

2024-2034

OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

TEN-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN
HENDRY COUNTY



**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

620 SOUTH MERIDIAN STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-1600



PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
PENDING APPROVAL LETTER

**The Management Plan
for the
Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area**

Hendry County

Owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



March 2024

Approved Melissa Tucker
Melissa Tucker, Director
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

Digitally signed by
Melissa Tucker
Date: 2024.06.07
10:34:10 -04'00'

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Common Name of Property: Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Location: Hendry County, Florida

Acreage Total: 26,510 acres

Acreage Breakdown:

Land Cover Classification	Acres	Percent of Total Area
Abandoned field/abandoned pasture	2,533.6	9.2%
Artificial pond	27.2	0.1%
Basin marsh	4,395.3	15.9%
Canal/ditch	124.1	0.4%
Clearing	5.8	<0.1%
Depression marsh	2,825.0	10.2%
Developed	1,086.9	3.9%
Firebreak	34.5	0.1%
Invasive exotic monoculture	63.5	0.2%
Mesic flatwoods	520.1	1.9%
Mesic hammock	602.0	2.2%
Pasture - improved	7,094.7	25.6%
Pasture - semi-improved	1,392.7	5.0%
Restoration mesic flatwoods	512.6	1.9%
Restoration wet flatwoods	6.2	<0.1%
Restoration wet prairie	18.7	0.1%
Road	74.6	0.3%
Slough marsh	3,175.6	11.5%
Successional hardwood forest	2,251.2	8.1%
Successional hydric shrubland/forest	412.4	1.5%
Wet flatwoods	253.7	0.9%
Wet prairie	271.2	1.0%

*GIS-calculated acreage for land cover classification varies slightly from actual total acreage.

Lease/Management Agreement No.: 4245 (Appendix 11.1)

Use: Single _____ Management Agency: FWC Management Responsibilities:
Multiple X LEAD, LESSEE (Wildlife Management Area, resource protection, law enforcement)

Designated Land Use: Wildlife Management Area

Sublease (s): None

Encumbrances List: There is one easement for the non-exclusive access, ingress/egress of Alico Inc., which is in Township 45 S, Range 31 E, Section 11. This easement is described in the Official Record Book of Hendry County (Book 581, Page 30) as referenced on the official boundary survey

Type Acquisition: Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever Land Acquisition Programs

Unique Features: Natural: Okaloacoochee Slough and accompanying natural communities, including basin marsh, depression marsh, slough marsh, and others (Figure 7)

Archaeological/Historical: Two archaeological sites and one resource group

Management Needs: Habitat restoration and improvement; public access and recreational opportunities; hydrological preservation and restoration; invasive species maintenance and control; imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement, and restoration

Acquisition Needs/Acreage: 41,665 acres FWC Additions and Inholdings list; 82,995 acres remaining in the Devils Garden Florida Forever Project (Figure 12)

Surplus Lands/Acreage: None

Public Involvement: Management Advisory Group consensus meeting and Public Hearing (Appendix 11.4)

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

ARC Approval Date _____ BTIITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

Land Management Plan Compliance Checklist

Required for State-owned conservation lands over 160 acres

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	ii
2	The land acquisition program, if any, under which the property was acquired.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	10
3	Degree of title interest held by the Board, including reservations and encumbrances such as leases.	18-2.021	10
4	The legal description and acreage of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	1, 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	5, 6, 40
6	An assessment as to whether the property, or any portion, should be declared surplus. <i>Provide Information regarding assessment and analysis in the plan, and provide corresponding map.</i>	18-2.021	44
7	Identification of other parcels of land within or immediately adjacent to the property that should be purchased because they are essential to management of the property. <i>Please clearly indicate parcels on a map.</i>	18-2.021	ii, 67
8	Identification of adjacent land uses that conflict with the planned use of the property, if any.	18-2.021	41
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)	10, 11
10	Proximity of property to other significant State, local or federal land or water resources.	18-2.021	2-4, 8

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	42-44
12	A description of past and existing uses, including any unauthorized uses of the property.	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	37-39
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	42-44
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	44-71
15	Include a provision that requires that the managing agency consult with the Division of Historical Resources, Department of State before taking actions that may adversely affect archeological or historical resources.	18-2.021	36, 74
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	68
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)	38, 39, 42-44, 57-59
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	18-2.021	42-44

