generating revenue that can be used to help offset management costs. Management of plantations and pastures within BSSF is conducted to further ensure compatibility with other management goals and objectives.

1. Pine Plantation**Description:**

Pine plantation at BSSF occupies former mesic flatwoods. Refer to the desired future condition heading for this community.

Current Conditions:

Pine plantations are areas altered by silvicultural activities. These can include lands where either 1) planted pines are having or will have an ongoing detrimental effect on native groundcover, 2) the history of planted pines has damaged ground cover to the point where further restoration beyond thinning and burning is required, and/or 3) the method of planting (e.g., bedding) has adversely impacted groundcover.

Most of the pine plantations throughout BSSF are in various stages of restorative treatment and are currently mapped as restoration mesic flatwoods. Two small pine plantations are mapped on the property, and one was ground-truthed. The canopy is densely planted loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is occasional in the subcanopy. Tall and short shrubs are occasional and include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), slimleaf pawpaw (*Asimina angustifolia*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), eastern wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina* var. *serotina*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*). Herbs are sparse due to heavy pine duff and include bluestem (*Andropogon* sp.), spleenwort (*Asplenium* sp.), thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), flatsedge (*Cyperus* sp.), creeping cucumber (*Melothria pendula*), and thin paspalum (*Paspalum setaceum*). Vines are occasional with trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*).

Fire Regimes:

Refer to the historic community. If the goal is restoration of the historic pyrogenic community, more frequent fire may be required than is typical for the historic community in order to reduce woody cover.

Management Needs:

In historic pine flatwoods, thinning of the pine stand will promote more herbaceous cover in the understory, but planting of wiregrass, as well as frequent prescribed burns, may be necessary in some areas to move the community towards a more natural structure and composition.

I. Other Altered Landcover Types**Description:**

Altered landcover types are mapped in areas where the natural community has been overwhelmingly changed by human activity. Pine plantation is described in the previous section of this plan.

The altered landcover types described in this section are often not appropriate areas for restoration. If restoration is desired, the target future condition of the altered habitat is dependent on the historic community. Please refer to the appropriate community type for a more specific explanation of the desired future condition.

Current Conditions:

Altered landcover types on BSSF comprise abandoned field/abandoned pasture, artificial pond, and successional hardwood forest.

Abandoned field / Abandoned pasture (24 acres) – Old fields, fallow pastures, early successional areas formerly grazed or in agriculture without recent activity to maintain the area as pasture or planted field. These areas are often dominated by weedy native (e.g., *Rubus* spp., *Myrica cerifera*) and non-native species (e.g., *Indigofera hirsuta*). One small area of former sandhill and mesic flatwoods has been mapped as abandoned field/abandoned pasture in the northeastern property addition.

Artificial pond (1 acre) – Water retention ponds, cattle ponds, etc. Two small ponds have been mapped on the northeastern property addition.

Clearing (11 acres) – Dove fields, wildlife food plots, recent or historic clearings that have significantly altered the groundcover and/or overstory of the original natural community. Several small clearings of unknown origin are delineated throughout the property using current aerial photography.

Successional Hardwood (120 acres) – closed-canopied forests dominated by fast growing hardwoods such as laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and/or sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), often with remnant pines. These forests are either invaded natural habitat (i.e., mesic flatwoods and sandhill) due to lengthy fire suppression or old fields that have succeeded to forest.

Successional hardwood forests often occupy land that was cleared for agriculture many decades ago. In other cases, planted and natural stands of pines have become dominated by oaks following years of fire exclusion and no longer function as a pyrogenic community.

The closed canopy contains a mix of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and planted loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). The subcanopy is sparse to moderate with canopy species and American holly (*Ilex opaca*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Shrubs may be sparse to dense and include canopy and subcanopy species along with American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), St. Andrew's cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Little to no herb species are present due to heavy leaf litter. Vines such as yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) are occasional.

A few invasive plants including tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), and Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*) were noted in the successional hardwood forest within the northeastern property addition. A large stand of non-native bamboo (*Bambusa* sp.) was also observed in this area.

Fire Regimes:

Refer to the historic community.

Management Needs:

It may not be practical or desirable to restore some of the altered habitats (e.g., artificial ponds, clearings) to the historic natural community.

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IX. Glossary of Abbreviations

ARC.....	Acquisition and Restoration Council
BMP.....	Best Management Practices
BSPL.....	Big Shoals Public Lands
BSSF.....	Big Shoals State Forest
CARL	Conservation and Recreation Lands Acquisition Program
DHR.....	Division of Historical Resources
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks
DSO	Direct Support Organization
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FISC.....	Florida Invasive Species Council
FNAI.....	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
F.S.....	Florida Statutes
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
LAAC	Land Acquisition Advisory Council
NRCS.....	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OALE	FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
OFW	Outstanding Florida Waters
OOF	Operation Outdoor Freedom
OPS.....	Other Personal Services Employment
SRWMD.....	Suwannee River Water Management District
TIITF	Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
USFS.....	United States Forest Service
USFWS.....	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST
2025 LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A

Twenty-Year Management Accomplishments Summary

Big Shoals State Forest

20-Year Accomplishments

Site Preparation	Number	Acres
Herbicide	N/A	183

Planting	Number	Acres
Longleaf Containerized	236,000	387
South FL Slash Containerized	28,180	55

Seedling Survival Checks	Number	Acres
Survival Checks	N/A	204

Timber Stand Improvement	Number	Acres
Chopping	N/A	85
Herbicide	N/A	393
Mowing	N/A	120

Timber Sales	Tons	Acres
Marking	N/A	839
Cruising	N/A	735
Harvest	36,967	534

Timber Sold	Number	Acres	Tons
Timber Sales	4	N/A	N/A
Fuelwood	N/A	N/A	9,707
Hardwood Pulpwood	N/A	N/A	8,772
Pine Pulpwood	N/A	N/A	10,062
Pine Chip-n-saw	N/A	N/A	3,902
Hardwood Sawtimber	N/A	N/A	157
Pine Sawtimber	N/A	N/A	14,193
Total	N/A	534	46,793
Revenue	\$825,276	N/A	N/A

Timber Inventory	Number	Acres
Inventory Update	N/A	3,498
Plots	N/A	239

Fire	Number	Acres
Prescribed Burning	N/A	7,816

Recreation	Number	Acres
Day Use Estimated Forest Visitors	223,136	N/A
Special Events	1	N/A

Roadwork	Number	Miles
Roads Graded	N/A	2.5
Roads Rebuilt	N/A	8
Bridges Built	8	N/A
Bridges Repaired	8	N/A
Culverts Installed	8	N/A
Low Water Crossing	4	N/A

Boundary Maintenance	Number	Miles
Maintenance / Marking	N/A	44

Invasive Species Control	Number	Acres
Japanese Climbing Fern	N/A	3.1
Mimosa	N/A	3
Sweet Tanglehead	N/A	3

I&E Activities	Number	Acres
Programs / Tours	2	N/A

Other Activities	Number	Miles
Archaeological Sites Monitored	2	N/A
Roads Mowed	N/A	165
Firelines Maintained	N/A	104
Trail Maintenance	N/A	33
Inmate Hours	N/A	705
Roads Cleared Due to Hurricane Irma	N/A	5

Exhibit B

Boundary and Roads Map



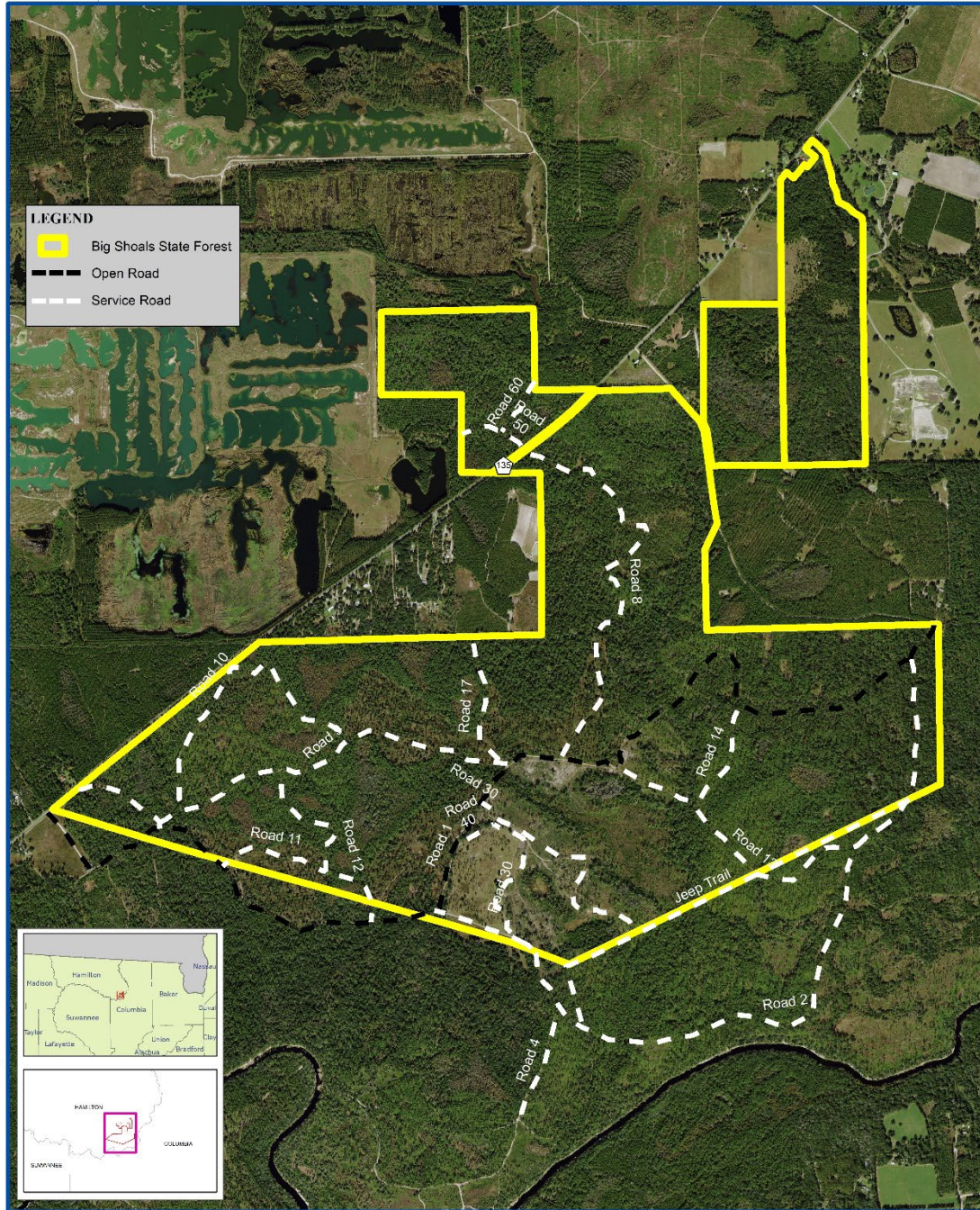
Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest Boundary Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was prepared by the Florida Forest Service for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or other purposes. The Florida Forest Service does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained herein.

Boundary lines shown on this map are based on the best available information. The Florida Forest Service does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained herein.



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

1000 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1,000 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400 Feet

Exhibit C

Optimal Management Boundary Map



Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest

Optimal Management Boundary Map

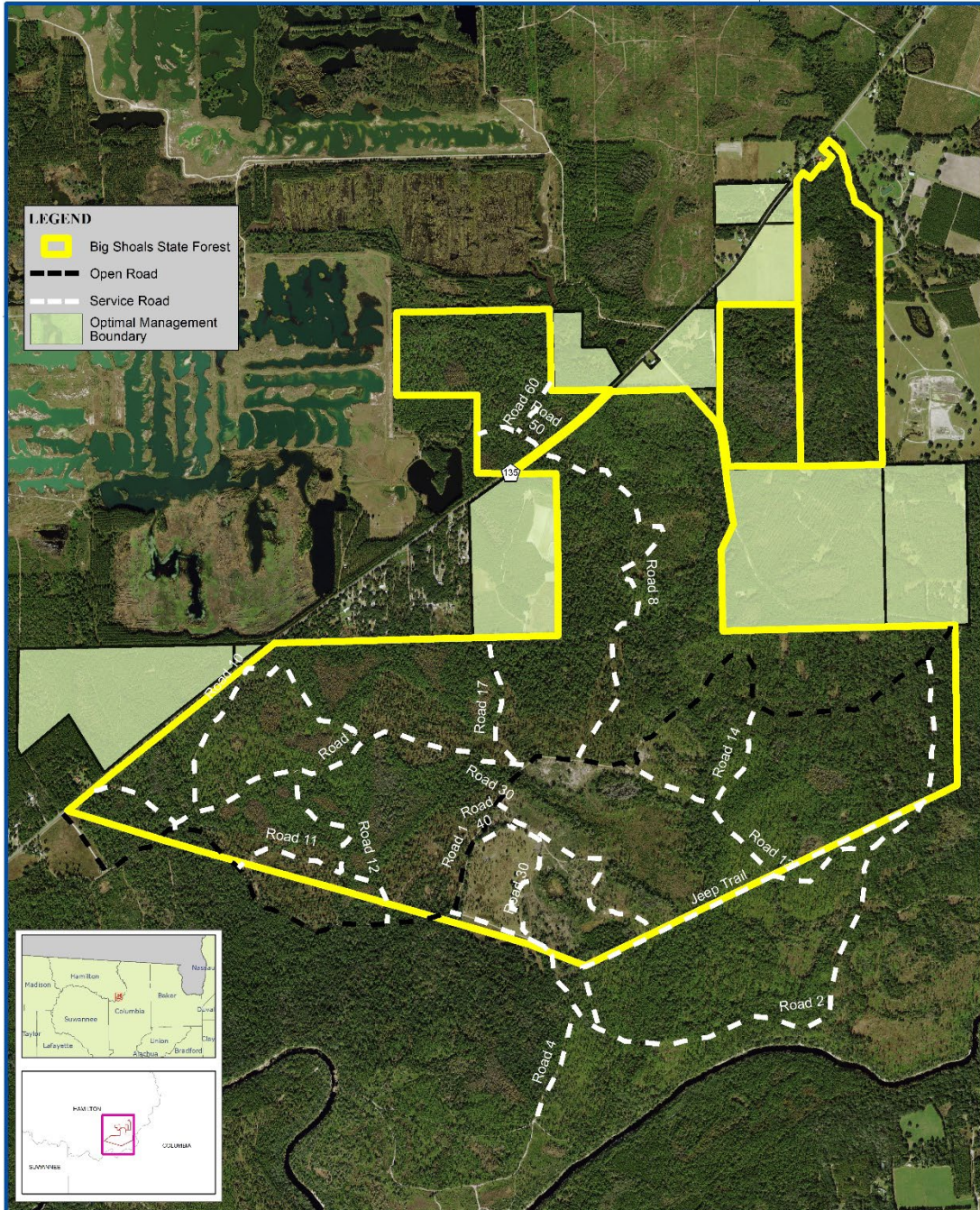
Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

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Map of the Big Shoals State Forest showing the optimal management boundary. The map is based on aerial photography and ground survey data. The optimal management boundary is shown in yellow. The map was prepared by the Florida Forest Service in July 2025.

LEGEND

- Big Shoals State Forest
- Open Road
- Service Road
- Optimal Management Boundary



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

1000 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1,000 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400 Feet

Exhibit D

Facilities, Recreation, and Improvements Map



Facilities, Recreation, and Improvements Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

[illegible]

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Flor de Natural Areas Inventory. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

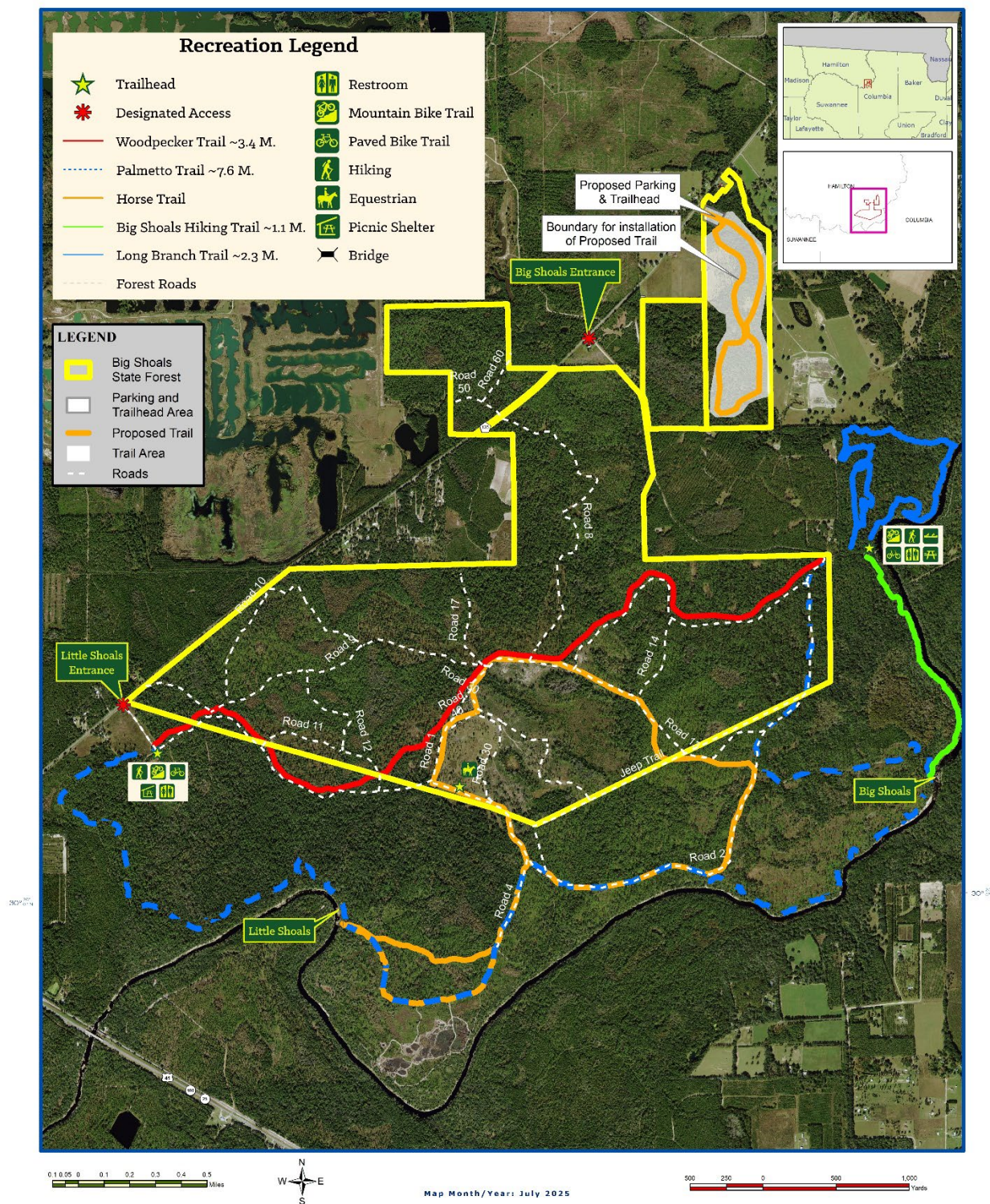


Exhibit E

Tract and Acreage Map



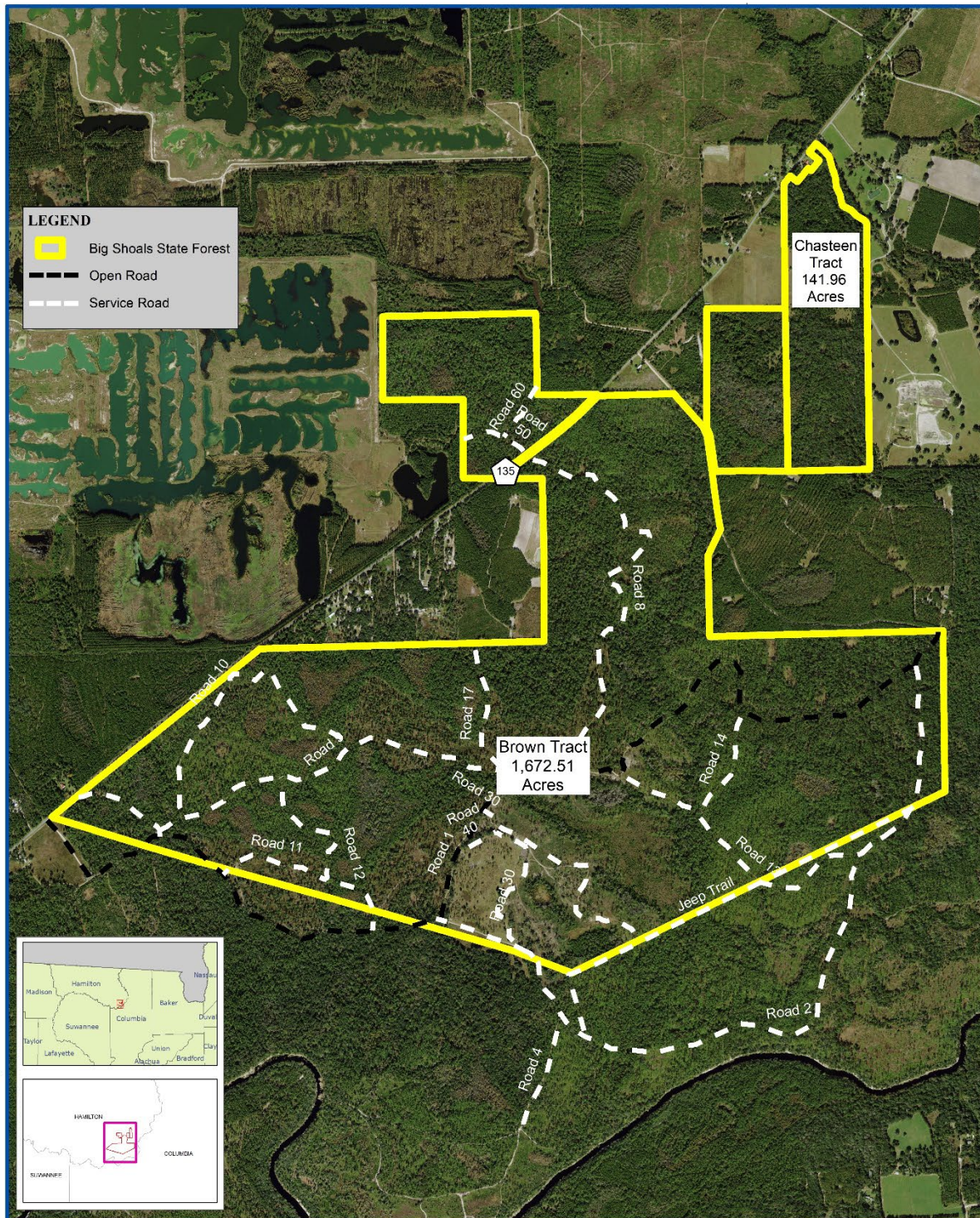
Big Shoals State Forest

Tract & Acreage Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

FLUKE & BARNARD
This map was created for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) designed for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and was used for the purpose of identifying areas for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and for the purpose of identifying areas for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI).

