

Land Management Plan Compliance Checklist Ross Prairie State Forest – 2019

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 8 (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 8 (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, E, and F
6.	An assessment as to whether the property, or any portion, should be declared surplus.	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.	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(10)	Page 2 (I.A.); Page 10 (II.A.4); Exhibit R
10.	Proximity of property to other significant State, local or federal land or water resources.	18-2.021	Page 9 (II.A.3); Exhibit E

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 2 (I.A.); Page 10 (II.B.1); Page 11 (II.B.3-5)
12.	A description of past and existing uses, including any unauthorized uses of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 10 (II.B); Page 12 (II.C.); Page 15 (II.D.6); Page 15 (II.E.); Page 18 (III.C-D); Page 20 (IV.B.3); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 29 (V.A-D); Page 31 (VI.); Page 39 (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 14 (II.D.1)

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Section B: Use Items			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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.)
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 archaeological or historical resources.	18-2.021	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 15 (II.E.1); 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 15 (II.E.1); Page 16: (II.E.2.)
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(10)	Page 12 (II.B.5); Page 28 (V.)
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 15 (II.D.5); Exhibit T
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 15 (II.D.6); Page 18 (III.C-D); Page 19 (IV.A); Page 20 (IV.B.3); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 27 (IV.D); Page 28 (IV.H-I); Page 31 (VI.); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits I, J, K, L & M
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 11 (II.B.3-4)
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.	18-2.021	Page 35 (VI.C.)
23.	A statement regarding incompatible use in reference to Ch. 253.034(10).	253.034(10)	Page 14 (II.D.1)

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Section C: Public Involvement Items			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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 16 (II.E.3-5); Exhibit 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(10)	✓
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.	259.032(10)	Page 16 (II.E.3); Exhibit U
27.	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the advisory group for parcels over 160 acres	18-2.021	Exhibit U
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.	253.034(5) & 259.032(10)	✓
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.	259.036	Page 16 (II.E.3); Exhibit S
30.	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the management review team, if required by Section 259.036, F.S.	18-2.021	Exhibit S
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 S

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.	18-2.021	Page 19 (IV.A.); Exhibit I
33.	Insert FNAI based natural community maps when available.	ARC consensus	Exhibits 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 19 (IV.A-I)

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Section D: Natural Resources			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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 19 (IV.A-I); Exhibits I & J
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 27 (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 27 (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 22 (IV.C.); 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 22 (IV.C.), Table 5; Exhibits L & M
40.	The identification or resources on the property that are listed in the Natural Areas Inventory.	18-2.021	Page 7 (I.C. Goal 5); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits L, M, 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(10)	Page 18 (III.C-D); Page 20 (IV.A.2); Page 20 (IV.B.3 & 5); Page 22 (IV.C); Page 27 (IV.D); Page 28 (IV.I); Page 35 (VI.C); Page 37 (VI.D-E); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibit I
42.	Habitat Restoration and Improvement		
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 archaeological resources and their values for which the lands were acquired.		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 18 (III.A-D) Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits G & P
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 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9)
42-C.	The associated measurable objectives to achieve the goals.		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9)
42-D.	The related activities that are to be performed to meet the land management objectives and their associated measures.		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 31 (VI.A-D); Page 39 (VII.)

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Section D: Natural Resources			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 12 (II.C.1-4); Exhibit V
43.	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of forest and other natural resources and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	Page 12 (II.C.1-4); Page 15 (II.D.6); Page 17 (III.B); Page 19 (IV.A.1); Page 20 (IV.B.1); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 27 (IV.G); Page 29 (V.A - C); Page 35 (VI.C); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits A, D, I, L, M, N, P & Q; Tables 7 & 8
44.	Sustainable Forest Management, including implementation of prescribed fire management		
44-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 31 (VI.A-C); Page 39 (VII.)
44-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals .		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 31 (VI.A-C); Page 39 (VII.)
44-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9)
44-D.	Related activities.		Page 34 (VI.A-F); Page 27 (IV.D); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits N, O & W
44-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V
45.	Imperiled species, habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration or population restoration		
45-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 3); Page 7 (I.C. Goal 5); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits L, M, Q & P
45-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 3); Page 7 (I.C. Goal 5); Page 22 (IV.C.); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits L, M, P & Q
45-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 3); Page 7 (I.C. Goal 5)
45-D.	Related activities.		Page 23 (IV.C.); Page 31 (VI.A-C); Page 39 (VII.); Page 22 (Table 5): Exhibits L & M
45-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V

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Section D: Natural Resources			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
46.	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of exotic and invasive plants and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	Page 37 (VI.D & VI.E); Page 38 (Table 6) 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	Page 38 (VI.E); Exhibit W
48.	Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control		
48-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 6); Page 37 (VI.D-E); Exhibit W
48-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 6)
48-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 6)
48-D.	Related activities.		Page 37 (VI.D & VI.E); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits Q, P, & W
48-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V

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.	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 20 (IV.B.); Exhibit J
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 1 (Executive Summary); Page 20 (IV.B.); Page 41 (VII); Exhibits J, K, P, Q & R
52.	***Quantitative description of the land regarding an inventory of hydrological features and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 20 (IV.B.); Page 41 (VII); Exhibits J, K, P, Q & R
53.	Hydrological Preservation and Restoration		
53-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 8 (Goal 8); Page 20 (IV.B); Exhibit R
53-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 8 (Goal 8) Exhibit V
53-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 8 (Goal 8) Exhibit V

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Section E: Water Resources			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
53-D.	Related activities.		Page 8 (Goal 8); Page 20 (IV.B); Exhibits J & K
53-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V

Section F: Historical, Archaeological 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 archaeological and historical resources.	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(5)	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 archaeological and historical resources.	18-2.021	Page 18 (III.C & D); Exhibits H
57.	Cultural and Historical Resources		
57-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 7)
57-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 7)
57-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 7)
57-D.	Related activities.		Page 7 (I.C. Goal 7); Page 18 (III.); Exhibit G & H
57-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V

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.	253.034(5)	Page 12 (II.C); Exhibits B & D
59.	Capital Facilities and Infrastructure		
59-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 9)
59-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 9)
59-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 8 (I.C. Goal 9)
59-D.	Related activities.		Page 12 (II.C.); Page 28 (V.); Exhibits B, D, & E

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Section G: Facilities (Infrastructure, Access, Recreation)			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
59-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V
60.	*** Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of recreational facilities and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	Page 1 (Executive Summary); Page 12 (II.C.); Page 28 (V.); Page 39 (VII.); Page 39 (Table 7); Page 40 (Table 8); Exhibits B & D
61.	Public Access and Recreational Opportunities		
61-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)
61-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)
61-C.	Measurable objectives.		Page 5 (I.C. Goal 2)
61-D.	Related activities.		Page 28 (V.); Exhibits B & D
61-E.	Budgets.		Exhibit V

Section H: Other/ Managing Agency Tools			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
62.	LMP Compliance Checklist at the front of the plan.	ARC and managing agency consensus	✓
63.	Executive Summary at the front of the LMP. Include a physical description of the land.	ARC and 253.034(5)	Page 1 (Executive Summary)
64.	The accomplishments since the drafting of the last LMP set forth in an organized format.	ARC consensus	Page 3 (I.B.); Exhibit A
65.	Key management activities necessary to achieve the desired outcomes regarding other appropriate resource management.	259.032(10)	Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 39 (VII.); Exhibits F, H, J, L, M, O, P, R, V & W
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(5)	Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9); Page 13 (II.C.4); Exhibit V

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Section H: Other/ Managing Agency Tools			
Item #	Requirement	Statute/ Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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(10)	Page 4 (I.C. Goals 1-9)
68.	A statement of gross income generated, net income and expenses.	18-2.018	Exhibit V

* 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.

** 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.

*** 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
FOR THE
ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST
MARION COUNTY



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

APPROVED ON
MM DD, 20YY

TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST



Approved by:

Jim Karels, Director
Florida Forest Service

Date

James Roberts, Chief
Forest Management Bureau

Date

**TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST
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**TEN-YEAR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST
EXHIBITS**

RPSF Ten-Year Management Accomplishment Summary	Exhibit A
Location, Boundary and Roads Map	Exhibit B
Optimal Management Boundary Map	Exhibit C
Facilities, Recreation and Improvements Map	Exhibit D
Proximity to Significant Managed Lands Map	Exhibit E
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Archaeological and Cultural Sites	Exhibit G
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Management Prospectus	Exhibit R
Land Management Reviews.....	Exhibit S
Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan	Exhibit T
State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group Summary	Exhibit U
State Forest Summary Budget	Exhibit V
Arthropod Control Plan.....	Exhibit W

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEAD AGENCY: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Forest Service
COMMON NAME: Ross Prairie State Forest
LOCATION: Marion County
ACREAGE TOTAL: 3,531.82 acres (more or less)

Historic Natural Communities	Approximate Acreage*
Depression Marsh	196
Mesic Hammock	232
Scrubby Flatwoods	464

*Note rounding errors exist

Historic Natural Communities	Approximate Acreage*
Mesic Flatwoods	31
Sandhill	2,565
Xeric Hammock	32

TIITF LEASE AGREEMENT NUMBER: 4158
USE: Single ____ Multiple X

MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FDACS, Florida Forest Service
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

RESPONSIBILITY

General Forest Resource Management
Wildlife Resources & Laws
Resource Protection & Restoration
Historical & Archaeological Resource Management

DESIGNATED LAND USE: Multiple-Use State Forest
SUBLEASES: None
ENCUMBRANCES: Power Line Right-of-Way
TYPE ACQUISITION: Conservation and Recreation Lands
UNIQUE FEATURES: Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Uplands, Depression Marsh, Scrub
ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL: 17 known sites
MANAGEMENT NEEDS: Restoration of native ecosystems, prescribed fire, invasive plant control, FNAI survey for updated historic/current natural communities, property boundary surveys/maintenance, law enforcement
ACQUISITION NEEDS: Remainder of parcels in Optimal Management Boundary
SURPLUS ACREAGE: None
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Land Management Review Team, Management Plan Advisory Group, Management Plan Review Public Hearing & Ross Prairie State Forest Liaison Committee

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

ARC Approval Date: _____ BTIITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

I. Introduction

Ross Prairie State Forest (RPSF) is comprised of 3,531.82 acres located in southwestern Marion County, approximately 18 miles southwest of Ocala, Florida and about one mile south of the intersection of State Road (SR) 200 and County Road (CR) 484. The northwest tip of RPSF is bounded by SR 200. This property was acquired in 1995 under the Preservation 2000, Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program, specifically, the Longleaf Pine Uplands Project. The forest's diverse ecological communities include upland sandhills, depression marshes, mesic flatwoods, and xeric scrub. RPSF shares a two-mile common boundary to the north with the publicly owned Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

The main area of the wetland, known as Ross Prairie, lies to the north of the forest on properties managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails. This wetland is a freshwater basin marsh characterized by open areas of wetland grasses surrounded by live oak hammocks. These prairies will contain water in the wet season and become completely dry in the dry season. The 150-acre portion of the prairie located on the forest is made up of marshes varying in size from 1 acre to more than 50 acres. Various species of wading birds are commonly seen here such as anhinga and roseate spoonbill. In addition to the depression marshes, the forest's diverse ecological communities include sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods, and scrub.

Recreational opportunities on the forest include hiking, bird-watching, horseback riding, camping, and hunting. The main access point is from the Ross Prairie Trailhead located along State Road 200 a mile south of County Road 484. This trailhead, managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails, has vehicle and equestrian parking, a full-service campground, restrooms, and picnic pavilions. The Holly Hammock Trail is a marked 2.3-mile hiking trail that meanders through mesic hammocks and sandhills, and along depression marshes. This trail provides the visitor with opportunities for nature study, wildlife viewing, and photography.

For equestrian users, RPSF has 15 miles of designated trails along existing service roads and firelines. This is in addition to the numerous miles of equestrian trails throughout the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway property that borders the forest on the north. RPSF is also incorporated into the Wildlife Management Area system, which is administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The Florida Forest Service cooperates with the FWC in the setting of wildlife and hunting regulations on the forest.

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 RPSF 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, and that is consistent with the purpose for which the forest

was acquired. Multiple-use management for RPSF 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 recreation 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 wetland 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, Florida Statutes, and was prepared utilizing guidelines outlined in Section 18-2.021 of the Florida Administrative Code. It is not an annual work plan or detailed operational plan but provides general guidance for the management of RPSF for the next ten-year period and outlines the major concepts that will guide management activities on the forest.

B. Past Accomplishments

A compilation of management activities and public use on RPSF has been completed monthly and is available from the forest manager. A table has been prepared for this plan that summarizes the accomplishments for each of the past ten years. [Exhibit A] The table does not attempt to account for all activities on the forest but summarizes major activities. It does not list the multitude of daily activities and public interactions involved in managing the forest.

Since the approval of the previous management plan in 2006, there have been many events, developments, and accomplishments. Among the most noteworthy have been the following:

- From 2008-2013, pine straw was harvested from the 255-acre planted pine stand located on the southwest section of RPSF. This pine straw sale generated \$79,050 of revenue and helped reduce unwanted understory to aid in possible future restoration.
- In 2018 – 2019, timber was thinned from the 255-acre planted pine stand located on the southwestern section of RPSF.
- A plan amendment was approved for a new work center to house the Dunnellon tower crew.
- A new work center was finished to house a forest ranger and a senior forest ranger.
- Over 5,000 visitors have come to RPSF in the past 10 years.
- Over 40 visitors have used primitive camping facilities on Ross Prairie's Holly Hammock Hiking Trail.
- Fire was reintroduced to a 280-acre area on the eastern side of Ross Prairie that had been fire suppressed for over 50 years. Some mechanical fuel reduction was utilized to assist in getting fire returned to area that is now surrounded by homes on 2 sides. This area has been burned 3 or more times in the last 10 years.

- 30 additional acres of scrub have been mechanically treated to be added to the 60 acres that were previously treated. All 90 acres of scrub plus an additional 5 (corridor to south) were sloppy chopped in 2016 by the Cooperative Outdoor Burning and Resource Assistance (COBRA) Team.
- A total of over 50 acres treated for non-native invasive species on RPSF.
- Creation of RPSF Geodata model and shapefiles updated annually for state forest attributes.
- FWC has implemented archery and spring turkey quota hunts on RPSF.
- Forest Hydrology section completed field evaluation of dike system (Robin Holland - Diked Wetland Assessment 2017).

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

The following goals and objectives provide direction and focus management resources for the next ten-year planning period. Funding, agency program priorities, and the potential for wildfire during the planning period will determine the degree to which these objectives can be met. Management activities on RPSF during this management period must serve to 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. The majority 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 recreational 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 Management Plan including reforestation, harvesting, prescribed burning, restoration, and timber stand improvement activities and goals. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual updates of the Five-Year Silviculture Management Plan completed.
- Continued implementation of the Five-Year Silviculture Management Plan (acres treated).
- Assessment of natural pine stands in need of a timber harvest on all tracts.

Objective 2: Continue to implement the FFS process for conducting stand descriptions and forest inventory including a GIS database containing forest stands, roads, and other attributes (including but not limited to: rare, threatened, and endangered species, archaeological resources, non-native invasive species locations, and historical areas). (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Complete GIS database and re-inventory all attributes as required by FFS procedures.
- Number of acres inventoried.

➤ **GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities**

Objective 1: Maintain public access and recreational opportunities for all users. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measure: Number of visitor opportunities per day.

Objective 2: Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities. (Short Term Objective)

Performance Measure: Number of additional visitor opportunities per day.

Objective 3: Continue to safely integrate human use into RPSF, follow the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan and update annually. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

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

Objective 4: Continue to involve and meet with the liaison panel. The panel consists of a mix of local residents, community leaders and special interest group representatives (canoe vendors, hunters, trail hikers, military, organized equestrian groups, etc.), environmental groups, and other public / private entities to establish communication and seek constructive feedback regarding the management of RPSF. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Liaison group remains organized.
- Meetings continue.

Objective 5: Maintain cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to develop specific hunting season quotas; bag limits and address hunting issues to be agreed upon at annual cooperator meeting between FFS and FWC. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Annual letter on agreed hunting issues.
- Updated rules posted and WMA brochures available.

Objective 6: Enlist additional volunteers and volunteer organizations to assist with recreation and/or resource management. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measure:

- Number of volunteer hours.

➤ **GOAL 3: Habitat Restoration and Improvement**

Objective 1: 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 plants. Restore native groundcover where it has been eliminated or heavily impacted from historical land use. (Long Term Objective)

Performance Measure:

- Number of acres restored.

Objective 2: Sandhill/scrub restoration for enhancing Florida Scrub Jay (FSJ) habitat and continued mechanical treatments applied where necessary to enhance prescribed fire applications. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Monitoring of FSJ families in cooperation with Jay watch volunteers.
- Number of acres restored.
- Number of acres burned within desired fire intervals.

Objective 3: Use photo plots and routine observation to compare sites over time. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Number of new photo plots established.
- Percentage of photo plots revisited annually.
- Number of photos taken biannually.

➤ **GOAL 4: Fire Management**

Objective 1: The RPSF currently contains approximately 3,400 acres of fire dependent communities. RPSF staff will conduct habitat / natural community improvement on the forest annually. In order to achieve an average fire return interval of two (2) to five (5) years across the forest, approximately 600-1500 acres will be prescribed burned annually. Currently, FFS staff estimates 3,000 acres at RPSF are within the desired fire rotation. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Number of acres burned during the dormant and growing seasons, and number of acres burned within target fire return interval.
- Number of acres with restoration underway. This restoration would include prescribed burning

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 RPSF and the surrounding community through a comprehensive mitigation strategy that includes evaluating vegetative fuels near residential areas and identifying potential fuel reduction projects. (Long Term Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Evaluation complete.

- Should the evaluation determine that fuel reduction is necessary, number of projects underway.

➤ **GOAL 5: Listed and Rare Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration**

Objective 1: In cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, develop a Wildlife Management Strategy that addresses fish and wildlife species for RPSF, with emphasis on imperiled species and associated management prescriptions for their habitats. (Long Term Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Imperiled species management strategy completed.
- Baseline listed, and rare species list completed for RPSF.

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

Performance Measure: Number of species for which monitoring is ongoing.

Objective 3: Monitor for populations of federally listed plant species and federally listed lichen species, and conduct searches throughout appropriate habitat within RPSF for new occurrence records. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measures:

- Number of new occurrence records
- Updated shapes/coverages of listed populations using GPS and GIS

➤ **GOAL 6: Non-Native Invasive Species Maintenance and Control**

Objective 1: Continue to follow and annually update the Five-Year Ecological Plan for RPSF, specifically to locate, identify, and control non-native 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 RPSF invasive database for maintaining and updating invasive information annually.

➤ **GOAL 7: Cultural and Historical Resources**

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

Performance Measure: Number of recorded sites.

Objective 2: Monitor recorded sites 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 qualified staff member as an archaeological resource monitor. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measure: Number of local trained staff.

➤ **GOAL 8: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration**

Objective 1: Conduct or obtain a site assessment / study to identify potential hydrology restoration needs. (Long Term Objective)

Performance Measure:

- Assessment conducted.

Objective 2: Protect water resources during management activities through the implementation of Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are applicable to RPSF and may include, but not limited to forest roads, construction of pre-suppression firelines, sinkholes, etc. (Ongoing Objective)

Performance Measure: Compliance with state lands BMPs.

➤ **GOAL 9: Capital Facilities and Infrastructure**

Objective 1: RPSF staff, along with help from volunteers and/or user groups, will continue maintenance of 3 parking areas and 2 trailheads, 20 miles of trails, and 30 miles of primary, secondary, and tertiary 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. The entire boundary will be reworked at minimum every five years including 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 the Ross Prairie State Forest (RPSF).

2. Legal Description and Acreage

The RPSF is comprised 3,531.82 acres, more or less.

RPSF is located in southwestern Marion County, Florida. It's approximately 18 miles southwest of Ocala, Florida. A complete legal description of RPSF lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF) is on file at the RPSF Headquarters Office, FFS State Office, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) state office.

The boundaries and the major parcels are identified in [Exhibit B]. The RPSF is located in all or parts of Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 17 South, Range 20 East, Marion County, Florida.

Table 1. RPSF Acreage by Funding Source

	Funding Source	Acres
P2000	Preservation 2000	3,526.66
FFS	Additions and Inholdings program	5.16

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

3. Proximity to Other Public Resources

RPSF is located in southwestern Marion County and is in close proximity to a number of public natural resource areas including sharing almost two miles of common boundary with the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. Lands managed by state, federal, or local government for conservation of natural or cultural resources that are located within approximately 30 miles of the RPSF are included in [Exhibit E as well as in Table 2, below:

Table 2. Nearby Public Conservation Land and Easements

Tract	Agency	Distance
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway	DRP	Adjacent to the North
Halpata Tastanaki Preserve	SWFWMD	1 mile west
Withlacoochee SF - Two Mile Prairie	FFS	5 miles south
Pott's Preserve	SWFWMD	6 miles southwest
Rainbow Springs State Park	DRP	15 miles west
Goethe State Forest	FFS	20 miles west
Indian Lake State Forest	FFS	25 miles northeast
Silver River State Park	DRP	25 miles northeast
Withlacoochee State Forest	FFS	30 miles south
Gulf Hammock WMA	FWC	30 miles west
Ocala National Forest	USFS	30 miles northeast

DRP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
USFS – United States Forest Service
FFS – Florida Forest Service

4. Property Acquisition and Land Use Considerations

The RPSF was acquired through several different purchases. RPSF was acquired under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program as part of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Project. The Colen Parcel was the primary acquisition consisting of 3,511.18 acres acquired on December 16, 1994. Three (3) small inholdings have since been acquired. The Mark Reardon Parcel consisting of 5.16 acres was acquired on July 13, 2012. The Marilyn Dixon Parcel consisting of 5.04 acres was acquired on January 10, 2001. The Linda Shelly Parcel consisting of 5.04 acres was acquired on January 10, 2001 the three parcels were originally managed as part of Goethe State Forest but were later reassigned as a separate state forest, Ross Prairie State Forest.

The original objectives for the RPSF property, acquired as part of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project, are summarized in the Management Prospectus. These parcels are assigned to the FFS for management under Lease Agreement #4158. [Exhibit R]

Table 3. Parcel Acquisition

Parcel Name	Deed Date	Lease Date	Acres (County)
Colen	12/16/1994	9/12/2000	3,526.66 (Marion)
Reardon	7/13/2012	4/30/2013	5.16 (Marion)
Dixon	1/10/2001	4/10/2002	5.04 (Marion)
Shelly	1/10/2001	4/30/2013	5.04 (Marion)

B. Management Authority, Purpose and Constraints

1. Purpose for Acquisition / Management Prospectus

The primary purpose of acquisition by the State of Florida was to protect sandhills and the plant and animal species dependent on them on RPSF. RPSF is a part of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Florida Forever Project. [Exhibit F]. This project will conserve two of the largest and best of these fragments, and in doing so, helping to ensure the survival of several rare animals like the Florida scrub-jay as well as some plants, and giving the public an opportunity to see and enjoy the original, and increasingly rare, natural landscape of Florida's uplands. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide nonmotorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

Management is conducted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, FFS, with assistance, as warranted, from other agencies. FFS is the manager of forest resources, recreation, water resource protection, watershed protection, and land use planning on RPSF.

Revenue derived from timber sales is used to offset incurred expenses, capital improvements, and other personal services (OPS).

Multiple-use management for RPSF will be accomplished through the integration of 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 recreation 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 wetland and aquatic communities; and
- Provide research and educational opportunities related to natural resource management.

2. Degree of Title Interest Held by the Board

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF) holds fee simple title.

3. Designated Single or Multiple-Use Management

RPSF is managed under a multiple-use concept by the FFS, under the authority of Chapters 253 and 589, Florida Statutes. The FFS is the lead managing agency as stated in TIITF Management Lease Number 4158.

Multiple use is the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that 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 of these resources and giving consideration to 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 the forest. 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 RPSF provide for multiple-use 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 the forest. Current and potential revenue producing activities for the RPSF include, but are not limited to:

- Timber Harvests – Timber harvests on RPSF will be conducted where needed to improve forest health, promote wildlife habitat, restore plant communities, and provide other benefits.
- Recreation Fees – Fees are not currently collected for day use activities.
- Camping Fees – Fees are currently collected according to the fees schedule as outlined in Chapter 5I-4 of the Florida Administrative Code for all camping facilities. In addition to these fees, the Campground Reservation System has been implemented online at: www.FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.

5. Conformation to State Lands Management Plan

Management of the forest 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 589, 259, and 253, Florida Statutes.

6. Legislative or Executive Constraints

There are no Florida Statutes specifically directed toward RPSF. FFS makes every effort to comply with applicable statutes, rules, and ordinances when managing the forest. 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).

7. Aquatic Preserve / Area of Critical State Concern

This area 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

RPSF boundary lines, 12.5 miles total, are managed by state forest personnel in accordance with the guidelines of the State Forest Handbook. There are 8 gates on RPSF that require periodic maintenance.

2. Improvements

Current buildings/facilities present on the RPSF include the new forest ranger work site and office.

3. On-Site Housing

Currently, there are no ranger residences on RPSF.

FFS may establish further on-site housing (mobile / manufactured home) on RPSF if deemed necessary to alleviate security and management issues. The need and feasibility specific for the state forest 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 the purpose of 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 two 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 2017-2018, the total annual budget for RPSF was \$201,870. This amount includes salaries, expenses, contractual services, and OPS. A summary budget for RPSF is contained in Exhibit V. Implementation of any of the activities within this management plan is contingent on availability of available funding, other resources, and other statewide priorities.

b. Equipment

Equipment assigned or immediately available for work on the RPSF to support resource management work, and maintain improvements such as trails, roads, and facilities, include the following:

- 3 – 4x4 pickup trucks
- 1 – 2x4 Chevy S-10 pickup
- 1 – 2x4 Ford F-550 flatbed truck
- 1 – 2x4 Chevy Astro van
- 2 – Type 6 brush trucks
- 1 – Type III military 6x6 engine
- 2 – Type II tractor/plow units with transports
- 1 – Type II overhead tractor
- 1 – Farm tractor
- 1 – John Deere gator UTV
- 2 – Four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicle (ATVs)

See [Exhibit D] for a map of the facilities, recreation, and improvements at RPSF.

c. Staffing

Staffing consists of a Forester, and two (2) OPS positions. Work project coordination support is provided by a Forest Area Supervisor. Personnel and equipment are utilized from the Indian Lake Forestry Center. The Forest Area Supervisor, three (3) Senior Rangers, and two (2) Forest Rangers have offices at the Indian Lake State Forest headquarters. There are also two (2) Forest Rangers that have offices at RPSF and assist with management activities on the state forest. Additional support from Waccasassa Forestry Center personnel is available as needed.

Resource management activities, such as timber cruising, planning, and sale administration, etc., are the responsibility of the Resource Section under the direction of the Resource Administrator and Center Manager. Forest operations, such as road

maintenance, prescribed burning, etc., are the responsibility of the FFS Waccasassa Forestry Center fire control personnel under the direction of the respective Forest Area Supervisors.

D. Additional Acquisitions and Land Use Considerations

1. Alternate Uses Considered

No alternate uses are being considered now. 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 the forest. 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, communication towers and antennas, 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.

2. Additional Land Needs

The acquisition of additional land within the optimal management boundary would facilitate restoration, protection of the natural resources, including threatened and endangered ecosystems such as sandhill, mesic hammock, and depression marsh, that are unique to the Ross Prairie, maintenance, and management of the resources on RPSF. [Exhibit C]

There are only three (3) feasible additions needed for RPSF. The remaining 20 acres of the original 40-acre out parcel located in Section 13, Township 17 South, Range 20 East which consists of three 5-acre parcels and two 2.5-acre parcels. These additions would facilitate resource management on RPSF, especially prescribed burning and boundary management.

3. Surplus Land Assessment

It is the assessment of FFS staff that, at this time, all of the property within RPSF is suitable and necessary for the management of RPSF and none should be declared surplus.