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
	statutory authority and any other legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of such property.		
19	Letter of compliance from the local government stating that the LMP is in compliance with the Local Government Comprehensive Plan.	BOT requirement	452
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	44-70
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	42-44
22	If the lead managing agency determines that timber resource management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the managed area, a component or section, prepared by a qualified professional forester, that assesses the feasibility of managing timber resources pursuant to section 253.036, F.S.	18-021	421-438
23	A statement regarding incompatible use in reference to Ch. 253.034(10).	253.034(10)	43, 44

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

Section C: Public Involvement Items

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
24	A statement concerning the extent of public involvement and local government participation in the development of the plan, if any.	18-2.021	11
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)	11
26	LMPs and LMP updates for parcels over 160 acres shall be developed with input from an advisory group who must conduct at least one public hearing within the county in which the parcel or project is located. <i>Include the advisory group members and their affiliations, as well as the date and location of the advisory group meeting.</i>	259.032(10)	11, 288-301
27	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the advisory group for parcels over 160 acres	18-2.021	288-298
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	253.034(5) & 259.032(10)	11, 284-288

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
	public hearing. <i>Include a copy of each County's advertisements and announcements (meeting minutes will suffice to indicate an announcement) in the management plan.</i>		
29	The manager shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in finalizing the required 10-year update of its management plan. <i>Include manager's replies to the team's findings and recommendations.</i>	259.036	44, 45
30	Summary of comments and concerns expressed by the management review team, if required by Section 259.036, F.S.	18-2.021	45, 45
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	44, 45

Section D: Natural Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
32	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding soil types. <i>Use brief descriptions and include USDA maps when available.</i>	18-2.021	13-15
33	Insert FNAI based natural community maps when available.	ARC consensus	26, 27
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	12-37
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	12-37
36	Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding beaches and dunes.	18-2.021	36
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	36
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	33-35
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	12-37
40	The identification of resources on the property that are listed in the Natural Areas Inventory. <i>Include letter from FNAI or consultant where appropriate.</i>	18-2.021	34, 35, 346
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)	44-78
42	Habitat Restoration and Improvement	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
42-A.	Describe management needs, problems and a desired outcome and the key management activities necessary to achieve the enhancement, protection and preservation of restored habitats and enhance the natural, historical, and archeological resources and their values for which the lands were acquired.	↓	71-76

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
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.	↓	71-76
42-C.	The associated measurable objectives to achieve the goals.	↓	71-76
42-D.	The related activities that are to be performed to meet the land management objectives and their associated measures. <i>Include fire management plans - they can be in plan body or an appendix.</i>	↓	71-76
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.		79-81
43	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of forest and other natural resources and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034(5)	12-79
44	Sustainable Forest Management, including implementation of prescribed fire management	18-2.021, 253.034(5) & 259.032(10) ↓	
44-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	35, 60, 71-79
44-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
44-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76
44-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-76
44-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81
45	Imperiled species, habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration, or population restoration	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
45-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	28-34, 51-53, 71-79
45-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
45-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76
45-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-76
45-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81
45-F.	Assess the feasibility of managing the lands > 40 contiguous acres as a recipient site for gopher tortoises consistent with rules of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as prepared by the agency or cooperatively with a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wildlife biologist.	259.105	34
45-G.	Economic feasibility of establishing a gopher tortoise recipient site, including the initial cost, recurring management costs and the revenue projections.	259.105	34
46	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of exotic and invasive plants and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034(5)	31, 32
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	451
48	Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
48-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	31-34, 54-57, 71-78
48-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
48-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
48-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-76
48-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81

Section E: Water Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
49	A statement as to whether the property is within and/or adjacent to an aquatic preserve or a designated area of critical state concern or an area under study for such designation. <i>If yes, provide a list of the appropriate managing agencies that have been notified of the proposed plan.</i>	18-2.018 & 18-2.021	35
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	35
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	16-27
52	***Quantitative description of the land regarding an inventory of hydrological features and associated acreage. <i>See footnote.</i>	253.034(5)	35
53	Hydrological Preservation and Restoration	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
53-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	59-60, 73, 77-79
53-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-77
53-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-77
53-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-77
53-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81