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Formally Used Defense Sites (FUDS);



0.1 0.05 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



Map Month/Year: August 2025

Exhibit F

Proximity
to
Significant Managed Lands Map



Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
The text in this section for the Reader Request Map(s) is for your eyes only and may contain errors. Please refer to the QIP/Map website for Maps created on QIP are designed for the user to print out the map for their own use. Information is not subject to review or approval by the agency and is not subject to redaction or declassification.
The Reader Request Map(s) are provided as a guide to the location of the information requested. The agency does not warrant the accuracy of the information provided. The agency does not warrant the accuracy of the information provided or the quality of the information provided or the quality of the information provided.

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

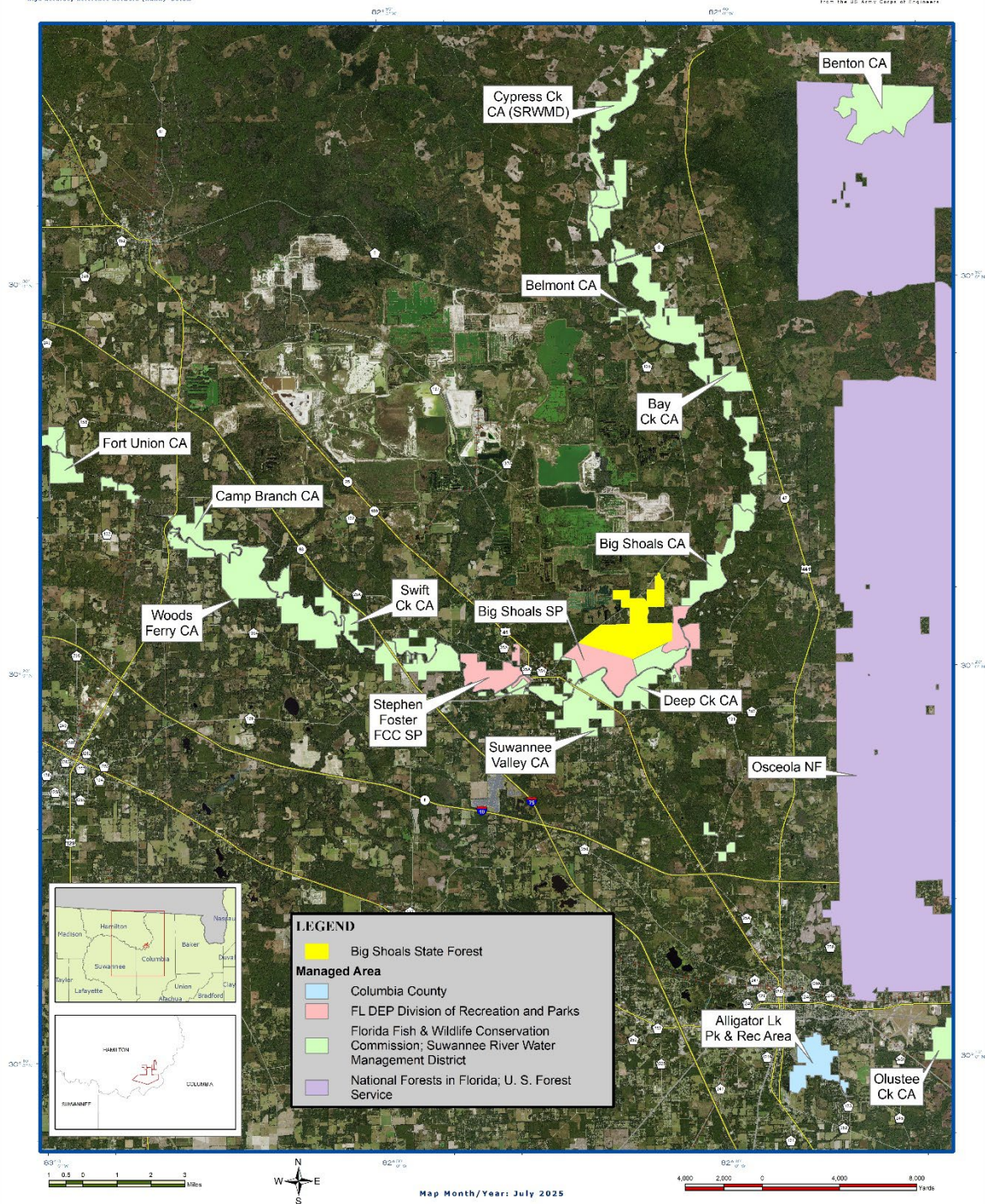


Exhibit G

Department of State Report on Archaeological Sites and Historical Sites



This record search is for informational purposes only and does NOT constitute a project review. This search only identifies resources recorded at the Florida Master Site File and does NOT provide project approval from the Division of Historical Resources. Contact the Compliance and Review Section of the Division of Historical Resources at CompliancePermits@dos.MyFlorida.com for project review information.

August 22, 2023

Emily Marsh

Land Management Planner
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services
(850) 681-5889

In response to your request on August 22, 2023, the Florida Master Site File lists two archeological sites recorded for the Big Shoals State Forest in Hamilton County, Florida.

This search area may contain *unrecorded* archaeological sites, historical structures or other resources even if previously surveyed for cultural resources.

- Because vandalism and looting are common at Florida sites, we ask that you limit the distribution of location information on archaeological sites.
 - While many of our records document historically significant resources, the documentation of a resource at the Florida Master Site File does not necessarily mean the resource is historically significant.
- #
- Federal, state and local laws require formal environmental review for most projects. This search **DOES NOT** constitute such a review. If your project falls under these laws, you should contact the Compliance and Review Section of the Division of Historical Resources at CompliancePermits@dos.MyFlorida.com

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the results of this search.

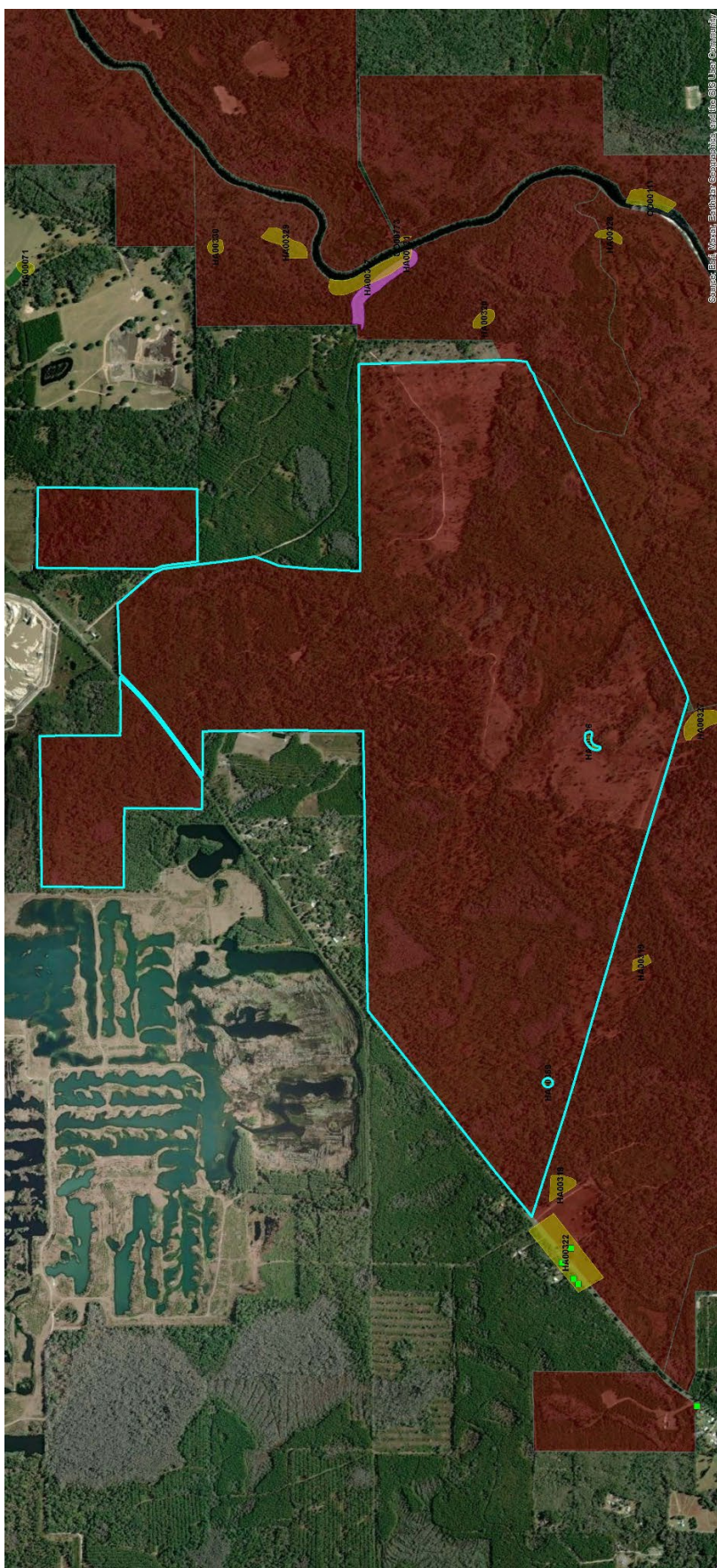
Sincerely,

Eman M. Vovsi, Ph.D.
Florida Master Site File
Eman.Vovsi@DOS.MyFlorida.com



Cultural Resource Roster

SiteID	Type	Site Name	Address	Additional Info	SHPO Eval	NR Status
HA00326	AR	OBSERVATION PLATFORM	WHITE SPRINGS			
HA00369	AR	Top Bay	White Springs			



Source: Earl, Maral, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Exhibit H

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties
(revised June 2021)

These procedures apply to state agencies, local governments, and non-profits that manage state-owned properties.

A. Historic Property Definition

Historic properties include archaeological sites and historic structures as well as other types of resources. Chapter 267, Florida Statutes states: “ ‘*Historic property*’ or ‘*historic resource*’ means any prehistoric district, site, building, object, or other real or personal property of historical, architectural, or archaeological value, and folklife resources. These properties or resources may include, but are not limited to, monuments, memorials, Indian habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure trove, artifacts, or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value, or any part thereof, relating to the history, government, and culture of the state.”

B. Agency Responsibilities

Per Chapter 267, F.S. and state policy related to historic properties, state agencies of the executive branch must provide the Division of Historical Resources (Division) the opportunity to comment on any undertakings with the potential to affect historic properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, whether these undertakings directly involve the state agency, i.e., land management responsibilities, or the state agency has indirect jurisdiction, i.e. permitting authority, grants, etc. No state funds should be expended on the undertaking until the Division has the opportunity to review and comment on the undertaking. (267.061(2)(a))

State agencies must consult with the Division when, as a result of state action or assistance, a historic property will be demolished or substantially altered in a way that will adversely affect the property. State agencies must take timely steps to consider feasible and prudent alternatives to the adverse effect. If no feasible or prudent alternatives exist, the state agency must take timely steps to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect. (267.061(2)(b))

State agencies must consult with Division to establish a program to locate, inventory and evaluate all historic properties under ownership or controlled by the agency. (267.061(2)(c))

State agencies are responsible for preserving historic properties under their control. State agencies are directed to use historic properties available to the agency when that use is consistent with the historic property and the agency’s mission. State agencies are also directed to pursue preservation of historic properties to support their continued use. (267.061(2)(d))

C. Statutory Authority

The full text of Chapter 267, F.S. and additional information related to the treatment of historic properties is available at:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/compliance-and-review/regulations-guidelines/>

D. Management Implementation

Although the Division sits on the Acquisition and Restoration Council and approves land management plans, these plans are conceptual and do not include detailed project information. Specific information for individual projects must be submitted to the Division for review and comment.

Managers of state lands must coordinate any land clearing or ground disturbing activities with the Division to allow for review and comment on the proposed project. The Division's recommendations may include, but are not limited to: approval of the project as submitted, recommendation for a cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, and modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Projects such as additions or alterations to historic structures as well as new construction must also be submitted to the Division for review. Projects involving structures fifty years of age or older must be submitted to the Division for a significance determination. In rare cases, structures under fifty years of age may be deemed historically significant.

Adverse effects to historic properties must be avoided when possible, and if avoidance is not possible, additional consultation with the Division is necessary to develop a mitigation plan. Furthermore, managers of state property should make preparations for locating and evaluating historic properties, both archaeological sites and historic structures.

E. Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) Training

The ARM Training Course introduces state land managers to the nature of archaeological resources, Florida archaeology, and the role of the Division in managing state-owned archaeological resources. Participants gain a better understanding of the requirements of state and federal laws with regard to protecting and managing archaeological sites on state managed lands. Participants also receive a certificate recognizing their ability to conduct limited monitoring activities in accordance with the Division's Review Procedure, thereby reducing the time and money spent to comply with state regulations. Additional information regarding the ARM Training Course is available at:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/education/arm-training-courses/>

F. Matrix for Ground Disturbance on State Lands

The matrix is a tool designed to help streamline the Division's Review Procedure. The matrix allows state land managers to make decisions about balancing ground disturbance and stewardship of historic resources. The matrix establishes types of undertakings that are either minor or major disturbances and then guides the land manager to consult the Division, conduct ARM-trained project monitoring, or proceed with the project. Additional information regarding the matrix is available at:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/education/dhr-matrix-for-ground-disturbance-on-state-lands/>

G. Human Remains Treatment

Chapter 872, *Florida Statutes* makes it illegal to willfully and knowingly disturb human remains. In the event human remains are discovered, cease all activity in the area that may disturb the remains. Leave the bones and nearby items in place. Immediately notify law enforcement or the local district medical examiner of the discovery and follow the provisions of Chapter 872, FS. Additional information regarding the treatment of human remains and cemeteries is available at:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/human-remains/>
<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/human-remains/abandoned-cemeteries/what-are-the-applicable-laws-and-regulations/>

H. Division of Historical Resources Review Procedure

Projects on state owned or controlled properties may submit projects to the Division for review using the streamlined State Lands Consultation Form. The form provides instructions to submit projects for review and outlines the necessary information for the Division to complete the review process. The State Lands Consultation Form and additional information about the Division's review process is available at:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/compliance-and-review/state-lands-review/>

* * *

Questions relating to the treatment of archaeological and historic resources on state lands should be directed to:

Compliance and Review Section
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Division of Historical Resources
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

StateLandsCompliance@dos.myflorida.com

Phone: (850) 245-6333
Toll Free: (800) 847-7278
Fax: (850) 245-6435

Exhibit I

Soil Types Map and Descriptions



Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest

Soils Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
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Map of the Big Shoals State Forest showing the location of the forest relative to the surrounding areas. The map is based on the 2010 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data.

LEGEND

Big Shoals State Forest

Soil Type

ALBANY FINE SAND; 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES

ARENTS; 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES

BLANTON SAND; 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES

CHIPLEY SAND; 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES

MASCOTTE AND PLUMMER SOILS; OCCASSIONALLY FLOODED

MASCOTTE SAND

PAMLICO MUCK; DEPRESSIONAL

PELHAM FINE SAND; OCCASSIONALLY FLOODED

PELHAM SAND

PLUMMER AND SURRENCY SOILS; DEPRESSIONAL

PLUMMER SAND

SAPELO SAND

WAMPEE LOAMY SAND; 5 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES

WAMPEE-BLANTON COMPLEX; 12 TO 20 PERCENT SLOPES



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

10000 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400
Feet

Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions in this report, along with the maps, provide information on the composition of map units and properties of their components.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

The Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) report displays a generated description of the major soils that occur in a map unit. Descriptions of non-soil (miscellaneous areas) and minor map unit components are not included. This description is generated from the underlying soil attribute data.

Additional information about the map units described in this report is available in other Soil Data Mart reports, which give properties of the soils and the limitations, capabilities, and potentials for many uses. Also, the narratives that accompany the Soil Data Mart reports define some of the properties included in the map unit descriptions.

Report—Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

Hamilton County, Florida

Map Unit: 2—Albany fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Albany (90%)

The Albany component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on ridges on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 21 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Blanton (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Blanton soil is a minor component.

Component: Hurricane (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Hurricane soil is a minor component.

Component: Chipley (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Chipley soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 5—Blanton sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Blanton (90%)

The Blanton component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on ridges on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is moderately well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 60 inches during March, April, May, June, July, August. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Albany (10%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Albany soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 8—Chipley sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes**Component:** Chipley (90%)

The Chipley component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains, rises on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 30 inches during January, February, March, April, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 4 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pottsburg, non-hydric (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pottsburg, non-hydric soil is a minor component.

Component: Mascotte, non-hydric (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Mascotte, non-hydric soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 13—Mascotte-Mascotte, wet, sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes**Component:** Mascotte (70%)

The Mascotte component makes up 70 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on stream terraces on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, strongly contrasting textural stratification, is 11 to 23 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 15 inches during March, April, May, June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 5 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Mascotte, wet (20%)

The Mascotte, wet component makes up 20 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on stream terraces on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, strongly contrasting textural stratification, is 11 to 23 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during March, April, May, June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 5 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Sapelo (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Sapelo soil is a minor component.

Component: Pottsborg (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pottsborg soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 20—Pamlico muck, depressional

Component: Pamlico (90%)

The Pamlico component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 50 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pelham, hydric (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pelham, hydric soil is a minor component.

Component: Mascotte, non-hydric (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Mascotte, non-hydric soil is a minor component.

Component: Plummer, depressional (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Plummer, depressional soil is a minor component.

Component: Pottsburg, hydric (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pottsburg, hydric soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 21—Plummer and Surrency soils, depressional**Component:** Plummer, depressional (50%)

The Plummer, depressional component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Surrency, depressional (33%)

The Surrency, depressional component makes up 33 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 15 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Mascotte, hydric (10%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Mascotte, hydric soil is a minor component.

Component: Pottsburg, non-hydric (7%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pottsburg, non-hydric soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 26—Mascotte and Plummer soils, occasionally flooded

Component: Mascotte (53%)

The Mascotte component makes up 53 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on drainageways on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is occasionally flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Plummer (36%)

The Plummer component makes up 36 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on drainageways on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is occasionally flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Stockade (11%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Stockade soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 33—Pelham sand

Component: Pelham, non-hydric (60%)

The Pelham, non-hydric component makes up 60 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during January, February, March, April. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pelham, hydric (30%)

The Pelham, hydric component makes up 30 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, March, April. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Albany (10%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Albany soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 34—Plummer sand

Component: Plummer, non-hydric (60%)

The Plummer, non-hydric component makes up 60 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Plummer, hydric (30%)

The Plummer, hydric component makes up 30 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, March, April, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Sapelo, non-hydric (10%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Sapelo, non-hydric soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 52—Pelham fine sand, occasionally flooded**Component:** Pelham, non-hydric (70%)

The Pelham, non-hydric component makes up 70 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flood plains on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is occasionally flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during January, February, March, April. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pelham, hydric (20%)

The Pelham, hydric component makes up 20 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flood plains on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is occasionally flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, March, April. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Albany (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Albany soil is a minor component.

Component: Stockade (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Stockade soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 58—Sapelo sand

Component: Sapelo, non-hydric (75%)

The Sapelo, non-hydric component makes up 75 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during January, February, March, April, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Sapelo, hydric (15%)

The Sapelo, hydric component makes up 15 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, March, April, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Albany (10%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Albany soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 61—Arents, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Arents (95%)

The Arents component makes up 95 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on fills on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of altered marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is very high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 6s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pits (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pits soil is a minor component.

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Hamilton County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 21, Sep 1, 2022

Exhibit J

Department of Environmental Protection Outstanding Florida Waters



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

Via Email

July 27, 2023

Ms. Emily Marsh
Land Management Planner, Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite I-258, Mail Stop C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

RE: Big Shoals State Forest

Dear Ms. Marsh:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the surface water quality classifications and Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) for Big Shoals State Forest in Hamilton county. All of the surface waters within and adjacent to the state forest are classified as Class III waters according to Rule 62-302.400, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

According to our Outstanding Florida Waters layer and rule, Big Shoals State Forest itself is not currently designated as an OFW. However, the adjacent area is covered by the Big Shoals OFW, per subparagraph 62-302.700(9)(f)6., F.A.C., and the Suwannee River Special Water OFW, per subparagraph 62-302.700(9)(i)34., F.A.C. These OFWs are both in Hamilton and Columbia counties.