4. Adjacent Conflicting Uses

During the development of this management plan, FFS staff identified and evaluated adjacent land uses, reviewed current comprehensive plans, and future land use maps in making a determination and potential adjacent conflicting uses. Additionally, FFS staff have met with adjacent land owners and maintains liaison with those land owners to ensure that any conflicting future land uses may be readily identified and addressed.

The major land uses adjacent to RPSF that represent complications to resource management involve urban development. Major subdivisions now surround RPSF on the west, south, and east sides. A major highway (SR 200) scheduled for expansion to four lanes is on the north side. Smoke management of prescribed burns will be of great concern. Hunting on RPSF, while currently extremely conservative and safe, may need

to be re-evaluated within this ten-year period because of conflicts with the surrounding urban population and the increasing demand of other recreational users.

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 the forest.

5. Compliance with Comprehensive Plan

This plan was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in Marion County for review and compliance with their local comprehensive plans. [Exhibit T]

6. Utility Corridors and Easements

The following are reservations or easements on RPSF:

- a. A Progress Energy transmission line which consists of a 295-foot right-of-way running along the entire south boundary of the forest, encompassing 98 acres.
- b. A 10-foot clearance right-of-way for a Progress Energy transmission line running along the south boundary of the eastern most parcel of RPSF. This corridor extends one quarter of a mile on RPSF adjacent to SW 145th Street.

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. FFS does not consider RPSF 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), to minimize habitat fragmentation, to limit disruption of management activities, including prescribed burns, and to 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 cable where scenic considerations are desirable. Easements for such utilities are subject to the review and approval of the TIITF, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Requests for linear facility uses will be handled according to the Governor and the Cabinet's linear facilities policy.

E. Agency & 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 Leases numbered 4158. Pursuant to the management lease, the lead managing agency may enter into further agreements or to subleases on any part of the forest.

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 (Florida Statute 590.01). The FFS also has the responsibility of authorizing prescribed burns (F.S. 590.02 (1i)).

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

FFS will cooperate with the DHR regarding appropriate management practices on historical or archaeological sites on the property as stated in Section 267.061, Florida Statutes. DHR will be notified prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities by the FFS or any other agency involved with the forest.

The SWFWMD will be consulted and involved in matters relating to water resources as appropriate.

2. Law Enforcement

Primary law enforcement responsibilities will be handled by law enforcement officers from FWC. Rules governing the use of RPSF are stated in Chapter 5I-4 of the Florida Administrative Code. FWC will enforce fish and wildlife regulations and provide assistance in enforcing state forest rules. The FWC has an officer dedicated to patrol of and enforcement on the RPSFs.

The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) will assist with open burning and wildfire investigations as needed. Additional assistance is provided by the Marion County Sheriff's Offices as needed. Considering the current statewide budget limitations, FFS feels that law enforcement is adequate on RPSF.

Special rules under Chapter 5I-4 of the Florida Administrative Code were promulgated for Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, to manage the use of state lands and better control traffic, camping, and other uses in RPSF.

3. Public and Local Government Involvement

This plan has been prepared by FFS and will be carried out primarily by that agency. FFS responds to public involvement through liaison panels, 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 three (3) reviews of management plan implementation in 2007, 2012, and 2017. [Exhibit S] The review teams' recommendations were addressed in this plan, as appropriate.

The plan was developed with input from the RPSF Management Plan Advisory Group and was reviewed at a public hearing on June 27, 2019. A summary of the advisory

group's meetings and discussions, as well as written comments received on the plan, are included in Exhibit U. The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) public hearing and meeting serve as an additional forum for public input and review of the plan.

4. Volunteers

Volunteers are important assets to RPSF. Depending upon the type of volunteer service needed, volunteer activities may be one-time events or long-term recurring projects and routine maintenance. Additional volunteer recruitment will be encouraged to assist with other activities to further the FFS's mission.

5. Friends of Florida State Forest

Friends of Florida State Forests Inc. (FFSF) is a Direct Support Organization (DSO) of the Florida Forest Service. FFSF supports management activities and projects on Florida's state forests. FFSF is an organization established by Florida statute that 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 Florida Forest Service to expand opportunities for recreation, environmental education, fire prevention, and forest management within Florida's state forests.

The Friends of Florida State Forests program is referenced in Chapter 589.012 of the Florida Statutes. For more information visit: www.floridastateforests.org.

III. Archaeological/Cultural Resources and Protection

A. Past Uses

The original longleaf pine forest in this area was harvested in the early to mid-1900's. As in much of Florida, this resulted in open woodlands with little pine stocking. The area was utilized for cattle grazing and naval stores operations where sufficient pine trees existed. The large, scattered longleaf pines on RPSF today were the small and inferior trees left from the original harvest. They have provided the seed source for the emerging longleaf pine forest of today.

The Colen Foundation purchased this tract of land in the early 1970's for the purpose of potential commercial development. During their ownership, the property was utilized for cattle grazing. Approximately 400 acres were cleared for pasture and crops. Periodic prescribed burns, primarily for cattle grazing, were conducted on the property prior to state ownership.

The three (3) 5-acre additions consisting of the Campbell, Ciolfi, and Dorsch Parcels have similar past activities to the Colen Parcel, except there has not been recent cattle grazing.

B. Archaeological and Historical Resources

A review of information contained in the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Master Site file has determined there 17 recorded archeological sites found at the designated area for RPSF, Marion County, Florida. There

are no known sites on RPSF identified in the Florida National Register of Historic Places. See Exhibit G for a complete list of all archeological sites on RPSF.

Table 4. Archaeological & Historical Sites on RPSF

Site ID	Site Name	Type
MR01931	ROSS PRAIRIE 3	AR
MR01932	ROSS PRAIRIE 4	AR
MR01933	ROSS PRAIRIE 5	AR
MR01934	ROSS PRAIRIE 6	AR
MR01935	ROSS PRAIRIE 7	AR
MR01936	ROSS PRAIRIE 8	AR
MR01937	ROSS PRAIRIE 9	AR
MR01938	ROSS PRAIRIE 10	AR
MR01939	ROSS PRAIRIE 11	AR
MR01940	ROSS PRAIRIE 12	AR
MR01941	ROSS PRAIRIE 13	AR
MR01942	ROSS PRAIRIE 14	AR
MR01943	ROSS PRAIRIE 15	AR
MR01944	ROSS PRAIRIE 16	AR
MR01945	ROSS PRAIRIE 17	AR
MR01946	ROSS PRAIRIE 18	AR
MR02343	INFERNO	AR

C. Ground Disturbing Activities

Representatives of DHR and Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) will be consulted prior to the initiation of any proposed significant ground disturbing activity not listed in this plan, by FFS or any other public agency. 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” [Exhibit H] and will comply with all appropriate provisions of Section 267.061(2) Florida Statutes. Ground disturbing activities not specifically covered by this plan will be conducted under the parameters of the “List of ARC / Division of State Lands Approved Interim Management Activities”.

The FFS recognizes the importance of managing and protecting sensitive resources and will take all necessary steps to ensure that ground disturbing activities will not adversely impact sensitive resources. This includes areas such as archaeological and historical sites, ecotones, wetlands, and areas containing sensitive species.

The construction of new pre-suppression firelines will be limited to the greatest extent practicable. When new pre-suppression firelines, recreational trails, or other low-impact recreational site enhancements are necessary, their placement will be carefully reviewed by state forest staff and will be developed to avoid sensitive areas. For other ground

disturbing activities such as construction of buildings, parking lots, and new roads, the FFS will consult with the DHR and FNAI, as appropriate.

D. Survey and Monitoring

Currently, four (4) local district FFS staff are trained by DHR as an archaeological site monitor. FFS will pursue opportunities for getting additional personnel trained. 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, as well as any protection measures that might be required. 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.

As information becomes available, and as staffing allows, any known archaeological and historical sites will be identified on maps to aid state forest and law enforcement personnel in patrolling and protecting sites. Applicable surveys will be conducted by FFS staff or others during the process of planning and implementing multiple-use management activities. FFS personnel will remain alert for any environmentally significant resources 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 may 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

One of the primary reasons for the purchase and establishment of RPSF was to protect sandhills unique to RPSF. Efforts will be made to monitor and protect RPSF's waterbodies and their associated water quality, discharge, and native plants and animals. All forest management activities relating to timber harvesting practices will comply with the BMP's for public lands. Management activities will be executed in a manner to minimize soil erosion. 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 RPSF's waterbodies and their associated water quality and native plants and animals. All forest management activities relating to timber harvesting practices will comply with the BMPs for public lands within the latest Silviculture BMPs publication.

A. Soils and Geologic Resources

1. Resources

Soil information for RPSF was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). RPSF consists of 12 different soils. The predominant soils listed by the NRCS include: Sparr fine sand, Apopka sand, and Candler sand. Detailed information on all soils present on the state forest may be found in Exhibit I.

2. Soil Protection

Currently, there are no soil erosion problems at RPSF. Management activities will be executed in a manner to minimize soil erosion. 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 Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

B. Water Resources

The water resources on RPSF perform essential roles in the protection of water quality, groundwater recharge, flood control, and aquatic habitat preservation. Maintenance and restoration of native ecosystems is a high management priority. Properly managing the soil, water, and watershed resources of this forest are an integral part of accomplishing this objective. In the interest of maintaining these valuable resource functions, state forest management personnel will work with the FFS Hydrology Section to incorporate wetland restoration into the overall resource management program as opportunities arise, particularly where wetland systems have been impaired or negatively impacted by previous management activities or natural disasters. See Exhibit K for map of the water resources at RPSF.

Where applicable, RPSF, with assistance from the FFS Hydrology Section, will pursue funding to develop and implement wetland restoration projects. In addition, cooperative research among the FFS, other state agencies, and the federal government will provide valuable information in determining future management objectives of wetland restoration.

1. Resources

There are no navigable water bodies, streams, or ponds on RPSF.

2. Water Classification

There are no Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) located on or adjacent to the site. All of the surface waters on or adjacent to the site are classified as Class III waters, which is the statewide default classification. [Exhibit J]

3. Water Protection

The water resources on RPSF perform essential roles in the protection of water quality, groundwater recharge, flood control, and aquatic habitat preservation. Maintenance and restoration of native ecosystems is a high management priority. Properly managing the soil, water, and watershed resources of this forest are an integral part of accomplishing this objective. In the interest of maintaining these valuable resource functions, state forest management personnel will work with the FFS Hydrology Section to incorporate wetland restoration into the overall resource management program as opportunities arise, particularly where wetland systems have been impaired or negatively impacted by previous management activities or natural disasters. All silvicultural activities, including timber harvesting and reforestation, will be conducted in accordance with Florida's Silviculture Best Management

Practices publication and/or other appropriate measures as deemed necessary by the FFS's Forest Hydrologist and/or Watershed Specialist.

The RPSF falls within the jurisdiction of the SWFWMD. Water resource protection will be coordinated with the SWFWMD. The FFS, through its Forest Hydrology Section, will work with the SWFWMD to monitor levels and quality of ground and surface water resources. Any activities requiring water management district permits will be handled accordingly. Water resource protection measures, at a minimum, will be accomplished using Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the most current version of Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

4. Swamps, Marshes, and Other Wetlands

RPSF is located on the southern end of a wetland known as Ross Prairie. This wetland is a freshwater depression marsh characterized by numerous open depressions of wetland grasses surrounded by live oak hammocks. RPSF contains the southern extent of Ross Prairie with the main wetland lying to the north on properties of the state managed by DEP. This entire marsh system becomes dry during periods of drought and none of the open areas are considered navigable waterways even in periods of high water.

Maintenance of these wetland communities is a high priority and will be accomplished through prescribed fire and a cautious avoidance of activities that would threaten the natural hydrology of these areas.

5. Wetlands Restoration

Wetland restoration objectives on the state forest include erosion control; restoration of hydrology and/or hydroperiod, 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, non-native invasive species control, site preparation and re-vegetation with native wetland species, and project monitoring. These activities may be conducted individually or concurrently; implemented by FFS personnel or by non-FFS personnel under mitigation or grant contractual agreements. Wetland restoration projects should be conducted in conjunction with other restoration activities indicated elsewhere in this plan.

Where applicable, RPSF, with assistance from the FFS Forest Management Bureau, RPSF may pursue funding to develop and implement wetland 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.

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

Currently, the RPSF doesn't reside in an active BMAP.

Basin Management Action Plans are 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.

The BMAP was developed as part of DEP'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 management actions and adaptive management approach will be described the BMAP, and the process will continue until the TMDL is attained. 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. Wildlife Resources

1. Threatened and Endangered Species

The intent of FFS is to manage RPSF in a fashion 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 will be used, as necessary, to protect or increase rare, threatened, and endangered species and species of special concern, as applicable for both plants and animals.

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

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status*	State Status*	FNAI Global Rank*	FNAI State Rank*
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida scrub-jay	LT	FT	G2	S2
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's sparrow	N	N	G3	S3
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern indigo snake	LT	FT	G3	S3
<i>Lampropeltis extenuata</i>	Short-tailed snake	UR	ST	G3	S3
<i>Peromyscus floridanus</i>	Florida mouse	N	N	G3	S3
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida spiny pod	N	SE	G2	S2
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	C	ST	G3	S3
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher frog	N	N		S3
<i>Stylisma abdita</i>	Hidden stylisma	N	SE	G3	S3
<i>Garberia heterophylla</i>	Garberia	N	ST	G3	S3

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status*	State Status*	FNAI Global Rank*	FNAI State Rank*
<i>Triphora trianthophoros</i>	Threebirds orchid	N	ST	G3	S3

*** STATUS/RANK KEY**

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.

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

FNAI Global Rank: G1= Critically Imperiled, G2 = Imperiled, G3= Very Rare, G4= Apparently Secure, G5= Demonstrably Secure, 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, S#? = Tentative Rank.

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. FNAI has reported the following:

a. Element Occurrences

The FNAI reports several documented Element Occurrences of rare or endangered species on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models. [Exhibit L]

Documented species are listed in Table 5.

Documented habitat includes: Depression Marsh, Mesic Flatwoods, Mesic Hammock, Sandhill, Scrubby Flatwoods, and Xeric Hammock.

b. Likely and Potential Habitat for Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the RPSF. [Exhibit L]

c. Land Acquisition Projects

This site is located within the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Florida Forever project, which is a part of the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands land acquisition program.

Other Florida Forever Projects within Marion County include: Bear Hammock, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Mill Creek, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Carr Farm/Price's Scrub, Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Corridor, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, and South Goethe, however, the additional Florida Forever project in Marion County is not within the same Section, Township, and Range as Ross Prairie State Forest.

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 any expansions or alterations are made to any facilities.

An ecological survey for natural communities, rare and exotic plants, and rare species habitat assessment was completed for RPSF by Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) in 2007. This survey confirmed the presence of four state listed plant species and three animal species. The plant species include scrub stylisma (*Stylisma abdita*), garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), sandhill spiny-pod (*Matelea pubiflora*) and three-birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophoros*). The animal species include the state listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and the federally and state listed Florida scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*). Other animal species of concern that have been observed on RPSF include the gopher frog (*Lithobates capito*), short-tailed snake (*Lampropeltis extenuata*), Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), and the Florida mouse (*Peromyscus floridanus*). Table 5 lists the rare, threatened, and endangered species that have been observed on RPSF according to FNAI. Habitat management may encourage other important species to populate the forest if they are occurring on other areas relatively close-by.

Garberia is found in the sandhills and scrub areas of RPSF. Restoration of the scrub areas and the continued burning of the sandhills and scrubby flatwoods will provide more suitable habitat for this species.

Sandhill spiny-pod and scrub stylisma are found in the sandhills and scrubby flatwoods of RPSF. The continued burning of these areas will provide more suitable habitat for this species.

Three-birds orchid is located in some of the mesic hammocks surrounding the depression marshes on RPSF. These areas should be left relatively undisturbed and any site improvements should be directed away from this area.

Gopher tortoise is found throughout the sandhills of RPSF. The continued use of prescribed fire to reduce the shrub component and increase the grass and forb component will provide a higher quality gopher tortoise habitat. Continued opportunities to coordinate gopher tortoise monitoring will be sought with FWC.

In 2018, monitoring found two active Florida scrub jay territories. Continued monitoring relies on Jay Watch. The continued use of prescribed fire and roller chopping in the scrubby flatwoods will improve the quality of habitat for the Florida scrub jay.

The gopher frog, short-tailed snake, Bachman's sparrow, and the Florida mouse have been sighted on RPSF at some time in the past. All these species prefer the sandhill and scrub habitats. Restoration of the overgrown scrub and the continued prescribed burning of the sandhills will provide a higher quality habitat for these species.

3. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) reports numerous records of listed species occurrences or critical

habitats within the confines of the property. This includes state and federally listed endangered or threatened species. [Exhibit M]

Other findings by the FWC include:

- a. The property is located adjacent to and within multiple Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.
- b. RPSF is located within an area of Species Richness.
- c. Multiple Priority Wetlands are located on and in close proximity to RPSF.
- d. FWC's response includes a map indicating multiple species locations.

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. [Exhibit M]

The FWC recommends the review of management guidelines in the published FWC Gopher Tortoise Species Management Plan to guide management actions for the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) on the area. The FWC Gopher Tortoise Species Management Plan provides beneficial resource guidelines for habitat management and monitoring of the gopher tortoise. For your reference, the FWC Gopher Tortoise Species Management Plan can be accessed at this web address: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/gopher-tortoise/management-plan/>.

The 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 your reference, the FWC Species Action Plans can be accessed at this web address: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/imperiled/species-action-plans/>.

4. Game Species and Other Wildlife

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

RPSF provides habitat for a number of different species of wildlife. More common species include: white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and migratory birds in season.

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

5. Survey and Monitoring

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

a. Florida Scrub Jay

A survey of the Florida scrub-jay is being conducted annually on RPSF by Audubon Jay Watch volunteers with the assistance of FFS and FWC staff. Surveys are conducted in known FSJ territory and potential jay habitat. Survey methods for Florida scrub jays at RPSF follow Jay Watch protocols.

b. Gopher Tortoise

Surveys for gopher tortoise burrows have been done by FFS staff intermittently, and in cooperation with FWC. Burrow location and activity status are maintained in a GIS database. Future work may include sampling to determine baseline data on population size and monitoring over time. RPSF was ranked by FWC as a high priority on conservation lands for gopher tortoise population surveys. Future surveys will depend on resources and respective agency priorities in a given fiscal year. FFS will consult with FWC prior to any gopher tortoise population surveys to determine the recommended appropriate gopher tortoise survey methodology.

FFS may implement the use of management guidelines in the published FWC Gopher Tortoise Species Management Plan to guide management actions for the gopher tortoise on the area. Staff should make an effort to minimize impacts to known burrows, whether active, inactive, or abandoned. Protecting burrows and tortoises during mechanical treatment is important and staff and mechanical equipment operators should use caution when working in areas where tortoises or burrows occur. Staff should locate burrows prior to any mechanical work and if possible, avoiding mechanical work during September through October when gopher tortoise hatchlings are most abundant (FWC 2012).

c. Listed Plant Species

There are four plant species on the RPSF listed as imperiled by the state of Florida (FNAI, FDACS).

Garberia, sandhill spiny-pod, and scrub stylisma are found in the sandhills and scrub areas of RPSF. Appropriate habitats within RPSF are systematically searched for rare plant occurrence, and if found, are mapped with GPS after burns. GIS shapefiles/coverages of listed populations are updated with new occurrence records periodically, including prior rare plant locations. Three-birds orchid is located in some of the mesic hammocks surrounding the depression marshes on RPSF. These areas should be left relatively undisturbed and any site improvements should be directed away from this area.

d. Other Rare Biota Surveys

Surveys are done as time and staffing allow. During routine management activities, incidental sightings of rare animals and plants are GIS mapped by FFS staff. High quality plant communities continue to have ad hoc surveys for both invasive weeds and listed plants. Newly acquired land parcels will be surveyed for listed species.

Species-specific surveys for state or federally listed wildlife species will be developed when necessary, with assistance from FWC. Such plans will be consistent with rule and statute promulgated for the management of such species. Continued biological surveys will be conducted to determine locations of these species. FFS will seek assistance from universities, FWC and other agencies to conduct surveys.

D. Sustainable Forest Resources

FFS practices sustainable multiple-use forestry to meet the forest 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 to ensure 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.

FFS will implement sound silvicultural practices, including harvesting, thinning, prescribed burning, and reforestation, to establish a healthy forest with an age distribution that best duplicates natural conditions. Well timed and executed timber harvests play an integral role in the health of forest ecosystems by removing off-site trees to reestablish native species and thinning dense forest stands to improve understory habitat. This allows for less damaging prescribed burns and improved forest health.

The management of timber resources on the RPSF will not seek to maximize short-term economic revenue but rather to achieve a wide array of long-term public benefits - many of which are intrinsic and not easily quantified. Good stewardship and resource sustainability are essential goals for any proposed silvicultural activity. The health of the forest ecosystem is paramount in importance.

E. Beaches and Dune Resources

No beaches or dunes occur on the RPSF.

F. Mineral Resources

There are no known commercial mineral deposits on RPSF.

G. Unique Natural Features and Outstanding Native Landscapes

The most unique natural features of RPSF are the classic examples of the upland longleaf pine/turkey oak/wiregrass ecosystem. Other natural features include freshwater

depression marshes and xeric scrub habitats.

H. Research Projects / Specimen Collection

Research projects may be performed on the forest on a temporary or permanent basis for 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 RPSF must be considered 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 RPSF staff. Other special conditions may be applicable, and the authorization may be terminated at any point if the study is not in compliance.

Current projects include the University of Florida's study of the population ecology of southeastern pocket gopher (*Geomys pinetis*), and the University of Central Florida's work on gopher tortoise telemetry, mainly on the Halpata Tastanaki Preserve

Completed projects include "Ecological impacts of SR 200 on the Ross Prairie Ecosystem" (Daniel Smith, 2005).

I. 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. This includes areas such as known sensitive species locations; archaeological, fossil, and historical sites; ecotones, and wetlands.

When new pre-suppression firelines, recreational trails, or other low-impact recreational 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, SWFWMD and the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), as appropriate.

V. Public Access and Recreation

The primary recreation objective is to provide the public with dispersed outdoor recreational 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 recreational 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

A wide variety of recreational opportunities are available at RPSF including: hiking, horseback riding, hunting, birding, nature study, and primitive camping. Hiking and horseback riding are expected to be the predominant recreational activities due to the adjacent property (Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway) where these two (2) activities are increasing. RPSF is part of the Florida Trail System (FTA), FFS Trailwalker Program, and the FFS Trailtrotter Program. See Exhibit D for a map of the Facilities and Improvements.

a. Recreational Trails

The Holly Hammock Trail is a 2.3-mile hiking trail providing the visitor opportunities for nature study, wildlife viewing, and photography. The hiking trail meanders through mesic hammocks, sandhills, and along depression marshes. A primitive campsite is located off this hiking trail near one of the larger depression marshes for the more adventurous recreationist. For equestrian users, the forest has 15 miles of designated trails along existing service roads and firelines. This is in addition to the equestrian trails on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway property, which borders the forest.

b. Camping

RPSF has one primitive campsite located along the Holly Hammock Hiking trail. Access to this site is made from the trailhead located at the Greenways and Trails parking area. It is a 1-mile hike to get to the camp site. The remoteness of the primitive campsite gives a unique camping experience to the public. Reservations for the site are made using the Reserve America website.

c. Hunting and Fishing

Hunting on these tracts is managed under the FWC as a WMA. Hunting on the forest is scheduled annually through a cooperative effort between the FFS and the FWC. Specific hunting seasons, quotas, and bag limits are agreed upon between the two agencies at the annual meeting held in the state office after input and recommendations from local FFS/FWC staff.

There are two (2) designated parking areas available to the hunter to access RPSF. RPSF is a walk-in only WMA. Presently there are youth supervised small game, archery, and spring turkey hunting opportunities on the forest.

B. Planned

FFS will continue to assess plans for additional recreational opportunities based on demand, carrying capacity, demographics, and impact to the resources on the forest. All planned improvements may be completed as staff and funding permits. Both terrestrial and aquatic activities will be evaluated. Any specific plans will be incorporated into the Five-Year Outdoor Recreational Plan on file at RPSF.

1. Public Access and Parking

Within this ten-year planning cycle, other parking and access points will be evaluated. There are no plans to install any new parking areas on Ross Prairie. We do have one parking area off of SW 145th Street in the southeastern area of the forest that could be utilized for public parking and access to the forest if any new trails were to be established on the eastern side of Ross Prairie. Forest staff currently uses this area for staging equipment during prescribed burns.

2. Recreational Trails

Suitable locations are being explored for additional hiking trails. With renewed construction taking place in the subdivision east of the forest it may become necessary to create a new hiking trail from an existing parking area which will link up to existing trails. The construction, maintenance, and improvements of nature and hiking trails will be on-going.

3. Camping

The need for more primitive campsites/facilities on the RPSF will continue to be evaluated. A few more campsites may be added now that the Campground Reservation System is up and running. Use of the current campsite will be monitored to see if demand increases with the online reservation system.

4. Environmental Education

At this time, only self-guided tours are available. If a need is determined in the future, RPSF may implement an environmental education program which may include guided tours, additional self-guided tours, and hands-on events.

5. Bird Watching

A birding checklist for RPSF may be developed in the future. The local checklists will be used as guides from TNC and FWC.

6. Recurring projects

Volunteers – Continued upkeep and marketing of volunteer programs
Brochures – Re-prints of RPSF brochures

7. Equestrian, Hunter, and Hiker Education

The FFS will continue to inform and educate all forest visitors on the importance of the designation of Multiple-Use State Forest.

C. Hunter Access

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages hunting on the RPSF.

Hunting on the forest is scheduled annually through a cooperative effort between the FFS and the FWC. Specific hunting seasons, quotas, and bag limits are agreed upon between the two agencies at the annual meeting held in the state office following a meeting and recommendations from local FFS/FWC staff. If the cleared area off SW 145th Street is opened for parking public vehicles, it will be added as a designated hunter access point.

D. Education

The focus for this next ten-year period will be to educate the surrounding communities about prescribed fire and its benefits, the process of conducting prescribed burns, how to prevent wildfires and being firewise communities.

VI. Forest Management Practices

A. Prescribed Fire

Forest management practices on RPSF are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socio-economic benefits to Floridians. Management practices on RPSF include a prescribed fire program which is an effective tool in controlling the growth of hardwood trees, 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 Waccasassa 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 the forest.

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

FFS has no fire towers and one tractor / plow units located at RPSF Headquarters. Additional support is available from Indian Lake Forestry Station in eastern Marion County. Personnel and equipment stationed at RPSF 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.

The annual forest prescribed burning program produces multiple benefits. The purposes of prescribed burning on RPSF are to facilitate forest management operations; enhance wildlife and listed species habitat; decrease fuel loading; enhance public safety; and restore, maintain, and protect all native ecosystems, ecotones, and their ecological processes. FFS personnel are responsible for planning and implementing the annual prescribed burn program for RPSF, which will consist of growing and dormant season burns. An update to the Five-Year Prescribed Burning Management Plan is developed each year by FFS staff. All burns conducted on RPSF are executed by Florida Certified Prescribed Burn Managers in accordance with F.S.-590.125 and F.A.C. 5I-2. The smoke screening system will be used as a smoke management tool to minimize the adverse impact of smoke that may affect residential communities, public roads, schools, and other smoke sensitive areas.

According to FNAI, historic, fire dependent natural communities on RPSF are estimated to have occupied approximately 3,400 acres, and to have burned at approximately two (2) – five (5) year intervals, depending on the community. Past land uses have left some of these historically fire dependent communities in a condition unable to carry prescribed fire. Based on current conditions and management objectives, RPSF will plan for 600-1500 acres to be prescribed burned annually to keep these communities within the desired intervals. Currently, FFS staff estimates 3,000 acres at RPSF are within the desired fire rotation. Restoration of these areas by removal of the off-site species and reforestation will increase prescribed burn acreage goals over time. Meeting prescribed fire goals will be largely dependent on weather conditions, personnel, and statewide emergency situations such as wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disaster response and relief.