Section F: Historical, Archeological and Cultural Resources

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
54	**Location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property regarding archeological and historical resources. <i>Include maps of all cultural resources except Native American sites, unless such sites are major points of interest that are open to public visitation.</i>	18-2.018, 18-2.021 & per DHR's request	36
55	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of significant land, cultural or historical features and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	36
56	A description of actions the agency plans to take to locate and identify unknown resources such as surveys of unknown archeological and historical resources.	18-2.021	36, 60, 74
57	Cultural and Historical Resources	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
57-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	36, 60, 74
57-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
57-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76

57-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-78
57-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81

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

Section G: Facilities (Infrastructure, Access, Recreation)

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
58	***Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of infrastructure and associated acreage. See footnote.	253.034(5)	39, 40
59	Capital Facilities and Infrastructure	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
59-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	60, 61, 74-76
59-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
59-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76
59-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-78
59-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81
60	*** Quantitative data description of the land regarding an inventory of recreational facilities and associated acreage.	253.034(5)	39, 40
61	Public Access and Recreational Opportunities	259.032(10) & 253.034(5)	
61-A.	Management needs, problems and a desired outcome (see requirement for # 42-A).	↓	57-59, 72, 73
61-B.	Detailed description of both short and long-term management goals (see requirement for # 42-B).	↓	71-76
61-C.	Measurable objectives (see requirement for #42-C).	↓	71-76
61-D.	Related activities (see requirement for #42-D).	↓	71-78
61-E.	Budgets (see requirement for #42-E).		79-81

Section H: Other/ Managing Agency Tools

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
62	Place this LMP Compliance Checklist at the front of the plan.	ARC and managing agency consensus	iii-ix
63	Place the Executive Summary at the front of the LMP. Include a physical description of the land.	ARC and 253.034(5)	ii
64	If this LMP is a 10-year update, note the accomplishments since the drafting of the last LMP set forth in an organized (categories or bullets) format.	ARC consensus	44-70
65	Key management activities necessary to achieve the desired outcomes regarding other appropriate resource management.	259.032(10)	44-79
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	253.034(5)	79-81

Item #	Requirement	Statute/Rule	Page Numbers and/or Appendix
	improvements, recreation visitor services, law enforcement activities.		
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)	79-81
68	A statement of gross income generated, net income and expenses.	18-2.018	42, 79-81

*** = 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.

#

Table of Contents

1	Introduction and General Information.....	1
1.1	Location	1
1.2	Acquisition	10
1.3	Title Interest and Management Authority.....	10
1.4	Public Involvement	11
1.5	Planning Philosophy	11
2	Natural and Cultural Resources.....	12
2.1	Physiography	12
2.2	Vegetation	16
2.3	Fish and Wildlife Resources	32
2.4	Water Resources.....	35
2.5	Forest Resources	35
2.6	Beaches and Dunes.....	36
2.7	Mineral Resources	36
2.8	Cultural Resources.....	36
2.9	Scenic Resources	37
3	Uses of the Property	37
3.1	Previous Use and Development	37
3.2	Current Use of the Property.....	38
3.3	Adjacent Land Uses	41
3.4	Visitation, Economic Benefits, and Revenue-Generating Potential.....	42
3.5	Single- or Multiple-use Management	42
3.6	Acreage Recommended for Potential Surplus Review	44
4	Management Activities and Intent.....	44
4.1	Land Management Review	44
4.2	Adaptive Management.....	45
4.3	Habitat Restoration and Improvement	48
4.4	Fish and Wildlife Management, Enhancement, and Population Restoration.....	51
4.5	Invasive and Non-native Species Maintenance and Control.....	54
4.6	Public Access and Recreational Opportunities.....	57
4.7	Hydrological Preservation and Restoration.....	59