Other important managed areas that are within or adjacent to Big Shoals State Forest include Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area and Big Shoals State Park.

Please see the map below for the boundaries of the Big Shoals State Forest and OFWs.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this response, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at Talia.E.Smith-Sickler@FloridaDEP.gov or by phone at 850-245-8068.

Sincerely,

Talia Elisa Smith-Sickler
Standards Development Section
Water Quality Standards Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Map: Big Shoals State Forest and OFWs

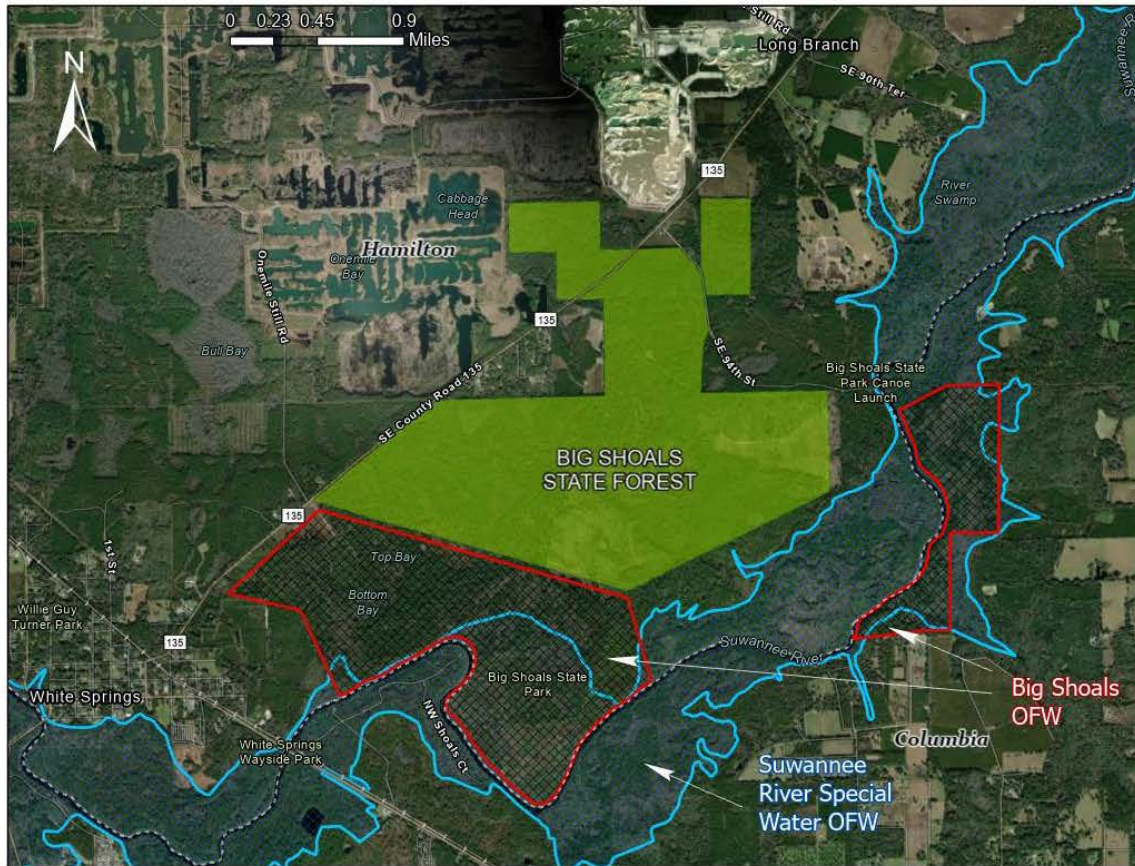


Exhibit K

Water Resources and BMAP Maps



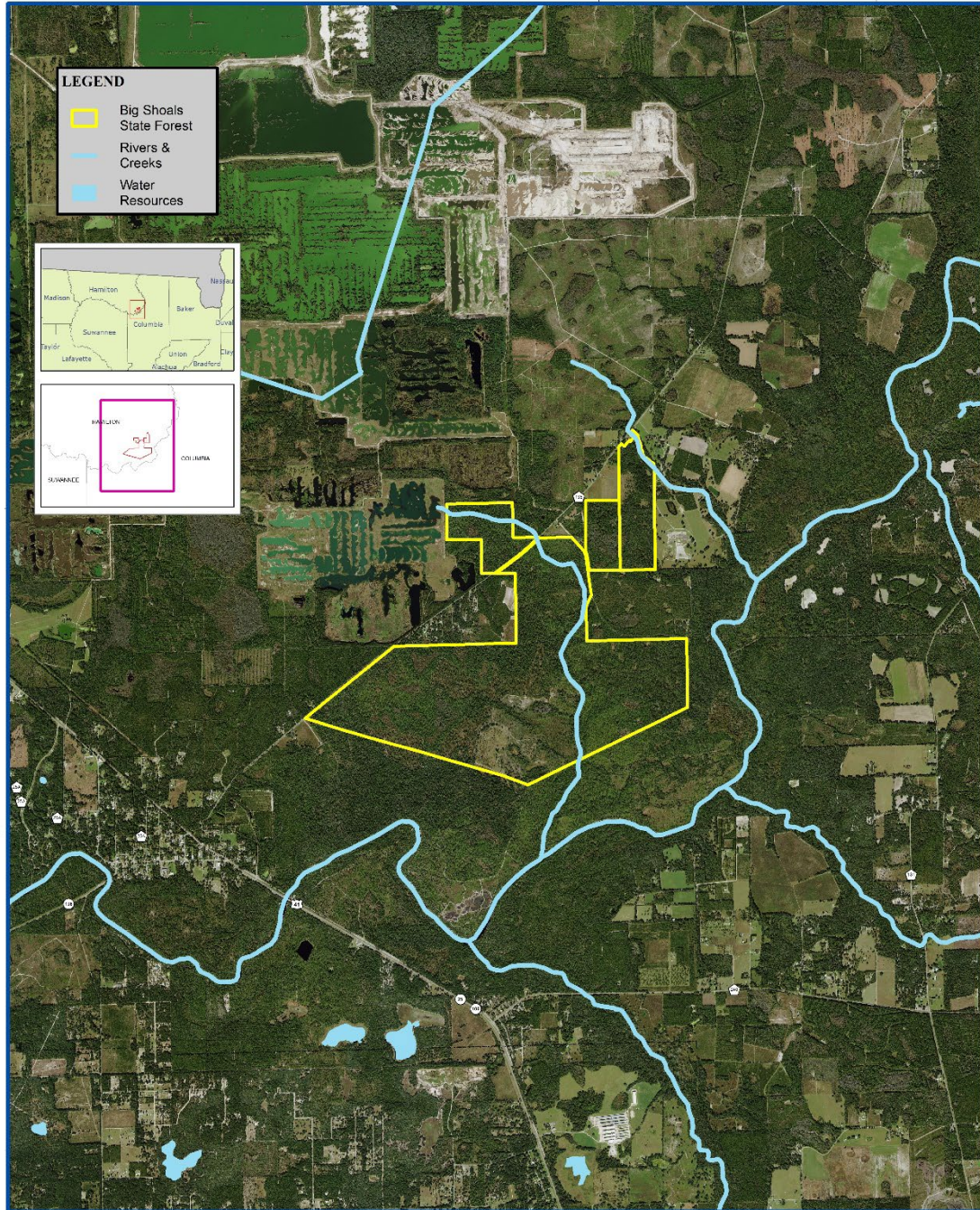
Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest Water Resources Map (BMAP)

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was prepared by the Florida Forest Service for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The Florida Forest Service does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this map.

Boundary lines shown on this map are based on the best available information. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this map.



0 0.5 1 Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Exhibit L

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Managed Area Tracking Record



1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-224-8207
fax 850-681-9364
www.fnai.org

August 1, 2023

Emily Marsh
Florida Forest Service
FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Ms. Marsh,

Thank you for requesting information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). At your request we have produced the following report for your project area.

The purpose of this Standard Data Report is to provide objective scientific information on natural resources located in the vicinity of a site of interest, in order to inform those involved in project planning and evaluation. This Report makes no determination of the suitability of a proposed project for this location, or the potential impacts of the project on natural resources in the area.

Project: Big Shoals State Forest LMP
Date Received: 7/26/2023
Location: Hamilton County

Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that we currently have several element occurrences mapped in the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and element occurrence table). Please be advised that a lack of element occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

The element occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates that some element occurrences occur in the general vicinity of the label point. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that occurs over an extended area (such as a wide ranging species or large natural community). For animals and plants, element occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant. Extirpated element occurrences will be marked with an 'X' following the occurrence label on the enclosed map.

Likely and Potential Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models (see enclosed Biodiversity Matrix Report). These species should be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and impact avoidance and mitigation.

FNAI habitat models indicate areas, which based on land cover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the rarest species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.



Florida Resources
and Environmental
Analysis Center

Institute of Science
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

FNAI species range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species.

The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.

CLIP

The enclosed map shows natural resource conservation priorities based on the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. CLIP is based on many of the same natural resource data developed for the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment, but provides an overall picture of conservation priorities across different resource categories, including biodiversity, landscapes, surface waters, and aggregated CLIP priorities (that combine the individual resource categories). CLIP is also based primarily on remote sensed data and is not intended to be the definitive authority on natural resources on a site.

For more information on CLIP, visit <https://www.fnai.org/services/clip>.

Managed Areas

Portions of the site appear to be located within the Big Shoals State Forest, managed by the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service.

The Managed Areas data layer shows public and privately managed conservation lands throughout the state. Federal, state, local, and privately managed conservation lands are included.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit www.fnai.org/species-communities/tracking-main for county or statewide element occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. **The maps contain sensitive environmental information, please do not distribute or publish without prior consent from FNAI.** FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (850) 224-8207 or at kbrinegar@fnai.fsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Kerri Brinegar

Kerri Brinegar
GIS / Data Services

Encl

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity



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CLIP v4.0 Resource Priorities

Biodiversity Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Landscape Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Surface Water Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Aggregated CLIP Priorities

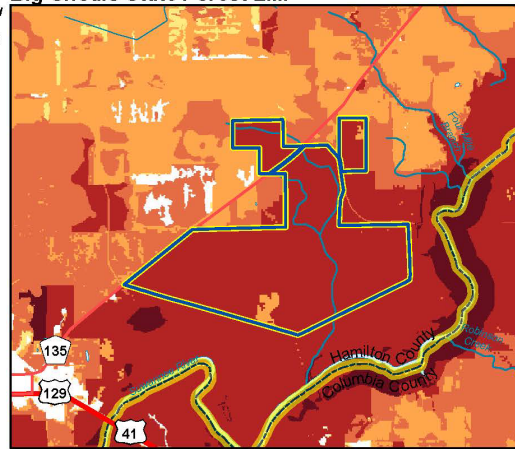
- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Site Boundary

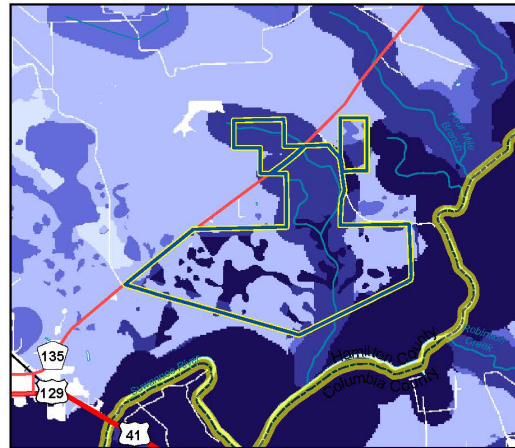
Map should not be interpreted without
accompanying documents.

Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project
(CLIP) is a cooperative effort between the FSU
Florida Natural Areas Inventory, UF Center for
Landscape Conservation Planning, and FL Fish &
Wildlife Conservation Commission, with additional
funding from FL Dept of Environmental Protection
and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

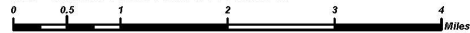
Big Shoals State Forest LMP



CLIP Biodiversity Resource Priorities

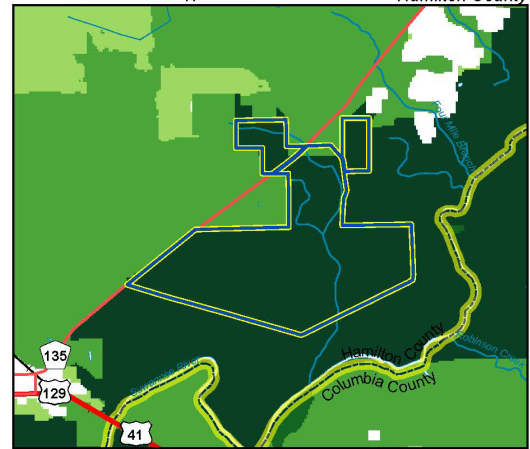


CLIP Surface Water Resource Priorities

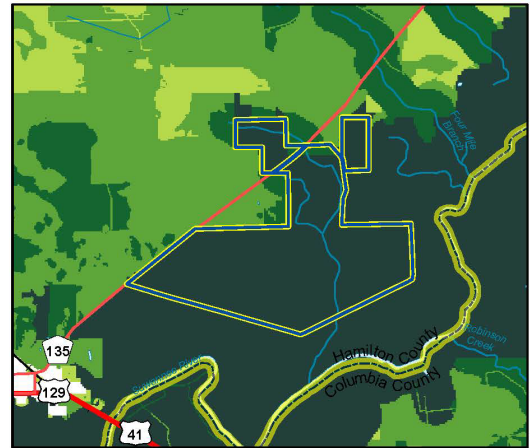


Site boundaries are approximate.

Hamilton County



CLIP Landscape Resource Priorities



CLIP Aggregated Resource Priorities

Map produced by KAB
8/1/2023



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Florida
Natural Areas
Inventory

FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near Big Shoals State Forest LMP



Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global State Federal State			Observation	Description	EO Comments
			Rank	Status	Listing	Date		
ALLMISS*102	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American Alligator	G5	S4	SAT	FT(S/A)	2006	Suwannee River and nearby Gar Pond 1992: Occurrence on site. 2006: One 9-10 ft gator
BIRDROOK*100	Bird Rookery		G5	SNRB	N	N	1978-08	COLONY SITE IS CYPRESS IN CYPRESS SWAMP. NESTING SUBSTRATE IS CYPRESS OVER WATER. MORE THAN 0.8 KM FROM HUMAN DISTURBANCE. 1992 [MONTH?]: NO EVIDENCE OF COLONY ACTIVITY OBSERVED (U93BIO01); GREAT BLUE HERON (30 NESTING PAIRS 4/78; NONE REPORTED 4/77, 8/78); CATTLE EGRET (NONE 4/77, 4/78; 150 PRS 8/78); GREAT EGRET (100 PRS 4/77; 200 PRS 4/78; NONE REPORTED 8/78).
CARECHAP*19	<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T	2001	1997-04-01: found in slope forest along with Sabal minor, Lobelia cardinalis, Platyhelos quercicola (PNSUT02FLUS).
CARECHAP*34	<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T	2007-04-11	FNAI NC recorded as bottomland forest.
CROTADM*328	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G3	S3	UR	N	2004-02-06	No general description given
CROTHOR*32	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	N	2008-07-08	2008: Hardwood forest, xeric hammock, and old house site within mesic hammock (F08FNA06FLUS). 2004-02-06: In mesic flatwoods with Pinus palustris canopy and heavy Serenoa repens cover, in upland hardwood forest near a seep, and crossing firebreaks in mes
CTENFLOR*32	<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E	2009	No general description given 2009: 11-50 plants (F09FNA11FLUS).

FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near
Big Shoals State Forest LMP



Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global State Rank	Federal State Rank	Status	Listing	Observation Date	Description	EO Comments
CYOLKLE1	<i>Cyclonotus kleiniana</i>	Florida Mapleleaf	G2G3	S2	N	N	2014 pre	The Suwannee River is a large river, mostly a blackwater stream but also with substantial spring input. The Santa Fe and New rivers are medium-to-small blackwater rivers within the Suwannee River drainage. Much of the surrounding country is dedicated to a	Williams et al. (2014) depict at least 15 sites from which this occurrence has been documented in Florida. For specific data, references, and sites, see map in Williams et al. (2014) as well as Additional Topics.
DRYMCJUP*92	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT	1973 pre	No general description given	1969-1972: P. MOLER OBSERVED DOR SPECIMEN IN THIS TIMEFRAME (U82MOL01FLUS).
EPTFUSC*3	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N	1957-07-08	No general description given	MUSEUM SPECIMEN, #02094 FSM, COLLECTED BY W.L. JENNINGS, 1957-07-08.
GOPHPOLY*460	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST	1992	HABITAT PINE FLATWOODS: OPEN STAND OF LONGLEAF PINE 60-70 FEET TALL OVER A DENSE SHRUB ZONE OF SAW PALMETTO AND MIXED ERICACEOUS SHRUBS. OCCURS ON SANDY RIDGES WITH A PERCHED WATER TABLE, MESIC.	5 ACTIVE BURROWS NOTED, ONE ANIMAL SEEN. EST. NO OF INDIVIDUALS IN POP. AND AGE/POP STRUCTURE BOTH UNKNOWN. MOST BURROWS LOCATED IN OPENINGS WITHIN THE SAW PALMETTO SHRUB ZONE WHERE THERE IS MORE HERBACEOUS VEGETATION.
GOPHPOLY*461	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST	1984-05-04	XERIC HAMMOCK: LAUREL OAK, WATER OAK, SANDLIVE OAK, LONGLEAF PINE CANOPY OVER AN OPEN SHRUB LAYER OF DEER BERRY AND SPARKLEBERRY; SPARSE TO LOCALLY DENSE GROUND COVER OF SANDHILL HERBS AND WIREGRASS; XERIC.	12 ACTIVE BURROWS AND SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS SEEN. 3 INDIVIDUALS NOTED FEEDING WITHIN 10 M OF THEIR BURROWS. AGE/POPULATION STRUCTURE AND EST. NO. OF INDIVIDUALS IN POPULATION UNKNOWN.
GOPHPOLY*462	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST	1984-05-04	HABITAT XERIC HAMMOCK: MIX OF LAUREL, WATER, AND SAND LIVE OAKS WITH SOME LOBLOLLY AND LONGLEAF PINES OVER AN OPEN SHRUB LAYER OF SPARKLEBERRY AND DEER BERRY; GROUND COVER SPARSE TO LOCALLY DENSE-VARIOUS GRASSES AND HERBS.	SIX ACTIVE BURROWS AND SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS NOTED. EST. NO. OF INDIVIDUALS AND AGE/POPULATION STRUCTURE UNKNOWN. MOST BURROWS CONCENTRATED IN MORE OPEN AREAS WITH ABUNDANT GROUND COVER.



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FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near Big Shoals State Forest LMP



Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global State Federal State			Observation	Description	EO Comments
			Rank	Rank	Status	Listing	Date	
GOPHPOLY*771	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST	1985-04-03	1985-04-03: disturbed xeric hammock - scattered live oak, laurel oak nad blackjack oak over various sandhill herbs (U85LYN04FLUS).
GOPHPOLY*886	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST	2005	2004-02-06: Habitat has been degraded as canopy has closed, general area was formerly flatwoods, sandhill, or upland pine. Invasion by hardwoods extensive with laurel oak, water oak, and other hardwoods (PNDMCP01FLUS, PNDPAT01FLUS). Pine plantation.
HALILEUC*1133	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S3	N	N	2003	2005: few scattered burrows observed; no detailed survey (F05SUR01FLUS). 2004-02-06: Tortoises still use more open areas of the park. Many burrows that were persisting in small openings at the original point have become inactive. 21 active burrows, most of adult size, were mapped within the polygon to north (U04MCP01FLUS). 1992: At least 16 burrows observed (U93BIO01FLUS).
LITHCAP*114	<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N	1992-07-20	Nest status: Active. 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999;(U03FWC01FLUS) A single gopher frog was captured in a funnel trap placed at the mouth of a tortoise burrow.
MACRSUNA*10	<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST	2020	Robust population based on dozens of records from 1935-2020 spanning much of system; summaries in A15JOH01FLUS, A22THO02FLUS, B06PRI01FLUS, N14ENG01FLUS.
PITUMELA*13	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Pine Snake	G4	S3	UR	ST	1973-04	INDIV. CAPTURED APRIL 1973 BY PAUL MOLER AND STEVE CHRISTMAN
PITUMELA*15	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Pine Snake	G4	S3	UR	ST	1977-10-22	1977-10-22: INDIV. SEEN 22 OCT. 1977 BY BOB SIMONS
SATYKING*11	<i>Satyrium kingi</i>	King's Hairstreak	G3G4	S2	N	N	2022-05-13	Three adults were observed on sweet leaf (Symlocos tinctoria).



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FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near Big Shoals State Forest LMP



Global State Federal State Observation					EO Comments
Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Description	
SPRISTRE*55	Spring-run stream		G2	IN "FARMLAND" SETTING, IMPOUNDMENT HAS 3 DAMS THAT FORM 100 M LONG UPPER POND, TEAR-DROP SHAPED SPRING POOL CA 15-50 M & LOWER POOL CA 33-300 M.	2004: Update to last obs date was based on interpretation of aerial photography (previous value was 1977-pre) (U05FNA02FLUS). SPRING IN UPPER PART OF 0.4 M-LONG NNW TRENDING TRIBUTARY TO RIVER; DEPTH TO VENT CA 2 M; FLOW REPORTED AT 350 GAL/MIN
URSUFLOP*56	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	Large area of pine plantation, mesic and wet flatwoods, and dome and basin swamps. Largely private commercial timberland, nurseries, and small neighborhoods; public lands are dominated by pine plantation but also have flatwoods interspersed with dome swam	2002: 1,025-1,539 bears estimated in the primary ranges in the Ocala-St. John's region. Part of a larger population that includes Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia (U05SIM01FLUS). 2014: 1,198 bears estimated in the Ocala-St. John's region and 485 estimated in the Osceola region (A16HUM01FLUS). 2016: polygons created to show where bears are considered 'Abundant' and 'Common' (U16FWC01FLUS) Primary is the FWC-designated core area that represents breeding range and contains documented evidence of reproduction or female bears within available habitat, and Secondary is the FWC-designated area where bears occur within available habitat but outside primary bear range (evidence of bears without documented evidence of reproduction) (U12FWC02FLUS, U05SIM01FLUS). These boundaries are based on decades of bear observations, roadkill distribution, nuisance bear locations, and bear research projects. For detailed location data contact the FWC.