This portion of the state has an extended growing season for pines and other vegetation. There is also an extended wet season that could limit the frequency of prescribed burns. Therefore, the objective is to encourage year-round prescribed burning whenever possible, with the understanding that prescribed fire will be applied both in the dormant and growing season periods.

Fires caused by lightning at the end of the dry season and through the rainy season (growing season) represent the natural fire regime in central Florida. It is believed that native range present at RPSF has been subjected to this type of fire for many centuries. Numerous groundcover species found in sandhill communities are adapted to and dependent upon growing season fires. However, Florida ranchers have typically burned native range in winter or early spring. Prescribed fires conducted in late spring or summer will create a ground cover mosaic that will promote herbaceous plant species, while also retaining some palmetto cover for game and non-game wildlife species. Inclusion of periodic spring and summer prescribed burns in the typical burn regime will likely benefit native plant communities and wildlife.

Control of wildfires and the proper application of prescribed fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is important for FFS to address. Any current or future encroachment by development near RPSF may present smoke and fire management challenges.

1. Fire Management

FFS will develop a fire management plan that will serve as a working tool and an informational document for RPSF. The plan will provide guidelines regarding wildfire suppression and prescribed fire management. It will specify burn units, burn unit prescriptions, appropriate fire return intervals, and fire 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 RPSF 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, 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 perpetuating existing wildlife populations in Florida. Forest operation records and staff experience should be combined with the FNAI inventory and assessment (2007) to identify areas that may require mechanical 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 (Rule 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 higher burn 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. Wildfires, Prevention, Fire / Prescribed Fire 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 Waccasassa 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.

FFS has three paramount considerations regarding wildfires, and these are listed 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 RPSF Fire Management Plan.

1. Suppression Strategies

If a wildfire occurs on RPSF 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 fires 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 condition 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 absolutely 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. Fire Breaks and Firelines

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

During wildfire suppression, the use of water and foam, permanent fire breaks, natural barriers, and existing roads and trails for firelines can be used when human life safety, property, and resource considerations allow. Plowed and/or bulldozed 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. Plow and bulldozed lines will be rehabilitated and BMPs implemented as soon as practical after the fire is suppressed.

4. Sensitive Areas

RPSF has 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 RPSF. When possible, fire staff will avoid line construction in wetland ecotones throughout the forest.

5. Firewise Communities

Communities in wildfire prone areas must work together to be fully prepared for wildfire. A “Fire Adapted Community” incorporates people, buildings, businesses, infrastructure, cultural resources, and natural areas to prepare for the effects of wildfire. The Fire Adapted Community concept serves as an umbrella to the various programs that help communities become more fire adapted. The FFS has implemented the Fire Adapted Community concept for prevention statewide. Specifically, in the area adjacent to or nearby RPSF, efforts have included identifying Communities at Risk through the web-based South WRAP (Southern Area Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal) and working with communities to become Firewise.

6. Adjacent Neighbor Contacts

The staff at RPSF maintains a list of neighbors that have requested they be notified in advance of prescribed burns. These individuals 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 wildfire and prescribed burn on the state forests to assess impacts on timber and habitat. Based on the evaluations, decisions will be made on timber salvage operations. A historical fire record for all fires and prescribed burns will be maintained. This will be accomplished using the burn plans in the Forester’s files and through the maintenance of GIS data. These records are intended to provide data for future management decisions.

C. Sustainable Forestry & 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 RPSF:

- a. To restore and maintain forest health and vigor through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and reforestation, both naturally and artificially, with species native to the site.
- b. To create, through natural 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 RPSF will be directed toward improving forest health,

wildlife habitat, ecological and economical sustainability, as well as toward recovery from past management practices 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 natural species of both overstory and groundcover. 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 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the State Forest Handbook, and will follow the Five-Year Silviculture Management Plan.

The goal on RPSF is to promote and achieve natural regeneration on all the natural stands of longleaf through the use of prescribed fire. Artificial regeneration will be utilized if the natural means does not yield the necessary results. In addition, if mechanical or chemical treatments are used to aid in the establishment of longleaf pine, treatments will be selected that result in the desired effects on all site species. Chemically treated sites will leave residual oaks to benefit wildlife.

The natural longleaf pine timber stands at RPSF are currently in the development phase of stand structure (three age classes) needed to utilize uneven-aged timber management. Therefore, uneven-aged management will be the preferred method. There is no target rotation age for un-even aged managed timber stands. Stand dynamics is based upon maintaining stand basal area between 60-80 square feet per acre. Individual tree selection and group tree selection are the preferred timber harvest methods to use in order to maintain this basal area range.

Planted longleaf pine stands will utilize the even-aged management system to eventually achieve the natural looking stand characteristics. Row thinnings, selective tree thinnings, group selection, shelterwood, and clearcuts may all be required to introduce a natural look to these pine plantations. Mechanical and chemical treatments may be required to impact the bahiagrass ground cover and allow natural regeneration and the reintroduction of native groundcover.

One of the goals of RPSF is to practice sustainable forest management. In order to achieve this goal, an accurate timber inventory must be completed, and timber harvests carefully selected to achieve true even and uneven aged management. Because of the limited commercial volumes there has been only one timber harvest on RPSF since the State acquired the property. As the large class of non-commercial size trees move into the commercial size class in the next ten years, initial timber harvests on RPSF may continue.

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 RPSF 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, sand pine, slash pines, and mixed hardwoods.

4. Timber Sales

Timber sales are generally 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 and in accordance with Forestry Policy and Procedures.

D. Non-Native Invasive Species Control

FFS employees continually monitor the forest for non-native invasive species while conducting management activities. FFS will locate, identify, and apply control measures with the intent to eradicate or control non-native invasive species.

On-going maintenance and monitoring strategies are outlined in the Five-Year Ecological Management Plan which is developed to locate, identify, and control non-native invasive plant species. Occurrences of non-native invasive species are recorded in the RPSF 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 in an effort to cooperate on control measures. FFS works to control the spread of non-native 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 non-native invasive animals. Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) have been present on RPSF in the past but are not known to occur in any substantial numbers at this time. FWC has issued a feral hog control permit to FFS for all state forests and FFS will allow for hog removal on RPSF through trapping and hunting if necessary.

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

Table 6. Non-Native Invasive Plant Species Occurring on RPSF

Scientific Name	Common Name	Treatment Strategy	Acres Impacted	Increasing /Decreasing
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Cogon grass	Herbicide	5	Stable
<i>Melenis repens</i>	Natal grass	Herbicide/hand removal	5	Increasing
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa	Herbicide	3	Stable
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Tuberous sword fern	Herbicide	2	Stable
<i>Coloscacia esculenta</i>	Wild taro	Herbicide/hand removal	.20	Stable
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern	Herbicide	.01	Stable
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral hog	Consult FWC as needed		Low/stable

All species being managed are Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Category 1 or 2 species. Staff also scouts for and manages Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas and Early Detection Rapid Response species when found.

E. Insects, Disease and Forest Health

Management strategies will include restoration and maintenance of native species and natural plant communities, natural prescribed fire regimes specific for plant communities, site-appropriate tree plantings, and the natural regeneration of native species. In addition, the control or elimination of invasive and non-native species will promote overall good forest health.

There are no known insects and disease problems on RPSF. Forest management practices will be conducted in such a way as to avoid insect and disease problems. In the event of an outbreak of any disease or insects, consultation with the Forest Management Bureau's Forest Health Section will be sought to formulate an appropriate and effective response. Specific long-range strategies to avoid and/or minimize losses to such outbreaks in the future will be the management objective. State forest management staff will consult with the Forest Health Section to develop scientifically sound responses and/or management prescriptions.

In compliance with Section 388.4111, Florida Statutes 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 agencies in Marion County will be notified of the approval of this plan documenting this designation. [Exhibit W]

As a result, prior to conducting any arthropod control activities on RPSF, 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 RPSF. This public land control plan must be in compliance with DACS guidelines and using the appropriate DACS form. The plan must then be approved and mutually adopted by the county, FFS, and DACS, 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. [Exhibit W]

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, or are anticipated to include:

1. Herbicide applications
2. Restoration activities
3. Tree reforestation
4. Timber harvesting
5. Biological assessments and mapping
6. Boundary/State Forest Surveys

VII. Proposed Management Activities for Natural Communities

In 2007, FNAI completed an inventory and natural community mapping project on RPSF and a historic natural community type map was created. [Exhibit Q] Current natural communities and cover types can be found in [Exhibit P].

Table 7. Current Natural Communities (Acres)

Natural Community Type	Current Natural Community (Approximate Acres*)
Depression Marsh	153
Mesic Flatwoods	17
Mesic Hammock	281
Sandhill	1,893
Scrubby Flatwoods	366
Xeric Hammock	300
Other Altered Landcover Types**	510

* Note rounding errors exist in category totals

** See Table 8

Table 8. Other Altered Landcover Types Found on RPSF

Altered Landcover Type*	Current Acres Mapped
Utility Corridor	100
Restoration Natural Community	410

*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. 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 operational plan for prescribed burning and other operational plans across the forest. Strategies may include thinning of pine plantations, 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 and/or hardwood sprouting. Fire return intervals are included as a guide (Table 9) and may vary depending upon specific conditions. The intention is to use prescribed fire in a manner and frequency that will attain the desired goals. Prescribed fire frequency and timing is generally adjusted depending upon the conditions of the specific area.

Table 9. Prescribed Fire Interval Guide on RPSF

Habitat Type	Historic Fire Return Intervals*	RPSF Fire Frequency Goal (Local)	Comments
Depression Marsh	1 - 8	2-5	Frequent fire will help reduce unwanted woody species and reduce oak encroachment.
Mesic Flatwoods	2 - 4	3-5	
Mesic Hammock	1 - 8	5-100+	Burning surrounding communities will establish a more natural ecotone.
Sandhill	1 - 3	2-3	
Scrubby Flatwoods	3 - 8	3-5	
Xeric Hammock	Varies	3-5 Periphery, Interior 100+	

* As determined by FNAI

The following community descriptions, existing condition descriptions, and management recommendations are taken from a 2007 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 RPSF.

To achieve the objectives outlined in this plan, the following management activities will be performed in the natural communities at RPSF 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. Depression Marsh

Description:

Depression marsh is a herbaceous wetland found in small, shallow depressions. The vegetation often occurs in concentric bands along the hydrologic gradient, and has a diverse herbaceous community dominated by grasses and sedges in all but deep-water areas. A canopy is absent, and the shrub stratum very open. The shrub buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) may be locally common and peelbark St. John's wort (*Hypericum fasciculatum*) is infrequent. The dominant herbaceous groundcover may have blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum*), shortspike bluestem (*Andropogon brachystachyus*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), broomsedge bluestem

(*Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*), big carpetgrass (*Axonopus furcatus*), flatsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), witchgrass (*Dichanthelium* spp.), flattened pipewort (*Eriocaulon compressum*), southern umbrellasedge (*Fuirena scirpoidea*), Small's bogbutton (*Lachnocaulon minus*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), swamp smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora* spp.), sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), and yellow hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*). The deeper water areas include hairy smartweed (*Polygonum hirsutum*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora inundata*), and water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*).

Current Conditions:

RPSF has an extensive high-quality marsh system in the north central section and scattered smaller depressions elsewhere. These depression marshes are generally in good condition with little woody plant encroachment. One large depression marsh in the north end has an artificial dike around its perimeter. The large marshes are part of Ross Prairie which continues north onto the adjacent Cross Florida Greenway. This series of depressions range from about five to more than 50 acres, and are often separated by narrow ridges of uplands. Although they are sometimes quite large, they are not considered to be basin marsh as they are generally very shallow and regularly dry out completely. During our survey, standing water was present only in a few deep holes.

The composition of the vegetation varies with location and depth of the depression. The smaller and shallower marshes may have mesic or even xeric plant species mixed with wetland species because of recent drought conditions. A canopy is generally absent, but may include an occasional slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The shrub buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is widespread and common, frequently persisting in the most dry and shallow marshes, and even spreading into adjacent upland hammock. Other infrequent shrubs include peelbark St. John's wort (*Hypericum fasciculatum*), rusty staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*), prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*), live oak seedlings, coastalplain willow (*Salix caroliniana*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*). The herbaceous groundcover has blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum*), shortspike bluestem (*Andropogon brachystachyus*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*), big carpetgrass (*Axonopus furcatus*), cladina lichen (*Cladina evansii*), flatsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), witchgrass (*Dichanthelium* spp.), dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), falsefennel (*Eupatorium leptophyllum*), southern umbrellasedge (*Fuirena scirpoidea*), rush (*Juncus* spp.), Small's bogbutton (*Lachnocaulon minus*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), swamp smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora* spp.), sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), and yellow hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*). Hairy smartweed (*Polygonum hirsutum*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora inundata*), and water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) occur in deeper holes.

Fire Regimes:

Depression marshes likely burned irregularly every 1 to 8 years depending on water levels at the time of fires on the landscape. Historically, fires generally occurred early in the lightning season (April-June) when water was low and surrounding communities were dry.

Management Needs:

Fire suppression or burning only during winter months when the depressions hold water allows establishment of shrubs or trees. This may eventually reduce the hydroperiod and lead to succession of the community to wet flatwoods. Fire should be prescribed in the surrounding community at a time when water in the marshes is low or absent (late winter to mid-summer), allowing fires to burn through the marsh. Depression marsh requires frequent fire every two to five years to eliminate woody trees and shrubs. Roads and firebreaks should not be located on the periphery of the depression marshes. Off-road vehicle trails through marshes should be eliminated wherever possible.

The potential to remove a dike system around a 29-acre depression marsh was evaluated in the last planning period by the Forest Hydrology section (Robin Holland - Diked Wetland Assessment 2017). After consultation with SWFWMD staff on this report, no decisions have been made and this project is still ongoing.

B. Mesic Flatwoods**Description:**

Mesic flatwoods is an upland forest with an understory composed of varying mixtures of shrubs and grasses. The target condition has a canopy of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) covering a shrub stratum of five feet or less. Ideally, fire should be used to maintain the short shrub layer, typically dominated by saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), to less than 75 percent cover to allow ample light for herbaceous species. The groundcover should be diverse and be dominated by wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*). Weedy cover should be less than 5 percent.

Current Conditions:

On RPSF, mesic flatwoods occur only in very limited areas, often as small pockets at the bottom of sandhill ridges. The mesic flatwoods generally have high fuel loads and need more frequent fire to increase groundcover quality. The extreme eastern side has the largest pocket of mesic flatwoods at RPSF. The canopy has mature longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) over a sub-canopy of young longleaf pine, bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*), myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The shrub layer is dominated by dense saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), with occasional taller American holly (*Ilex opaca*), myrtle oak, sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*). The depauperate herbaceous cover has broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*) but lacks wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*).

Fire Regimes:

Historically, fires ignited by lightning during the early thunderstorm season (April-June) would burn the mesic flatwoods every 2 to 4 years. Mesic flatwoods depend on frequent, low-intensity fires to maintain an open structure and diverse herbaceous layer.

Management Needs:

Management goals for mesic flatwoods should focus on frequent prescribed fires. Timing

of fires should ideally be during the early lightning season or as close to this period as possible. New ground disturbances should be avoided to prevent establishment of weedy species.

C. Mesic Hammock

Description:

Mesic hammock is an upland forest community of evergreen broadleaved trees occurring in naturally fire-protected areas. Mesic hammock typically has a closed canopy of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), and infrequent longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus*), red bay (*Persea borbonia*), laurel oak, live oak, and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) make up the subcanopy. The shrub layer is sparse to moderate and dominated by sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), with lesser amounts of American holly (*Ilex opaca*), red bay, laurel oak, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), Darrow's blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), and deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*). The groundcover is mainly partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) with occasional sarsaparilla vine (*Smilax pumila*). The epiphytes green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*), resurrection fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*), and Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) are common.

Current Conditions:

At RPSF, mesic hammock of high quality occurs along the perimeter of the depression marshes in the northern half of the forest. It often intergrades with xeric hammock making the border hard to distinguish on current aerial photographs. The mature mesic hammock contains a vigorous and large population of the state threatened three-bird's orchid (*Triphora trianthophoros*). The mesic hammock and orchid population extend north onto Cross Florida Greenway property. The slight increase in acreage is probably because of infrequent fires that allows mesic hammock to spread slightly into sandhill around the depression marshes.

Fire Regimes:

Fires rarely occur in mesic hammock because of its protected location along wetlands. Lightning ignited fires spreading from surrounding uplands likely occurred every 1 to 8 years, and probably few were able to burn into the hammock.

Management Needs:

Prescribed burns in the adjacent natural communities should naturally extinguish along the hammock edge. Firebreaks in the mesic hammock should be discouraged to help minimize invasion by weedy or non-native invasive species.

D. Sandhill

Description:

Sandhill is a xeric upland community characterized by a pine canopy with an understory of deciduous oaks and fairly dense groundcover on well-drained hills of sand. Sandhill has a canopy of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) with a subcanopy of turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*) and sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*). Pine recruitment is high with numerous saplings

and seedlings. Other subcanopy species include bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*) and sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*). The open shrub strata include woolly pawpaw (*Asimina incana*), bigflower pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*), garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), sand holly (*Ilex ambigua*), gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), rusty staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), pricklypear (*Opuntia humifusa*), wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus*), silk bay (*Persea borbonia* var. *humilis*), sand live oak, laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), bluejack oak, turkey oak, sand post oak, myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), rufous Florida bully (*Sideroxylon rufohirtum*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), Darrow's blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), and Adam's needle (*Yucca filamentosa*). The groundcover is a diverse mix of short shrubs and herbs with a small percentage of bare sand. The diverse groundcover is dominated by wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*) and pineywoods dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*). Other herbaceous species are Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subcaulis*), capillary hairsedge (*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*), coastalplain chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), tread softly (*Cnidioscolus stimulosus*), wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum tomentosum*), eastern milkpea (*Galactia regularis*), frostweed (*Helianthemum corymbosus*), skyblue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*), sandhill spiny pod (*Matelea pubiflora*), coastalplain palafox (*Palafoxia integrifolia*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), lopsided indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), and queensdelight (*Stillingia sylvatica*). Weedy cover should be less than five percent.

Current Conditions:

Sandhill covers the majority of RPSF, much of it in good to excellent condition. The rolling hills on the western side have the highest species diversity due to a history of more frequent, recent fires. Mature to older mature longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) form the canopy. Pine recruitment is high with numerous saplings and seedlings. Younger mature pines, abundant turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and occasional sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) make up the subcanopy. The shrub strata are very open with very little saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The sandhill on the east side is similar but has a higher percentage of younger mature pines. Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is abundant in some sections, and occasional small pockets of xeric hammock and sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) dot the area. In contrast, large parts of the eastern section north of SW 145 Street remain overgrown with mature oaks and sand pine. Recent prescribed burning has begun to improve conditions in this area. The decrease in acreage is a result of infrequent fires allowing xeric hammock to cover former sandhill.

Typical sandhill vegetation at RPSF has a canopy of longleaf pine over turkey oak and sand live oak. Other tree species include sand pine, laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), and sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*). The open shrub strata includes woolly pawpaw (*Asimina incana*), bigflower pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*), garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), sand holly (*Ilex ambigua*), gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), rusty staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), pricklypear (*Opuntia humifusa*), wild olive (*Osmanthus*

americanus), silk bay (*Persea borbonia* var. *humilis*), sand live oak, laurel oak, bluejack oak, turkey oak, sand post oak, myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), rufous Florida bully (*Sideroxylon rufohirtum*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), Darrow's blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), and Adam's needle (*Yucca filamentosa*). The diverse groundcover is dominated by wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*) and pineywoods dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*). Other herbaceous species are Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), capillary hairsedge (*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*), coastalplain chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), cladina lichen (*Cladina subtenuis*), tread softly (*Cnidioscolus stimulosus*), wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum tomentosum*), eastern milkpea (*Galactia regularis*), frostweed (*Helianthemum corymbosus*), skyblue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*), sandhill spiny pod (*Matelea pubiflora*), coastalplain palafox (*Palafoxia integrifolia*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), and queensdelight (*Stillingia sylvatica*).

Numerous gopher tortoise burrows are located throughout the sandhill. The gopher tortoise population should expand as the sandhill is burned on a regular schedule.

Fire Regimes:

Historically, fires ignited by lightning during the early thunderstorm season (April-June), would have spread across the landscape every 1-3 years. This would keep the number of oaks to a low level and increase the herbaceous groundcover.

Management Needs:

Most of the sandhill on RPSF has been under a regular prescribed fire regime. Prescribed fire may be applied in both dormant and growing season periods.

E. Scrubby Flatwoods

Description:

Scrubby flatwoods are characterized by a canopy of pine trees with a xeric shrubby understory growing on well drained white sand. Vegetation is a combination of scrub and mesic flatwoods species. Flatwoods with a high scrub oak component are identified as scrubby flatwoods. On RPSF it occurs on slightly elevated areas within a mesic flatwoods matrix.

The desired future condition for scrubby flatwoods has a canopy of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and/or slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) growing over a less than five-foot-tall shrub stratum dominated by sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), Chapman's oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The groundcover has wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), coastalplain honeycomb-head (*Balduina angustifolia*), capillary hairsedge (*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*), and lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*).

Current Conditions:

Scrubby flatwoods is found covering much of the center of RPSF and in smaller scattered patches elsewhere. The average shrub height varies from three feet in recently burned areas to 15 feet tall or more in long unburned pieces, or chopped areas that have carried fire poorly and grown back as thick coppice. Recent FFS restoration work near the center of Section 10 has knocked down the vegetation to shrubs averaging less than 3 feet tall. The groundcover is generally very sparse because of shrub shading. Typical vegetation is a tree canopy of older mature longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) over a dense shrub stratum dominated by sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), and/or myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), and/or Chapman's oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The oak component of scrubby flatwoods varied with location in RPSF. Some areas have abundant myrtle oak while others are almost entirely a thicket of sand live oak.

Other canopy and subcanopy species include sand live oak, laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*). Shrub strata include gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), rusty staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), bluejack oak, turkey oak, dwarf live oak (*Quercus minima*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), and shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*). Herbaceous species include shortspike bluestem (*Andropogon brachystachyus*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*), coastalplain honeycomb-head (*Balduina angustifolia*), capillary hairsedge (*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*), and lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*).

Inclusions of more xeric scrub within scrubby flatwoods have indicators like patches of bare sand, sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), and xeric shrubs such as Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*), rusty staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*), Chapman's oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), and low density saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Herbaceous species include sand beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*) and the terrestrial lichens *Cladina evansii*, *Cladina subtenuis*, and *Cladonia leporina*.

Fire Regimes:

Scrubby flatwoods generally burn slightly less frequently than the adjacent sandhills. This results from the general incombustibility of the oak litter, as well as the bare sand patches that inhibit the spread of fire. Natural fire frequency is likely every 3 to 8 years, with most burns occurring during late spring and early summer (April-June).

Management Needs:

Recent FFS management practices have been aimed at improving habitat for the listed Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) by reducing the height and density of the shrub. Prescribed burning and mechanical treatments in most scrubby flatwoods areas have reduced shrub height from more than ten feet to two or three feet. This compares favorably with recommended scrub-jay conditions of oaks generally less than six feet tall and 20 percent bare soil. In the future, fires from adjacent sandhill should be allowed to burn into

the scrubby flatwoods. A fire prescription targeting the scrubby flatwoods should be considered if this natural community does not burn after repeated fires in the adjacent sandhill. Some of the areas chopped and burned in 2005 that were colonized by scrub jays are growing a thick mid-story of sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), which is not ideal habitat for Florida scrub-jay.

F. Xeric Hammock

Description:

Xeric hammock is a closed canopy forest, typically oak-dominated, occurring on excessively drained soils that originate from old dune systems. Xeric hammock is often considered an advanced successional stage of sandy upland communities such as sandhill, scrub, and scrubby flatwoods. Xeric hammock may develop naturally through fire protection afforded by a wetland or other natural barrier such as a downward slope.

Xeric hammock has a closed tree canopy of mature sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) and laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*). Other canopy species include longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*), myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Subcanopy species include American holly (*Ilex opaca*), longleaf pine, sand live oak, laurel oak, bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and sand post oak. Shrubs are sand holly (*Ilex ambigua*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus*), sand live oak, laurel oak, myrtle oak, winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), and deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*). Short shrubs add garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), cabbage palm, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*). The groundcover may be absent or include species such as wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*). Vines include yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*).

Current Conditions:

Xeric hammock is frequently an artifact of long-term fire exclusion in sandhill and scrubby flatwoods natural communities. Xeric hammock has become more widespread because of infrequent fires in the past sixty years, and is most prevalent east and south of the large depression marsh at the northern end of RPSF. It also occurs as small pockets throughout RPSF. Historically, it covered a much smaller area than it does currently.

Most xeric hammocks on RPSF are dominated by a closed canopy of mature sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) and laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*). Other canopy species include sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*), myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Subcanopy species include American holly (*Ilex opaca*), longleaf pine, sand live oak, laurel oak, bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and sand post oak. Shrubs are sand holly (*Ilex ambigua*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus*), sand live oak, laurel oak, myrtle oak, winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*),

and deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*). Short shrubs include garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), cabbage palm, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*). Herbaceous species include wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*), coastalplain chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), cladina lichen (*Cladina subtenuis*), needleleaf witchgrass (*Dichanthelium aciculare*), Elliott's milkpea (*Galactia elliotii*), partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sandyfield beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megalocarpa*), and lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*). Vines include yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*).

A representative example of xeric hammock is in the southwest part of the forest. Xeric hammock fills a large shallow bowl downhill from the surrounding sandhill. The closed canopy has a few older mature longleaf pine and abundant sand live oak and laurel oak. The very open sub-canopy consists of sapling oaks and infrequent American holly. The dominant short shrub saw palmetto is very dense in some areas but the many gaps have numerous oak seedlings. Oak leaf litter completely covers the ground. Bracken fern is occasional among the saw palmetto and in the openings. The vine muscadine grape climbs the trees.

Fire Regimes:

Xeric hammocks rarely burn and typically develop after 30 or more years of fire protection. Fires in xeric hammocks are usually catastrophic and may lead to reversion of the xeric hammock to sandhill or scrub. Prescribed fires in surrounding sandhills may be allowed to burn across the ecotone, if firelines or natural barriers are present.

Management Needs:

Some of the xeric hammock should be considered as historically present to maximize diversity in the RPSF landscape. Management activities should maintain current conditions by avoiding disturbances such as firebreaks and off-road vehicle trails.

G. Other Altered Landcover Types

Description:

Other Altered Landcover Types at RPSF have been historically sandhill. Refer to the desired future conditions for sandhill.

Current Conditions:

A corridor across the entire south end of Ross Prairie State Forest has been cleared for an existing high voltage power transmission line. This area historically was sandhill but is mown frequently to minimize the height of the woody vegetation. The shrub stratum includes groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), longleaf pine seedlings (*Pinus palustris*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), pricklypear (*Opuntia humifusa*), bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*), sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The herbaceous layer has bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), Mexican tea (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*), pinebarren flatsedge (*Cyperus retrorsus*), dogfennel (*Eupatorium*

capillifolium), spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), cutleaf eveningprimrose (*Oenothera laciniata*), bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and heartwing dock (*Rumex hastatulus*).

Part of the abandoned pasture in the southwest corner has been planted with longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). Under the young pine is a weedy tangle of sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*), common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and turkey oak.

Fire Regimes:

Refer to the fire regime for sandhill.

Management Needs:

See the management needs for sandhill.