4.8	Forest Resource Management.....	59
4.9	Cultural Resources.....	60
4.10	Capital Facilities and Infrastructure	60
4.11	Land Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships.....	61
4.12	Research Opportunities.....	68
4.13	Cooperative Management and Special Uses.....	68
4.14	Climate Change.....	69
4.15	Soil and Water Conservation.....	70
5	Resource Management Goals and Objectives	71
5.1	Habitat Restoration and Improvement	71
5.2	Imperiled Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration	71
5.3	Other Wildlife (Game and Non-game) Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, and Population Restoration.....	72
5.4	Invasive and Non-native Species Maintenance and Control.....	72
5.5	Public Access and Recreational Opportunities.....	72
5.6	Hydrological Preservation and Restoration.....	73
5.7	Forest Resource Management.....	73
5.8	Cultural Resources.....	74
5.9	Capital Facilities and Infrastructure	74
5.10	Land Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships.....	76
5.11	Climate Resiliency Adaptation.....	76
5.12	Cooperative Management, Special Uses, and Research Opportunities	76
6	Resource Management Challenges and Strategies	77
7	Cost Estimates and Funding Sources.....	79
8	Analysis of Potential for Contracting Private Vendors for Restoration and Management Activities.....	81
9	Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Governmental Requirements.....	82
10	Endnotes.....	82

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Vicinity Map of the OKSWMA	5
Figure 2. Aerial Imagery of the OKSWMA	6
Figure 3. Section, Township, and Range Location	7
Figure 4. Nearby Conservation Lands and Florida Forever Projects	8
Figure 5. Soil Types on the OKSWMA.....	14
Figure 6. Depth to Water Table on the OKSWMA	15
Figure 7. FNAI Natural and Altered Communities.....	26
Figure 8. FNAI Historic Natural Communities	27
Figure 9. Facilities on the OKSWMA	40
Figure 10. FLAM Values on the OKSWMA.....	47
Figure 11. Landscape Conservation Blueprint.....	66
Figure 12. FWC Additions and Inholdings	67
Figure 13. Proposed Facilities on the OKSWMA	75

Table of Tables

Table 1. Florida Forever Projects within a 15-mile Vicinity	2
Table 2. Conservation Lands within a 15-mile Vicinity.....	2
Table 3. Natural and Altered Community Types on the OKSWMA.....	16
Table 4. Imperiled Plant Species on the OKSWMA.....	28
Table 5. Non-native and Invasive Plant Species Observed on the OKSWMA	31
Table 6. Imperiled Wildlife Species Observed on the OKSWMA.....	33
Table 7. Invasive and Non-native Wildlife Species Observed on the OKSWMA	34
Table 8. Cultural Resources on the OKSWMA	36

Management Plan Acronym Key

Acronym	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ARC	Acquisition and Restoration Council
ARM	Archeological Resource Management
BEBR	Bureau of Economic and Business Research
BFWMA	Brown's Farm Wildlife Management Area
BOT	Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
CARL	Conservation and Recreation Lands Program
CCT	Current Control Technologies
CLIP	Critical Lands and Water Identification project
DACS	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DFC	Desired Future Condition
DHR	Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources
DSL	Division of State Lands
FAC	Florida Administrative Code
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service
FEGN	Florida Ecological Greenways Network
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FISC	Florida Invasive Species Counsel
FLAM	Florida Landscape Assessment Model
FMSF	Florida Master Site File
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FS	Florida Statute(s)
FT	Federally Threatened
FT(S/A)	Federal Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
GRASI	Gulf Regional Airspace Initiative
HGM	Habitat Game Management
IMPP	Internal Management Policies and Procedures
IMPP	Internal Management Policies and Procedures
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAP	Landowner Assistance Program
LCSI	Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative
LMR	Land Management Review
MAG	Management Advisory Group
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OBVM	Objective-Based Vegetation Management
OFW	Outstanding Florida Waters
OKSWMA	Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
OSSF	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest
PASO	Public Access Services Office

PFLCC	Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
ST	State Threatened
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCPR	Wildlife Conservation, Prioritization, and Recovery

The Land Management Plan continues below on page 1.

1 Introduction and General Information

As the headwaters that eventually supply the Fakahatchee Strand and the mangrove swamps of Ten Thousand Islands, Okaloacoochee Slough is an important hydrogeological resource to the South region of Florida. The Okaloacoochee Slough is a large, nearly pristine sawgrass marsh surrounded by a vast landscape of pinelands, hammocks, and marshes set within a mosaic of conservation and agricultural lands. Okaloacoochee Slough, the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (OKSWMA), and Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) connect the Big Cypress Swamp with the Caloosahatchee River to the north. This region is one of the few places in Florida where the pre-colonial landscape can be observed. The conservation of these habitats provides a wildlife corridor critical to the survival of the Florida panther and protects the watershed of dependent downstream conservation lands.