Florida
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Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix Report



Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 21186					
Documented					
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	N
<i>Satyrium kingi</i>	King's Hairstreak	G3G4	S2	N	N
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Documented-Historic					
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
Likely					
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Quadrula kleiniana</i>	Florida Mapleleaf	G2G3	S2	N	N
Sandhill		G3	S2	N	N
Scrub		G2	S2	N	N
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Upland pine		G3	S2	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Ameiurus serracanthus</i>	Spotted Bullhead	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Asplenium x plenum</i>	ruffled spleenwort	G1Q	S1	N	N
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Fly's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Micropterus notius</i>	Suwannee Bass	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Pine Snake	G4	S3	UR	ST
<i>Pycnanthemum floridanum</i>	Florida mountain-mint	G3	S3	N	T

Matrix Unit ID: 21187

Documented

<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
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Likely					
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Matrix Unit ID: 21423					
Documented					
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	N
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Likely					
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Quadrula kleiniana</i>	Florida Mapleleaf	G2G3	S2	N	N
Sandhill		G3	S2	N	N
Scrub		G2	S2	N	N
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Ameiurus serracanthus</i>	Spotted Bullhead	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Asplenium x plenum</i>	ruffled spleenwort	G1Q	S1	N	N
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T

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<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Micropterus notius</i>	Suwannee Bass	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pycnanthemum floridanum</i>	Florida mountain-mint	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Sciurus niger niger</i>	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N

Matrix Unit ID: 21424

Documented

<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
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Likely

<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N

Potential

<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Sciurus niger niger</i>	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N

Matrix Unit ID: 21425

Documented

<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G3	S3	UR	N
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<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Likely					
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Matrix Unit ID: 21661					
Documented					
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	N
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Likely					
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
Sandhill		G3	S2	N	N
Scrub		G2	S2	N	N
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Ameiurus serracanthus</i>	Spotted Bullhead	G3	S3	N	N

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<i>Asplenium x plenum</i>	ruffled spleenwort	G1Q	S1	N	N
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Bird Rookery</i>		G5	SNRB	N	N
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Micropterus notius</i>	Suwannee Bass	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pycnanthemum floridanum</i>	Florida mountain-mint	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Sciurus niger niger</i>	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N

Matrix Unit ID: 21662

Documented

<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N

Likely

<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Upland pine		G3	S2	N	N

Potential

<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Asplenium x plenum</i>	ruffled spleenwort	G1Q	S1	N	N
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Bird Rookery</i>		G5	SNRB	N	N
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's brickell-bush	G3	S2	N	E
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N

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<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	N
<i>Sciurus niger niger</i>	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Matrix Unit ID: 21663					
Documented					
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Likely					
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle	G2	S2	PT	ST
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT
<i>Progomphus alachuensis</i>	Tawny Sanddragon	G3	S3	N	N
Upland hardwood forest		G5	S3	N	N
Potential					
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	incised groove-bur	G3	S2	N	T
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S1	N	N
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	hartwrightia	G2	S2	UR	T
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	G3?	S2	N	E
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2	N	ST
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	N

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.
 Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
 Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
 Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.



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Tallahassee, FL 32303
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Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Managed Area Element Summary Big Shoals State Forest



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Global rank	State rank	Federal status	State status
REPTILES					
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G3	S3	UR	N
MAMMALS					
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
PLANTS					
<i>Carex chapmannii</i>	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3	N	T

Note: Summary includes all documented and likely species occurrence records currently in the FNAI database.

Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

A = Excellent estimated viability
A? = Possibly excellent estimated viability
AB = Excellent or good estimated viability
AC = Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability
B = Good estimated viability
B? = Possibly good estimated viability
BC = Good or fair estimated viability
BD = Good, fair, or poor estimated viability
C = Fair estimated viability
C? = Possibly fair estimated viability
CD = Fair or poor estimated viability
D = Poor estimated viability
D? = Possibly poor estimated viability
E = Verified extant (viability not assessed)
F = Failed to find
H = Historical
NR = Not ranked, a placeholder when an EO is not (yet) ranked.
U = Unrankable
X = Extirpated

*For additional detail on the above ranks see: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm>

FNAI also uses the following EO ranks:

H? = Possibly historical
F? = Possibly failed to find
X? = Possibly extirpated

The following offers further explanation of the H and X ranks as they are used by FNAI:

The rank of H is used when there is a lack of recent field information verifying the continued existence of an EO, such as (a) when an EO is based only on historical collections data; or (b) when an EO was ranked A, B, C, D, or E at one time and is later, without field survey work, considered to be possibly extirpated due to general habitat loss or degradation of the environment in the area. This definition of the H rank is dependent on an interpretation of what constitutes "recent" field information. Generally, if there is no known survey of an EO within the last 20 to 40 years, it should be assigned an H rank. While these time frames represent suggested maximum limits, the actual time period for historical EOs may vary according to the biology of the element and the specific landscape context of each occurrence (including anthropogenic alteration of the environment). Thus, an H rank may be assigned to an EO before the maximum time frames have lapsed. Occurrences that have not been surveyed for periods exceeding these time frames should not be ranked A, B, C, or D. The higher maximum limit for plants and communities (i.e., ranging from 20 to 40 years) is based upon the assumption that occurrences of these elements generally have the potential to persist at a given location for longer periods of time. This greater potential is a reflection of plant biology and community dynamics. However, landscape factors must also be considered. Thus, areas with more anthropogenic impacts on the environment (e.g., development) will be at the lower end of the range, and less-impacted areas will be at the higher end.

The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).

FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

Legal status information provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant federal agency.

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

C = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.

E = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

E, T = Species currently listed endangered in a portion of its range but only listed as threatened in other areas

E, PDL = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.

E, PT = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for listing as threatened.

E, XN = Species currently listed endangered but tracked population is a non-essential experimental population.

T = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

PE = Species proposed for listing as endangered.

PS = - An infraspecific taxon or population has federal status but the entire species does not - status is in only a portion of the species range.

PT = Species proposed for listing as threatened.

SAT = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.

SC = Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

DL = Delisted.

UR = Under review.

STATE LEGAL STATUS

Provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state agency.

Animals: Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

C = Candidate for listing at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FE = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FT = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FXN = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida

FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance

ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

SSC = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. (SSC* for *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey) indicates that this status applies in Monroe county only.)

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Plants: Definitions derived from Sections 581.011, 581.185 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505 or see: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5B-40>.

E = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

T = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.

CE = Commercially exploited: species native to the state which are subject to being removed in significant numbers from native habitats in the state and sold or transported for sale.

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

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The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).

Exhibit M

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Listed Species Occurrence Records



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners
Rodney Barreto
Chairman
Coral Gables

Steven Hudson
Vice Chairman
Fort Lauderdale

Preston Farrior
Tampa

Gary Lester
Oxford

Albert Maury
Coral Gables

Gary Nicklaus
Jupiter

Sonya Rood
St. Augustine

Office of the
Executive Director
Roger Young
Executive Director

Dr. Thomas H. Eason
Assistant Executive Director

Jessica Crawford
Chief of Staff

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

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Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: 850-488-4676

Hearing/speech-impaired:
800-955-8771 (T)
800-955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

August 9, 2023

Emily Marsh
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650
emily.marsh@fdacs.gov

Dear Ms. Marsh:

This letter is in response to your request for listed species occurrence records and critical habitats for the Big Shoals State Forest, located in Hamilton County. FWC staff conducted a geographic information system (GIS) analysis of the project area which found that the project area contains:

Documented occurrences of the following listed and managed species:

- Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*, FT)
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, ST)
- Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*, ST)

Potential habitat for the following listed and managed species:

- Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*, FT)
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, ST)
- Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*, ST)

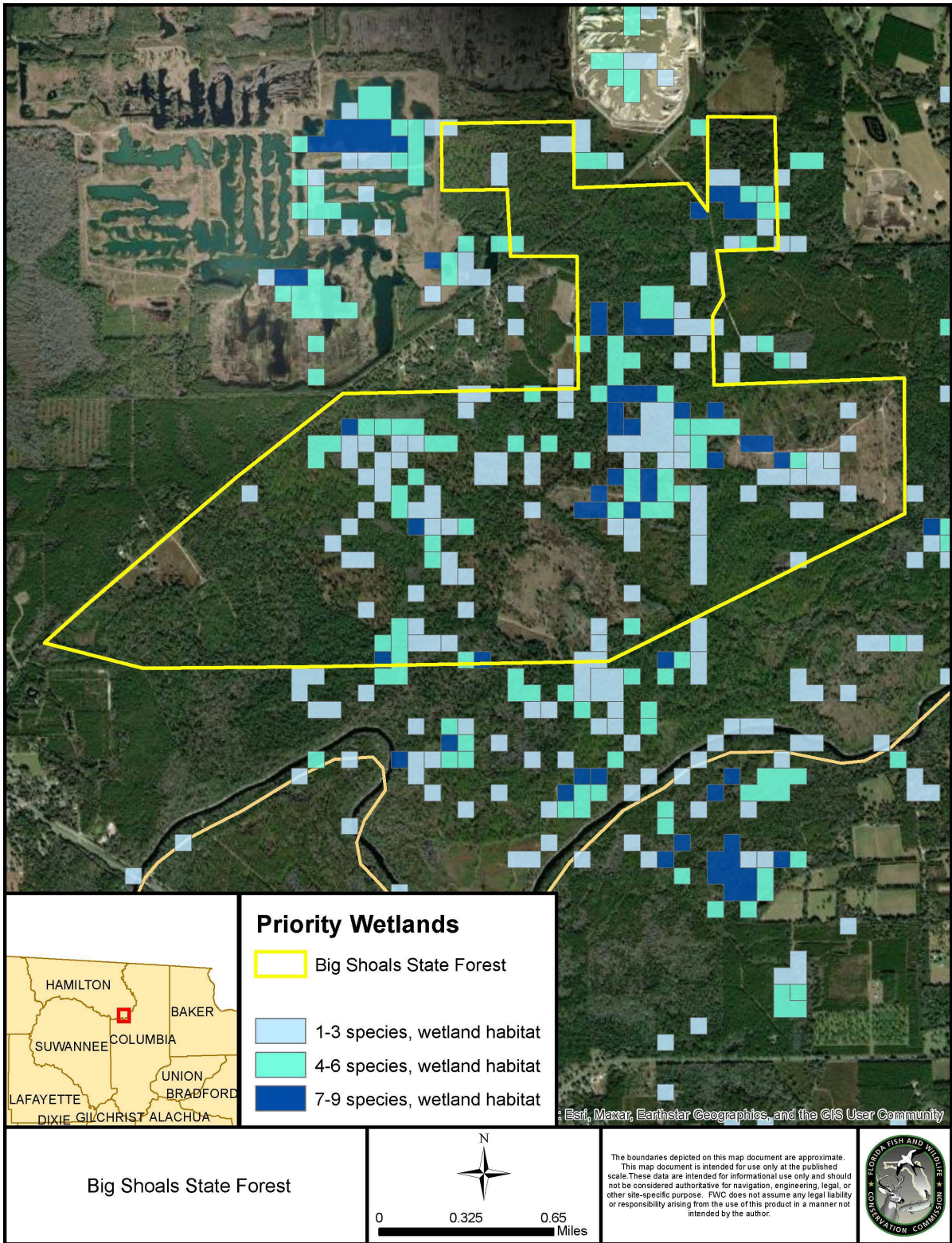
Enclosed are maps of prioritized SHCA's, species richness, priority wetlands for listed species, and land cover for the project site and surrounding area.

The wildlife occurrence data represents only species recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers and the available databases do not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Therefore, the absence of a species in this list does not mean that species does not occur in the area.

For specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Alex Flores at 850-488-8783 or by email at Alex.Flores@MyFWC.com. All other inquiries may be sent to ConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,

Josh Cucinella
Land Use Planning Program Administrator
Office of Conservation Planning Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



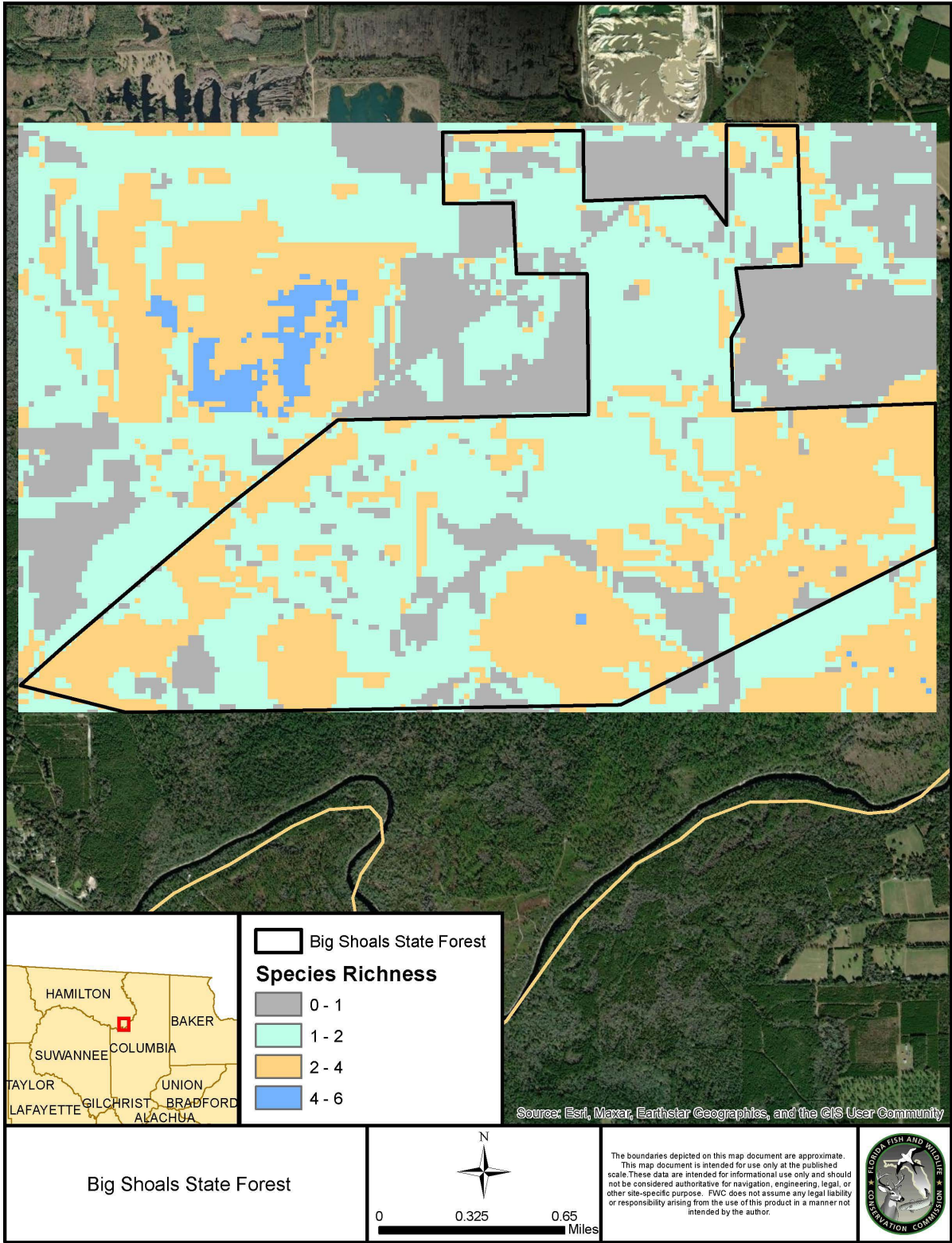


Exhibit N

Twenty-Year

Fire History

Big Shoals State Forest Burn Acres by Fiscal Year

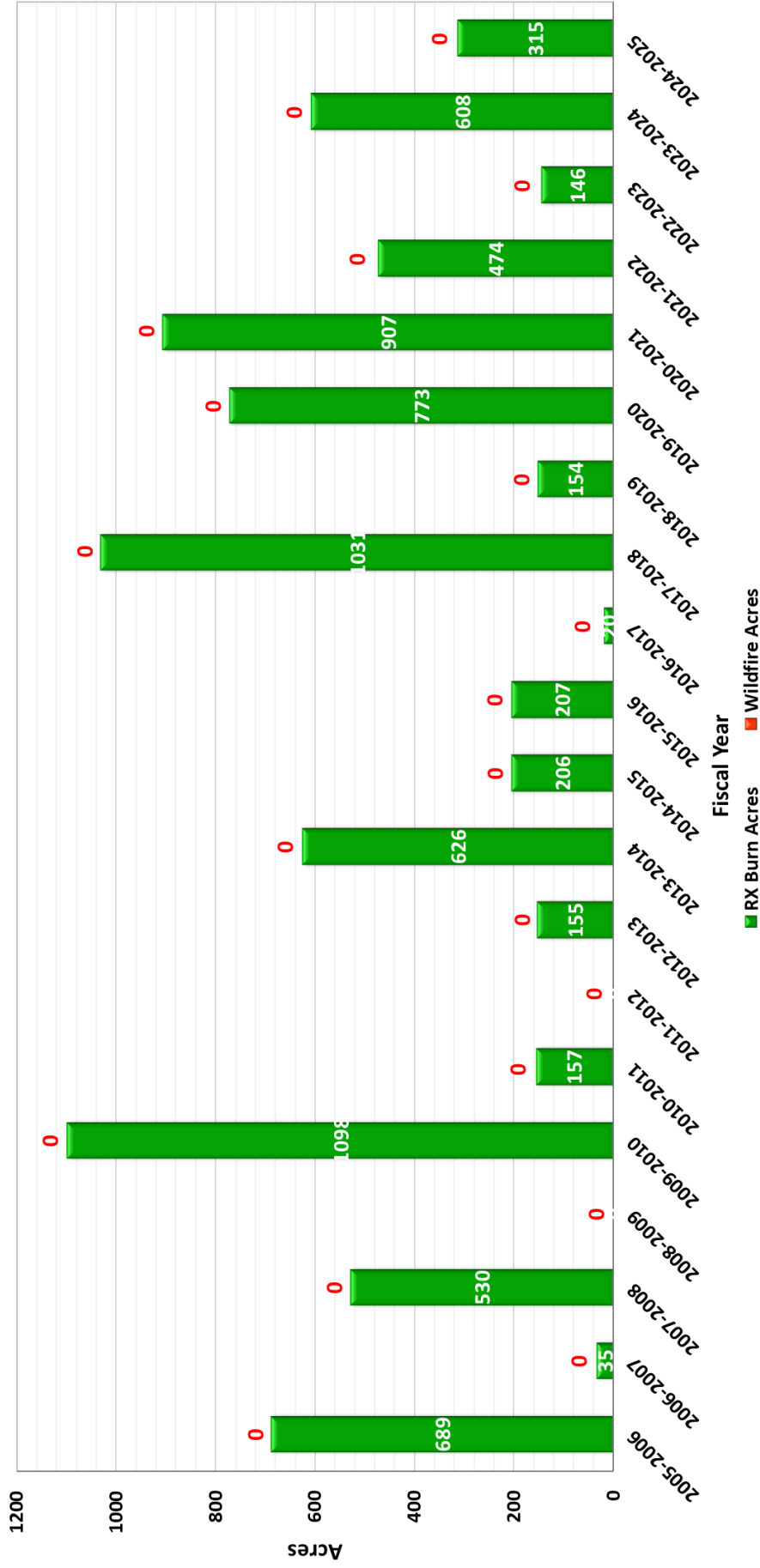


Exhibit O

Invasive Species Map



DECLASSIFICATION: This record was created by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARS) and is classified as "Confidential" under Executive Order 12958, Section 1.5. The information contained herein is exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). This information is not to be released to the public, nor to any foreign government, without the express written permission of the National Security Council. This information is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, and disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the National Security Council.