VIII. References

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IX. Glossary of Abbreviations

ARC	Acquisition and Restoration Council
BMP	Best Management Practice
CARL.....	Conservation and Recreation Lands
DACS.....	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DHR	Division of Historical Resources
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FSJ.....	Florida Scrub Jay
FWC.....	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
OALE.....	DACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
OFW.....	Outstanding Florida Waters
OGT	DEP Office of Greenways & Trails
P2000	Preservation 2000
TIITF	Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
RPSF	Ross Prairie State Forest
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST
2019 LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A

Ten Year Management Accomplishment Summary

Site Preparation			
Chop Single Pass	Scrub	No.	180
Timber Sales		Acres	
Marking	Longleaf plantation thin	Acres	221
Cruising		Acres	221
Harvest		Acres	221
Timber Inventory	Inventory	Acres	3,522
Invasive Control			
Natal Grass	Sprayed and retreated	Acres	2
Cogon Grass	Sprayed and retreated	Acres	30
Mimosa Tree	Cut, sprayed and retreated	Acres	5
Fire			
	Wildfire	No.	1
		Acres	50
	Prescribed Burning	Acres	9,244
Recreation		No.	
Day Use	Estimated Forest Visitors	No.	5,823
Overnight Camping	Primitive	No.	12
Boundary Maintenance			
Maintenance/Marking	20%/year	Miles	13
I&E Activities			
Programs/Tours		No.	2
Other Activities			
Pine Straw Contract	5-year contract	acres	255

Exhibit B

Boundary and Roads Map

[illegible]

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Map Month/Year: November 2018



Exhibit C

Optimal Management Boundary Map



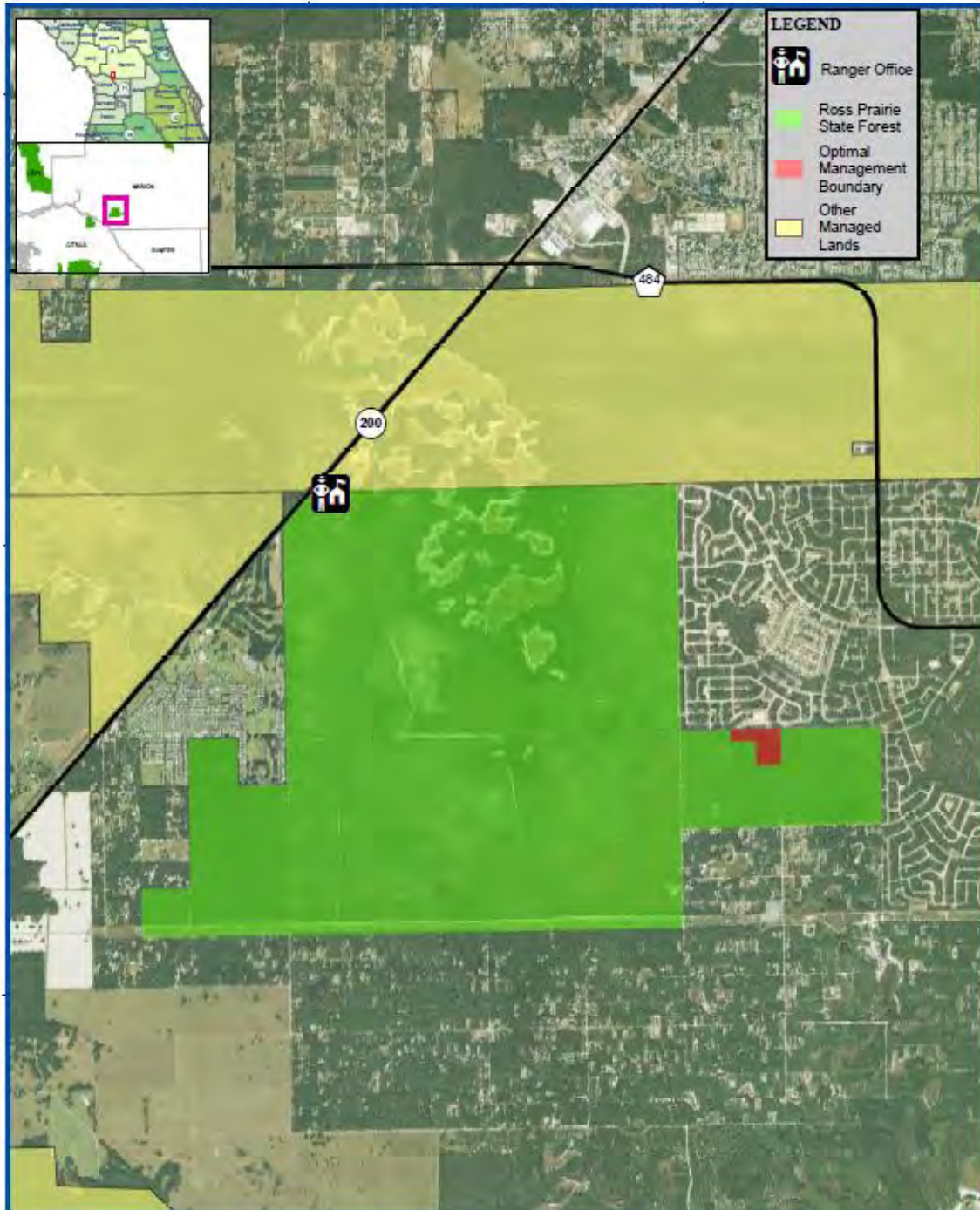
Florida Forest Service

Ross Prairie State Forest Optimal Management Boundary Map

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT DIVISION
1000 N. W. 10th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601-1000

NOTES:
1. This map is a general representation of the Ross Prairie State Forest and is not intended to be used for legal purposes.
2. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.
3. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this map.

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0 0.175 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 Miles

Map Month/Year: February 2018



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

Exhibit D

Facilities, Recreation, and Improvements



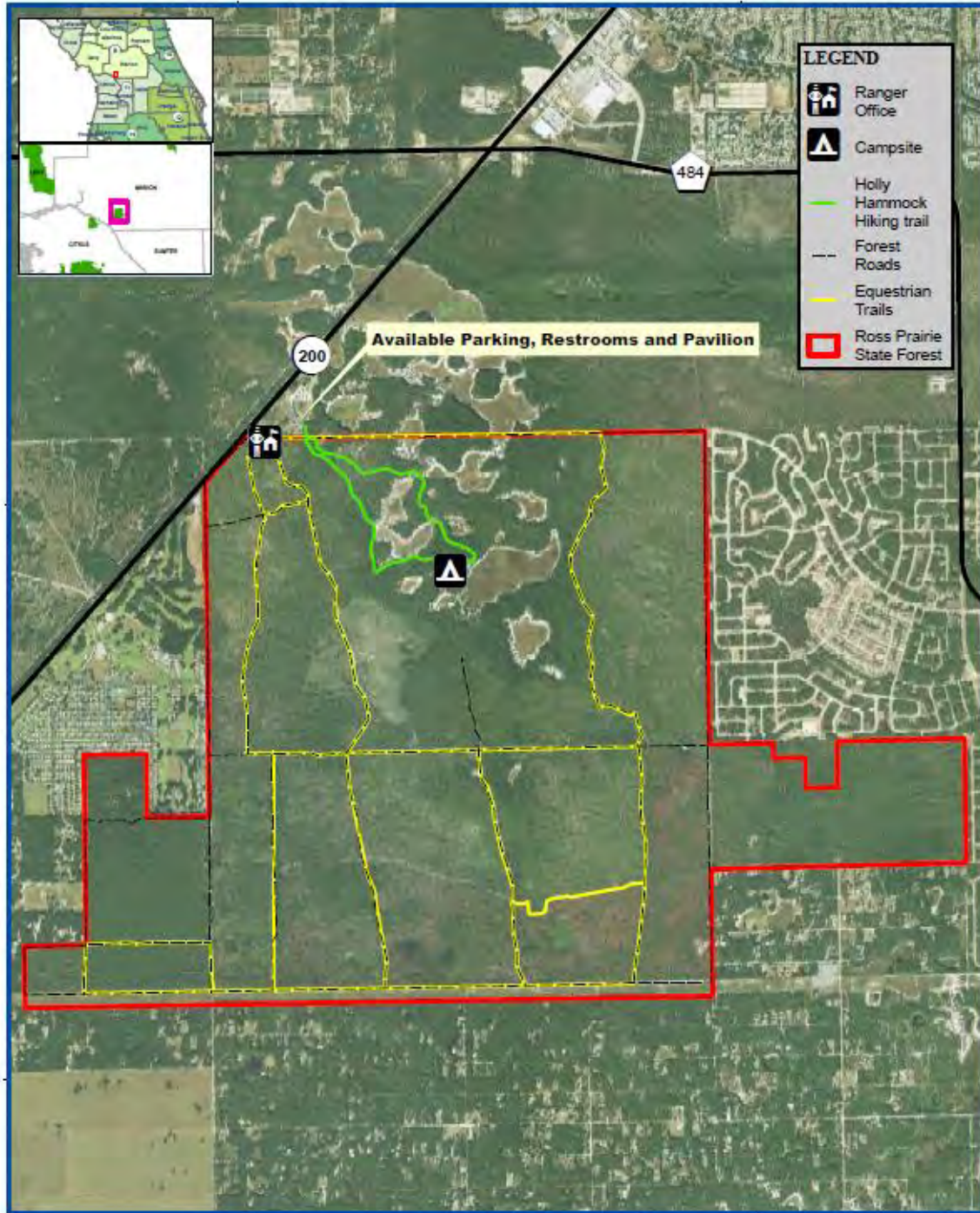
Florida Forest Service

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 1000
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32310-3000

Ross Prairie State Forest Facilities, Recreation, and Improvements Map

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Map Month/Year: February 2018



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Exhibit E

Proximity to Significant Managed Lands



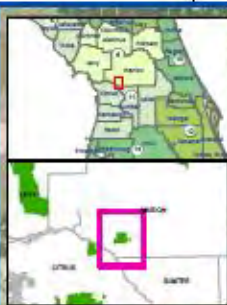
Florida Forest Service

Ross Prairie State Forest Proximity to Significant Managed Lands

Thematic Data: Ross Prairie State Forest
Map Date: 02/2018

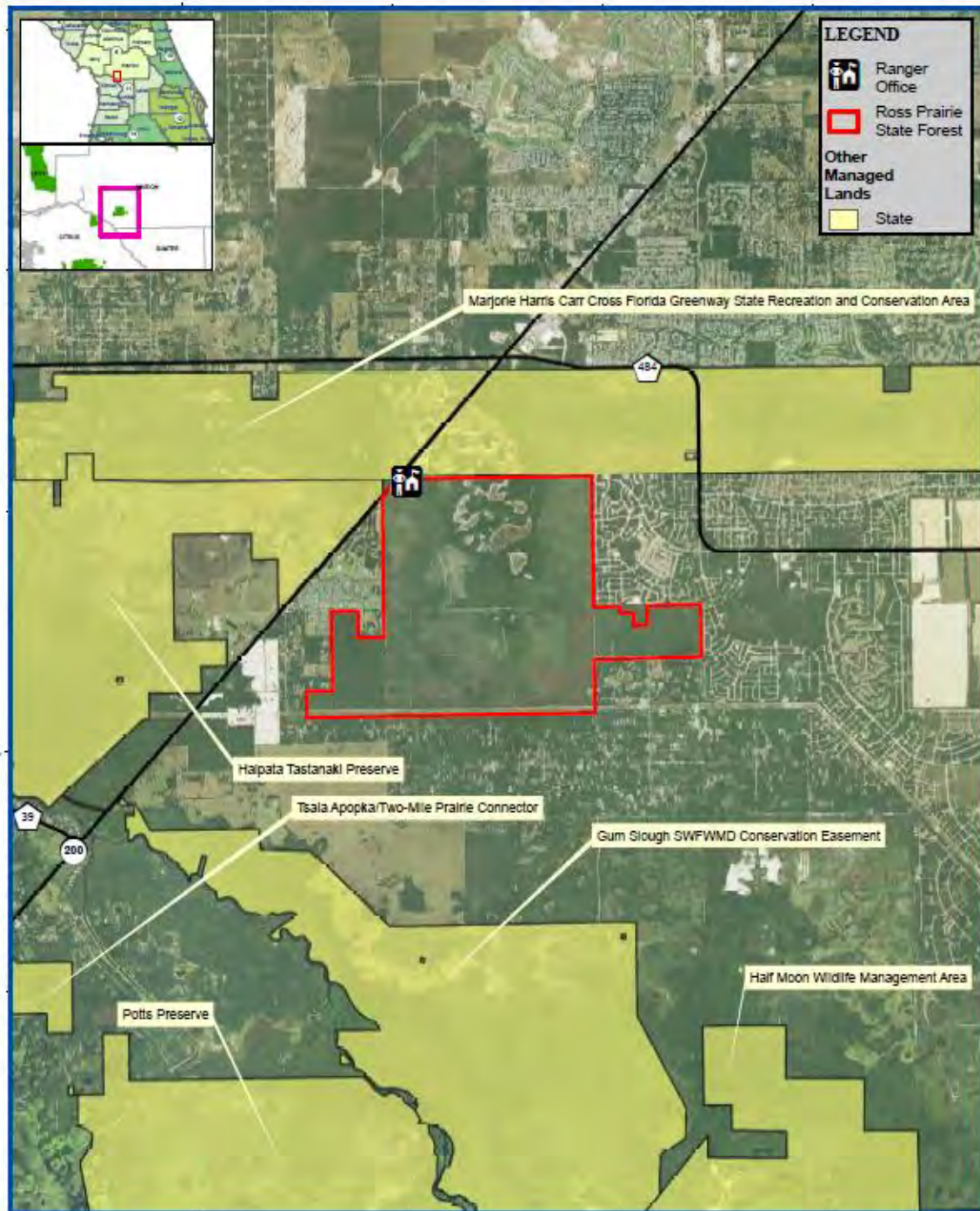
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LEGEND

- Ranger Office
- Ross Prairie State Forest
- Other Managed Lands
- State



0 0.35 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Miles

Map Month/Year: February 2018



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Exhibit F

Florida Forever Projects

Rainbow River Corridor

Citrus and Marion Counties

Partnerships

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Rainbow River Corridor project is designed to protect most of the undeveloped or minimally developed private land remaining along the Rainbow River. The southern parcels would bring a remaining large portion of undeveloped shoreline along the eastern side of the river into state ownership, and provide a connection to the southern end of the Rainbow Springs State Park. Public acquisition of these lands will prevent further development and conflicting land uses that could further degrade the ecological value of this area. In addition, the potential restoration of altered habitats would help restore and maintain water quality and habitat along one of Florida's largest spring-run streams. This project meets several Florida Forever goals, including those of increasing biodiversity protection by conserving 916 acres of rare species habitat, of preserving landscape linkages and conservation corridors by preserving 1,062 acres of ecological greenways, of protecting surface waters of the state by preserving 1,154 acres that provide surface-water protection, of preserving aquifer recharge areas, and by increasing natural-resource based recreation opportunities by filling several land gaps between sections of the Rainbow River State Park.

Manager

The property is proposed to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). DRP would assume management of the parcels east of the river and a parcel identified as the FNAI A1 addition, which is adjacent to the state park. The A1 addition is in Section 12 of Township 16 South, Range 18 East, on the north side of Southwest 77th Loop.

Rainbow River Corridor FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

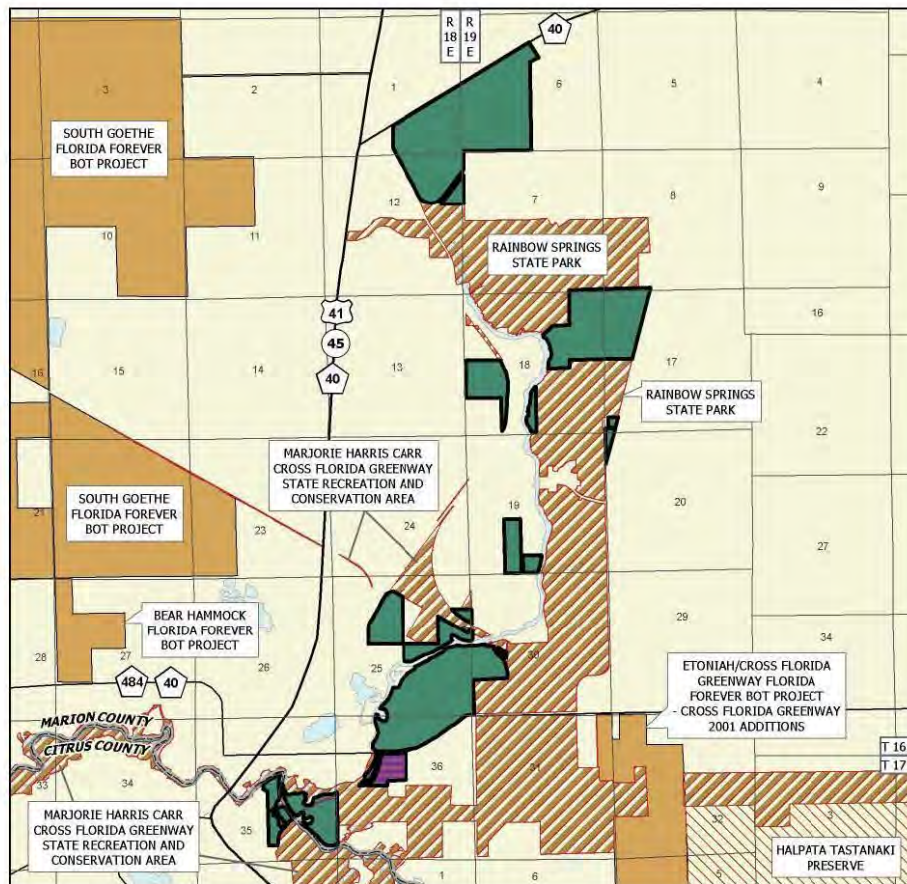
OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

The DRP notes that much of this is a full-fee acquisition adjacent to the park, which will mean that public access will be provided across the acquired parcel for varied natural resource recreation currently offered within the park, along with water-based recreation.

General Description

The Rainbow River, actually a large spring-run stream, is a state-designated Aquatic Preserve and Outstanding Florida Water that runs southward for approximately six miles before entering the Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon. The State Park encompasses the headwaters, with a first magnitude spring considered Florida's fourth largest, as well as much of the eastern side of the northern 60 percent of the river. This river is one of the longest spring runs in the world and represents a rare and unique natural resource worldwide. The Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area adjoins a short stretch of the river at Dunnellon, then extends eastward to include a 3/4 mile common boundary inland with the state park; it also includes a tract on the western side of the river but with only two very narrow connections with the river itself. Two of the main goals of acquiring these land parcels are to fill the gaps in existing public lands, Rainbow Springs State Park (RSSP) and Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	1,175
Acres Acquired (GIS)	37
at a Cost of	n/a
Acres Remaining (GIS)	1,138
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,157,483



RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

MARION AND CITRUS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0 0.5 1 2
Miles



JANUARY 2012

Greenway (CFG), that are adjacent to the proposed properties and to provide added protection to this river and the ecosystem that it supports. It would connect the current northern and southern parcels of the park. The proposed acquisitions would provide a more contiguous system of natural areas by creating an intact corridor between conservation lands. It would also provide added protection for the river by safeguarding the remaining undeveloped lands in the already significantly altered waterway.

RRC encompasses a number of disjunct tracts lying to the north of as well as along both eastern and western sides of the river. Nearly all tracts (but not necessarily all ownerships) are contiguous with public lands. The Headwaters Property Group (370 acres) lies north of the river and runs from the state park to SR 40. The Indian Creek Property Group (193 acres), which lies along the eastern side of the river and includes about 1,264 feet of river frontage, shares its northern and southern boundaries with the state park. The Meredith Property (63 acres) is a split parcel with a small tract along the eastern side of the river (ca. 1849 feet frontage) that is completely surrounded by the state park. The larger tract to the west of the river is isolated from the water. The Rainbow River Ranch Property (ca. 247 acres) is north of SR 484 with 5390 feet of frontage along the eastern side of the Rainbow River. The Greenberg Property (89 acres) has ca. 3,298 feet of frontage along the western side of the river, north of Dunnellon. The Blue Run of Dunnellon Property (24 acres) is on the southern side of SR 484, east of the river across from Dunnellon, and has ca. 1,322 feet of river frontage. The Nature Preserves of America property (47 acres) is at the confluence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers, with the Rainbow River forming ca. 2,813 feet of its northern boundary, and the Withlacoochee River forming ca. 3,409 feet of its southern boundary. The FWC has calculated the river frontage as encompassing 15,935 feet.

Public Use

Potential recreation would include hiking, biking, and picnicking. The river frontage could be used as a rest stop for canoeists, kayakers and tubers. The southern triangular 47-acre parcel is heavily forested and has several wetland areas. This property is currently used as the Rainbow River Club and includes several buildings including a clubhouse, cabins for lodging, and boating and cookout facilities. The acquisition and use of the facilities could be continued as park lodging.

administration, park residence and low impact recreation such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking and education if the membership of the current club is dissolved. The northwest, 374-acre parcel would help protect the headsprings recharge area and could provide a suitable site for future park development. The 110-acre Priest parcel is a wetland area and would be limited to passive activities such as hiking, bird watching and kayaking.

Acquisition Planning

On June 15, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rainbow River Corridor project to the A-list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This full-fee project was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, incorporated as RRC, Inc. in a proposal submitted on December 30, 2006. It has about 1,183 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$1,157,483.

On March 28, 2008 the City of Dunnellon acquired 32.4 acres of this project for a riverside park on the south side of Highway 484 (the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property). Funds came from the City (\$320,000) and a grant from the Florida Communities Trust (\$2,606,164.50). The city manages this site.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. worked with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and submitted the application to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) for acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands is already pursuing a portion of this area (Rainbow River Ranch property) that is within the park optimum boundary, on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

Management Policy Statement

DRP will manage its property under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow River State Park. The OGT-manages its portion under the single-use concept as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. The primary objective of management of the Rainbow River project is to preserve the water quality of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers and Rainbow Springs by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring and providing and ensuring that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of

the park will continue to be enjoyed by the public. Precluding major residential and commercial development along the river will assist efforts to preserve water quality, as well as wildlife habitat in this fast developing region.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The project will be included in the management of the Rainbow River State Park. The site can be used for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Rainbow River State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Public use of the cabins and recreational facility on the southern parcel may be continued. Portions managed by OGT will be included in the management of the Greenway. The site can be utilized for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Greenway, hunting would not be permitted.

Manager DRP is recommended as the lead manager for the parcels on the east side of the river. OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

Conditions affecting intensity of management The Rainbow River project will be a high-need management area with emphasis on perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly as related to the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River, and compatible resource-based recreation. An evaluation of the condition of existing structures will need to be completed. The OGT portion of the Rainbow River project will emphasize perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River,

and compatible resource-based recreation. Both managing agencies will need an evaluation of the condition of existing structures. Public use of existing structures, such as those existing on the southern parcel, and the addition of any other infrastructure for the lands added to the park will increase the intensity of management. Restoration would require an intensity of management as dictated by study of the site.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to the protection of water quality of adjacent rivers and springs. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security and development of a resource inventory. Long-term management may include a wide range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities. The integration of appropriate public uses will create a recreational linkage between the State Park and land managed by the Office of Greenway and Trails.

Revenue-generating potential The DRP and the OGT expect no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the facilities existing or developed in the future.

Cooperators in management activities The DRP and the OGT will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park and for Greenway purposes.

Edited March 31, 2015

Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$20,000
Expense	\$5,000
OCO	\$26,000
FCO	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$56,000

Management Cost Summary/OGT

Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$25,00
Expense	\$5,00
OCO	\$20,00
FCO	\$5,00
TOTAL	\$55,00

Exhibit G

Archeological and Cultural 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 850-245-6333 for project review information.

July 20, 2017

Alan L. Davis
Land Planning Coordinator
Florida DA&CS
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650
E-mail: Alan.Davis@freshfromflorida.com



Re: Ross Prairie State Forest

In response to your inquiry of July 17, 2017, the Florida Master Site File lists 17 archeological site found at the designated area for Ross Prairie State Forest, Marion County, Florida.

When interpreting the results of our search, please consider the following information:

- 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 850-245-6333.

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

Sincerely,

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



AR=17
 SS=0
 CN=0
 RG=0
 BR=0
 Total=17

Cultural Resource Roster

SiteID	Type	Site Name	Address	Additional Info	SHPO Eval	NR Status
MRO1931	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 3	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1932	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 4	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1933	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 5	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1934	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 6	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1935	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 7	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1936	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 8	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1937	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 9	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1938	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 10	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1939	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 11	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1940	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 12	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1941	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 13	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1942	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 14	Ocala		Eligible	
MRO1943	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 15	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1944	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 16	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO1945	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 17	NONE < 4 MILES		Eligible	
MRO1946	AR	ROSS PRAIRIE 18	NONE < 4 MILES		Not Eligible	
MRO2343	AR	INFERNO	DUNNELLON			

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 March 2013)

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

A. General Discussion

Historic resources are both archaeological sites and historic structures. Per Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, *'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 State Policy relative to historic properties, state agencies of the executive branch must allow the Division of Historical Resources (Division) the opportunity to comment on any undertakings, 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 project, permit, grant, etc.

State agencies shall preserve the historic resources which are owned or controlled by the agency.

Regarding proposed demolition or substantial alterations of historic properties, consultation with the Division must occur, and alternatives to demolition must be considered.

State agencies must consult with Division to establish a program to location, inventory and evaluate all historic properties under ownership or controlled by the agency.

C. Statutory Authority

Statutory Authority and more in depth information can be found at:
<http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/compliance/guidelines.cfm>

D. Management Implementation

Even though the Division sits on the Acquisition and Restoration Council and approves land management plans, these plans are conceptual. Specific information regarding individual projects must be submitted to the Division for review and recommendations.

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. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to: approval of the project as submitted, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Projects such as additions, exterior alteration, or related new construction regarding historic structures must also be submitted to the Division of Historical Resources for review and comment by the Division's architects. Projects involving structures fifty years of age or older, must be submitted to this agency for a significance determination. In rare cases, structures under fifty years of age may be deemed historically significant. These must be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Adverse impacts to significant sites, either archaeological sites or historic buildings, must be avoided. Furthermore, managers of state property should make preparations for locating and evaluating historic resources, both archaeological sites and historic structures.

E. Minimum Review Documentation Requirements

In order to have a proposed project reviewed by the Division, certain information must be submitted for comments and recommendations. The minimum review documentation requirements can be found at:

http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/compliance/docs/minimum_review_documentation_requirements.pdf.