The OKSWMA, owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) and managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), lies just to the east of its namesake slough. The OKSWMA, in combination with the Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area, the Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area, and the OSSF provide over 88,000 acres of contiguous habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife species. The FWC has lead management authority for all resources within the established boundary (Figures 1 and 2). The OKSWMA is managed by the FWC to conserve habitat for an array of imperiled and more common native wildlife, including the Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon's crested caracara, Florida sandhill crane, wood stork, and many others. Further management goals include providing stellar opportunities for wildlife watching and other fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, primitive camping, horseback riding, and hiking.

This Management Plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of the OKSWMA and has been developed to guide each aspect of the OKSWMA's resource and operational management for the ten-year planning period. It provides information including the past usage, conservation acquisition history, and descriptions of the natural and cultural resources found on the OKSWMA. Furthermore, it identifies the FWC's management intent, goals, objectives, as well as identifying challenges and potential solutions.

This Management Plan is submitted for review to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) - Division of State Lands (DSL), in compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapters 18-2 and 18-4, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Format and content were drafted in accordance with ARC requirements for management plans and the model plan outline provided by the staff of the DSL. Terms (Appendix 11.8) used in this Management Plan describing management activities conform to those developed for the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council Biennial Land Management Operational Report.

1.1 Location

The OKSWMA is located in South Florida in west-central Hendry County and encompasses approximately 26,510 acres (Figures 1 and 2). The OKSWMA lies in all or parts of Sections 20-

28 and 34-36 of Township 44 Range 30; Sections 1-4, 11-14, 23-26, and 35-36 of Township 45 Range 30; and Sections 2-6, 8-11, 14-23, and 26-33 of Township 45 Range 31 (Figure 3). The OKSWMA is located approximately 11 miles northeast of Immokalee, 80 miles northwest of Miami, 35 miles east of Cape Coral, and 20 miles southwest of Clewiston. Other municipalities near the OKSWMA include Fort Myers (30 miles west) in Lee County, Estero (30 miles southwest) in Lee County, and Naples (40 miles southwest) in Collier County. The OKSWMA is located approximately two miles north of the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern but does not lie within an Area of Critical State Concern.

1.1.1 Proximity to other Public Conservation Lands

The OKSWMA is located in the vicinity of an extensive network of conservation lands, including lands managed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the DEP, and Collier County. Other conservation lands in the vicinity include the Florida Panther Conservation Bank and several Wetlands Reserve Program Easements. Several Florida Forever projects are also located in the vicinity of the area (Figure 4).

Tables 1 and 2 list the Florida Forever projects and conservation lands within a 15-mile radius of the OKSWMA, including lands managed by public and private entities that conserve historical and natural resources within this region of Florida.

Many of the conservation lands listed in Table 2 are owned by a public entity. However, some of these areas fall within a less-than-fee ownership classification where the land is owned and being managed by a private landowner while a public agency or not-for-profit organization holds a conservation easement on the land.

Table 1. Florida Forever Projects within a 15-mile Vicinity

Project Name	Remaining Acres
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	10,763
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	31,188
Devil's Garden	47,641
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	119,329
Half Circle L Ranch	11,183
Panther Glades	39,382
Twelvemile Slough	8,036

Table 2. Conservation Lands within a 15-mile Vicinity

Federal Government	Managing Agency
Florida Panther Conservation Bank Conservation Easement	USFWS
Florida Panther Conservation Bank II Conservation Easement	USFWS
Grassland Reserve Program Easement #101	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #111	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #133	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #151	USDA-NRCS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #169	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #171	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #177	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #187	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #188	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #191	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #192	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #193	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #197	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #198	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #199	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #205	USDA-NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #221	USDA-NRCS
State of Florida	Managing Agency
BR Bar Ranch Conservation Easement	DEP
Dinner Island Ranch WMA	FWC
Immokalee Airport Upland Preserve	FWC
LaBelle Ranch, Inc. Conservation Easement	DEP
Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	FFS
Panther Passage Conservation Bank Conservation Easement	FWC
Sanders Pines Conservation Easement	FWC
Spirit of the Wild WMA	FWC
Trafford Highlands Estates Conservation Easement	FWC
Westclox Road Conservation Easement	FWC
Water Management District	Managing Agency
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir - Part 1	SFWMD
Caloosahatchee Basin Water Storage Reservoir	SFWMD
Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility	SFWMD
Centerline Conservation Easement	SFWMD
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	SFWMD
Lake Hicpochee Hydroelectric Enhancement	SFWMD
Lake Trafford Impoundment	SFWMD
Lennar Conservation Easement	SFWMD
Verandah West Conservation Easement	SFWMD
Weekley Seven Thousand Oaks Conservation Easement	SFWMD
Local Government	Managing Agency
Alva Scrub Preserve	Lee County
Pepper Ranch Preserve	Collier County
Private/Public Conservation Organization	Managing Agency
Black Boar Ranch Conservation Easement	TNC
Cypress Creek Grove TNC Conservation Easement	TNC