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum



Map Month/Year: July 2025



Exhibit P

Current FNAI Natural Communities Map



Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest

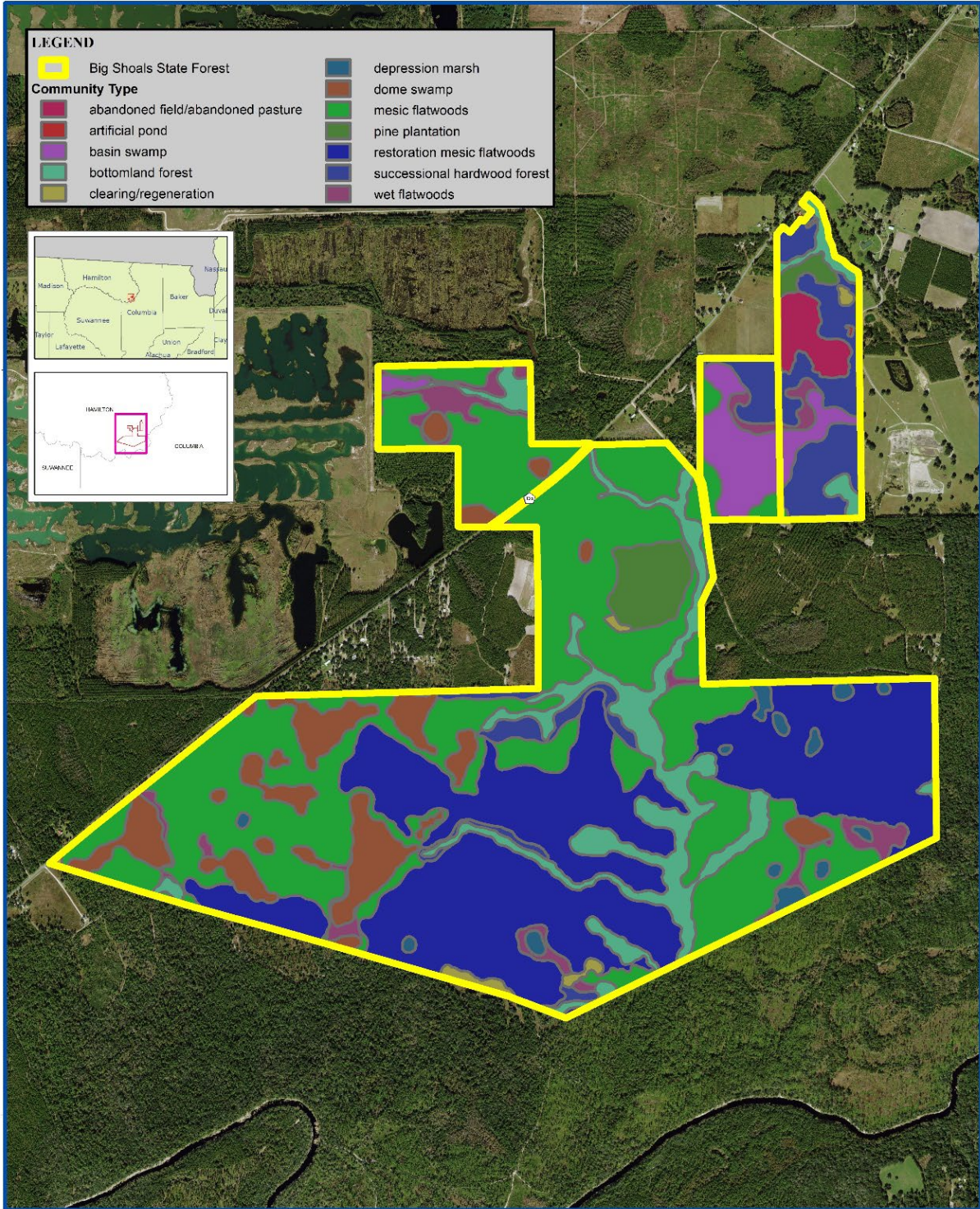
Current FNAI Natural Communities Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was created for the Florida Forest Service and is intended for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The Florida Forest Service does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this map.

LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Big Shoals State Forest | depression marsh |
| Community Type | dome swamp |
| abandoned field/abandoned pasture | mesic flatwoods |
| artificial pond | pine plantation |
| basin swamp | restoration mesic flatwoods |
| bottomland forest | successional hardwood forest |
| clearing/regeneration | wet flatwoods |



0.1 0.05 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

10050 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1,000 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400
Feet

Exhibit Q

Historic FNAI Natural Communities Map



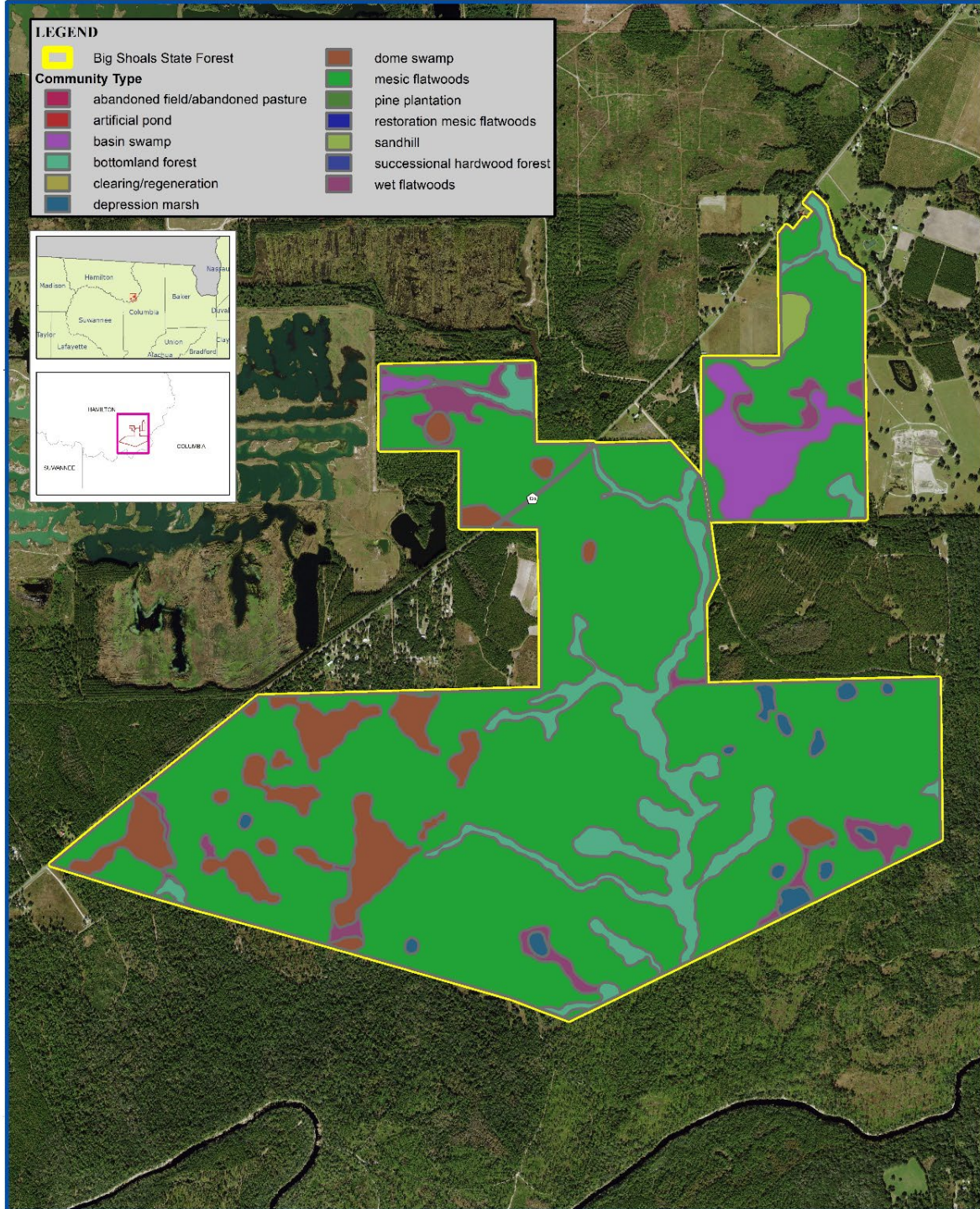
Florida Forest Service

Big Shoals State Forest

Historic FNAI Natural Communities Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was prepared by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The FFS does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information presented on this map. The FFS does not assume any liability for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this map. The FFS does not assume any liability for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this map.



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



Map Month/Year: July 2025

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1,000 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400 Yards

Exhibit R

Land Management Reviews

(2013, 2017 & 2022)

Name of Site: Big Shoals State Forest

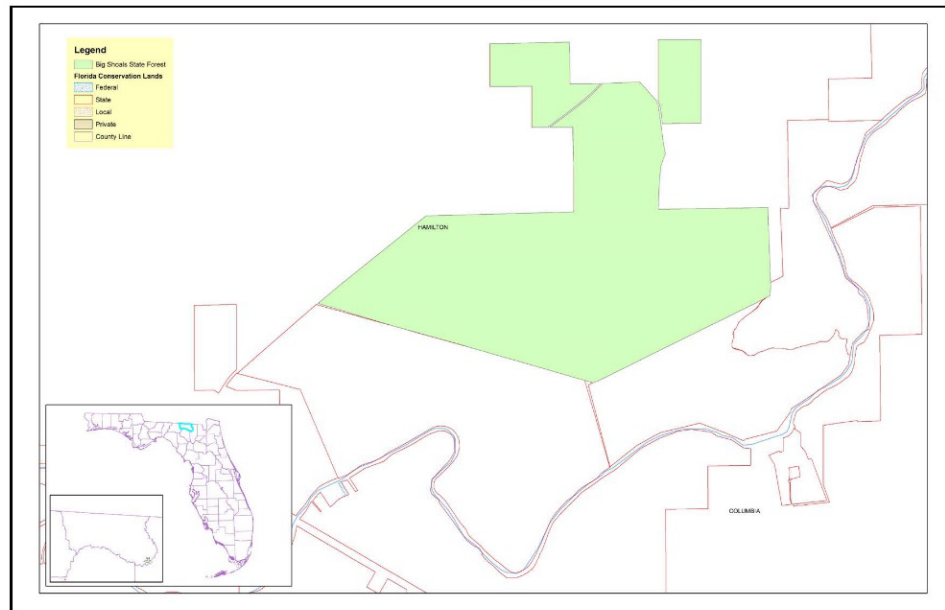
County: Hamilton

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service

Acres: 1,629.00
Area Reviewed: Entire tract

Review Date: 01/30-31/2013

Management Plan Approval Date: 12/15/2006



Review Team Determination

Managed in accordance with
Acquisition purpose? Yes =4, No = 0



Management practices, including public access,
in compliance with the management plan? Yes =4, No = 0



Categories	Management Plan Review	Field Review
Natural Communities	0.94	3.96
Listed Species	0.72	3.00
Natural Resource Survey	0.79	3.50
Cultural Resources	0.88	2.75
Prescribed Fire	0.75	5.00
Restoration	0.95	4.45
Exotic Species	0.88	4.13
Hydrology	1.00	4.50
Groundwater Monitoring	0.67	3.00
Surface Water Monitoring	1.00	3.00
Resource Protection	1.00	4.81
Adjacent Property Concerns	0.58	2.83
Public Access & Education	0.96	3.77
Management Resources	N/A	4.33
Managed Area Uses	1.00	N/A
Buildings, Equipment, Staff & Funding	N/A	3.81

Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

The following commendations resulted from discussion and vote of the review team members.

1. The team commends the forest staff for the extraordinary prescribed fire program which has established a consistent history of desired fire frequency throughout all the mesic flatwoods. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

2. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for its spirit of cooperative interagency management. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

3. The team commends the FFS staff for their initiative for establishing a restoration strategy in areas of significant hardwoods and poor groundcover. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

4. The team commends the FFS for their successful reforestation with hand planted longleaf pine. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

5. The team commends the lead area manager for maintaining an adequate fire rotation during challenging conditions. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The management plan must include responses to the recommendations identified below.

1. The team recommends FFS, with support from DRP or others, refine the historical and current natural community map as it relates to desired future conditions and management goals. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: The historical natural community map has been developed by a former survey. However, FFS will reevaluate the current natural community map and compare that to the desired future conditions, while taking into considerations other management goals and budget constraints, to determine if any refinements are appropriate.

2. The team recommends FFS staff document incidental observations of state and/or federally listed plant and animal species occurring in the forest. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: FFS has started documenting incidental observations of state and/or federally listed plant and animal species on the State Forest and is recording these in its Forest Data Model.

3. During reforestation planning, the team recommends that FFS staff investigate alternative chemical/mechanical site preparation techniques that minimize damage to herbaceous groundcover species while also meeting pine survival needs. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: During reforestation planning, the FFS will continue to evaluate on a site specific basis various options for site preparation, chemical and/or mechanical, to minimize the disturbance of herbaceous groundcover species, while ensuring adequate vegetative control as necessary to accomplish its reforestation goals and meet established guidelines for tree planting and survival.

Field Review Checklist Findings

The following items received high scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions exceeded expectations.

- Natural Communities, regarding basin swamp, baygall, dome swamp, floodplain forest, blackwater stream.
- Natural Resources, regarding fire effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, regarding area being burned (no. acres), frequency and quality.
- Restoration of Ruderal Areas, regarding oldfield/successional hardwood (300 acres).
- Forest Management, regarding timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation
- Non-native, Invasive and Problem Species, regarding the prevention and control of plants, animals and pests/pathogens.
- Hydrologic/Geologic Function, regarding roads/culverts.
- Resource Protection, regarding boundary survey, gates & fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
- Public Access & Education, regarding roads and parking.
- Environmental Education & Outreach, regarding wildlife, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities and management of visitor impacts.
- Management Resources Maintenance, regarding waste disposal and sanitary facilities.
- Infrastructure, regarding buildings, equipment and staff.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than .5 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. The review team average score indicates a need for acknowledgement of natural resource survey, specifically listed species or habitat monitoring. Please provide documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The FFS has initiated the documenting of state and/or federally listed plant and animal species occurring on the State Forest and maintain these as a GIS layer in its forest data model and will include discussion in the next revision of the management plan this monitoring/survey work.

2. The review team average score indicates a need for acknowledgement of Adjacent property concerns to be addressed, specifically PCS phosphate mining and surplus lands identified. Please provide documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The FFS does not have any areas on Big Shoals State Forest to list as surplus at this time. PCS Phosphate is currently mining along the west boundary of Big Shoals State Forest on the portion that lies north of CR 135. It has already been mined and subsequently has reclaimed the area along the north boundary of this same portion. FFS has no control over the land management practices that are taking place outside its boundary. The FFS will continue to manage and monitor the resources on the Big Shoals State Forest to ensure their conservation, protection from offsite impacts, and the continued availability for multiple use benefits. FFS will provide an update in the next management plan regards any concerns from the PCS Phosphate mine that might exist at that time.

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)						
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Upland Mixed Forest	I.A.5	1	1	1	0	0.75
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.6	1	1	1	0	0.75
Basin Swamp	I.A.8	1	1	1	1	1.00
Baygall	I.A.9	1	1	1	1	1.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.11	1	1	1	1	1.00
Floodplain Forest	I.A.12	1	1	1	1	1.00
Blackwater Stream	I.A.14	1	1	1	1	1.00
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)						
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	1		1	0	0.67
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	1	1	1	0	0.75
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	1	1	1	0	0.75
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)						
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.2	1			0	0.50
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	1	1		1	1.00
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	1	1		0	0.67
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	1	1		1	1.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)						
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	1	1	1	0	0.75
Protection and preservation	II.B	1	1	1	1	1.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)						
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	1	1	1	0	0.75
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1	1	0	0.75
Quality	III.A.3	1	1	1	0	0.75
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)						
Oldfield/Successional Hardwood (300 acres)	III.B.2	1	1	1	0	0.75
Forest Management (III.C)						
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	1	1	1	1	1.00
Site Preparation	III.C.4	1	1	1	1	1.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)						
Prevention						
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	1	1	1	0	0.75
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	1	1	1	0	0.75
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c	1	1	1	0	0.75

Control						
control - plants	III.E.2.a	1	1	1	1	1.00
control - animals	III.E.2.b	1	1		1	1.00
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	1	1		1	1.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.F.1)						
Roads/culverts	III.F.1.a	1	1	1	1	1.00
Ground Water Monitoring (III.F.2)						
Ground water quality	III.F.2.a	1	0		1	0.67
Ground water quantity	III.F.2.b	1	0		1	0.67
Surface Water Monitoring (III.F.3)						
Surface water quantity	III.F.3.b	1	1		1	1.00
Resource Protection (III.G)						
Boundary survey	III.G.1	1	1		1	1.00
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	1	1		1	1.00
Signage	III.G.3	1	1		1	1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	1	1		1	1.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.H)						
Land Use						
PCS Phosphate Mining	III.H.1.a	1		0	0	0.33
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	1			1	1.00
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.H.3	1	0	1	1	0.75
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.H.4	0	1	0	0	0.25
Public Access & Education						
Public Access						
Roads	IV.1.a	1	1	1	1	1.00
Parking	IV.1.b	1	1	1	1	1.00
Environmental Education & Outreach						
Wildlife	IV.2.a	1	1	1	1	1.00
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	1		1	1	1.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	1		1	1	1.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	1		1	1	1.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	1		1	1	1.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	1		1	0	0.67
Managed Area Uses						
Existing Uses						
Hunting	VI.A.3	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hiking	VI.A.5	1	1	1	1	1.00
Bicycling	VI.A.6	1	1	1	1	1.00
Horseback Riding	VI.A.7	1	1	1	1	1.00
Nature Appreciation	VI.A.8	1	1	1	1	1.00
Proposed Uses						

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 2.5 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. The review team average score indicates a need for acknowledgement of natural communities, specifically upland pine forest. Please provide documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The 1.5 average checklist score for Upland Pine indicates the team members estimated that anywhere from 0 to 40 percent of this community type was in maintenance condition. FFS is continuing its efforts to reduce undesired hardwoods through burning, herbicide and harvesting. However, these stands and native groundcover have long been fire-suppressed and impacted by past agricultural practices and restoration to full maintenance condition will be a long term process. The FFS also will evaluate areas identified in the natural communities map and determine where and if any refinements are needed.

2. The review team average score indicates a need for acknowledgement of cultural resource (archeological & historic sites), specifically protection and preservation. Please provide documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: FFS will schedule a minimum annual visits to both known sites at Big Shoals State Forest and monitor these for resource protection and preservation and will keep DHR advised of any threats or management concerns.

FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)						
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	3	3	3	3	3.00
Upland Mixed Forest	I.A.5	X	3	2	3	2.67
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.6	1	1	2	2	1.50
Basin Swamp	I.A.8	5	5	5	5	5.00
Baygall	I.A.9	4	4	5	5	4.50
Dome Swamp	I.A.11	5	5	5	5	5.00
Floodplain Forest	I.A.12	5	5	5	5	5.00
Blackwater Stream	I.A.14	5	5	5	5	5.00
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)						
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	3	3	3	3	3.00
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	3	3	3	3	3.00
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	3	3	3	3	3.00
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)						
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.2	3		3	3	3.00

Other non-game species or habitat monitoring	I.C.3			3	3	3.00
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	3	4	4	3.75
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	3	3	3	3	3.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	5	4	4.75
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)						
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	3	3	3	3.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	2	3	2	3	2.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)						
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	5	5	5	5	5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5.00
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	5.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)						
Oldfield/Successional Hardwood (300 acres)	III.B.2	4	5	4	4	4.25
Forest Management (III.C)						
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	4	5	5	5	4.75
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	4	5	5	5	4.75
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	5	5	5	5	5.00
Site Preparation	III.C.4	3	4	3	4	3.50
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)						
Prevention						
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	3	5	3	3	3.50
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	3	5	4	3	3.75
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c	5	5	3	4	4.25
Control						
control - plants	III.E.2.a	5	5	5	5	5.00
control - animals	III.E.2.b	3	5	4	4	4.00
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	5	5	4	3	4.25
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)						
Roads/culverts	III.F.1.a	5	5	4	4	4.50
Ground Water Monitoring (III.F.2)						
Ground water quality	III.F.2.a	3		3	3	3.00
Ground water quantity	III.F.2.b	3		3	3	3.00
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)						
Surface water quantity	III.F.3.b	3	3	3	3	3.00
Resource Protection (III.F)						
Boundary survey	III.G.1	5	5	4	5	4.75
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	5	5	4	5	4.75
Signage	III.G.3	5	5	5	5	5.00
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	5	5	4	5	4.75

Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)						
Land Use						
PCS Phosphate Mining	III.H.1.a	2		3	3	2.67
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	3		3	3	3.00
Public Access & Education						
Public Access						
Roads	IV.1.a		5	4	4	4.33
Parking	IV.1.b		5	4	4	4.33
Environmental Education & Outreach						
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	5	5	4	4.25
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	3	3	3	3.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	3	4	3	3.25
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	3	5	3	3.50
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	3	4	5	4	4.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	3	3	4	4	3.50
Management Resources						
Maintenance						
Waste disposal	V.1.a	4		5	4	4.33
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	4		5	4	4.33
Infrastructure						
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	5	4	4.25
Equipment	V.2.b	4	4	5	4	4.25
Staff	V.3	4	4	4	4	4.00
Funding	V.4	2	4	2	3	2.75

Forest Service Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Steve Carpenter, Forester
- Brad Ellis
- Sam Leneave
- Matthew Bridges

APPENDIX:

The following comments represent individual comments, and may not represent the consensus of the land management review team.

I.A. Natural Communities

- Natural communities map is somewhat inaccurate. Some areas shown on map as mesic flatwoods are old fields. We are forced to consider these areas as mesic when they appear to be old fields.
- Approximately one half of the mesic flatwoods have had past land use that has disturbed the groundcover and past lack of fire has resulted in poor groundcover and heavy oak. Despite these conditions, FFS has done a good job burning these areas. In addition, FFS has initiated efforts to harvest and herbicide hardwoods. All the more intact, mesic flatwoods stands looked to be in excellent condition with manageable levels of palmetto. Structure all looked good, thanks to a regular frequency of burning every three years. Great job managing these intact flatwoods which appeared all to be in “maintenance” condition. The upland mixed hardwood and upland pine areas have had impacts, historically, that have disturbed and reduced the groundcover component and allowed hardwoods to become more prolific and larger than would’ve been the case naturally. These areas are being burned and some improvements in the groundcover have been observed. Some “re-typing” of the upland mixed hardwoods will be necessary to reflect new FNAI descriptions. Suggest approaching local/district DRP staff to assist with this natural community mapping and description of relic vegetative composition. Perhaps this could be done in exchange for FFS increasing their role in pre-burn assessment and burning assistance and/or forest stand inventory support on the adjacent park property.

I.B. Listed Species

- Need to document field observations of listed species.
- Recommend better staff documentation and possibly mapping of incidental observations of listed species when working in the field.

I.C. Natural Resource Survey/Monitoring Resources

- Suggest FFS/DRP develop structural goals (ranges) for shrub level and groundcover vegetation to assess fire frequency effects and to establish meaningful goals for desired ranges for habitat structure. All known and treated exotic plant sites are mapped and recorded.