* * *

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

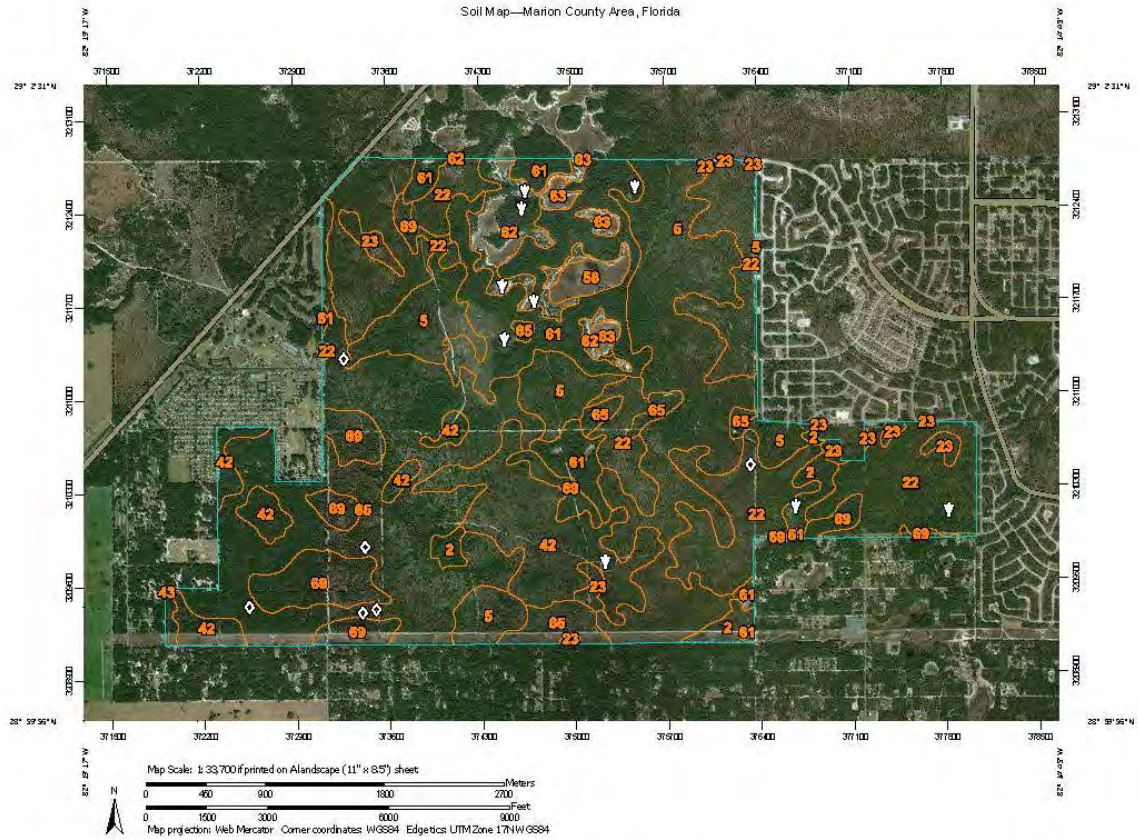
Deena S. Woodward
Division of Historical Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Compliance and Review Section
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Phone: (850) 245-6425
Toll Free: (800) 847-7278
Fax: (850) 245-6435

Exhibit I

Soil Maps and Descriptions

Soil Map—Marion County Area, Florida



USDA
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey

9/6/2017
Page 1 of 3



Map Unit Legend

Marion County Area, Florida (FL608)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2	Adamsville sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	65.4	1.8%
5	Apopka sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	769.7	21.3%
22	Candler sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	767.2	21.2%
23	Candler sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes	58.6	1.6%
42	Jumper fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	342.7	9.5%
43	Kanapaha-Kanapaha, wet, fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	0.1	0.0%
58	Placid sand, depressional	34.1	0.9%
61	Pomona sand	391.6	10.8%
62	Pompano sand	124.0	3.4%
63	Pompano sand, depressional	31.3	0.9%
65	Sparr fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	802.5	22.2%
69	Tavares sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	232.7	6.4%
Totals for Area of Interest		3,619.8	100.0%

Component Legend

This report presents general information about the map units and map unit components in the selected area. It shows map unit symbols and names and the components in each map unit. It also shows the percent of the components in the map units, the kind of component, and the slope range of each component.

Report—Component Legend

Component Legend—Marion County Area, Florida							
Map unit symbol and name	Map unit acres	Pct. of map unit	Component name	Component kind	Pct. slope		
					Low	RV	High
2—Adamsville sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	10,830						
		85	Adamsville	Series	0.0	2.0	5.0
5—Apopka sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	18,853						
		80	Apopka	Series	0.0	3.0	5.0
22—Candler sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	191,809						
		90	Candler	Series	0.0	3.0	5.0
23—Candler sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes	23,493						
		85	Candler	Series	5.0	8.5	12.0
42—Jumper fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5,420						
		85	Jumper	Series	0.0	2.0	5.0
43—Kanapaha-Kanapaha, wet, fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5,890						
		75	Kanapaha	Series	0.0	3.0	5.0
		10	Kanapaha, wet	Series	0.0	3.0	5.0
58—Placid sand, depressional	7,277						
		80	Placid, depressional	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
61—Pomona sand	21,926						
		60	Pomona, non-hydric	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
		20	Pomona, hydric	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
62—Pompano sand	3,324						
		85	Pompano	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
63—Pompano sand, depressional	1,464						
		80	Pompano, depressional	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0

Component Legend—Marion County Area, Florida

Component Legend—Marion County Area, Florida							
Map unit symbol and name	Map unit acres	Pct. of map unit	Component name	Component kind	Pct. slope		
					Low	RV	High
65—Sparr fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	25,620						
		85	Sparr	Series	0.0	2.0	5.0
69—Tavares sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	12,717						
		85	Tavares	Series	0.0	3.0	5.0

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Marion County Area, Florida
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 28, 2016

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)

Marion County Area, Florida

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

Component: Adamsville (85%)

The Adamsville component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on 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 June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 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: Pomona, non-hydric (4%)

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

Component: Candler (4%)

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

Component: Pompano (4%)

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

Component: Tavares (3%)

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

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

Component: Apopka (80%)

The Apopka component makes up 80 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 eolian deposits and/or sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately 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 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: Sparr (6%)

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

Component: Candler (5%)

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

Component: Jumper (5%)

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

Component: Jonesville (4%)

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

Map Unit: 22—Candler sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Candler (90%)

The Candler 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; knolls on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of eolian deposits and/or sandy and loamy 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 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 4s. 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: Tavares (5%)

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

Component: Millhopper (5%)

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

Map Unit: 23—Candler sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes

Component: Candler (85%)

The Candler component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 5 to 12 percent. This component is on ridges on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of eolian deposits and/or sandy and loamy 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: Apopka (6%)

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

Component: Kendrick (5%)

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

Component: Adamsville (3%)

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

Component: Pompano (1%)

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

Map Unit: 42—Jumper fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Jumper (85%)

The Jumper component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 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 somewhat 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 42 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 2w. 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: Sparr (5%)

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

Component: Apopka (5%)

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

Component: Lynne, non-hydric (5%)

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

Map Unit: 43—Kanapaha-Kanapaha, wet, fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Kanapaha (75%)

The Kanapaha component makes up 75 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on rises 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 June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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: Kanapaha, wet (10%)

The Kanapaha, wet component makes up 10 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on sloughs 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 6 inches during June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. 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: Arredondo (5%)

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

Component: Sparr (5%)

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

Component: Blichton (5%)

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

Map Unit: 58—Placid sand, depressional

Component: Placid, depressional (80%)

The Placid, depressional component makes up 80 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 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 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 3 inches during January, February, March, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. 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: Pomona, hydric (7%)

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

Component: Adamsville (7%)

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

Component: Pompano, depressional (6%)

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

Map Unit: 61—Pomona sand

Component: Pomona, non-hydric (60%)

The Pomona, non-hydric component makes up 60 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 May, June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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: Pomona, hydric (20%)

The Pomona, hydric component makes up 20 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 6 inches during May, June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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: Electra (5%)

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

Component: Pompano (5%)

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

Component: Placid (5%)

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

Component: Lynne, non-hydric (5%)

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

Map Unit: 62—Pompano sand

Component: Pompano (85%)

The Pompano component makes up 85 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 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 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. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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: Placid (8%)

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

Component: Pomona, non-hydric (7%)

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

Map Unit: 63—Pompano sand, depressional

Component: Pompano, depressional (80%)

The Pompano, depressional component makes up 80 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 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 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 frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during January, February, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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: Placid, depressional (7%)

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

Component: Anclote (7%)

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

Component: Pomona, hydric (6%)

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

Map Unit: 65—Sparr fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Sparr (85%)

The Sparr component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. This component is on rises 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 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 39 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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: Apopka (4%)

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

Component: Blicton, non-hydric (4%)

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

Component: Arredondo (4%)

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

Component: Jumper (3%)

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

Map Unit: 69—Tavares sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Component: Tavares (85%)

The Tavares component makes up 85 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 eolian or sandy 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 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. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 57 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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 0 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Apopka (6%)

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

Component: Candler (4%)

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

Component: Adamsville (3%)

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

Component: Zolfo (2%)

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

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Marion County Area, Florida

Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 28, 2016

Exhibit J

DEP Outstanding Florida Waters



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

July 20, 2017

Mr. Alan L. Davis
Land Planning Coordinator
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
The Conner Building
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite J-237
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

RE: Ross Prairie State Forest

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the surface water quality classifications on and near Ross Prairie State Forest in Marion County. There are no Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) located on or adjacent to the site. All of the surface waters on or adjacent to the site are classified as Class III waters (subparagraph 62-302.400(17)(b)42., FAC), which is the statewide default classification.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at the letterhead address (mail station 6511), by phone at 850/245-8429, or via E-mail at Eric.Shaw@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Shaw".

Eric Shaw
Environmental Manager
Water Quality Standards Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 6511
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Phone: (850) 245-8429
Email: Eric.Shaw@dep.state.fl.us

Exhibit K

Water Resources Map



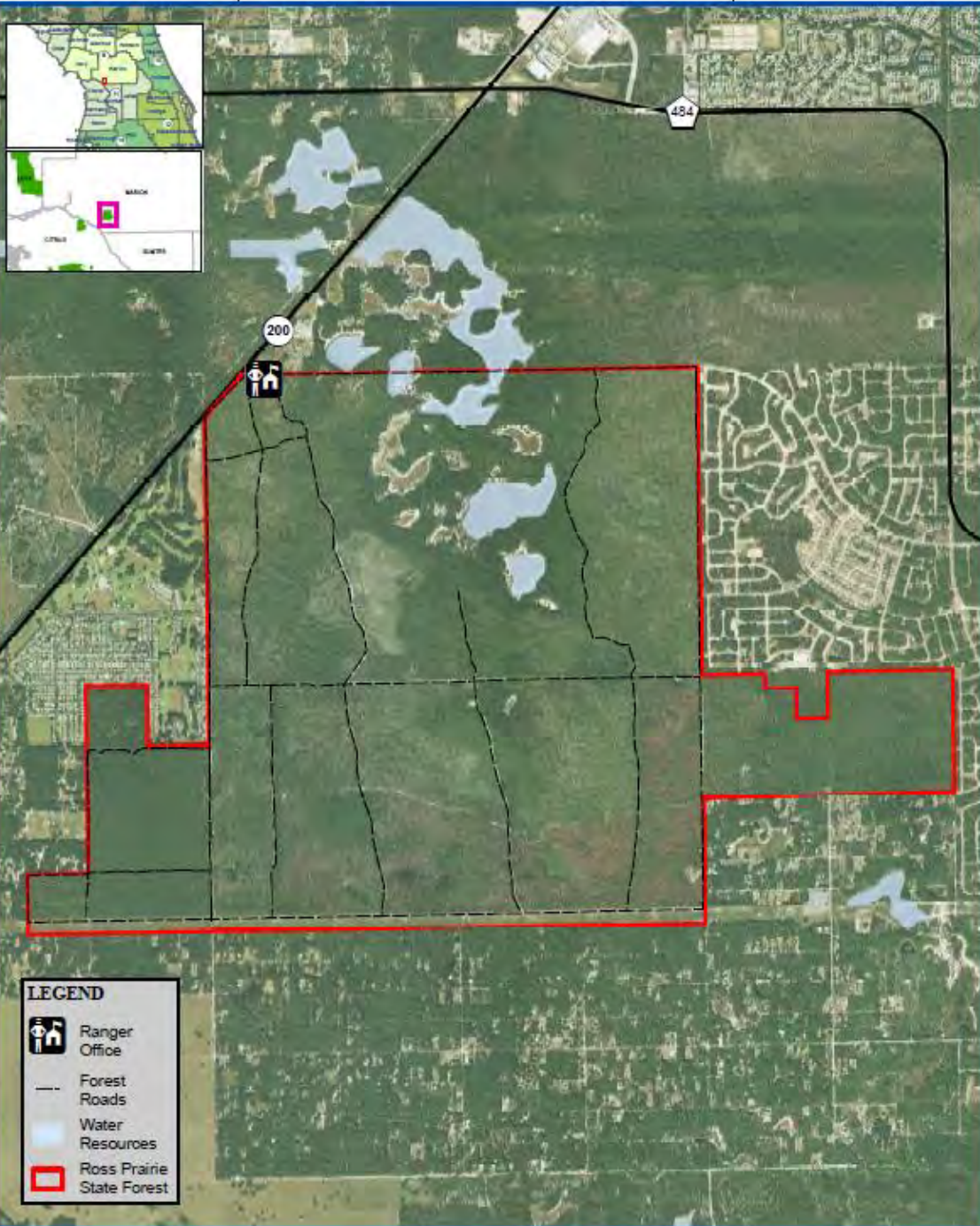
Florida Forest Service

Statewide Forested Wetland Inventory
Map Accuracy: 90% (90% Accuracy)

Ross Prairie State Forest Water Resources Map

Disclaimer:
This map is a general representation of the data and should not be used for legal purposes. 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 injuries resulting from the use of this map.

Map Date: 02/2018
Map Scale: 1:25,000
Map Projection: NAD 83
Map Units: Feet



LEGEND

- Ranger Office
- Forest Roads
- Water Resources
- Ross Prairie State Forest

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

Map Month/Year: February 2018



0 0.225 0.45 0.9 1.35 1.8 Kilometers

Exhibit L

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Response



1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-224-8307
fax 850-681-9364
www.fnai.org

August 9, 2017

Alan Davis
FDACS, Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for requesting information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). We have compiled the following information for your project area.

Project: Ross Prairie State Forest
Date Received: 8/7/2017
Location: Marion County

Based on the information available, this site appears to be located in a significant region of natural areas and habitat for several rare species. Special consideration should be taken to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to these natural resources, and to design land uses that are compatible with these resources.

Based on the information available, this site appears to be located on or very near a significant region of scrub habitat, a natural community in decline that provides important habitat for several rare species within a small area. Additional consideration should be given to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to these natural resources, and to design land uses that are compatible with these resources.

Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that we currently have a few element occurrences mapped in the vicinity of the study area (see managed area summary report). 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.

Federally Listed Species

Our data indicate federally listed species are present on or very near this site (see table for details). This statement should not be interpreted as a legal determination of presence or absence of federally listed species on a property.

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.



Florida Resources
and Environmental
Analysis Center

Institute of Science
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

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.

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.

Florida Scrub-jay Survey – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This survey was conducted by staff and associates of the Archbold Biological Station from 1992 to 1996. An attempt was made to record all scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) groups, although most federal lands were not officially surveyed. Each map point represents one or more groups.

This data layer indicates that there are potential scrub-jay populations on or very near your site. For additional information:

Fitzpatrick, J.W., B. Pranty, and B. Stith. 1994. Florida scrub jay statewide map, 1992-1993. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report. Cooperative Agreement no. 14-16-004-91-950.

Land Acquisition Projects

This site appears to be located within the Long Leaf Pine Florida Forever BOT Project – Ross Prairie Sandhill, which is part of the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands land acquisition program. A description of these projects can be found at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/FFplan_county.htm. For more information on these Florida Forever Projects, contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands.

Florida Forever Board of Trustees (BOT) projects are proposed and acquired through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands. The state has no specific land management authority over these lands until they are purchased.

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/trackinglist.cfm 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.

Exhibit M

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Response



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners

Brian Yablonski
Chairman
Tallahassee

Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy
Vice Chairman
Immokalee

Ronald M. Bergeron
Fort Lauderdale

Richard Hanas
Oviedo

Bo Rivard
Panama City

Charles W. Roberts III
Tallahassee

Robert A. Spottswood
Key West

Executive Staff

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Eric Sutton
Assistant Executive Director

Jennifer Fitzwater
Chief of Staff

**Fish and Wildlife
Research Institute
Gil McRae**
Director

(727) 896-8626
(727) 823-0166 FAX

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

**Fish and Wildlife
Research Institute**
100 Eighth Avenue SE
St. Petersburg, Florida
33701-6020
Voice: (727) 896-8626
Fax: (727) 823-0166
Hearing/speech-impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)
MyFWC.com/Research

8/01/2017

Alan L. Davis
Land Planning Coordinator
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL
32399

Dear Alan Davis:

This letter is in response to your request for listed species occurrence records and critical habitats, Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCA's), on the following properties: Peace River, Newnans Lake SF, Ross Prairie SF, Matanzas SF, Jennings SF, Tate's Hell SF, and Picayune Strand SF. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's database indicates that SHCA's for swallow-tailed kite and Cooper's hawk occur in Newnans Lake. SHCA's for Cooper's hawk, scrubjay, and swallow-tailed kite occur in Peace River. SHCA's for the Florida black bear and the striped newt occur in Jennings SF. Enclosed are 8.5 x 11 maps showing prioritized SHCA's, priority wetlands, and species locations for all projects.

**** Please note:** the SHCAs were developed for the purpose of identifying new areas that may eventually be managed for species conservation. Many public lands were expressly removed from the models and this is why some sites, or portions of sites, have no SHCA. Therefore on maps where there is no visual representation of a SHCA there is a strong possibility that our models would have designated these locations as SHCA had they not already been designated as public or protected lands.

This letter and/or attachments should not be considered as a review or an assessment of the impact upon threatened or endangered species of the project site. It provides FWC's most current data regarding the location of listed species and their associated habitats.

Our SHCA recommendations are intended to be used as a guide. Land development and ownership in Florida is ever-changing and priority areas identified as SHCA might already have been significantly altered due to development or acquired into public ownership. Onsite surveys, literature reviews, and coordination with FWC biologists remain essential steps in documenting the presence or absence of rare and imperiled species and habitats within the project area.

Our fish and wildlife location data represents only those occurrences recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers. Please note that our database does not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Also, data on certain species, such as gopher

tortoises, are not entered into our database on a site-specific basis.
Therefore, one should not assume that an absence of occurrences in our database indicates that species of significance do not occur in the area.

If you have any questions or further requests, please contact me at (850) 488-0588 or gisrequests@myfwc.com

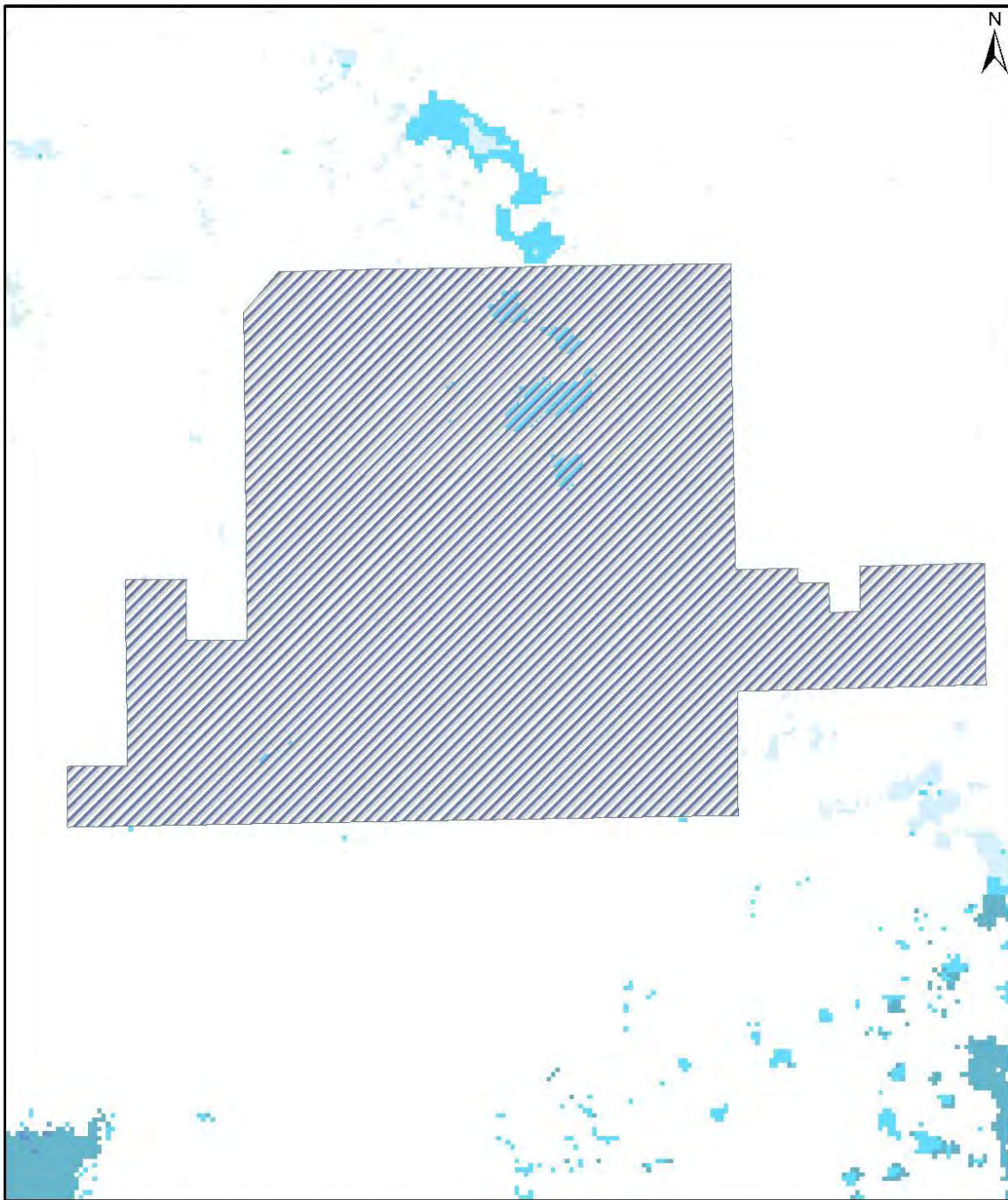
Sincerely,

Eva Salinas

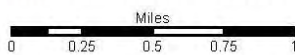
Eva Salinas
Research Assistant

2017_6219
Enclosures





Ross Prairie State Forest



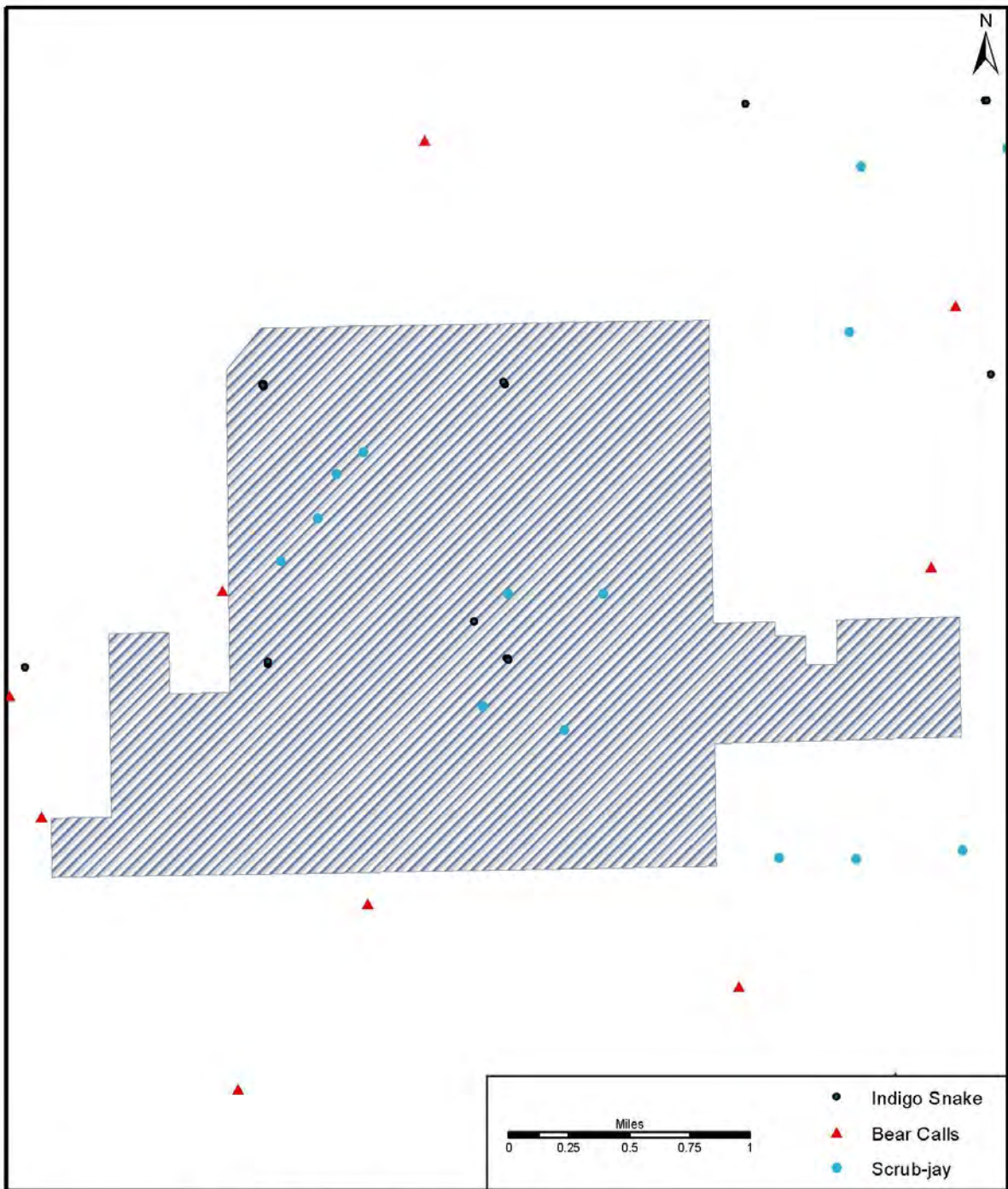
Priority Wetlands

- 1-3 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 4-6 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 7-9 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 10-11 Species, Wetlands habitat