II.A.B. Cultural Resources

- Should inspect cultural sites annually.
- Need to implement annual monitoring on the two sites.
- Suggest monitoring all known sites (2) and documenting at least annually as suggested by DHR. Staff has been trained as archeological site monitors.

III.A. Resource Management

- Now that some areas are in maintenance condition move to some growing season burns.
- Rx burning as good as anywhere; excellent job, just need more growing season burns as conditions allow.
- Excellent work burning the property with good results. All upland stands have been burned within last three years and nearly all stands have a history of multiple burns over the past ten years. Firelines all appeared to be prepped for this winter’s burns. Execution of burns all appeared to be excellent, with no evident pine mortality. A few growing seasonal burns have been done, but continued efforts will be needed to expand areas receiving these desired seasonal burns.

III.B. Restoration

- When restoring mesic flatwoods it is important not to kill remnant herbaceous ground cover species when applying herbicide for gallberry/palmetto control.
- Good efforts to burn and plan the treatment and or harvest of hardwoods in historically disturbed (“old fields”) sites.

III.C. Forest Management

- Site preparation techniques to control gallberry & palmetto are killing most of the groundcover diversity. Try site prep. methods that are less damaging to groundcover.
- Would like to see less impact on groundcover diversity during site preparation phase. Please consider alternative options.
- Excellent efforts to maintain a current inventory of timber species within all forested stands. Past timber harvests appear to have been designed and executed well. Reforestation efforts have focused on re-establishment of longleaf pine on understocked stands and “old field” sites, through successful hand planting. Continued effort is needed to monitor and reduce undesired regeneration of loblolly pine. The intensity and selection of re-planting site preparation should reflect the sensitivity and diversity of intact groundcover species.

III.D. Non-native Invasive & Problem Species

- Logging equipment should be cleaned before it enters state forest.
- Good work to monitor and treat invasive and exotic plants. Very few exotic plants observed and little to no hog activity was seen.

III.E. Hydrologic/Geologic Function

- Good efforts at road maintenance on this property including work to install a hard rock, low water crossing at one ephemeral stream crossing. Suggest staff maintain record of observed water levels on Four Mile Creek to use as a reference to document surface water levels on the property overtime.

III.F. Resource Protection

- Boundaries are all well surveyed and fenced, where appropriate.
- All property boundaries are known and well marked. All gates and fencing appeared to be in excellent condition. Staff indicated they were getting very good law enforcement support.

III.G. Adjacent Property Concerns

- PCS owns mineral rights in NE portion of Big Shoals State Forest & they plan to mine it in the future.

IV. Public Access and Education

- Public access on this forest appears to be consistent with its size and visitor demand. The paved bicycle/pedestrian trail-that crosses several wetlands via boardwalks is a wonderful resource. It is maintained by DRP through a cooperative arrangement. Its use, as well as that on other forest trails, appears to be moderate at this time.

V. Infrastructure/ Management Resources

- The sites all were clean and well maintained. No additional buildings or equipment needs were observed. Regarding staff/funding, no special needs were observed, although FFS staff commented on the need for additional expense funds to carry out work on the property.

2017 Land Management Review Team Report for Big Shoals State Forest

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1. Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In case where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

1.1. Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Big Shoals State Forest

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service

Acres: 1,672.00

County: Hamilton

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

Acquisition Program(s): P2000/CARL

Original Acquisition Date: 11/19/86

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/05

Review Date: 12/7/17

Agency Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Brad Ellis, Manager
- Shelly Wayte
- FPS, None

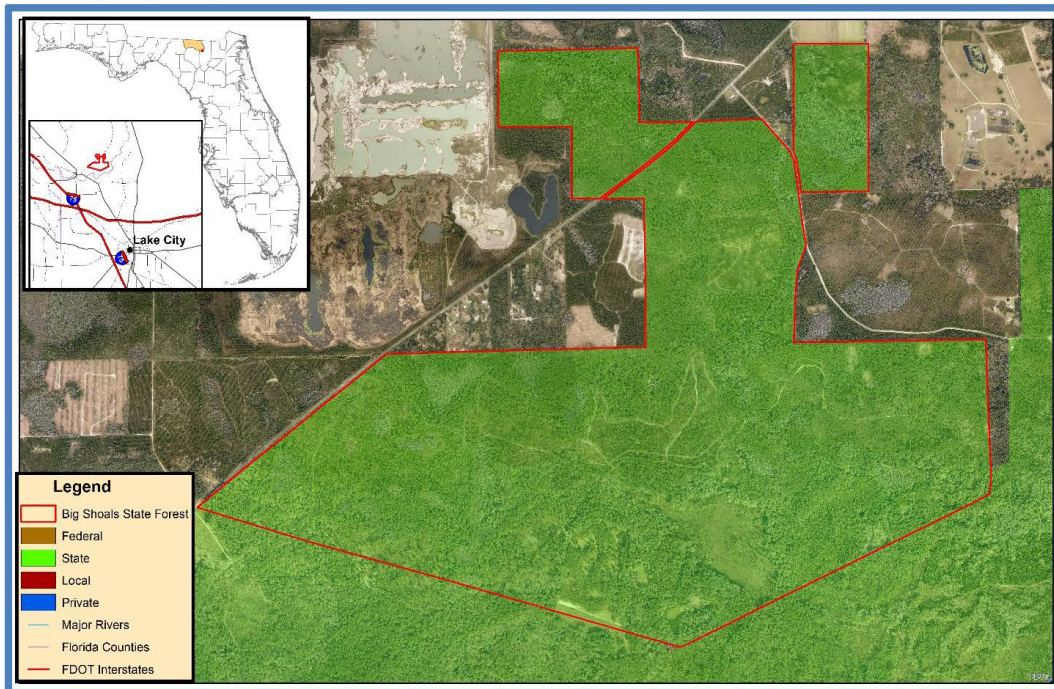
Review Team Members Present (voting)

- Anne Barkdoll, DRP District
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Paul Duff, DEP District
- Edwin McLook, SRWMD
- Michael Bubb, Conservation Org.
- Local Government, None
- Anni Mitchell, FWC
- Private Land Manager, None

Other Non-Team Members Present (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- James Parker, DEP/DSL
- Alan Davis, FFS

1.2 Property Map



1.3. Overview of Land Management Review Results

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

Are the management practices, including public access, in compliance with the management plan?

Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. *Field Review* scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while *Management Plan Review* scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see *Appendix A*.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.56	4.18
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	3.50	3.78
Hydrology	3.32	3.26
Imperiled Species	3.82	3.76
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.44	4.42
Cultural Resources	3.98	4.42
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.30	4.18
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.24	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

1.3.1 Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

The following commendations resulted from discussion and vote of the review team members:

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for reducing hardwoods and conducting herbicide application in cooperation with partners to restore 143 acres of natural communities for the benefit of wildlife. (6+, 0-)
2. The team commends the FFS for hiring an OPS invasive species technician to identify and eliminate potential invasive plant infestations. (6+, 0-)
3. The team commends the FFS for securing outside funding for restoration (NWTF). (6+, 0-)
4. The team commends the FFS for being open and willing to change and implement new tactics suggested by LMR team, i.e., spring/summer burning. (6+, 0-)
5. The team commends the FFS for successful reestablishment of longleaf pine and prescribed fire on a 40 acre cutover mesic flatwoods site. (6+, 0-)

1.3.2. Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FFS collaborate with DRP and SRWMD to locate and map all pitcher plant populations and enhance their habitat through hardwood removal, if needed. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: The FFS will start mapping any newly discovered occurrences of pitcher plant populations as these sites are located on the state forest. Several populations are already known to exist and FFS staff is in the process of obtaining GPS coordinates for these, and will incorporate this information into its ArcGIS forest data base. FFS will monitor any known occurrences of pitcher plants on the state forest and use prescribed fire, allowing fires to burn into the ecotones of cypress domes and other forested wetlands, and if needed other selective treatments including mechanical, manual and chemical hardwood removal/control to promote plant population growth and development.

2. The team recommends that the FFS request SJRMD and DEP to monitor water entering Big Shoals Public Lands via creeks from the phosphate mine. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: The FFS will contact the appropriate representative with the SRWMD's Water Resources Division, and request that water quality monitoring be conducted where Four Mile Branch enters the state forest at the culverted crossing on CR 135.

3. The team recommends that the FFS determine who owns the mineral rights on all parcels of Big Shoals State Forest. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Communications have been ongoing between DEP and FFS regarding the future Cabbage Head Land donation from PCS Phosphate Company, Inc., which may include some mineral rights. The donation process is ongoing at the time of this report. The FFS also will ensure the necessary research is conducted to determine if any other mineral rights are held by any entity(s) other than the state, on any portion of the state forest which is not encompassed by the Cabbage Head Land Donation.

2. Field Review Details

2.1 Field Review Checklist Findings

The following items received high scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions exceeded expectations.

1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, basin swamp, baygall, dome swamp, alluvial forest, blackwater stream
2. Listed species: Protection & Preservation, specifically, pitcher plant
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring specifically invasive species survey/monitoring.
4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey
5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically quality
6. Forest Management, specifically Timber Inventory/ Assessment, Timber harvesting.
7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals and pest/pathogens.
8. Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration, specifically Roads/low water crossings

9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
10. Public access, specifically roads, parking
11. Environmental education and outreach, specifically recreational opportunities, management of visitor impacts
12. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, funding

2.2. Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically Upland Mixed Woodland, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

Managing Agency Response: For many years, attempts to use prescribed fire to accomplish management goals in the Upland Mixed Woodland areas on BSSF has been unsuccessful. Despite a moderate stand of mature, loblolly, slash and longleaf pines, due to heavy hardwood encroachment, there was an inherent lack of pyrogenic surface fuels necessary to carry fire. For this reason, within a large portion of the Upland Mixed Woodland, the FFS conducted a timber harvest to remove the “off-site” hardwoods, reduce pine density (basal area) and used a selective herbicide to control the residual hardwood sprouts. The goal was to remove the dense, hardwood midstory, promote native grasses and ultimately facilitate the use of prescribed fire. Burning of this area has been initiated in the winter of 2018.

The FFS is planning to initiate similar treatments in other areas of Upland Mixed Woodland areas as well as continue with the use of prescribed fire in areas presently with restoration efforts underway. In addition, the FFS plans to introduce spring and summer prescribed burning in these areas in the future. These measures should help to improve the overall condition of the Upland Mixed Woodland areas over time.

2. Ground water Water Monitoring specifically, Ground Water quality, received below average scores. *Managing Agency Response:*

There is no evidence to suggest that ground water condition on the BSSF is below quality standards. A request to the SRWMD will be made to monitor surface water in the Four Mile Branch, where this perennial stream enters the state forest. The SRWMD is partially responsible for monitoring ground water quality in the Suwannee River Basin area. DEPs Groundwater Management Section now incorporates groundwater protection as part of its watershed management oversight responsibility. The FFS will work with SRWMD to assist them with ground water monitoring.

3. Surface water Water Monitoring specifically, SurfaceWater quality, received below average scores.

Managing Agency Response: As previously described, the FFS will contact the appropriate representative with the SRWMD's Water Resources Division, and request that water quality monitoring be conducted where Four Mile Branch enters the state forest at the culverted crossing on CR 135. The FFS will work with SRWMD to assist them with surface water monitoring.

2.3. Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	5	5	5	4	4	5			4.67
Upland Mixed Woodland	I.A.2	2	2	2	2	2	2			2.00
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.3	3	3	3	3	4	3			3.17
Basin Swamp	I.A.4	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Baygall	I.A.5	5	5	5		5	5			5.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	5	5	5	4	5	5			4.83
Alluvial Forest	I.A.7	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Natural Communities Average Score										4.29
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	3	5	3	4	4			3.67
Plants	I.B.2	3		5	3	4	4			3.80
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	3	3	5	4	5				4.00
Listed Species Average Score										3.82
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	3	3	5	2	3	x			3.20
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	4	5	2	2	4			3.50
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	3	4	4	3	2	4			3.33
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	4	4	5	3	4	4			4.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	4	5	4	4	5			4.17
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	4	5	4	3	x			3.80
Cultural Resources Average Score										3.98
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	3	4	3	3	3	3			3.17
Frequency	III.A.2	3	3	3	3	4	3			3.17
Quality	III.A.3	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										3.67

Restoration (III.B)										
Restoration Natural Community	III.B.1	3	3	5	3	3	3			3.33
Restoration Average Score										3.33
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory / Assessment	III.C.1	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Forest Management Average Score										4.83
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	4	5	5	5	4	5			4.67
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	3	5	5	4	5			4.33
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	4	5	5	5	4	5			4.67
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	5	3	4	5			4.50
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	3	5	5	4	5			4.33
control - pest/pathogens	III.D.2.c	3	3	5	5	4	5			4.17
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.44
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/Low Water Crossings	III.E.1.a	5		5	5	5	5			5.00
Ditches	III.E.1.b	4		1	4	4	5			3.60
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.30
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a	3	3	1	3	2	4			2.67
Ground water quantity	III.E.2.b	3	3	1	5	2	4			3.00
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										2.83
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	3	1	3	2	4			2.67
Surface water quantity	III.F.3.b	3	3	1	5	2	4			3.00
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										2.83
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	4	5	5	4	5			4.50
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	3	5	5	3	5			4.17
Signage	III.F.3	4	4	5	5	5	5			4.67
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4		4	5	5	4	5			4.60
Resource Protection Average Score										4.48
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
PCS Phosphate Mining	III.G.1.a	3	4	5		2	5			3.80
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2		3		4	3	4			3.50
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00

Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	3	4	3	4	5			3.67
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	4	5	4	4	4			4.17
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.13
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	3	5	5	5	4				4.40
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
Equipment	V.2.b	3		5	4	4	5			4.20
Staff	V.3	3	5	5	3	4	4			4.00
Funding	V.4	3	5	5	3	3	4			3.83
Management Resources Average Score										4.24
Color Code:		Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor	See Appendix A for detail				
			Missing Vote	Insufficient Information						

3. Land Management Plan Review Details

3.1 Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Natural Communities, specifically Upland Mixed Woodland, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore.
Managing Agency Response: The FFS will address the Upland Mixed Woodland community in more detail in the new management plan, which is being drafted at this time.
2. Natural Resources Survey and Monitoring Resources, specifically listed species or their monitoring received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address survey or monitoring.
Managing Agency Response: The FFS will address in more detail the aspect of natural resource monitoring in the new management plan.
3. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quantity, and quality received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surface water monitoring.

Managing Agency Response: In developing the new interagency management plan for BSPL, the FFS will ask DEP and the SRWMD to assist with providing more detail with regards to Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quantity and quality.

4. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surplus property.

Managing Agency Response: The FFS has determined that there are no eligible surplus lands on the state forest. The FFS can incorporate a discussion of such in the current draft of the new BSPLs management plan.

3.2 Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
Upland Mixed Woodland	I.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1			1.00
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.3	2	3	4	4	4	4			3.50
Basin Swamp	I.A.4	3	3	4	5	5	5			4.17
Baygall	I.A.5	3	3	5	5	5	5			4.33
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	3	4	5	5	5	5			4.50
Alluvial Forest	I.A.7	3	3	5	5	1	5			3.67
Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	3	4	5	5	5	5			4.50
Natural Communities Average Score										3.77
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	3	5	3	5				3.80
Plants	I.B.2	3	3	4	3	5	4			3.67
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	3	3	4	4	5				3.80
Listed Species Average Score										3.76
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their monitoring	I.C.1	3	2	5	3	3	1			2.83
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.3	3	3	5	3	3	5			3.67
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.4	3	3	4	3	2	4			3.17
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	3	5	5	4	4	5			4.33
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	5	5	4	5	5			4.50
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	4	5	4	5	5			4.33
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.42
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	3	4	5	5	4	4			4.17
Frequency	III.A.2	3	4	5	5	4	4			4.17

Quality	III.A.3	3	4	5	4	4	5			4.17
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.17
Restoration (III.B)										
Restoration Natural Community	III.B.1	2	2	4	4		5			3.40
Restoration Average Score										3.40
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory / Assessment	III.C.1	4	4	4	5	5	5			4.50
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	4	5	4	5	5	5			4.67
Forest Management Average Score										4.58
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	3	5	5	5	3	5			4.33
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	3	4	5	5	4	5			4.33
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
control - animals	III.D.2.b	3	5	5	5	4	5			4.50
control - pest/pathogens	III.D.2.c	3	4	5	5	4	5			4.33
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.42
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/LWC	III.E.1.a	4	3	5	5	4	5			4.33
Ditches	III.E.1.b	3	2		3	4	5			3.40
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.87
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a	3	3	1	4	4	3			3.00
Ground water quantity	III.E.2.b	3	3	1	5	4	3			3.17
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										3.08
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	3	1	4	3	3			2.83
Surface water quantity	III.E.3.b	3	3	1	3	3	4			2.83
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										2.83
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	3	4	5	5	4	5			4.33
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	3	3	5	5	4	5			4.17
Signage	III.F.3	3	3	5	5	4	5			4.17
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4		4	5	5	4	5			4.60
Resource Protection Average Score										4.32
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
PCS Phosphate Mining	III.G.1.a	3	4	5	5	4	5			4.33
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	3	4		4	3	4			3.60
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	3	1	1	3	4	2			2.33
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	3	5	4	5	5	5			4.50

Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	4	5	5	5	5	5			4.83
Parking	IV.1.b	4	4	5	5	5	5			4.67
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	3	4	3	4	5			3.67
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	5	4	5	4	5			4.50
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	4	5	4	4	4			4.17
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.04
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Hunting	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Hiking	VI.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Bicycling	VI.A.3	4	5	5	5	4	5			4.67
Horseback Riding	VI.A.4	4	5	5	5	4	4			4.50
Nature Appreciation	VI.A.5	5	5	5	5	4	4			4.67
Picnicking	VI.A.6	5	4	5	5	4	3			4.33
Color Code:		Excellent		Above Average		Below Average		Poor		See Appendix A for detail
				Missing Vote		Insufficient Information				

Appendix A: Scoring System Detail

Explanation of Consensus Commendations:

Often, the exceptional condition of some of the property's attributes impress review team members. In those instances, team members are encouraged to offer positive feedback to the managing agency in the form of a commendation. The teams develop commendations generally by standard consensus processes or by majority vote if they cannot obtain a true consensus.

Explanation of Consensus Recommendations:

Subsection 259.036(2), F.S., specifically states that the managing entity shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review. We ask team members to provide general recommendations for improving the management or public access and use of the property. The teams discuss these recommendations and develop consensus recommendations as described above. We provide these recommendations to the managing agency to consider when finalizing the required ten-year management plan update. We encourage the manager to respond directly to these recommendations and include their responses in the final report when received in a timely manner.

Explanation of Field Review Checklist and Scores, and Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores:

We provide team members with a checklist to fill out during the evaluation workshop phase of the Land Management Review. The checklist is the uniform tool used to evaluate both the management actions and condition of the managed area, and the sufficiency of the management plan elements. During the evaluation workshop, team members individually provide scores on each issue on the checklist, from their individual perspective. Team members also base their evaluations on information provided by the managing agency staff as well as other team member discussions. Staff averages these scores to evaluate the overall conditions on the ground, and how the management plan addresses the issues. Team members must score each management issue 1 to 5: 1 being the management practices are clearly insufficient, and 5 being that the management practices are excellent. Members may choose to abstain if they have inadequate expertise or information to make a cardinal numeric choice, as indicated by an "X" on the checklist scores, or they may not provide a vote for other unknown reasons, as indicated by a blank. If a majority of members failed to vote on any issue, that issue is determined to be irrelevant to management of that property or it was inadequately reviewed by the team to make an intelligent choice. In either case staff eliminated the issue from the report to the manager.

Average scores are interpreted as follows:

Scores 4.0 to 5.0 are *Excellent*

Scores 3.0 to 3.99 are *Above Average*

Scores 2.0 to 2.99 are *Below Average*

Scores 1.0 to 1.99 are considered *Poor*

2022 Land Management Review Team Report for Big Shoals State Forest

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Big Shoals State Forest

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service

Acres: 1,672

County: Hamilton

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

Acquisition Program(s): P2000/CARL

Original Acquisition Date: 11/19/86

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/05

Review Date: 10/27/22

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Katrina Koning, Forestry Supervisor
- Glenn Davis, Center Manager
- Shelly Wayte, OPL Forester
- Caitlyn Peca
- James Rourks

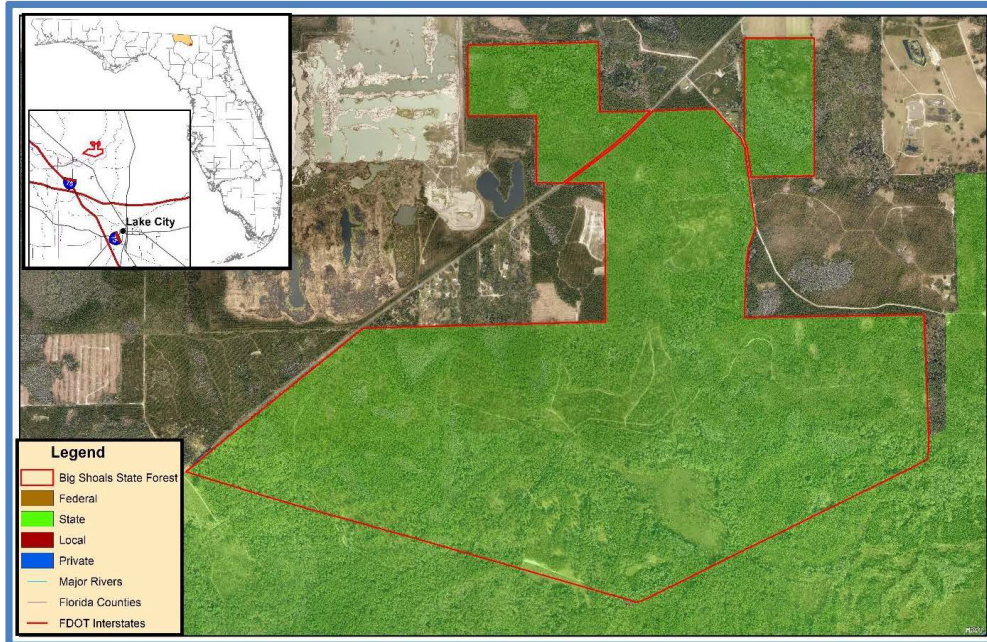
Review Team Members (voting)

- Rick Owen, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Teri McKinstry, FWC
- Taylor Parks, DEP District
- Jason Love, FFS
- Bill McKinstry, SRWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

Property Map



Overview of Land Management Review Results

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 5, No = 0

Are the management practices, including public access, in compliance with the management plan?