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

FWC ID: 2017_6219 August 1, 2017



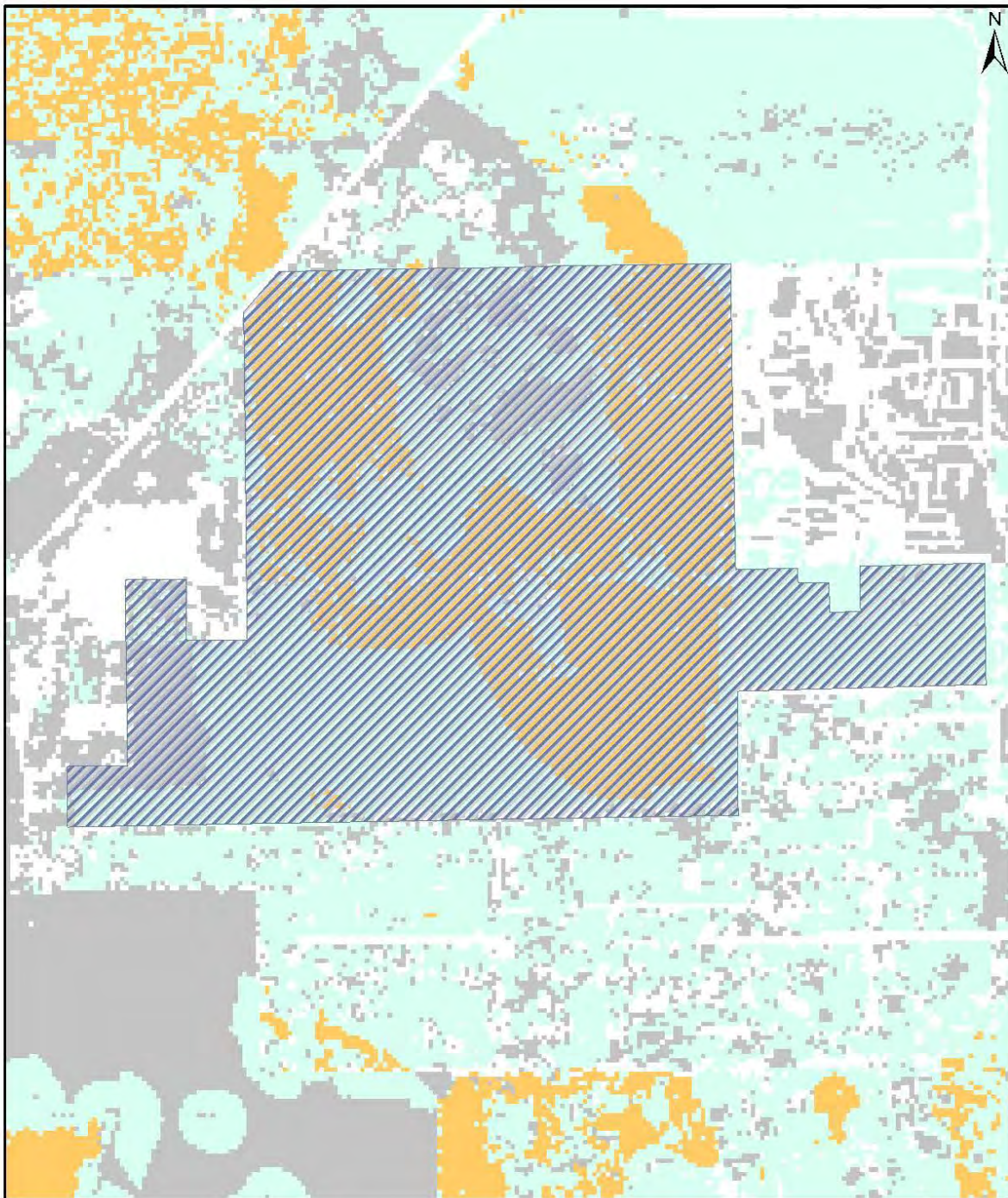
Ross Prairie State Forest

Florida Fish and Wildlife Species Locations

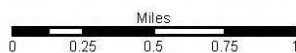


Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

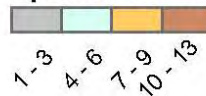
FWC ID: 2017_6219 July 24, 2017



Ross Prairie State Forest



Species Richness



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

FWC ID: 2017_6219 August 1, 2017

Exhibit N

RPSF Fire History

Ross Prairie SF Burn Acres by FY

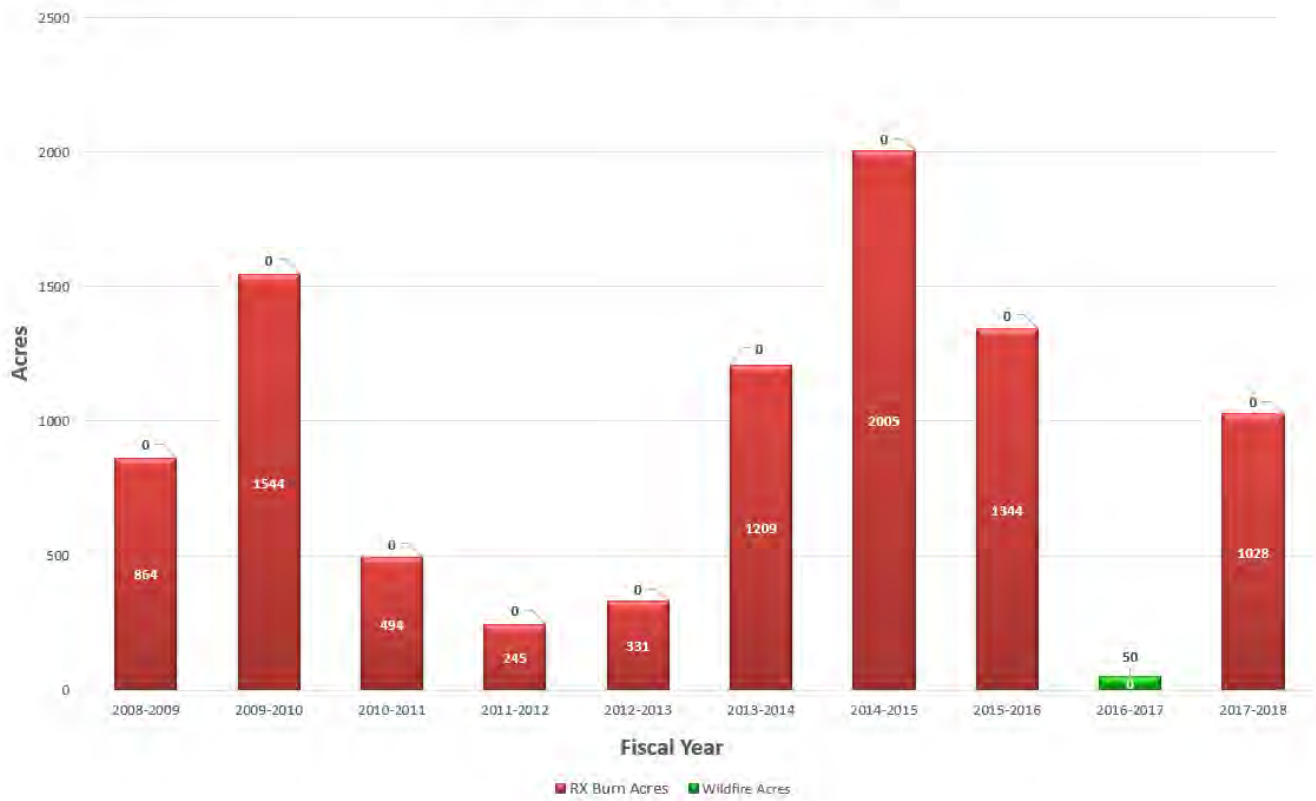


Exhibit O

Non-Native Invasive Species



Florida Forest Service

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1905 W. US HIGHWAY 90, SUITE 100, GAINESVILLE, FL 32609

Ross Prairie State Forest Non-Native Invasive Species Map

Map data is derived from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Forestry's Florida Forest Inventory and Management System (FFIMS) and is subject to change without notice.

Map data is derived from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Forestry's Florida Forest Inventory and Management System (FFIMS) and is subject to change without notice.

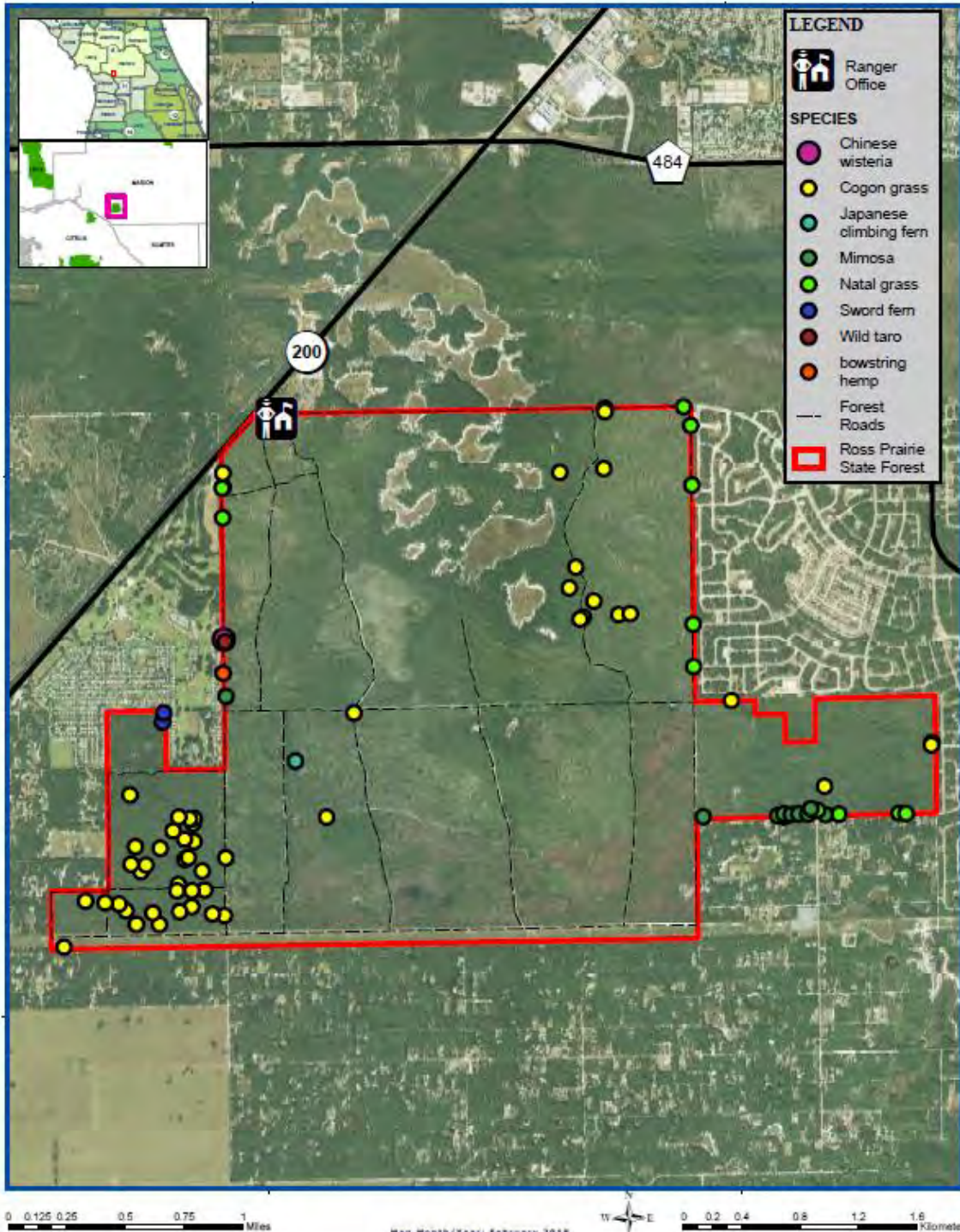


Exhibit P

Current FNAI Natural Communities



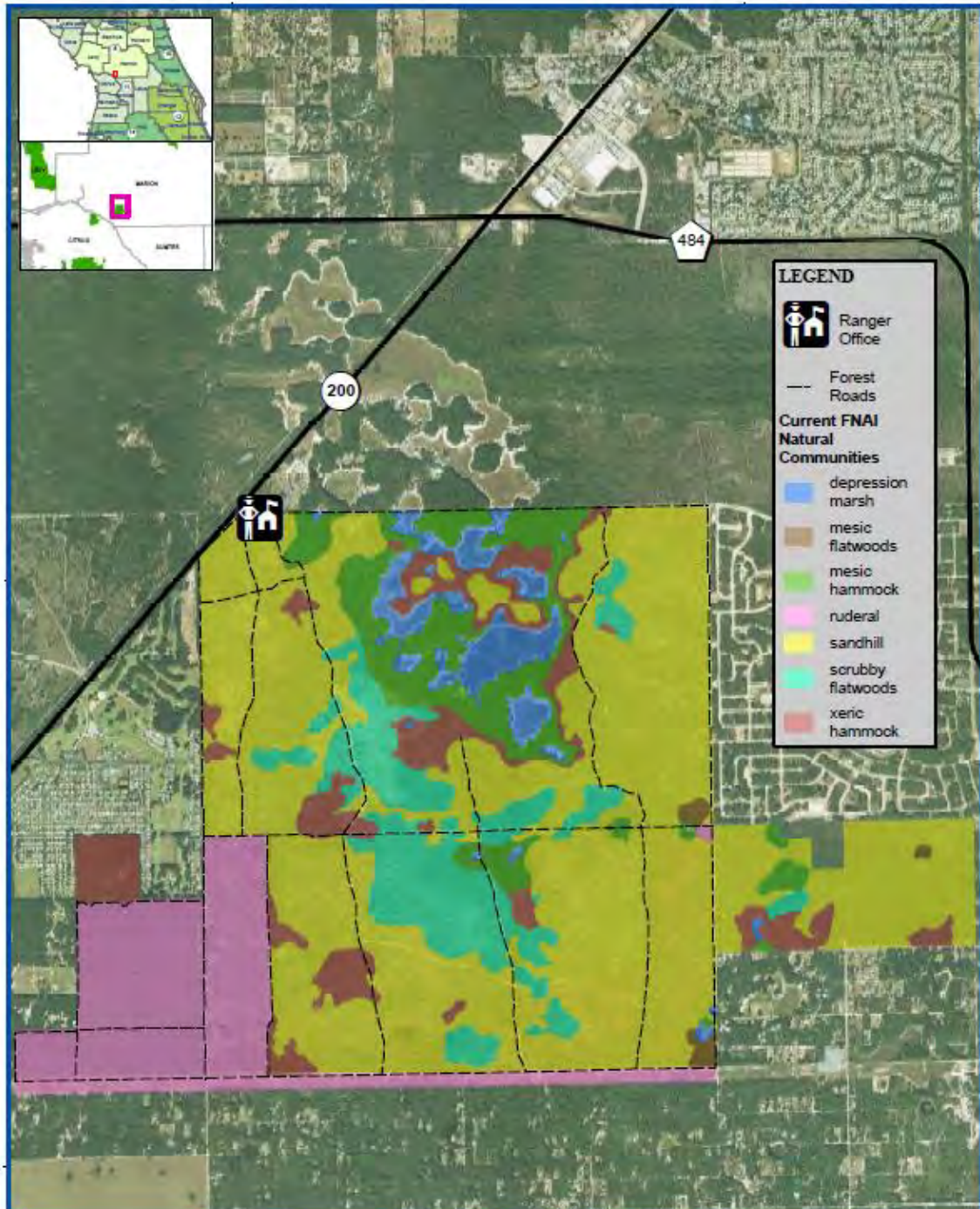
Florida Forest Service

Ross Prairie State Forest Current FNAI Natural Communities Map

UNCLASSIFIED REPORT: PUBLIC AREA
FOR HISTORIC PICTURES REPORT (HARR) DATA

NOTES:
This map was created using data from the Florida Forest Service's Natural Communities Inventory (NFI) and is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a legal document and should not be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The data was collected from 2000 to 2005 and is subject to change.

Map was created using data from the Florida Forest Service's Natural Communities Inventory (NFI) and is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a legal document and should not be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The data was collected from 2000 to 2005 and is subject to change.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

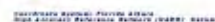
Map Month/Year: February 2018



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Kilometers

Exhibit Q

Historic FNAI Natural Communities

[illegible]

Managers who understand diversity in the workplace through social structures, processes, and systems, and who are able to work with a range of employees

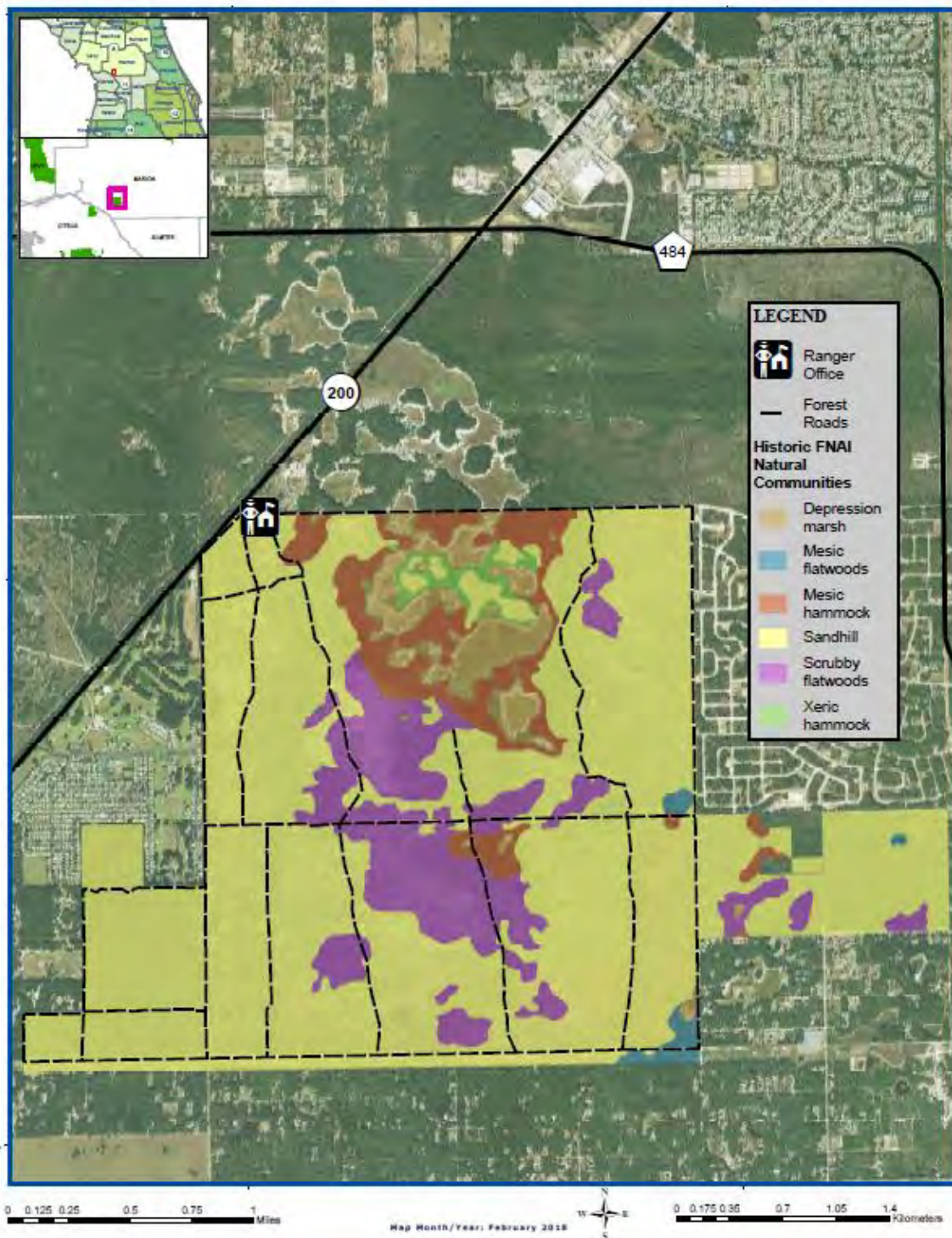


Exhibit R

Management Prospectus

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion and Volusia Counties

Critical Natural Lands

Purpose for State Acquisition

Though they once covered much of north and central Florida, old-growth longleaf pine sandhills are now only distant memories, replaced by pine plantations, pastures, and housing developments. Nevertheless, fragments of good sandhills still remain. The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project will conserve two of the largest and best of these fragments, in so doing helping to ensure the survival of several rare animals like the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as some plants, and giving the public an opportunity to see and enjoy the original, and increasingly rare, natural landscape of Florida's uplands. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide nonmotorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

Bell Ridge: The primary goal is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and rare species. The Bell Ridge is a small xeric upland physiographic feature lying just north of the much larger Brooksville Ridge. The gently rolling hills and ridges of the Bell Ridge represent relict beach dunes now at elevations of 60-100 feet and consist of excessively well-drained sands of generally low fertility. It is predominantly sandhill of variable quality. The Bell Ridge Sandhills can be

expected to support most of the fauna, both game and nongame, typical of sandhill habitat. Evidence of one rare species, the gopher tortoise was found.

Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Ross Prairie sites [except the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway--MHC--portion which is under an approved management lease to Office of Greenways and Trails--OGT], Blue Spring Longleaf, Bell Ridge, Deland Ridge). The FFS will manage Bell Ridge under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system.

General Description

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem sites (Ross Prairie Sandhill, Ross Prairie Addition, Bell Ridge, Blue Spring Longleaf, and Deland Ridge) are some of the highest quality longleaf pine sandhills in Florida. Longleaf pine sandhills are one of Florida's most distinctive and endangered forest types, and have declined by more than 80 percent in the last century. The project will protect nearly 20 plants, animals, and natural communities listed by Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Archaeological sites are known in the Ross Prairie tract. These sites are vulnerable to logging and fire suppression as well as development.

Public Use

The project will provide state forests, with opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and nature appreciation.

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-Jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Longspurred Mint	G1/S1
Orange Lake Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
Sand Butterfly Pea	G2Q/S2
Southern Hognose Snake	G2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
27 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1993
Project Area (GIS Acres)	22,401
Acres Acquired (GIS)	12,649*
at a Cost of	\$30,408,180
Acres Remaining (GIS)	9,752
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$20,329,303

* Includes 54 acres at Caraway Lake acquired by the Florida Audubon Society in 1990.



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, MADISON, MARION, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

Map 1: Hamilton County

A. Blue Spring Longleaf Site

Map 2: Madison County

A. Ellaville Sandhill Site

Map 3: Gilchrist County

A. Bell Ridge Sandhills Site

Map 4: Volusia County

A. Deland Ridge Site

Map 5: Marion County

A. Ross Prairie Sandhill Site

B. Ross Prairie Addition Site

0 15 30 60
Miles



AUGUST 2013

Acquisition Planning

Largest property owners south of canal lands (essential) within the Ross Prairie (8,216 acres) site are Janet Land Corp. (acquired) and Deltona-Marion Oaks Sub. (unwilling seller). North of the canal lands are seven (essential), Ocala Waterway Estates (essential), Guy (essential), Davis, and less than 35 other smaller tracts. The Blue Spring (1,978 acres) site consists of one owner (acquired, through TNC).

On December 3, 1998, LAMAC transferred the Deland Ridge and Chassahowitzka Sandhill sites to the Negotiation Impasse group. On July 29, 1999, the Council added the 3,040 acre Ross Prairie Addition project to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project (Priority Group). On December 9, 1999 the Council approved the Bell Ridge project to be added to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project.

On August 13, 2010 ARC approved a 3,612-acre (\$528,396,412 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure disturbances.

On December 9, 2011 ARC designated this project as a Critical Natural Lands (CNL) project.

On July 3, 2012 BOT acquired 5.16 acres in the Ross Prairie area for \$8,000.

On April 19, 2013, ARC approved changing the boundary of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Florida Forever project in Madison County, adding the 986-acre Ellaville Sandhill Tract that was approved in the February ARC meeting to the project boundary.

Coordination

TNC, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), and the Florida Audubon Society are acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project are to: conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests; and enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber,

fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The quality of the pine forests on the Blue Spring Longleaf and Ross Prairie sites, and their size and diversity, make them suitable for state forests.

Manager The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is to manage Ross Prairie sites [except the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway portion already under an approved management plan by the OGT]; Blue Spring Longleaf; Bell Ridge; and Deland Ridge).

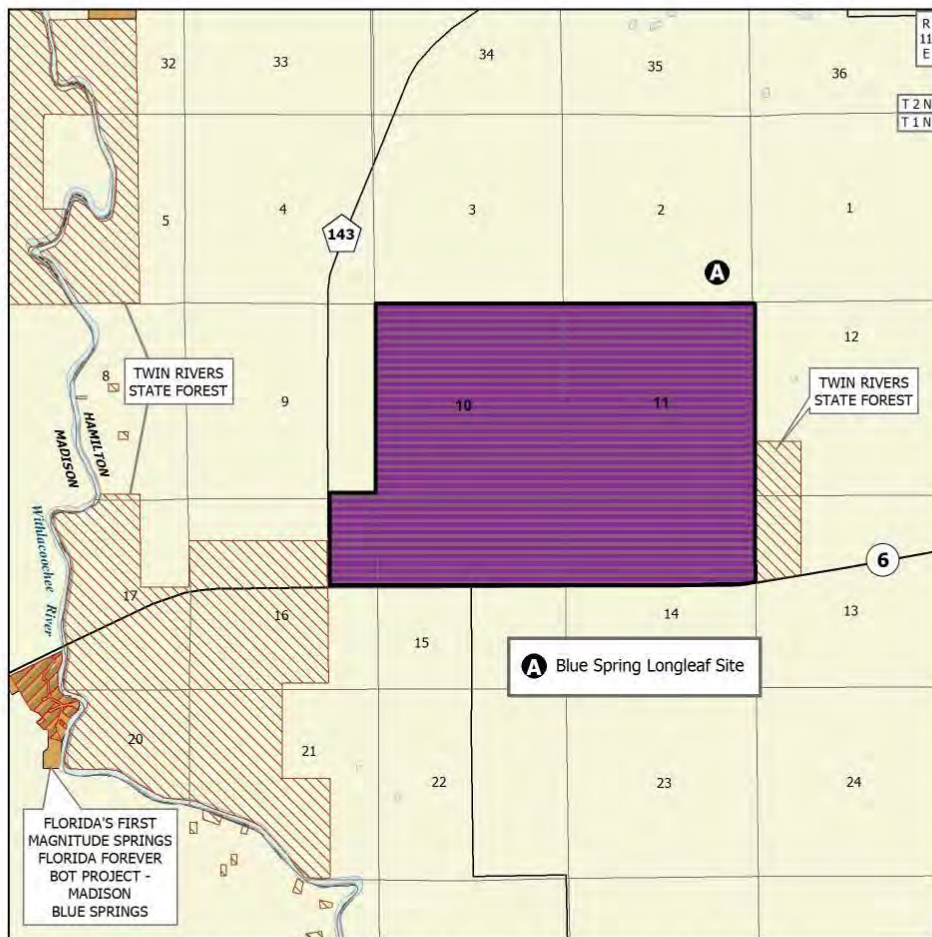
Bell Ridge: The FFS will manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system.

Conditions affecting intensity of management On the Blue Spring tract, there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. On Ross Prairie, however, the construction of an extension of the Florida Turnpike may hinder fire management activities and public access to the forest.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure The Blue Spring Longleaf tract and part of the Ross Prairie Sandhills tract have been acquired (the OGT manages the MHC Cross Florida Greenway portion). The FFS is now providing public access to these tracts for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation.

Management on the Blue Spring Longleaf tract will concentrate on maintaining the existing open conditions and seeds will be collected with as little disturbance as possible to the resources.

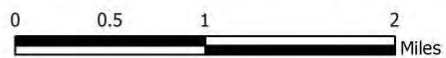
On all three tracts, the FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The sites' natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans will address restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for



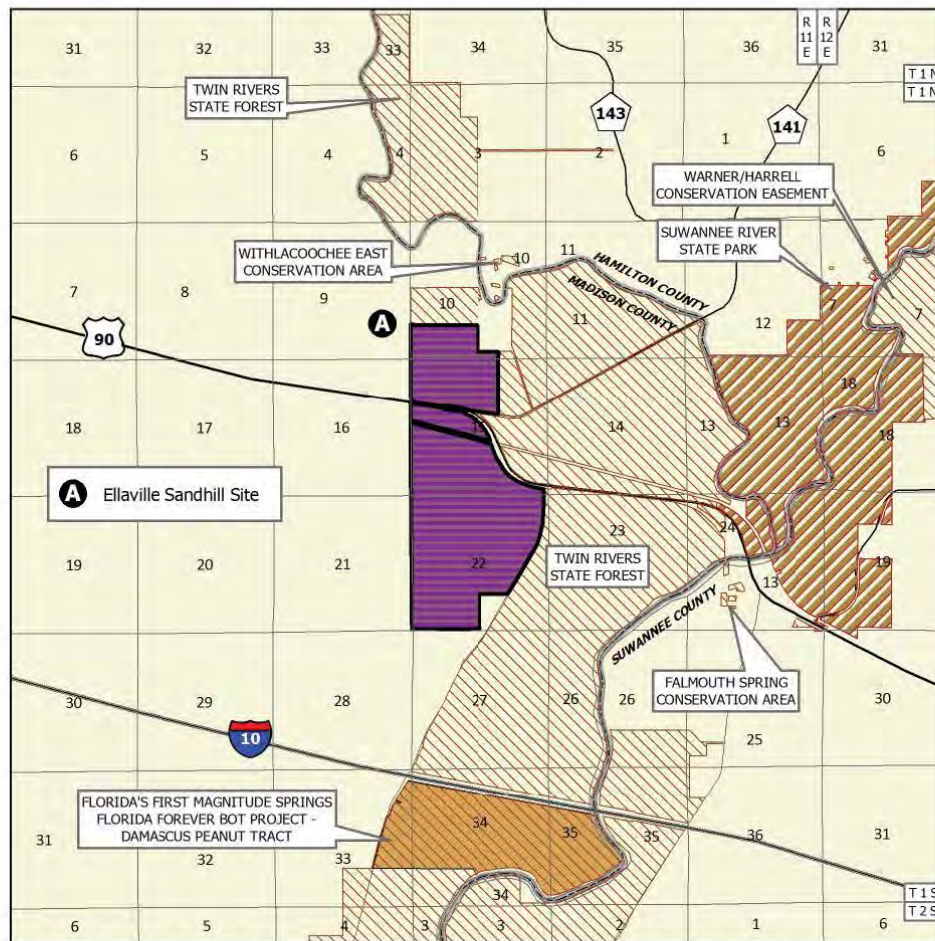
LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 5

HAMILTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2013



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 5

MADISON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 0.5 1 2
Miles



AUGUST 2013

management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating potential The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for these tracts is expected to be low.

Cooperators in management activities The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested agencies.

Bell Ridge:

Management Policy

The primary objective of management of the Bell Ridge Sandhills is to protect and restore the threatened sandhill natural community. A secondary objective is to provide resource-based recreation compatible with protection of the natural and cultural resource values of the project. The site will be managed under the multiple-use concept—management activities will be directed first toward conservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers will control access to the proposal; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; conduct prescribed burning of fire-dependent communities to mimic natural lightning-season fires, using existing firelines, natural firebreaks, existing roads, or foam lines for control; strictly limit timber harvesting in mature stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually conserving resources. Managers will limit the number and size of recreation facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project includes over 3,000 acres of relatively undisturbed land adjacent to an existing area of conservation lands. It consequently appears to have the size and location to achieve its primary and secondary objective.

Management Prospectus

The Bell Ridge Sandhill is about 3,500 acres in Gilchrist, Florida. The site is located some 9 miles north east of Trenton, seven miles east of Bell, seventeen miles north of the Watermelon Pond Unit of Goethe State Forest, and twenty miles west of Gainesville. The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the acquisition goals and measures for this project as approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by

reference. The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all

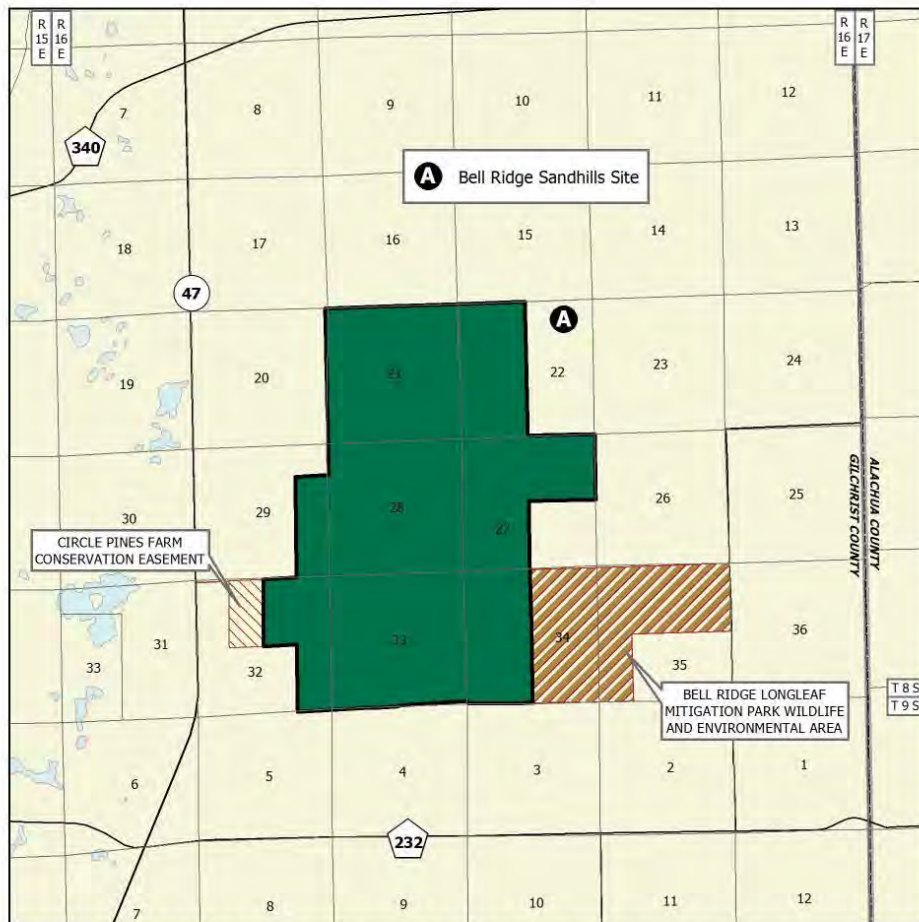
native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

Qualifications for State Designation The major community represented on this project is sandhill. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a State Forest. Management by the FFS as a State Forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee simple title to the entire project and obtaining some level of legal public access to the site, which is likely since the eastern and northern property boundaries are county maintained graded roads.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management There are portions of the parcel that have been disturbed that will require restoration efforts. There is at least one linear facility that bisects the parcel, which will be an area of management concern for monitoring unauthorized uses and introduction of invasive exotic species. The sandhill community is considered imperiled and as such may be sensitive to certain uses and the intensity of use. As such, water resource development projects, water supply development projects, stormwater management projects and any additional linear facilities, other than those that already exist on the project, are considered incompatible with this type of ecosystem and with the resource values on this project. The adjacent residential developments will pose a management concern associated with prescribed burning, public use, unauthorized uses, and other natural resource management activities. There are areas that have refuse and debris and which should be removed prior to closing on the core parcel. Other than those above-mentioned points, there are no other known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention. The level of management intensity and related management cost is expected to be moderately high initially to establish this as a state forest.

Timetable for Implementing Management

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the DOF, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a new unit of the State Forest system, and the Wacassassa Forestry Center personnel will carry out initial management activities and coordinate public access and use. The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Initial and



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 5

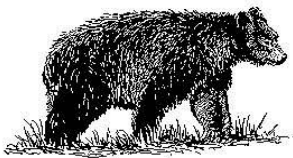
GILCHRIST COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2013

intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, reforestation of areas where off-site species have been harvested, natural regeneration of the native species in the areas with low densities, and any restoration activities. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. There are many roads throughout the property, and as such a road plan will need to be developed to determine those to be used for vehicular use by the public, those that are required for administrative use, and unnecessary access points and roads that should be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will eventually be conducted to provide a basis for formulation of a management plan. Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Any existing pine plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance. Offsite species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. Portions of the area can sustain an all season prescribed burning program utilizing practices which incorporate recent research findings. The objective is to eventually establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement of thinning and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes



ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

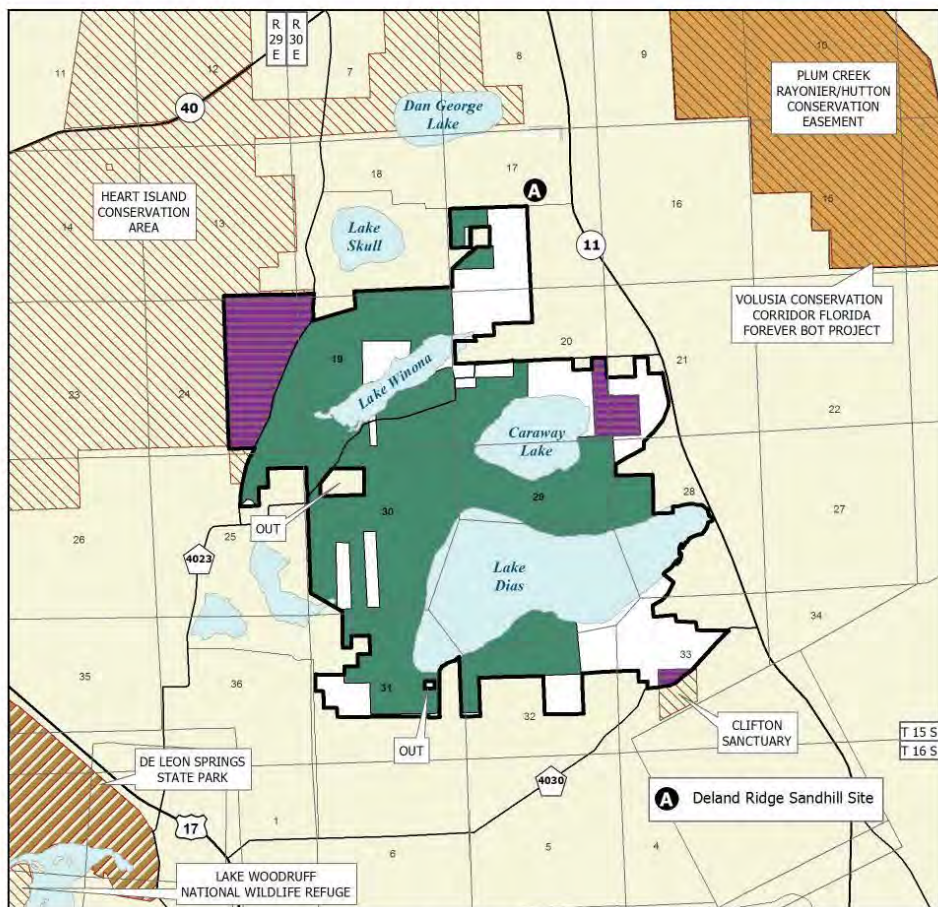
The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreational facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact, organized recreation areas are not planned because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Florida Forever Performance Measures The FFS has reviewed the project and believes that following Florida Forever Performance Measures appear to apply to this project:

- Measure G1: Acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management.
- Measure G2: Acres of state owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Measure G4: Percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation.

Note: In some areas, this may be accomplished by natural regeneration in areas of low density and once off-site species are harvested. There is the possibility that other measures apply, however, that may be determined by an inventory of the resources on the project.

Revenue Generating Potential As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be medium.



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4 OF 5

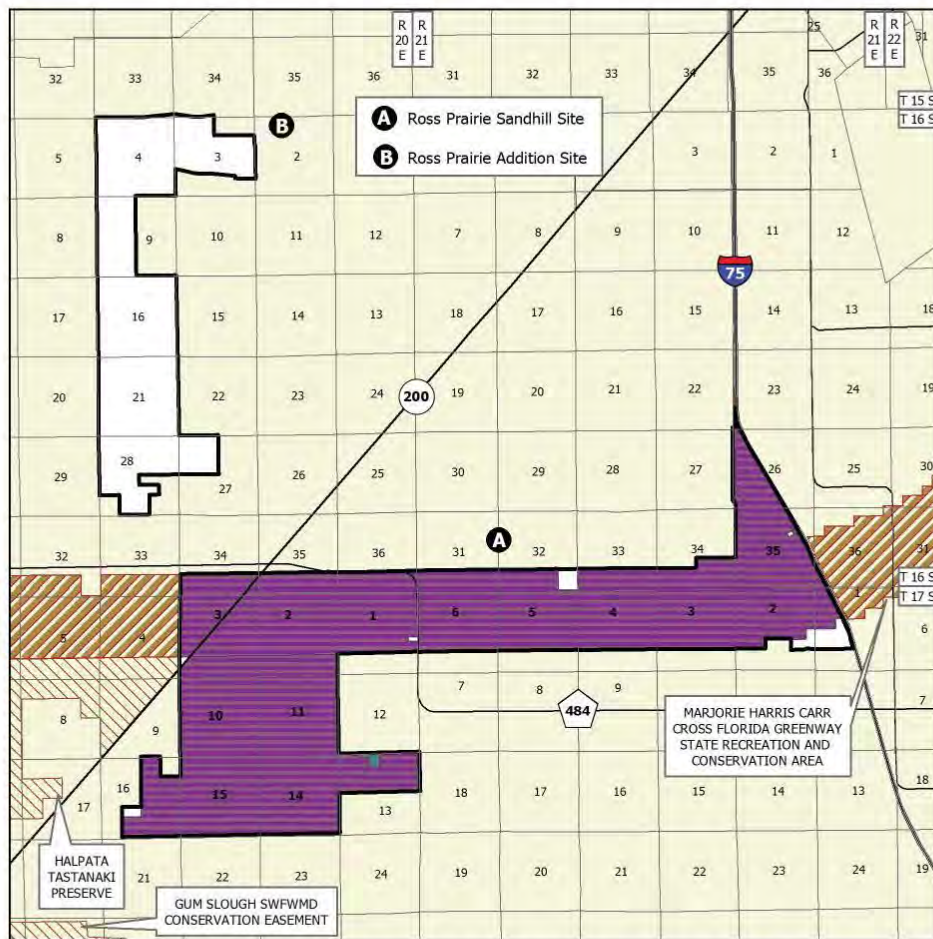
VOLUSIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0 0.5 1 2
Miles



AUGUST 2013



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5 OF 5

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4
 Miles



AUGUST 2013

Capital Project Expenditures Capital project expenditures will be needed on this parcel as listed below. They include relocation of the Trenton Work Center to this site to provide site management, security and public service. The existing Trenton Work Center is currently leased from the private sector and this lease was scheduled to expire in 2005, with no anticipation that the lease would be renewed. The existing house and barn on the property can be used for these facilities so that the expense associated with it can be reduced, although, they will require renovation. Reinforcing the

fencing in the areas of residential development will be necessary to clearly establish the boundary with resources that cannot be easily burned or altered. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and offroad biking. As such, visitor services in the disturbed area will be provided.

Management costs and sources of revenue It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem: Management Cost Summary/FFS

Category Source of Funds	1995/96 CARL	1996/97 CARL	1997/98 CARL
Salary	\$31,080	\$41,013	\$44,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,505	\$11,302	\$13,000
OCO	\$40,626	\$0	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$97,211	\$52,315	\$67,000

Management Cost Summary/FFS (Deland Ridge)

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$7,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$7,000	\$5,000

Updated February 9, 2016

Greenway (CFG), that are adjacent to the proposed properties and to provide added protection to this river and the ecosystem that it supports. It would connect the current northern and southern parcels of the park. The proposed acquisitions would provide a more contiguous system of natural areas by creating an intact corridor between conservation lands. It would also provide added protection for the river by safeguarding the remaining undeveloped lands in the already significantly altered waterway.

RRC encompasses a number of disjunct tracts lying to the north of as well as along both eastern and western sides of the river. Nearly all tracts (but not necessarily all ownerships) are contiguous with public lands. The Headwaters Property Group (370 acres) lies north of the river and runs from the state park to SR 40. The Indian Creek Property Group (193 acres), which lies along the eastern side of the river and includes about 1,264 feet of river frontage, shares its northern and southern boundaries with the state park. The Meredith Property (63 acres) is a split parcel with a small tract along the eastern side of the river (ca. 1849 feet frontage) that is completely surrounded by the state park. The larger tract to the west of the river is isolated from the water. The Rainbow River Ranch Property (ca. 247 acres) is north of SR 484 with 5390 feet of frontage along the eastern side of the Rainbow River. The Greenberg Property (89 acres) has ca. 3,298 feet of frontage along the western side of the river, north of Dunnellon. The Blue Run of Dunnellon Property (24 acres) is on the southern side of SR 484, east of the river across from Dunnellon, and has ca. 1,322 feet of river frontage. The Nature Preserves of America property (47 acres) is at the confluence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers, with the Rainbow River forming ca. 2,813 feet of its northern boundary, and the Withlacoochee River forming ca. 3,409 feet of its southern boundary. The FWC has calculated the river frontage as encompassing 15,935 feet.

Public Use

Potential recreation would include hiking, biking, and picnicking. The river frontage could be used as a rest stop for canoeists, kayakers and tubers. The southern triangular 47-acre parcel is heavily forested and has several wetland areas. This property is currently used as the Rainbow River Club and includes several buildings including a clubhouse, cabins for lodging, and boating and cookout facilities. The acquisition and use of the facilities could be continued as park lodging,

administration, park residence and low impact recreation such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking and education if the membership of the current club is dissolved. The northwest, 374-acre parcel would help protect the headsprings recharge area and could provide a suitable site for future park development. The 110-acre Priest parcel is a wetland area and would be limited to passive activities such as hiking, bird watching and kayaking.

Acquisition Planning

On June 15, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rainbow River Corridor project to the A-list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This full-fee project was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, incorporated as RRC, Inc. in a proposal submitted on December 30, 2006. It has about 1,183 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$1,157,483.

On March 28, 2008 the City of Dunnellon acquired 32.4 acres of this project for a riverside park on the south side of Highway 484 (the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property). Funds came from the City (\$320,000) and a grant from the Florida Communities Trust (\$2,606,164.50). The city manages this site.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. worked with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and submitted the application to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) for acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands is already pursuing a portion of this area (Rainbow River Ranch property) that is within the park optimum boundary, on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

Management Policy Statement

DRP will manage its property under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow River State Park. The OGT-manages its portion under the single-use concept as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. The primary objective of management of the Rainbow River project is to preserve the water quality of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers and Rainbow Springs by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring and providing and ensuring that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of

Exhibit S

Land Management Reviews

2017 Land Management Review Team Report for Ross Prairie State Forest

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1. Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation, preservation, and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation 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: Ross Prairie State Forest

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

Acres: 3,531.82

County: Marion County

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: See Exhibit C of 2006 management plan.

Acquisition Program(s): CARL

Original Acquisition Date: 12/16/1994

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/10/2006

Review Date: 1/9/2017

Agency Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Justin Kilcrease, FFS
- Ernie Ash, FFS
- Charlie Pedersen, FFS
- Rick Dolan, FFS

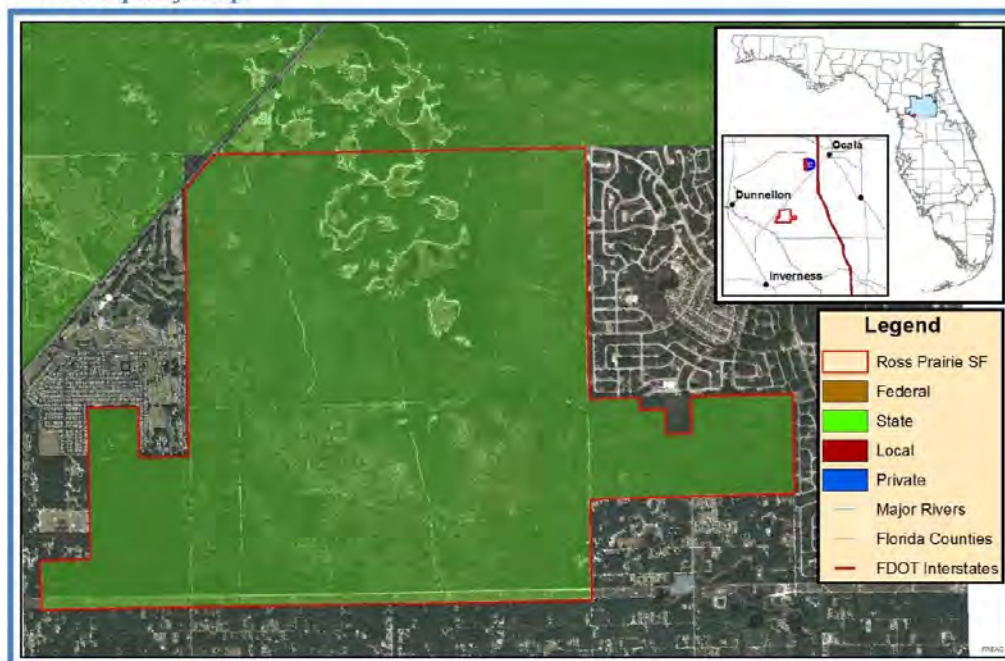
Review Team Members Present (voting)

- DRP: Rick Owen
- FWC: Cully Lord
- FFS: Bill Korn
- DEP: Megan Warr
- SWCD: Cyndi Gates
- Local gov't: Jason Maurer
- Conservation organization: Wendy Poag
- Private land manager: Gary Beauchamp

Other Non-Team Members Present (attending)

- Aric Larson, DEP/DSL
- Linda Richardson, FNPS

1.2 Property Map



1.3. Overview of Land Management Review Results

Is the property managed in accordance with the purposes for which it was acquired?

Yes = 8, No = 0

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

Yes = 8, 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	4.81	4.67
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.91	4.47
Hydrology	3.50	3.50
Imperiled Species	4.17	4.04
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.74	4.25
Cultural Resources	4.69	4.63
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.40	4.35
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.46	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 FFS for an excellent prescribed fire program, particularly within the sandhill community which is largely considered to be in maintenance condition. This has included getting prescribed fire into the easternmost zones that had been protected from fire for over 60 years, which are also some of the most challenging smoke management areas. (8+, 0-)
2. The team commends FFS for maintaining a good working relationship with FWC, particularly in conducting wildlife monitoring activities such as bobwhite quail and Bachman sparrow surveys. (8+, 0-)
3. The team commends FFS for good cooperative management efforts with adjoining public land managing agencies (DEP), including shared public access and fireline maintenance on shared boundaries. (8+, 0-)
4. The team commends FFS for interagency cooperation in the management of invasive plants. (8+, 0-)

5. The team commends FFS for outstanding work using fire and mechanical treatments to reduce oak structure and improve scrub jay habitat conditions in the scrubby flatwoods. (8+, 0-)
6. The team commends FFS for continuing to be proactive with survey and treatment of invasive plants, which has kept levels at an overall "maintenance condition". (8+, 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. As outlined in the current management plan (p.28), the team recommends that FFS evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of restoring the hydrology of the depression marsh that is surrounded by the agricultural dike. (8+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *The local Managers do not think that it would be feasible to remove the berms surrounding the altered depression marsh (the disturbance would cause more harm than good), but we will ask the FFS Hydrology section to take a look at the site and provide their assessment.*

2. The team recommends that FFS assess the appropriateness of trails/roads or firebreaks located on the periphery of depression marshes, and consider closure and/or rehabilitation of these features if it is determined there is negative impact to the depression marshes. (8+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *There are a couple of very short sections of hiking trail that were intentionally routed onto the berm surrounding a depression marsh to give visitors an opportunity to view this unique feature. They are located on an already disturbed area and do not have a significant impact on the natural community. In the future, we will avoid driving along the ecotones on the edges of the marshes.*

3. The team recommends that FFS include in the next management plan a brief statement of results from any studies or independent monitoring efforts that have occurred; and include citations in the references section of the plan. (8+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *We will include this in the next management plan.*

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 depression marsh, mesic hammock, xeric hammock, scrubby flatwoods and sandhill:
2. Listed species protection and preservation, for animals and plants in general, and specifically for Florida scrub jay:
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game 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 fire-suppressed sandhills and scrubby flatwoods:
7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory/assessment:
8. Non-native invasive and problem species, specifically the prevention and control of plants, animals, pests and pathogens:
9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence:
10. Public access, specifically parking:
11. Environmental education and outreach, specifically recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts:
12. Management resources, specifically waste disposal and sanitary facilities:

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. Management Resources, specifically funding, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management resources are sufficient.

Managing Agency Response: Additional budget allocations for this forest will be considered each year, however there have been minimal opportunities in the past to increase the year-to-year funding. However, the center manager has been able to allocate money for needed special projects and equipment from time to time from other local budgets.

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)										
Depression Marsh	I.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4.75
Mesic Hammock	I.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Xeric Hammock	I.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.88
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4.13
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Sandhill	I.A.6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.88
Natural Communities Average Score										4.77
Listed Species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	5	4	5		3	5	4	4.00
Florida scrub jay	I.B.1.a	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	4.38
Plants	I.B.2	3	5	4	5	5	3	4	4	4.13
Listed Species Average Score										4.17
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	4.00
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4.25
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.88
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	4.13
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4.75
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4.63
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4.75
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.69
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										5.00
Restoration (III.B)										
Fire-suppressed Sandhills	III.B.1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	III.B.2	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.63
Restoration Average Score										4.81
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory / Assessment	III.C.1	5	5	5		5	5	5	4	4.86
Forest Management Average Score										4.86
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4.88
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	5	5		5	5	5	5	4.86
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	4	5	5		5	3	5	5	4.57

Control											
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5		4.88
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	5	5		5	4	5	5		4.71
control - pest/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	5	5		5	3	5	5		4.57
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score											4.74
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)											
Hydro-period alteration/Prairie Berms	III.E.1.c	3	4	4	5	3	2	3	4		3.50
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score											3.50
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)											
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score											N/A
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)											
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score											N/A
Resource Protection (III.F)											
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5		4.88
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5		4.63
Signage	III.F.3	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5		4.75
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	5		4.75
Resource Protection Average Score											4.75
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)											
Land Use											
Smoke management	III.G.1.a	3	5	4	3	5	5	3	3		3.88
Groundwater consumption	III.G.1.b	3	X	X	5	3	3	5	3		3.67
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	3		3	5	5	3	4	3		3.71
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)											
Public Access											
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4		4.63
Environmental Education & Outreach											
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4		3.88
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4		3.88
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4		3.88
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	5	4	4	3	3	4	3		3.63
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	5	5	3	5	5	5	3		4.38
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	5	5	3	4	3	4	5		4.13
Public Access & Education Average Score											4.05
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)											
Maintenance											
Waste disposal	V.1.a	4	5	5		4	4	4	5		4.43
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	4	5	5		4	4	4	5		4.43
Infrastructure											
Buildings	V.2.a	2	5	3	3	5	2	4	4		3.50
Equipment	V.2.b	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	3		3.25
Staff	V.3		3	4	3	4	3	1	3		3.00
Funding	V.4	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2		2.13

Management Resources Average Score										3.45
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:

The Review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the 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)										
Depression Marsh	I.A.1	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4.50
Mesic Hammock	I.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.88
Xeric Hammock	I.A.3	4	3		5	5	5	3	4	4.14
Scrubby Flatwoods/Scrub Inclusions	I.A.4	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	4.63
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.88
Sandhill	I.A.6	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4.75
Natural Communities Average Score										4.63
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	5	4	4		4	3	4	3.86
Florida scrub jay	I.B.1.a	3	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	4.25
Plants	I.B.2	3	5	4	5	5	4	2	4	4.00
Listed Species Average Score										4.04
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	3	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	4.25
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	5	4	4	4		3	4	4.00
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	5	4.38
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4	5	4	4	5	3	2	4	3.88

Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	3	5	5	5	5	5	2	4	4.25
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	4.63
Protection and preservation	II.B	4	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	4.63
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.63
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4.63
Frequency	III.A.2	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4.63
Quality	III.A.3	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4.63
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.63
Restoration (III.B)										
Fire-suppressed Sandhill	III.B.2	4	5	5	5	3	4	3	5	4.25
Scrubby Flatwoods	III.B.3	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	5	4.38
Restoration Average Score										4.31
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory / Assessment	III.C.1	4	5	5	5	5	5		4	4.71
Forest Management Average Score										4.71
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	3	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	4.25
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	3	5	5		5	4	3	5	4.29
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	3	5	5		5	4	3	5	4.29
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	3	5	5	5	5	4	3	5	4.38
control - animals	III.D.2.b	3	5	5		4	4	3	5	4.14
control - pest/pathogens	III.D.2.c	3	5	5		4	4	3	5	4.14
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.25
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Hydro-Alteration/Prairie Berms	III.E.1.c	3	4	4	5	3	2	3	4	3.50
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.50
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										N/A
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										N/A
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	5	5	5	5	4	3	5	4.50
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	5	5		5	4	3	5	4.43
Signage	III.F.3	4	5	5		5	4	3	5	4.43
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4.63
Resource Protection Average Score										4.50
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										

Smoke management	III.G.1.a	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3.75
Ground water consumption	III.G.1.b	4		4		2	2	3	4	3.17
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	4		5	5	5	3	4	4	4.29
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3		5	5	5	5	3	5	4	4.57
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4		5	5	5	5	3	5	4	4.57
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Parking	IV.1.b	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4.63
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	5	4	2	3	5	5	4	3.88
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	5	4	2	3	5	5	4	3.88
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	5	4	2	4	5	5	4	4.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	5	4		4	5	5	4	4.29
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	4.63
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	3	5	5	3	4	3	5	5	4.13
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.20
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Hiking	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Nature Observations	VI.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Hunting	VI.A.3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.75
Multi-Use Trails	VI.A.4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.75
Primitive Camping	VI.A.5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.75
Timber Sales	VI.A.6	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4.75
Proposed Uses										
Office building/equipment shed	VI.B.1		5	5	4	5	5	4	5	4.71

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*

Name of Site: Ross Prairie SF

County: Marion

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

Acres: 3526.66
Area Reviewed: Entire tract

Review Date: 02/21/12

Management Plan Approval Date 08/10/06



Review Team Determination

Managed in accordance with
Acquisition purpose? Yes =6, No =0



Management practices, including public access,
in compliance with the management plan? Yes =6, No =0



Categories	Management Plan Review	Field Review
Natural Communities	0.87	3.93
Listed Species	0.87	3.38
Natural Resource Survey	0.97	3.25
Cultural Resources	1.00	3.82
Prescribed Fire	1.00	4.44
Restoration	1.00	3.50
Exotic Species	0.92	3.54
Hydrology	1.00	3.40
Groundwater Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Surface Water Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Resource Protection	1.00	3.65
Adjacent Property Concerns	0.85	3.47
Public Access & Education	0.89	3.39
Management Resources	N/A	3.01
Managed Area Uses	1.00	N/A
Buildings, Equipment, Staff & Funding	N/A	3.01

Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the staff for the excellent job in maintaining fire return intervals to their natural communities. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)
★★★★★★
2. The team commends the staff for the excellent job in creating inviting opportunities for public use. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)
★★★★★★
3. The team commends the manager on the special efforts to prepare and implement the initial prescribed burns on 160 acres of fire-suppressed sandhills with excellent results. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)
★★★★★★
4. The team commends FFS for efforts to minimize invasive plant populations and their ongoing efforts at treating existing cogongrass sites. (VOTE: 6+, 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 that FFS move forward with development of a comprehensive scrubby flatwoods restoration plan to address the habitat needs and monitoring of Florida scrub jay. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)
★★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: Agreed—We already have a draft plan and we are working towards finalizing it.