Yes = 5, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. *Field Review* scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while *Management Plan Review* scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.84	4.58
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.43	3.73
Hydrology	4.18	4.03
Imperiled Species	4.67	4.06
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.70	3.97
Cultural Resources	4.70	4.60
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.54	4.35
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.17	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

The following commendations resulted from discussion and vote of the review team members:

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for continuing to use a variety of techniques to reduce offsite hardwoods in upland habitats. (4+, 0-)
2. The team commends the FFS for the high frequency of prescribed fire on the forest portion of the property. (4+, 0-)

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FFS collaborate with DRP on the maintenance needs of the Woodpecker Recreational Trail. (3+, 1-)

Managing Agency Response:

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

The following items received high scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions exceeded expectations.

1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, upland pine forest, basin swamp, baygall, dome swamp, alluvial forest, blackwater stream.
2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically pitcher plant
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
6. Restoration, specifically restoration natural community.
7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation.
8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals and pest/pathogens.
9. Hydrologic/geologic function hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, and ditches
10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically PCS Phosphate mining, and inholdings and additions.
12. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, and staff.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	5	5	3	5	5				4.60
Upland Mixed Woodland	I.A.2	4	3	2	3	5				3.40
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.3	5	5	4	3	5				4.40
Basin Swamp	I.A.4	5	5	X	5	5				5.00
Baygall	I.A.5	5	5	X	5	5				5.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	5	5	X	5	5				5.00
Alluvial Forest	I.A.7	5	5	X	5	5				5.00

Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	5	5	X	5	5				5.00
Natural Communities Average Score										4.68
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	5	4	5					4.75
Plants	I.B.2	5	5	4	4					4.50
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	5		4	5	5				4.75
Listed Species Average Score										4.67
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	5	5	3	5				4.60
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	5	3	4	5				4.40
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	2	5	5				4.40
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	5	5	3	5				4.60
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.70
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	4	4	5				4.60
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.87
Restoration (III.B)										
Restoration Natural Community	III.B.1	5	5	2	3	5				4.00
Restoration Average Score										4.00
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	5	5		5	5				5.00
Site Preparation	III.C.4	5	5		5	5				5.00
Forest Management Average Score										5.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	5	5	4	5				4.60
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	5	2	4	5				4.00
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.70
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	5	4	5	5	5				4.80
Ditches	III.E.1.b	5	4	5	3	5				4.40

Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.60
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	4	X	3	5				3.75
Surface water quantity	III.F.3.b	3	4	X	3	5				3.75
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.75
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Signage	III.F.3	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	5	3	3	5				4.00
Resource Protection Average Score										4.60
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
PCS Phosphate Mining	III.G.1.a	4	5	5	4	5				4.60
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2			5	4	5				4.67
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	4	5	3	4	5				4.20
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	5	3	4	5				4.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	4	5	4	4	5				4.40
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	5	3	4	5				4.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	5	5	4	5				4.60
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	5	5	4	5				4.60
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.48
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	X	3	5	x	5				4.33
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	X	3	5	x	5				4.33
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	X	3	5	x	5				4.33
Equipment	V.2.b	2	4	5	5	5				4.20
Staff	V.3	4	3	5	5	5				4.40
Funding	V.4	3	2	4	3	5				3.40
Management Resources Average Score										4.17
Color Code: Excellent Above Average Below Average Poor Missing Vote Insufficient Information See Appendix A for detail										

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. *Natural Communities, specifically upland mixed woodland, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore..*

Managing Agency Response:

2. *Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.*

Managing Agency Response:

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	5	5	4	4	5				4.60
Upland Mixed Woodland	I.A.2	3	3	1	1	5				2.60
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.3	5	5	4	3	5				4.40
Basin Swamp	I.A.4	4	5	4	5	5				4.60
Baygall	I.A.5	4	5	4	5	5				4.60
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	4	5	4	5	5				4.60
Alluvial Forest	I.A.7	2	5	1	3	5				3.20
Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	4	5	4	5	5				4.60
Natural Communities Average Score										4.15
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	4	5	4	3					4.00
Plants	I.B.2	4		4	3					3.67
Pitcher Plant	I.B.2.a	5		5	3	5				4.50
Listed Species Average Score										4.06
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	5	3	3				4.00

Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	4	5	4	5				4.60
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4	4	3	4	5				4.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	4	3	5	5				4.40
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	4	5	4	5				4.60
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	5	4	5				4.60
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.60
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	3	5	5	5				4.60
Frequency	III.A.2	5	3	5	5	5				4.60
Quality	III.A.3	5	3	4	4	5				4.20
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.47
Restoration (III.B)										
Restoration Natural Community	III.B.1	3	3	2	2	5				3.00
Restoration Average Score										3.00
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	5	5		5	5				5.00
Site Preparation	III.C.4	5	5		5	5				5.00
Forest Management Average Score										5.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	4	3	5	3	5				4.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	3	5	4	5				4.20
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	4	3	5	4	5				4.20
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	4	3	2	4	5				3.60
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	3	2	4	5				3.60
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	3	5	4	5				4.20
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.97
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	4	4	5	4	5				4.40
Ditches	III.E.1.b	4	4	5	3	5				4.20
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.30
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	4	X	3	5				3.75
Surface water quantity	III.E.3.b	3	4	X	3	5				3.75
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.75
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	4	5	4	5				4.40
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	4	5	4	5				4.40
Signage	III.F.3	4	4	5	4	5				4.40
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	4	3	4	5				4.00

Appendix A: Scoring System Detail

Explanation of Consensus Commendations:

Often, the exceptional condition of some of the property's attributes impress review team members. In those instances, team members are encouraged to offer positive feedback to the managing agency in the form of a commendation. The teams develop commendations generally by standard consensus processes or by majority vote if they cannot obtain a true consensus.

Explanation of Consensus Recommendations:

Subsection 259.036(2), F.S., specifically states that the managing entity shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review. We ask team members to provide general recommendations for improving the management or public access and use of the property. The teams discuss these recommendations and develop consensus recommendations as described above. We provide these recommendations to the managing agency to consider when finalizing the required ten-year management plan update. We encourage the manager to respond directly to these recommendations and include their responses in the final report when received in a timely manner.

Explanation of Field Review Checklist and Scores, and Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores:

We provide team members with a checklist to fill out during the evaluation workshop phase of the Land Management Review. The checklist is the uniform tool used to evaluate both the management actions and condition of the managed area, and the sufficiency of the management plan elements. During the evaluation workshop, team members individually provide scores on each issue on the checklist, from their individual perspective. Team members also base their evaluations on information provided by the managing agency staff as well as other team member discussions. Staff averages these scores to evaluate the overall conditions on the ground, and how the management plan addresses the issues. Team members must score each management issue 1 to 5: 1 being the management practices are clearly insufficient, and 5 being that the management practices are excellent. Members may choose to abstain if they have inadequate expertise or information to make a cardinal numeric choice, as indicated by an "X" on the checklist scores, or they may not provide a vote for other unknown reasons, as indicated by a blank. If a majority of members failed to vote on any issue, that issue is determined to be irrelevant to management of that property or it was inadequately reviewed by the team to make an intelligent choice. In either case staff eliminated the issue from the report to the manager.

Average scores are interpreted as follows:

Scores 4.0 to 5.0 are *Excellent*

Scores 3.0 to 3.99 are *Above Average*

Scores 2.0 to 2.99 are *Below Average*

Scores 1.0 to 1.99 are considered *Poor*

Exhibit S

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan

From: [Marsh, Emily](#)
To: landuse@hamiltoncountyfl.com
Cc: [Camposano, Brian](#)
Subject: Big Shoals State Forest Draft 10-Year Land Management Plan for Review
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 8:08:00 AM
Attachments: [8. Hamilton County Compliance Letter.pdf](#)
[2025 BSSF LMP Hamilton Co Compliance Draft 07312025.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good Morning,

Please see the attached letter and management plan for Big Shoals State Forest. We are asking that you review this plan for compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan. Since the materials for the exhibits were too large to send digitally, we are sending a paper copy to your office via FedEx, which should arrive by Wednesday afternoon (tracking number 883209251306). Thank you!

If you have any questions, concerns, or if I may be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Emily

Emily Marsh
State Lands Management Planner
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

(850) 681-5889
Emily.Marsh@FDACS.gov

The Conner Building
[3125 Conner Boulevard](#)
[Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650](#)

www.fdacs.gov

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes). Most written communications to or from state employees are public records obtainable by the public upon request. Emails sent to me at this email address may be considered public and will only be withheld from disclosure if deemed confidential pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.

Exhibit T

State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

Management Plan Advisory Group Public Hearing
Big Shoals State Forest
10-Year Land Management Plan
June 26, 2025
10:30 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| • Glenn Davis | Suwannee Forestry Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Lorna Radcliff | Land Management Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District |
| • Anni Mitchell | Biological Scientist III, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission |
| • Mikey Ogburn | Local Property Owner |
| • Tom Tomlinson | Local Property Owner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Scott Wynn | Secretary & Treasurer, Local Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Brandi Dziegiel | Panhandle Region Trail Program Manager, Florida Trail Association |
| • Representative Travis Erixton | Hamilton County Commissioner |

FFS Staff:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| • Alan Davis | Land Planning Coordinator |
| • Brian Camposano | Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief |
| • Jason Nastovski | Forestry Supervisor II |
| • Andrew Baker | OPS Forester |
| • Shannon Colon | Wildfire Mitigation Specialist |
| • James Rourks | Forestry Operations Administrator |
| • Ryan Rehberg | Forest Area Supervisor |
| • Emily Marsh | Land Management Planner |

Guests:

- Monroe Dunaway
- Stephen & Carmen Williams

Public Meeting Start Time: 10:30 A.M.

- Land Planning Coordinator, Alan Davis (FFS) opened the meeting by introducing himself and explained the purpose and statutory framework for the Big Shoals State Forest 10-Year Land Management Plan process. He explained that the Plan is not an annual work plan or detailed operational plan but provides general and conceptual guidance for management of Big Shoals State Forest (BSSF) for the next 10-year period.
- Mr. Davis confirmed compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law advising MPAG members to not discuss the draft outside of the public meetings. He stated that the meetings are open to the public, recorded, and minutes taken.
- Mr. Davis stated that both MPAG meetings are open to the public and proper notice was given. The meetings were advertised in the Lake City Reporter Newspaper on June 4, 2025; Florida Administrative Register, FFS webpage, as well as posted at the kiosks in the Suwannee Forestry Center. The meetings were announced at the Hamilton County Commissioners meeting on June 3, 2025. He noted that the draft plan goes through various approvals before and after the MPAG meetings but that the FFS Director is granted

final authority on changes to the draft plan. He described the day's two meetings: The first meeting is informational and provides opportunity for public comment; the 1:00 p.m. Workshop meeting provides opportunity for the MPAG members to discuss the public input and to share their personal comments on the draft plan. The public is welcome to attend the Workshop, but participation is limited to MPAG members.

- Mr. Davis then requested MPAG Member introductions and attendance was taken.
- Mr. Davis asked the advisory group to elect an MPAG chairperson. Glenn Davis was elected to serve as chairperson.
- Mr. Davis asked if there are any questions at this time.
- Mr. Davis then introduced Forestry Supervisor II, Jason Nastovski, who presented a PowerPoint presentation of the 10-Year Plan. Mr. Davis asked if there were any clarifying questions regarding the presentation.
- Mr. Davis asked if there are any questions. No questions followed.
- Mr. Davis announced there were two (2) public speaker comment forms and invited the individuals to come up and speak when their names are called out.
- Mr. Dunaway stated that he wanted to start by saying that FFS does a good job at maintaining the management area at Big Shoals State Park. He continued to state that he is small landowner that adjoins Big Shoals of the Woodpecker route; on the right-hand side to the east. He then stated that the problem he has is that he has had several incidences with hunters. He then stated that he hopes that the Game Commission would be present too, because they regulate the hunting, and FFS does not. Ms. Mitchell raised her hand to acknowledge that FWC was present to hear Mr. Dunaway's concerns. Mr. Dunaway continued and stated that he does not want to stop the hunting, be greedy or take away the hunting from other hunters but asked for a buffer zone. He explained that he has had an incident where, not only hunters, were noticed on the back of his property. He proceeded to tell a story of his daughter-in-law calling him one day asking who was in the back of his property. Mr. Dunaway explained that they only way to access the back of his property is either through his yard or come off of state property. He then stated that they were bicyclists setting up to camp and proceeded to approach the group. Mr. Dunaway instructed the group to leave his property as they were no longer on state land, to which the group reluctantly agreed and left.
- Mr. Dunaway then addressed a second concern to which he explained that he manages some property across the highway from Big Shoals, which does join on the north side of the management area of Big Shoals State Park that is on the curve before the Godby Bridge. He asked Mr. Ogburn if the property is 160 acres. Mr. Ogburn corrected that it is 120 acres. Mr. Dunaway continued to state that almost all of the hunters need a permit to hunt; whether that be for turkey or deer, the hunters end up hunting on Mr. Dunaway's property. He explained that there have been days where he is out working and hear gunshots. He has made his way to them to where he is told that the hunters were hunting off of the Big Shoals WMA. He stated that the couple he encountered was set up on Mr. Dunaway's private property, to which Mr. Dunaway concluded, that they were not hunting on state lands they were permitted to. He then stated that he was on his way to his stand one day and came across another hunter dragging a ladder stand on his road to set up and hunt on Mr. Dunaway's property, not the state property. Mr. Dunaway reiterated that that is the 120-acre parcel that he is referring to on the left side of the woodpecker route. He then stated that there used to be a cable, but now none of the cables are up; so now he has all of hunters and night-light shiners can go anywhere they want to, because it is not blocked off. Mr. Dunaway proposed a buffer zone for adjoining landowners. He exemplified a quarter-mile buffer zone that was implemented on Neal Martin property that allowed hunters to hunt around where Mr. Martin lived. Mr. Ogburn corrected Mr. Dunaway by calling the area a safety zone. Mr. Dunaway agreed and continued to state that it should be the same for all adjoining landowners, large and small because hunters and visitors will come via the easiest route to set up. Mr. Dunaway adamantly stated that he does not think any of those hunters hunting on the 120 acres are hunting on state lands, they are hunting on his property. He concluded that is his main concern.

- Mr. Davis inquired Mr. Dunaway if the land he is bordered to is water management district or Board of Trustees-owned property. Mr. Dunaway inquired Ms. Marsh to go back to the Boundary Map of BSSF. Ms. Marsh pulled up the map. Mr. Davis inquired if the WMA does not include both ownerships. Mr. Camposano agreed and also stated that is the same way for BSSF. Mr. Dunaway points out where his 120-acre parcel is in relation to the woodpecker route and the area that he sees the most trespassing onto his property. He then pointed out the fireline and punctuated that that fireline is on his property; to which, he stated that he does not care if FFS uses and plows it. He stressed that it bothers him that the hunters use it and continues to point out different areas of where folks will park and access his property.
- Mr. Ogburn agreed and stated that he has the same problem on his 80-acre property right below Mr. Dunaway's property. He then stated that he has a problem with hunters crossing over the boundary lines when bear hunting. He explained that his son contacted Officer Tiff at FWC a couple of years ago and inquired about a safety zone about every quarter of a mile, to which, Officer Tiff responded with "no problem". Mr. Ogburn stated that the local people are getting tired of waiting. He then exemplified a landowner who purchased roughly 10-acres years back. Ms. Mitchell inquired if Mr. Ogburn has all of his boundary lines. Mr. Ogburn answered that when they have an officer that does not see a problem with it, then it is time to step up and do something. Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Ogburn and stated his appreciation for his comments. Mr. Ogburn continued to state that right above the 80-acre parcel, adjoining the Storm property, and pointed out another area with no safety zone. He continued to state that the state needs to address the public the same way as state employees and continued to state that he does not have anything against Game Wardens. Mr. Davis stated that he understood and stated that the group can discuss this more during the workshop in the afternoon. He then explained that since Mr. Ogburn is part of the MPAG Committee, then they can discuss it during the afternoon meeting and propose a change. Mr. Ogburn stated ok and apologized. Mr. Davis stated his appreciation for Mr. Ogburn's comments and that this is an issue.
- Mr. Williams stated that to add onto Mr. Ogburn's sentiments, the people who live here and recognize these problems as partly or wholly connected to the state or a particular business. He continued to state that it is a big burden to carry for a lot of people because game management is underfunded. He explained that putting zones in means putting up barriers, signage (whether for the landowners or public users), etc. that the state, historically, does not have the man-power to do. He then encouraged Mr. Ogburn, Mr. Tomlinson and other adjacent landowners to put up their own barriers and signage to let people know that they do not belong there. Mr. Williams then stated that he took Mr. George Wilson on that property and Mr. Wilson ended up purposefully selling that property to the state so that the people of Florida can enjoy. He continued to state that he agrees with the other landowners that he wished for those type of folks to stay home. However, he stressed that something needs to be done about the enforcement. He then suggested a committee to be held that allows landowners to address their problems and then another meeting can be called for the general public to get them more involved, such as the small local businesses. Mr. Williams continued to state that it would help maintain the area in a good way, keep up with the ecological values that we all hold; whether that be having wildlife, clean water, or a good place to call home. He then stated that he has been on those type of committees in the past, and that holding a committee in a way that would address the landowners' concerns, funding issues, and garner public support to assist. He then exemplified that garden clubs contain good people and suggested for the state agencies to garner their support. He continued to state that he used to work for groups such as the Audubon Society that has good interest in this area and wanted landowners to know that they can depend on people when they go out and look at birds all day, and that the Audubon Society helped in the area. He expressed gratitude for local folks who supported this, such as the Saunders. He then stated that he used Mr. Saunders' land and took George Wilson from the Nature Conservancy and showed him the land, to which Mr. Wilson explained of the studies occurring on the property. Mr. Williams then stated that the area is the most ecological varied and sound area in the state was on that part of the river area, the Big Shoals tract up and down the river. He continued to state that the landowners can take care of their boundaries, but that the state agencies and landowners need to get on the same page consistently to mark their own properties and get

- the government to support landowners having access to the resources they need for the job to be completed. He concluded by stating that Neal Martin did a very good job and that those were his suggestions and that he is willing to listen, and he would come to a committee meeting.
- Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Williams for his comments and reiterated to the group that more discussion and suggestions for solutions will be discussed during the workshop in the afternoon. Mr. Davis inquired if there were any additional questions before closing the meeting.
 - Mrs. Williams acknowledged that management plan and controlled burns are terrific and noticed the recreation section of the plan. She then inquired if there were any plans of implementing any campgrounds or other recreational activities. Mr. Davis stated that proposed recreation additions are enclosed in the management plan as a proposal for the next 10 years. Mrs. Williams then stated to make it clear to treat invasive species and maintain forestry health, creeks and biodiversity. She continued to state that she did not realize that there are two different archaeological sites on the state forest and that was an amazing fact. She concluded by jokingly ensuring that FFS does not plan on implementing an RV Park. Mr. Davis stated no and appreciated Mrs. Williams question and comments.
 - Mrs. Williams inquired if the meeting minutes will be available online. Mr. Davis stated that the minutes will be available as an exhibit within the management plan. He continued to explain that after grammatical edits are made, it will be presented to ARC at their public meeting in the next few months and will then be available inside of that version of the management plan.
 - Mr. Williams stated that people did not know about the meeting. Mrs. Williams stated that it was posted. Mr. Williams continued to state that he is glad that FFS put this meeting together. Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Williams. Mr. Camposano stated that it will take about a week before the minutes are fully transcribed and that Mrs. Williams does not need to wait until ARC for a copy of the minutes. He welcomed Mrs. Williams to reach out to FFS District Staff or FFS staff in Tallahassee and they will be able to provide her with a copy of the transcription. He then added that the minutes will be sent to all of the MPAG members as well to make sure they have a chance to review, and nothing was incorrectly transcribed. Mr. Camposano concluded by reiterating that Mrs. Williams does not need to wait until ARC for a copy of the meeting minutes and to reach out to any of the FFS members present but requested Mrs. Williams to wait at least 2 weeks. Mrs. Williams thanked Mr. Camposano.
 - Mr. Davis closed the meeting.

Public Meeting End Time: 11:03 A.M.

Management Plan Advisory Group Workshop
Big Shoals State Forest
10-Year Land Management Plan

June 26, 2025

1:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| • Glenn Davis | Suwannee Forestry Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Lorna Radcliff | Land Management Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District |
| • Anni Mitchell | Biological Scientist III, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission |
| • Mikey Ogburn | Local Property Owner |
| • Tom Tomlinson | Local Property Owner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Scott Wynn | Secretary & Treasurer, Local Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Brandi Dziegiel | Panhandle Region Trail Program Manager, Florida Trail Association |
| • Representative Travis Erixton | Hamilton County Commissioner |

FFS Staff:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| • Alan Davis | Land Planning Coordinator |
| • Brian Camposano | Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief |
| • Jason Nastovski | Forestry Supervisor II |
| • Andrew Baker | OPS Forester |
| • Shannon Colon | Wildfire Mitigation Specialist |
| • James Rourks | Forestry Operations Administrator |
| • Ryan Rehberg | Forest Area Supervisor |
| • Emily Marsh | Land Management Planner |

Guests:

- None

Workshop Meeting Start Time: 1:00 P.M.