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

- Natural communities, specifically sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, depression marsh, xeric hammock and mesic flatwoods.
- Listed Species, specifically three birds orchid and sandhill spiny pod.
- Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources, specifically fire effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring
- Cultural Resources, specifically cultural resource survey and protection and preservation
- Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, specifically area being burned (no. acres), frequency and quality.
- Forest Management, specifically timber inventory.
- Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically plants and animals prevention and control of plants.
- Resource Protection, specifically boundary survey, gates & fencing and signage.
- Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically expanding development.
- Public Access & Education, specifically parking and walk-in access.
- Environmental Education & Outreach, specifically recreational opportunities.
- Management Resource, specifically equipment.

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. Natural communities, specifically xeric hammock, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Agreed—We will be reviewing and updating all of the natural community descriptions during the next Management Plan revision.

2. Adjacent property concerns, specifically surplus lands identified, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: We stated in the plan "All land within RPSF is suitable for its proposed use and none is declared surplus." Don't know how to make it any clearer. Regarding acquisition, FFS will soon be closing on one of the 5-acre outparcels, and will continue trying to acquire others identified within the optimal management boundary.

3. Environmental education & outreach, specifically management of visitor impacts, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: In the next management plan we will discuss our methods for monitoring visitation and evaluating impacts.

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. Discussion on the deficiencies in management resources, specifically staffing, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: We would love to have additional staff and other resources to better accomplish our goals and objectives. However, until the current economic situation improves, we don't expect any new position or additional funding.

Florida Forest Service Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Justin Kilcrease, Manager
- Ernie Ash
- Charlie Pedersen

**Land Management Review of
Ross Prairie State Forest
Lease No. 4158
March 20, 2007**

Prepared by Division of State Lands Staff

*Keith Singleton, Land Acquisition & Management Planner
Lyndi Meeks, Administrative Assistant*

For

Ross Prairie State Forest Review Team

FINAL

June 19, 2007

Land Manager:	DOF
Area:	3551 acres
County:	Marion
Mgmt. Plan Revised:	8/10/06
Mgmt. Plan Due:	8/10/16

Management Review Team Members

Agency Represented	Team member Appointed	Team member In attendance
DOF	Bill Korn	Bill Korn
DEP District	Tom Glancy	Tom Glancy
FWCC	Andrea Boliek	Andrea Boliek
Marion County	Guy Marwick	Guy Marwick
Conservation Org. (FNPS)	Mary Rhodes	Mary Rhodes
DRP District	Rick Owen	Rick Owen
Marion SWCD	Katherine Green	Katherine Green
Observer (DOF)		Terry Sheehan
Observer (DOF)		Ernie Ash
Observer (DOF)		Gary Beauchamp
Observer (DOF)		Charlie Pedersen
Observer (DOF)		Justin Kilcrease
Observer (DOF)		William Holland
Observer (FNAI)		Carolyn Kindell

Process for Implementing Regional Management Review Teams

Legislative Intent and Guidance:

Chapter 259.036, F. S. was enacted in 1997 to determine whether conservation, preservation, and recreation lands owned by the state Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board) are being managed properly. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish land management review teams to 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, and archaeological features. The teams 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. If a land management plan has not been adopted, the review shall consider 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 are in compliance with the management policy statement and management prospectus for that property. If the land management review team determines that reviewed lands are not being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired or in compliance with the adopted land management plan, management policy statement, or management prospectus, DEP shall provide the review findings to the Board, and the managing agency must report to the Board its reasons for managing the lands as it has. A report of the review team findings are given to the managing agency under review, the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and the Governor and Cabinet.

Review Site

The management review of Ross Prairie State Forest considered approximately 3551 acres in Marion County that are managed by the Division of Forestry. The team evaluated the extent to which current management actions are sufficient, whether the land is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired, and whether actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the management plan. The management plan update is due on August 10, 2016.

Review Team Determination

Is the land being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired?

After completing the checklist, team members were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to this question. All team members agreed Ross Prairie State Forest is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired.

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

After completing the checklist, team members were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to this question. All team members agreed Ross Prairie State Forest is in compliance with the management plan.

Commendations to the Managing Agency

1. The team commends the DOF for the outstanding prescribed fire program at this forest that has restored and maintained very high quality sandhills and scrubby flatwoods with frequent warm and cool season fires. (VOTE 7+, 0-)
2. The team commends the DOF for their cooperation with the Office of Greenways and Trails in sharing and developing the recreational infrastructure and seamless management for the forest and the Cross Florida Greenway, which is financially and resource efficient. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)
3. The team commends the DOF for their proactive boundary management and cooperation with surrounding communities regarding prescribed burning and public access programs. (VOTE 7+, 0-)
4. The team commends the DOF for the Florida scrub jay habitat restoration efforts at the forest. (VOTE 7+, 0-)

Exceptional Management Actions

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

Exceptional management actions:

- Management of the scrubby flatwoods, sandhill, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods, depression marsh and xeric hammock communities.
- Management and protection of the listed animals and plants including, the gopher tortoise, Florida scrub jay, three birds orchid and sandhill spiny pod.
- Protection and preservation of the cultural resources.
- Area, frequency and quality of the prescribed burns.
- Restoration of Ruderal Areas including, the oak scrub.
- Hunting and wildlife habitat.
- Control of invasive plants.
- Hydrologic/Geologic Function including, depression marsh dike and cattle dugout.
- Gates and fencing, boundary surveys, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- Managing impacts from expanding development.
- Public access including roads, parking, recreational opportunities and interpretive signs.
- Sanitary equipment.

Recommendations and Checklist Findings

The management plan must include responses to the recommendations and checklist items that are identified below.

Recommendations

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members.

1. The team recommends that DOF make it a high priority to acquire the inholdings within the forest's optimum boundary. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)

DOF Response: We agree that it should be a high priority to acquire the inholdings in the middle section of the eastern peninsula. However, the small lots on the eastern end of the peninsula are no longer important for acquisition. Several of these lots are now developed and we have established a fence and fireline along our current east boundary. Additional acquisitions in this strip will be difficult to manage and will not have significant conservation value.

Checklist findings

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist (see Attachment 1), which indicates that management actions, in the field, were insufficient (f) or that the issue was not sufficiently addressed in the management plan (p). These items need to be further addressed in the management plan update.

1. Discussion in the management plan of Non-Native, invasive and problem species including animals.(f)

DOF Response: We will further address these items in the next management plan update.

2. Discussion in the management plan of Hydrologic/Geologic function including hydro-period alteration (f), and water level alteration.(f)

DOF Response: We will coordinate with the water management district regarding this issue.

3. Discussion in the management plan of management resources including staffing levels.(f)

DOF Response: We feel that we have adequate resources and staffing at this time. This was discussed during the review.

Team Member's Comments

Natural Communities: protection and maintenance: (I.A)

- Urban encroachment makes hot maintenance fires very difficult.
- A few of the community classification are questionable – maybe revisit (FNAI) the classification (scrub, xeric hammocks, scrubby flatwoods).
- Scrub in field may be scrubby flatwoods not scrub. Needs a determination – some xeric hammock may be overgrown sandhill and should be considered for pushing strong fire through then to bring back to maintenance.
- Management plan does a good job of summarizing conditions of other natural communities, as well as defining the needed management actions. Acreage of each community type is not correct in the plan. Great efforts to restore overgrown scrub through mechanical treatments. These areas are now able to be managed with prescribed fire. In the future, with an increase in scrub jay population, it may be necessary to provide for different stages (heights) of scrub. The mesic flatwoods component should be assessed as much of it appears to be actually sandhill.

Listed Species: protection and preservation (I.B1, I.B.2)

- Where are the fox squirrels, quail, etc...?
- Some of this property should be used for gopher tortoise mitigation.
- RCW are not present nor is this area suitable, so management plan does not need RCW. So far, striped newt surveys are inconclusive.
- Emphasis is on habitats – not on individual species, except maybe in the case of scrub jay focus. RCW not found on site; may be present again in the future.

- Species list needs revisions. No plant list in my plan; one was available during review.
- Continued efforts are needed to monitor scrub jay population. Coordination with adjacent SWFWMD lands and their scrub jay metapopulation is critical. Banding of jays will be important to these efforts.

Cultural Resources: (II.A; II.B)

- Lithic scatter only.
- Not a big issue on property.
- One of recreation staff has completed the archeological site monitor class. The forester/manager is scheduled to attend. More information is needed on several sites that are listed as having potential for national listing.

Prescribed Fire (Natural Community Maintenance): (III.A)

- Land is in generally good condition.
- Excellent use of fire.
- Great prescribed burning management on property. Sandhills look great.
- Excellent fire management.
- Excellent program for prescribed burning with just about every stand having multiple burns since acquisition. Just a few sites adjacent to the inholdings on the east side of the tract are still in a very early restoration status, requiring cautious burning due to years of fire suppression.

Restoration of Disturbed Natural Communities: (III.B)

- Ruderal agriculture fields – planted in longleaf pine.
- Not as specifically mentioned in plan, but covered in plant community descriptions.
- Fire exclusion issues, dike removal and waterhole digging should be considered and planned for restoration. Fires should be allowed to burn across marshes and through hammock ecotones.

Wildlife Management (III.C)

- Small game only – hunting is very limited.
- Bobwhite quail should not be hunted on this land due to drastic reduction of their population.
- Small game – youth hunt area only.

Non-native Invasive and Problem Species: (III.D)

- Cogongrass treatments, coyotes? Cats/dogs...
- May need to deal with feral cats.

- Cats on property. This issue needs to be addressed relative to listed species such as Florida mouse and migratory birds.
- Very few small cogongrass sites were observed, however, each spot is receiving ongoing treatments. A monitoring database is maintained by staff.

Hydrologic/Geologic Function (III.E)

- Be aware of surrounding area in relationship to ground water draw down.
- No open roads on property – just fire lines. No ground water monitoring on property.
- Very little hydrologic impacts and alterations. Concern with local drawdown.

Adjacent Property Concerns: (III.G)

- Make surrounding home/property owners aware of DOF needs to burn. If additions could have been made before development on the borders expanded, that would have been a big help for management. Acquiring the inholdings is VERY important.
- Education for homeowners.
- Adjacent lots should be bought.
- Prescribed burning program is well communicated to neighboring communities.
- May need more involvement in water board/zoning issues of nearby properties. Need to make land acquisition a priority.
- Be fully aware of developments of regional impacts and actively comment on documents associated with water issues.
- A real priority to acquire the several five acre inholdings on the east side of the property. Creative planning on some kind of land swap may be needed.

Public Access and Education: (IV.1; IV.2; IV.3; IV.4)

- More signs and information about the benefits of prescribed burning might be helpful for the general public.
- More kiosk/interpretive trail signage might be beneficial to visitors. (Prescribed burning, ecosystem management, information, etc...) Hiking/outdoor ethics.
- More interpretive signs targeting key issues would be helpful.
- Interagency coordination...much more needed than expressed in plan.
- Trailhead kiosks are needed that help direct visitor to state forest trail opportunities. Trailhead for equestrian visitors needs to be established at greenway parking area. More work is needed to cooperate with greenways on undesired access now occurring off the greenways trail (on the east end of the common boundary). More DOF signage and possibly a kiosk is needed at the two alternative entrances on the south and east boundaries of the property. The primitive campsite should be assessed and decision made to improve amenities or eliminate the site. If it is kept, then the site should be better identified from the trail.

Management Resources: (V.2. V.3; V.4)

- Property has no building.
- Need building/infrastructure for replacement of Dunnellon tower (will need to relocate within 5 years). Ross Prairie maybe ideal replacement location? Could use technician level support position to assist area forester with daily management of area.
- No buildings on site – needed? No equipment on site – needed nearby. More staff needed to assist with solo manager. Funding is currently adequate, but will not cover additional projects or needs.
- A replacement site is needed for Dunnellon tower site for stationing of support personnel due to the loss of this leased site in the coming years.

Managed Area Uses: (VI.A, VI.B)

- Potential revenue.
- Would be okay with cattle grazing is site specific and confined to old disturbed, ruderal field areas only.
- Only within pine plantation and not within natural communities.

Review Team Determination

Purpose for Acquisition

- Yes, excellent burning program and restoration activities to protect and manage natural habitats and benefit wildlife populations.

Management Plan Compliance

- Yes, adequate public access for limited youth hunting and hiking and equestrian use. Management practices are all well planned and very professionally carried out.

Recommendations for Improving Management of this Site:

-

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)									
Sandhill	I.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Mesic Hammock	I.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Scrub	I.A.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Xeric Hammock	I.A.7				0	0	0	0	0.00
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)									
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0.86
Gopher tortoise	I.B.1.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Florida scrub jay	I.B.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Plant Inventory	I.B.2		1		1	1	0	1	0.80
Three Birds Orchid	I.B.2.b		1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Sandhill Spiny Pod	I.B.2.c		0	1	1	1	1	1	0.83
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)									
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)									
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Quality	III.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)									
Oak Scrub	III.B.1	1	1		1	1		1	1.00
Old Field Pine Planting	III.B.2		1	1				1	1.00
Wildlife Management (III.C)									
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hunting/ Fishing Quality	III.C.2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)									
Animals	III.D.1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.57
Plants	III.D.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)									
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	1	1	0	1	0		1	0.67
Water Level Alteration	III.E.1.d	1	1	0	1	0		1	0.67
Depression Marsh Dike	III.E.1.e	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Cattle Dugout	III.E.1.f		1	1		1			1.00
Resource Protection (III.F)									

Boundary survey	III.F.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Signage	III.F.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.86
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)									
Land Use									
Expanding development	III.G.1a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2		1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Public Access & Education									
Public Access-Maintenance									
Roads	IV.1a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Parking	IV.1b	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Recreational Opportunities	IV.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.86
Environmental education/outreach	IV.5	1	1		0	1	1	0	0.67
Managed Area Uses									
Existing Uses									
Hiking	VI.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Nature Observation	VI.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hunting	VI.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Multi-use Trails	VI.A.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Primitive Camping	VI.A.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Timber Sales	VI.A.6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Uses Proposed in Mgmt. Plan									
Cattle Grazing	VI.B.1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.57
Misc. Forest Products	VI.B.2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0.71
FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)									
Sandhill	I.A.1	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4.71
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3.57
Mesic Hammock	I.A.3	3	4	5	5	5	5	3	4.29
Scrub	I.A.4	2	3	4	3	3	X	3	3.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	4	X	5	5	4	4	4	4.33
Depression Marsh	I.A.6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4.71
Xeric Hammock	I.A.7	4	4	5	5	5	X	4	4.50
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)									
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	3	5	5	4	4	3	3	3.86
Gopher tortoise	I.B.1.a	5	4	2	4	4	4	4	3.86
Florida scrub jay	I.B.1.b	5	4	5	3	4	3	3	3.86
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	4	5		4	4	3	3	3.83
Three Birds Orchid	I.B.2.b	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	4.43
Sandhill Spiny Pod	I.B.2.c		0	5	5	4	5	4	3.83

Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)									
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	5	5	5	4	X	3	4.33
Protection and preservation	II.B	4	5	5	5	4	X	3	4.33
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)									
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.86
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)									
Oak Scrub	III.B.1	5			4	4		4	4.25
Old Field Pine Planting	III.B.2		4	3				3	3.33
Wildlife Management (III.C)									
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1	3	5	5	5	4	3	4	4.14
Hunting/ Fishing Quality	III.C.2	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3.57
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)									
Animals	III.D.1	X	3	X	X	2	2	3	2.50
Plants	III.D.2	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	4.57
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)									
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	4		0	3	0		3	2.00
Water Level Alteration	III.E.1.d	4		0	4	0		3	2.00
Depresson Marsh Dike	III.E.1.e	4	5	4	4	5		3	4.17
Cattle Dugout	III.E.1.f		5	5		5			5.00
Resource Protection (III.F)									
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.71
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	5	5	4	5	5	4	4.57
Signage	III.F.3	3	5	5	4	4	5	4	4.29
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	4.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)									
Land Use									
Expanding development	III.G.1a	4	4	5	5	4	5	3	4.29
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	2	2	1	3	4	5	3	2.86
Public Access & Education									
Public Access-Maintenance									
Roads	IV.1a	4	4	5	4	4	5	3	4.14
Parking	IV.1b	4		5	4	5	5	4	4.50
Recreational Opportunities	IV.2	5	4	5	4	5	5	3	4.43
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.3	5	3	5	4	4	3	3	3.86
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.4	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	3.00
Environmental education/outreach	IV.5	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3.14
Management Resources									

Infrastructure									
Buildings	V.2a	1		4	4	3	3	2	2.83
Equipment	V.2b	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	3.86
Staff	V.3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2.29
Funding	V.4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.00

Exhibit T

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan(s)

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
(850) 681-5800



THE CONNER BUILDING
3125 CONNER BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1650

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

July 1, 2019

Kimberleigh Dinkins
Marion County Planning Department
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: (352) 438-2600

RE: Ross Prairie State Forest 10-Year Land Management Plan

Dear Ms. Dinkins,

Enclosed is a copy the Florida Forest Service's Ten-Year Land Management Plan and plan Exhibits for Ross Prairie State Forest, prepared in accordance with F.S. 253.034. Please review the plan at your earliest convenience and reply as to whether the plan is consistent with Marion County's Local Comprehensive Plan.

Please address all correspondence concerning the Management Plan in official letterhead to the above address or via e-mail. I can be reached by telephone at (850) 681-5889 or by email at Patricia.Anderson@FreshfromFlorida.com if you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us manage Ross Prairie State Forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations.

Sincerely,

Patti Anderson
State Lands Plan Coordinator

Exhibit U

State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

Management Plan Advisory Group Organizational Meeting

Ross Prairie State Forest 10-Year Land Management Plan

June 27, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Rick Dolan | Waccasassa Forestry Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Rick Owen | Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DRP) |
| • Lauren Akins | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Chris Mckendree | Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) |
| • Justin Albright | Soil & Water Conservation District (NACD) |
| • David Nicholson | National Wild Turkey Federation |
| • Richard McGinley | Local Private Property Owner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • Kathy Bryant | Marion County Board of County Commissioners |
| • Al Koontz | Local Private Property Owner |

Staff:

- Alan Davis, FFS
- Patti Anderson, FFS
- Charlie Pedersen, FFS
- Justin Kilcrease, FFS
- James Wood, FFS
- Terry Sheehan, FFS
- Stephen Montgomery, FFS

Guests:

- None

Meeting Start Time: 10:30 a.m.

- Mr. Davis opened the meeting, introduced himself, and explained the purpose, statutory framework and management plan development process within which MPAG members are called upon to provide input into the draft land management plan.
- Mr. Davis explained the Sunshine Law's role in the MPAG public hearings and MPAG member appointment.
- Mr. Davis stated the MPAG meeting was advertised to the public through local newspaper (Ocala Star Banner), Florida Administrative Register, FFS webpage, as well as posted on the kiosk at the entrance to the forest. The meeting was also announced at the Marion County Commission meeting on June 6, 2019.

- Mr. Davis provided an overview of the various approvals the draft land management plan must go through both before and after the MPAG public hearings occur.
- Next, everyone in the room introduced themselves and stated the organization they are with.
- Mr. Davis explained the concept of consensus and how it relates to the group's determinations. He also explained that the FFS Director is the ultimate authority on any changes made to the draft plan.
- Mr. Davis stated, after a PowerPoint presentation at the public hearing, there would be a question and answer session, and all were welcome to ask questions.
- Mr. Davis then asked the advisory group to designate a chairperson. All agreed to designate Rick Dolan as MPAG chairperson.
- Mr. Davis thanked everyone and adjourned the organizational meeting.

Meeting End Time: 10:37 a.m.

Management Plan Advisory Group Public Hearing

**Ross Prairie State Forest
10-Year Land Management Plan**

June 27, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Rick Dolan | Waccasassa Forestry Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Rick Owen | Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DRP) |
| • Lauren Akins | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Chris Mckendree | Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) |
| • Justin Albright | Soil & Water Conservation District (NACD) |
| • David Nicholson | National Wild Turkey Federation |
| • Richard McGinley | Local Private Property Owner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • Kathy Bryant | Marion County Board of County Commissioners |
| • Al Koontz | Local Private Property Owner |

Staff:

- Alan Davis, FFS
- Patti Anderson, FFS
- Charlie Pedersen, FFS
- Justin Kilcrease, FFS
- James Wood, FFS
- Terry Sheehan, FFS
- Stephen Montgomery, FFS

Guests:

- None

Meeting Start Time: 11:00 a.m.

- Mr. Davis introduced MPAG chairperson Rick Dolan.
- Mr. Dolan, the MPAG Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the public hearing and thanked everyone for attending. He shared that Waccasassa Forestry Center manages approximately 85,000 acres of forest from coast to coast. He then requested that the MPAG members introduce themselves.
- Mr. Davis explained the purpose of the public hearing.
- Mr. Davis stated that no guests from the public were in attendance, thus no speaker forms were filled out.
- Mr. Davis then introduced Forester Justin Kilcrease.

- Mr. Kilcrease welcomed everyone and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft plan. He demonstrated that the plan includes the location of Ross Prairie State Forest and its boundaries, management use of the forest, natural communities' descriptions, historical information, and the observable benefits of fire management. A new ranger station and the hydrology evaluation of a diked prairie were also illustrated.
- Richard McGinley asked, "Is it difficult to burn because of the developed areas around the state forest"? Mr. Kilcrease's reply, "We wait for the right wind so the smoke gets blown away from the houses, and there really aren't many complaints to begin with."
- Richard McGinley asked, "Will the proposed BMAP effect the state forest"? Mr. Kilcrease's reply, "It shouldn't, but we will familiarize ourselves with it when it becomes active BMAP."
- Richard McGinley asked, "How do we keep a head count of the visitors on the forest? Mr. Kilcrease's reply, "We don't, but the state forest shares a border and recreation trails with adjacent conservation lands, and we could work with them in gathering data."
- With no other questions, Mr. Davis thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the public hearing.

Meeting End Time: 11:38 a.m.

Management Plan Advisory Group Workshop Meeting

Ross Prairie State Forest 10-Year Land Management Plan

June 27, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Rick Dolan | Waccasassa Forestry Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Rick Owen | Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DRP) |
| • Lauren Akins | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Chris Mckendree | Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) |
| • Justin Albright | Soil & Water Conservation District (NACD) |
| • David Nicholson | National Wild Turkey Federation |
| • Richard McGinley | Local Private Property Owner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • Kathy Bryant | Marion County Board of County Commissioners |
| • Al Koontz | Local Private Property Owner |

Staff:

- Alan Davis, FFS
- Patti Anderson, FFS
- Charlie Pedersen, FFS
- Justin Kilcrease, FFS
- James Wood, FFS
- Terry Sheehan, FFS
- Stephen Montgomery, FFS

Guests:

- None

Meeting Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

- Mr. Davis started the meeting by going over the meeting structure that would take place and specifics regarding Forestry staff and MPAG member responsibilities for the meeting minutes in the coming days/week.
- Mr. Davis declared a "page-by-page" process would be used for reviewing and commenting on the draft plan. The notion of "consensus" was again addressed.

Page-by-page Review:

Page 4 List "FDACS 2017" in References

Page 5	FWC is no longer printing brochures; direct to FWC website
Page 9	Table 2 "Two Mile Prairie is managed by FFS and considered Withlacoochee SF
Page 9	Recommend consistency with parentheses used in calling out Exhibit references
Page 16	Change "Exhibit U" to "Exhibit S"
Page 22	Conflicting table and table reference sequence
Page 23	Add "imperiled" to "species"
Page 26	Add rattlesnake to Table 5 as candidate species
Page 27	List "FWC 2012" in References
Page 28	Follow-up on previous LMR request for citations on completed projects
Page 32	Consistency with use of term "growing season"
Page 41	List "FNAI 2010" in References (2007 RPSF mapping project)
Page 43	Update status of dike removal to "ongoing"
Page 45	Add in management plan to control encroaching sand pine
Page 46	Added "sand pine"
Page 49	Added prescribed fire needs to Xeric Hammock Fire Regimes
Page 49	Reference DHR exhibit (Exhibit G)
Exhibit K	Water resources map needs improved detail

- Mr. Davis asked the group if everyone, as a consensus, was generally accepting of the plan. All agreed.
- Mr. Davis explained the next steps of the process, and the FFS Director makes the final decision on any edits to the plan. The next public hearing will be at the appropriate Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) meeting. With submission to ARC by July 10, the meeting can occur on October 18, 2019.
- Mr. Davis thanked everyone for their time and participation, then adjourned the workshop meeting.

Meeting End Time: 1:56 p.m.

Exhibit V

State Forest Summary Budget

	ROSS PRAIRIE STATE FOREST MGT. ONLY 17 18 EXPENDITURES	Percentages Based on Total Dollar Amount of Expenditures	Assessed Needed Funding Based Upon LMUAC Resource Management
Resource Management	\$ 39,928	25.50%	\$ 148,079.49
Exotic Species Control	\$ 6,191	4.10%	\$ 8,276.67
Prescribed Burning	\$ 5,652	2.80%	\$ 102,255.00
Cultural Resources Management	\$ 151	0.10%	\$ 201.87
Timber Management	\$ 12,835	8.50%	\$ 17,158.95
Hydrological Management	\$ 755	0.50%	\$ 1,009.35
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	\$ 14,345	9.50%	\$ 19,177.65
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	\$ 10,872	7.20%	\$ 14,534.64
Central Office Headquarters	\$ 10,872	7.20%	\$ 14,534.64
District/Regions	\$ -		\$ -
Units/Projects	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Support	\$ 51,187	33.90%	\$ 68,433.93
Land Management Planning	\$ 2,114	1.40%	\$ 2,826.18
Land Management Reviews	\$ 604	0.40%	\$ 807.48
Training/Staff Development	\$ 14,496	9.60%	\$ 19,379.52
Vehicle Purchase	\$ 1,359	0.90%	\$ 1,816.83
Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	\$ 21,592	14.30%	\$ 28,867.41
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER SUPPORT	\$ 11,023	7.30%	\$ 14,736.51
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	\$ 30,954	20.50%	\$ 41,383.35
New Facility Construction	\$ 7,701	5.10%	\$ 10,295.37
Facility Maintenance	\$ 23,253	15.40%	\$ 31,087.98
			\$ -
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 19,478	12.90%	\$ 26,041.23
Information/Education	\$ 4,530	3.00%	\$ 6,056.10
Operations	\$ 14,949	9.90%	\$ 19,985.13
			\$ -
Law Enforcement	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Total	\$ 150,995	100.00%	\$ 201,870

Exhibit W

Arthropod Control Plan on RPSF Response from Marion County, Florida

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Rick Scott
Governor

Celesto Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

September 20th, 2017

Alan Davis
The Conner Building
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Mr. Davis:

To the best of my knowledge, Marion County has never had a nuisance mosquito spraying program. Therefore, I can say with some certainty that no arthropod control has been attempted in Ross Prairie State Forest and none is being proposed in the future. Therefore, no Arthropod Control Plan (ACP) exists or would be necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dooley".

Daniel Dooley
Environmental Administrator
Department of Health in Marion County

**Florida Department of Health
in Marion County**
1801 SE 32nd Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471-5532
PHONE: 352/629-0137 • FAX 352/694-1613
Marion.FloridaHealth.gov



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