- Land Planning Coordinator, Alan Davis introduced himself and opened the BSSF MPAG Workshop. He reminded the MPAG members of the Florida Sunshine law and that the purpose of the workshop is to review and discuss the draft and that any edits made to the draft would be presented to the FFS Director for approval. He noted that minutes will be recorded and emailed to the MPAG members and will be approved via negative response review. MPAG member appointment will terminate when the final draft is submitted to the Acquisition Restoration Council. Forestry Supervisor II Jason Nastovski was available to make proposed changes to the draft during the page-by-page review.
- Mr. Ogburn stated that he would like to see easier access to Big Shoals without having to walk. Mr. Davis acknowledged Mr. Ogburn and stated that when they go through page by page, they can address it when they reach that juncture in the plan. Mr. Ogburn stated ok.
- Page 5: Mrs. Radcliff stated that there is a consistency issue with how measurements are reported under Goal 1 versus Goal 2. She explained that "Annual updates" to the 5-year Rec plan are before "Continued implementation" in Goal 1 and it's flipped underneath Goal 2. She continued to state that it is a consistency

issue and further explained the difference between the two goals and inquired which bullet point comes first. Ms. Mitchell noted that she now sees what Mrs. Radcliff is referring to. Mr. Davis inquired if the suggested change is to make objective 2 to be objective 1. Mrs. Radcliff stated no. Mr. Camposano stated to switch the two performance measures. Mrs. Radcliff stated yes and instructed Mr. Nastovski to switch the performance measures under Goal 2. Ms. Marsh clarified to the group that the issue is which performance measure is to be presented as the first performance measure to retain consistency. Mrs. Radcliff and Mr. Davis agreed. Mr. Camposano stated that as long as the group agrees, then a comment can be made to reverse the performance measures and then it will be changed when FFS Tallahassee Staff are back in the office.

- Page 9-10: Mr. Tomlinson inquired if the Chasteen property was now part of the Florida Forever program. Mr. Davis inquired if Mr. Tomlinson is referencing Table 1 on page 9 or page 10. Mr. Tomlinson stated he is referring to both pages 9 and 10 where it states 141 acres in the Florida Forever program and the Chasteen Property at 141 acres. He then assumed and then inquired if the Chasteen tract and project acreage were the same property. Mr. Davis stated yes. Mr. Tomlinson stated that later on in the plan, he would like to discuss some concerns that he has with the church and the boundary to properties. Mr. Davis acknowledged Mr. Tomlinson and stated ok.
- Page 13: Mr. Davis stated that they will make a change to the budget and is now \$275,437.74. Mr. Tomlinson inquired if this is the budget for spending on the state forest. Mr. Davis clarified that it is a reflection of how much was actually spent for BSSF. Mr. Tomlinson stated ok, noting the Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Mr. Davis stated yes sir and reiterated the budget as \$275,437.74.
- Page 16: Mrs. Radcliff stated that she is unclear about the language of the special rules governed by 51(4) referencing camping as there is no camping on BSSF. Mr. Camposano suggested to change the word “camping” to “recreation”. He then agreed with Mrs. Radcliff that there is no camping, nor are there any plan to make camping available during this 10-year period. He inquired if the change would work for Mrs. Radcliff and the rest of the MPAG group. Mr. Camposano thanked Mrs. Radcliff.
- Page 17: Mrs. Mitchell stated that she and Mr. Nastovski discussed this prior, but she stated her uncertainty of the observation platform labeled as an archaeological resource. Specifically, she was unsure if the actual archaeological site is the tower in the field. She further explained that she has not seen the master site file, so she does not know the area that it resides. However, she inquired why it is listed because it is not old, rather it was built in 1991. She concluded by stating that it is also falling apart and needs to be taken down. Mr. Davis explained that FFS requests the master site file from DHR and what is currently presented is what DHR has record of and provided to FFS. He continued to state that DHR does not track the condition of the resource. Mr. Davis concluded by stating that DHR may take the resource off the list, but it will not fall off of DHR’s records permanently, because it was a resource that was there at one point in time. Ms. Mitchell stated ok and that it is good to know that there is a master site file before they bring in a bulldozer to destroy it. Mr. Davis stated that these are observations that were inputted into the master site file, and what the group is seeing is basically DHR’s response of what is there in the state forest.
- Mr. Camposano stated that if it is wrong, then FFS needs to get that updated. Mr. Davis countered by stating that the tower is still there, it is just in bad shape. Ms. Mitchell stated that the tower also is not considered old. Mr. Camposano added to Ms. Mitchell’s statement by stating that it is not a historic structure that renders DHR to report it as a historic structure. Ms. Mitchell stated that unless it is something else, another platform in the area that she does not know about. Mrs. Radcliff stated that there was probably an ARM Monitor on site when the structure was installed and DHR is labeling it by that structure, but it is something else that was discovered when the deck was installed. Ms. Mitchell stated that is interesting. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS will look through the files that they have in Tallahassee and send to Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell stated ok and that would be great. Mr. Davis inquired if there was a proposed change. Ms. Mitchell stated no, just that she needed more information.
- Page 21-22: Ms. Mitchell stated that she does have an issue with page 21. Mr. Davis stated ok. Ms. Mitchell stated that the chart FFS has, Table 5...then apologized and stated that it looks like it is on the next page. Ms. Marsh clarified that the table starts on page 21, but the table carries over onto page 22. Ms. Mitchell stated ok, and that Florida black bear is listed on the table. She explained that in previous iterations of this plan, she

has brought up that the Florida black bear has been delisted in the state since 2012. She acknowledged her understanding that FNAI still keeps track of Florida black bear and so they have it on their ranking list but does not think it appropriate to have the species listed under a Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Table; especially if FWC allows hunting of black bears. Mr. Davis stated that the species is listed as a G5T4. Ms. Mitchell agreed. Mr. Davis continued to state that G5 means that the species is demonstrably secure. He then stated that this is another example of what FNAI provides to FFS upon request, as this is their response. Mr. Camposano stated that we should stop and acknowledge this point because Ms. Mitchell is correct. He then explained that FWC is most likely having a bear hunt coming up soon around December and there has been some back-and-forth discussion as to whether or not it is on the list. Mr. Camposano stated that ultimately it is the group's decision as to whether or not to remove from the table. He then personally suggested to remove the species from the table since hunting of threatened and endangered species are prohibited people have an opinion on the Florida black bear population. He further stated that at the end of the day, the population has substantially recovered and is again huntable. He concluded by stating that he agrees with Ms. Mitchell and suggests removing Florida black bear from the Listed Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Table (Table 5). MPAG members agreed to strike Florida black bear from the list. Ms. Mitchell thanked Mr. Camposano. Mr. Camposano stated that FWC is in charge of managing wildlife and that is something that FFS is going to argue with them about. He proceeded to state that this has been debated internally, but it is not a rare, threatened or endangered species to track. Mrs. Radcliff stated that this was a global ranking versus a Florida ranking. Mr. Camposano answered that it has both and that state is actually a lower number, but it is still not an S1 or an S2 ranking. He continued to state that it is fine that it is tracked by FNAI for the purposes of this plan.

- Page 28: Mr. Camposano stated to the group that they are now in the Public Access Section, so this would be the time to bring up access concerns.
- Page 30: Mr. Davis acknowledged that there is a boundary issue that some of the members wanted to express. Mr. Davis inquired if there were any desired changes or language additions. Mr. Tomlinson stated that something needs to be done. Mr. Davis stated that it sounds like the boundary needs to be established, physically on the ground and then adjacent property owners can help themselves by posting on their end, as well. He continued to state that FFS is here to listen to any proposed language changed in the plan to help facilitate some of that, but they need the MPAG group's help to do it. Mr. Camposano offered that nothing put in the plan today will resolve the issues that were described in the earlier meeting because that is an enforcement issue and an education issue. He continued to explain that FFS does not enforce hunting, and that FWC oversees the hunting aspect. He then stated that there was some discussion between meetings, and there are probably opportunities on both sides for enforcement. He provided examples of what private property owners can do for enforcement: private property postings, no trespassing signs, signage at the back of properties indicating "closed to hunters" the borders of the property. He concluded that the best thing they can do moving forward is making sure that everything is posted adequately along boundaries, because people are not picking up management plans before they go to hunt. He continued to state that they will look for brochures and go to their locations and get maps; they are not picking up the management plan. Mr. Camposano then suggested that they could write language stating that hunters must make sure they are on the state forest, but it does not change enforcement, and it is what is in the hunting guidelines. He further stated that, of course, trespassing is a crime, so if somebody is trespassing on their property, then it is a matter of kick them off the property and contacting local law enforcement as needed. He did acknowledge that FFS should look on their end to see if they have done enough to mark interior boundaries to show the public that they are coming to the edge of property boundary. Mr. Davis agreed and stated that they had talked about gates being down or cables being down locally, as part of the issue, and to also work with Mr. Glenn Davis regarding these issues. FFS can then help facilitate and work with the landowner and FWC to do so. Mr. Davis concluded that communication between the landowner and FWC for law enforcement, but first, the line has to be physically established. He further stated that if there is just an imaginary line with no WMA boundary or state forest boundary signs, or tree markings, then that is where we need to start.

- Mr. Ogburn stated that his signage is posted all around his property bordering up BSSF. He concluded by stating there should be no question about boundaries with his property. Mr. Davis stated that if the boundary line is physically marked correctly, then it is an enforcement issue and FWC needs to be informed to see if that can be addressed properly.
- Mrs. Radcliff stated that as someone who also manages public lands, one of the big things that they are responsible with is the maximum amount of public land managed is open to the public for hunting. She concluded that putting up buffer zones will take away acreage that is open to the public. Mrs. Radcliff then suggested to start first with the boundary lines to see if that resolves the issue before taking acreage out from the public lands. Mr. Camposano agreed and added to Mrs. Radcliff's point that in order to have a safety zone, which is not something that is included in FFS's management plans, it needs to go through a rules process; which includes going through FWC's rule for hunting. He stressed that FFS cannot establish, through the management plan, a buffer zone. It has to be through the hunting rule process.
- Ms. Mitchell stated that as members of the public, they can submit a request to FWC, and they will discuss it. Mr. Ogburn stated that he and his neighbors' concerns are about the safety zones. He stressed that it is a matter of protection. Ms. Mitchell stated that she understood. Mr. Ogburn continued to state that it is a legitimate question. Ms. Mitchell agreed. Mr. Ogburn stated that the map clearly shows a boundary to get to private property from the management area; about 80 acres with no safety zone off of Ridge Road going through...he then stated that there is about 80 acres that abuts to a group of different people and families. Ms. Mitchell stated that there is a house there. Mr. Ogburn continued to state that the state or FWC should take this into a little bit of consideration before they can take a management area and implement hunting on it to give the people living there a little bit of safety. Mr. Davis inquired if the group agrees that there is no needed change in the plan; that folks can work locally with FWC and FFS. He then reiterated that FFS has nothing to do with hunting as far as where you can and cannot hunt. FFS manages the state forest and FWC is law enforcement and WMA enforcer. Mr. Ogburn stated that FWC does not have any enforcement because no one works at the check station. He continued to state that most of the troublemakers are not the locals, it is the people from out of town. He then explained about getting a call from someone at 5:30 in the morning, inquiring if Mr. Ogburn was shooting on his property. Mr. Ogburn replied no and continued to state that law enforcement got involved and tracked down some hunters from Jacksonville that were not even hunting on Big Shoals. He continued to state that the area was closed down and closed the area at the time as hunting season ended. Mr. Ogburn concluded by stating that there is no one around and law enforcement to assist. Ms. Mitchell stated that FWC does have a very long small game season now but stated that she does understand Mr. Ogburn's frustration and concerns. Mr. Ogburn then stated that come February, there is plenty of time because the season runs into March and into turkey season, and all into the Spring. Mr. Ogburn firmly stated that the outlaws take advantage of that. Ms. Mitchell agreed. Mr. Ogburn continued to state that FWC and FFS needs to look at the overall picture, and then inquired Mr. Tomlinson if he agreed. Mr. Tomlinson agreed. Mr. Ogburn then stated that a lot of it is people coming in from other areas; whether that's fishing or small game hunting.
- Mr. Tomlinson noted that the water management district has a lot of land that cannot be hunted on. He then inquired why that land that cannot be hunted on be used as a buffer zone and then there is no problem with a reduction in acreage on water management property. He then recognized that the idea would have to go through the water management district first. He then inquired if Big Shoals and the water management are two different entities. Mr. Davis stated yes and that all three entities are being represented today. He then explained that FWC handles the hunting and WMAs, FFS manages the state forests and has nothing to do with the hunting, and Mrs. Radcliff is with the water management district. He then stated that he does not know what Mr. Tomlinson can and cannot do when it comes to hunting on water management property. Mr. Tomlinson reiterated that there is a lot of water management district land that you cannot even access and there may be a reason why that Mr. Tomlinson is not aware of. He suggested again, that, to avoid reduction in acreage, to give adjacent neighbors a buffer zone and take in some of that water management land that you can be hunt on due to having no neighbors around. Mr. Davis stated that he understood but expressed that the management plan is not the platform for addressing boundary issues. Mr. Camposano agreed and stated that hunting is regulated by FWC under Rule 68(a), to which any changes to boundaries or anything similar, must go

through a review process. He continued to state that FFS has a say, but it is ultimately FWC's decision. He then stated that FFS and FWC meet annually to review hunting regulations, on a state and district level to ensure everyone is on the same page. He then emphasized that the process is controlled through the 68(a) rule. Mr. Davis agreed and reiterated that the MPAG is not the platform to resolve the boundary issues surrounding hunting. Mr. Tomlinson apologized. Mr. Davis stated not to apologize and reassured Mr. Tomlinson. Mr. Camposano stated that it was good to bring up the issue so that everyone knows and can be on the same page. Mr. Davis echoed Mr. Camposano's sentiments and explained that there is nothing that FFS can enforce, hunting-wise, that will resolve Mr. Tomlinson's and fellow neighbors' concerns. He further stated that they will need to work with FWC and the water management district. Mr. Tomlinson joked and inquired to Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell assured Mr. Tomlinson that she did and stated that she is taking notes. Mr. Davis inquired if there were any changes to make within the plan.

- Mr. Ogburn acknowledged that FFS cannot do anything and continued to state that he has seen the box trap in the middle of the hunting area, and then there are the stands off the river on the 100-acre field (as the locals call it) is another hunting zone. He then stated that it looked like he has seen only bicyclists and horses in that area. Mr. Davis reminded Mr. Ogburn that the FFS state forests operate under a multi-use concept. Mr. Ogburn stated that he understands that being FFS. Mr. Davis stated that he is just trying to convey FFS's perspective and then inquired if there was anything else on page 30. Mr. Ogburn stated let's move on.
- After Mr. Davis finished going through the draft land management plan, Mr. Nastovski inquired Mr. Tomlinson if he received the information he needed regarding the Chasteen Tract and the church. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he has had this problem before, with the property line being so close to the church. He explained that before the church was sold, Mr. Tomlinson reached out to the sellers and about selling the church. He stated that he knew the boundary was going to an issue, and they would not even talk about it. Mr. Tomlinson backed off, but after the church was sold, he brought the issue up again. The new owners supposedly talked to someone but does not know who. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he talked to several different agencies and was told that the property is in the Florida Forever project now and nothing can be done about it. He then stated that he has an issue of barely having room to drive around his property without encroaching onto the state's property. He added that someone can also set up camp there and be legally hunting. Mr. Tomlinson inquired the group if they see where he is coming from with his concerns. He further stated that there is no room for growth, and that they were only given 1 acre of land back in the day, courtesy of family ancestors. The church had been built on the edge of the property, when it should have been built in the middle of the property. He concluded by stating his uncertainty of anything being done about it, but if there were, he would appreciate someone to reach out to him to discuss the issue further. Mr. Davis stated ok and stated that Mr. Nastovski is correct. Mr. Davis then stated that there is a process for that, but it has to go through so many approvals that it never gets that far. He further stated that they typically do not surplus lands that have Florida Forever funds tied to them. Mr. Davis explained the process. Mr. Davis then stated that exchanges are an option and that if somebody in Mr. Tomlinson's church's congregation has a proposal we will review it. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he realized that he might be beating a dead horse, but he thought he would mention it. He then stated that it could have been dealt with up front, but if the Chasteens were not willing to...Mr. Tomlinson stated that the Chasteens were not willing. He stated that he thinks their intention was that the Chasteens thought there would not be any development for any hunting. Mr. Davis stated that he had heard that. Mr. Tomlinson laughed, and Mr. Davis stated that they asked if there was no hunting after the deal closed. Mr. Davis explained to them that it is a little late for that and had to explain on behalf of FFS. Mr. Tomlinson agreed and stated that the Chasteens have no control over that. Mr. Davis inquired if there were any more questions and then apologized. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he had to try. Mr. Davis then explained that FFS are the managers of the land and state owns the land to which it is leased out to FFS to manage. He concluded by saying that issues with the title and ownership does not have anything to do with FFS, it is solely dealt through the State of Florida.
- Mr. Davis asked each MPAG member to comment on the draft plan. Mr. Glenn Davis stated that he thinks it is a good plan. Ms. Mitchell stated that she was happy to see the plan. She stated that it is very comprehensive and covers every detail that she would like to see in there. She concluded by reiterating that she is happy with the plan. Mrs. Radcliff stated that she liked the plan and that she thought FFS did very well. She stated that

she liked the metrics used for performance measures. Mr. Tomlinson stated that it is a good plan, and to maybe consider easier access to Big Shoals. Mr. Ogburn stated that he thinks the plan will work and everything will work out based on prior discussions. He then inquired if FFS has ever considered installing a boat ramp somewhere down the stretch of the river for the public. Mr. Nastovski stated that he does not know. Mr. Davis stated that FFS's boundary does not touch the river, so DRP and water management district would be the ones to talk to about that. Mr. Ogburn stated that he would like to bring that up to the County Commissioner. Mr. Davis agreed that that would be a great question for him as well.

- Mr. Davis noted that the draft will be submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review. Consideration by the Council will likely occur at the December 11 & 12, 2025, public meeting.
- Mr. Davis thanked everyone for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Workshop Meeting End Time: 1:40 P.M.

Exhibit U

State Forest Summary Budget

	BIG SHOALS STATE FOREST MGT. ONLY 23-24 EXPENDITURES	Percentages Based on Total Dollar Amount of Expenditures	Assessed Needed Funding Based Upon LMUAC Resource Management
Resource Management	\$ 57,433	24.57%	\$ 9,558.45
Exotic Species Control	\$ 9,705	3.52%	\$ 1,370.78
		4.33%	
Prescribed Burning	\$ 1,685		\$ 1,684.60
Cultural Resources Management	\$ 338	0.12%	\$ 47.69
Timber Management	\$ 22,527	8.18%	\$ 3,181.68
Hydrological Management	\$ 1,346	0.49%	\$ 190.08
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	\$ 21,833	7.93%	\$ 3,083.62
Listed Species Management	\$ -		\$ -
Forest Pest and Disease	\$ -		\$ -
Plant Conservation Program	\$ -		\$ -
State Forest Research Projects	\$ -		\$ -
Boundary Surveys for State Forests	\$ -		\$ -
Other Activities Also Include:	\$ -		\$ -
Liaison Community Meetings / Boundary Line Maintenance / Forest Inventories and Various Other Activities / Wildfire Suppression on State Forests			
			\$ -
Administration	\$ -	7.56%	\$ -
Central Office Headquarters	\$ -		\$ -
District/Regions	\$ -	7.56%	\$ -
Units/Projects	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Support	\$ 92,179	33.47%	\$ 13,019.22
Land Management Planning	\$ 4,459	1.62%	\$ 629.78
Land Management Reviews	\$ 697	0.25%	\$ 98.46
Training/Staff Development	\$ 23,298	8.46%	\$ 3,290.61
Vehicle Purchase	\$ 912	0.33%	\$ 128.84
Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	\$ 46,205	16.78%	\$ 6,525.92
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER SUPPORT	\$ 16,608	6.03%	\$ 2,345.61
State Forest Land Acquisition Support			\$ -
Other Support Activities Also Include:	\$ -		\$ -
Computer Maintenance / Radio Maintenance / Technical Support / Management of Apiary and Cattle Leases / State Forest Leases, Lease Amendments, Easements and Other Various Activities	\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 54,986	19.96%	\$ 7,766.08
New Facility Construction	\$ 6,102	2.22%	\$ 861.83
Facility Maintenance	\$ 48,884	17.75%	\$ 6,904.25
			\$ -
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 39,786	14.44%	\$ 5,619.22
Information/Education	\$ 8,862	3.22%	\$ 1,251.61
Operations	\$ 30,924	11.23%	\$ 4,367.61
			\$ -
Law Enforcement	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Total	\$ 275,437.74	100.00%	\$38,902.24

Exhibit V

Arthropod Control Plan

Town of White Springs



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
"On the Bank of the Suwannee River"

October 16, 2023

To: Samantha Avery,
c/o Florida Forest Service

This is to document that the Town of White Springs does not provide Mosquito Control within the parameters of the town.

Best Regards,
Audre'

Audre' J. Ruise
Town Clerk
386-397-2310

Vanessa George, Town Manager - Audre' J. Ruise, Town Clerk

10363 Bridge Street, White Springs, FL 32096

Ph. 386.397.2310 | Fax 386.397.1542 | clerk@whitespringsfl.us