Acronym Key	Agency Name
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA-NRCS	US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Land Management Plan continues below on page 5.

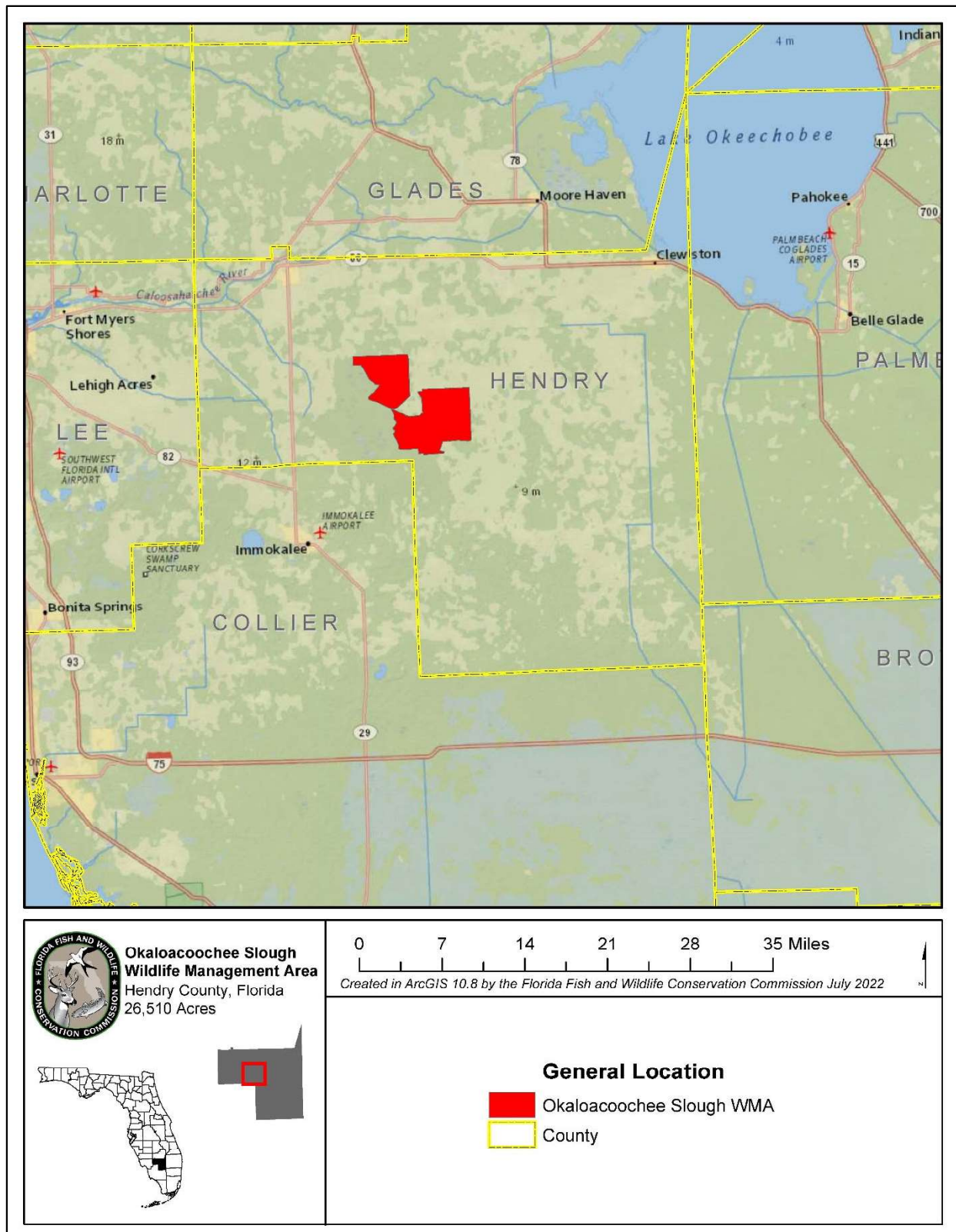


Figure 1. Vicinity Map of the OKSWMA

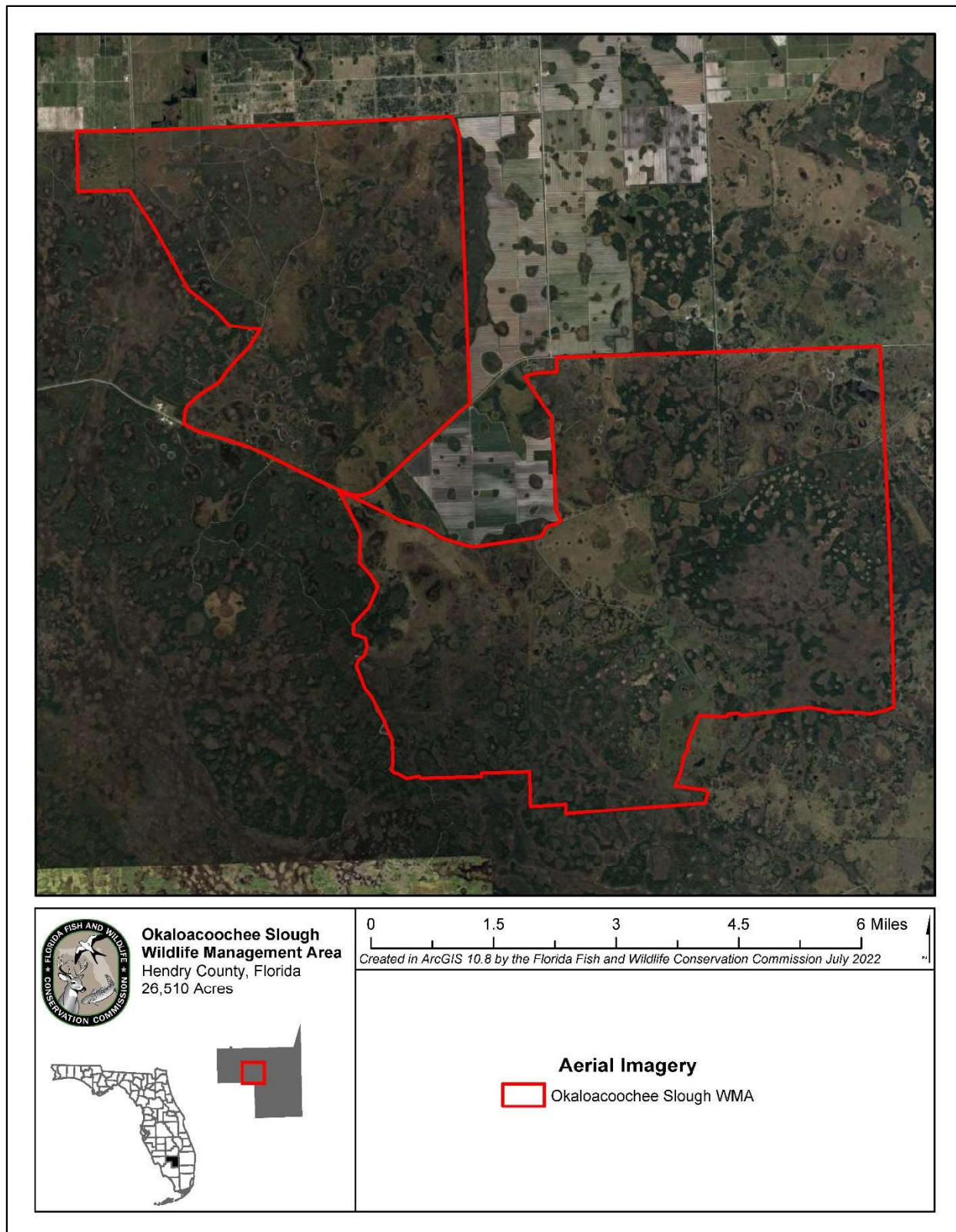


Figure 2. Aerial Imagery of the OKSWMA

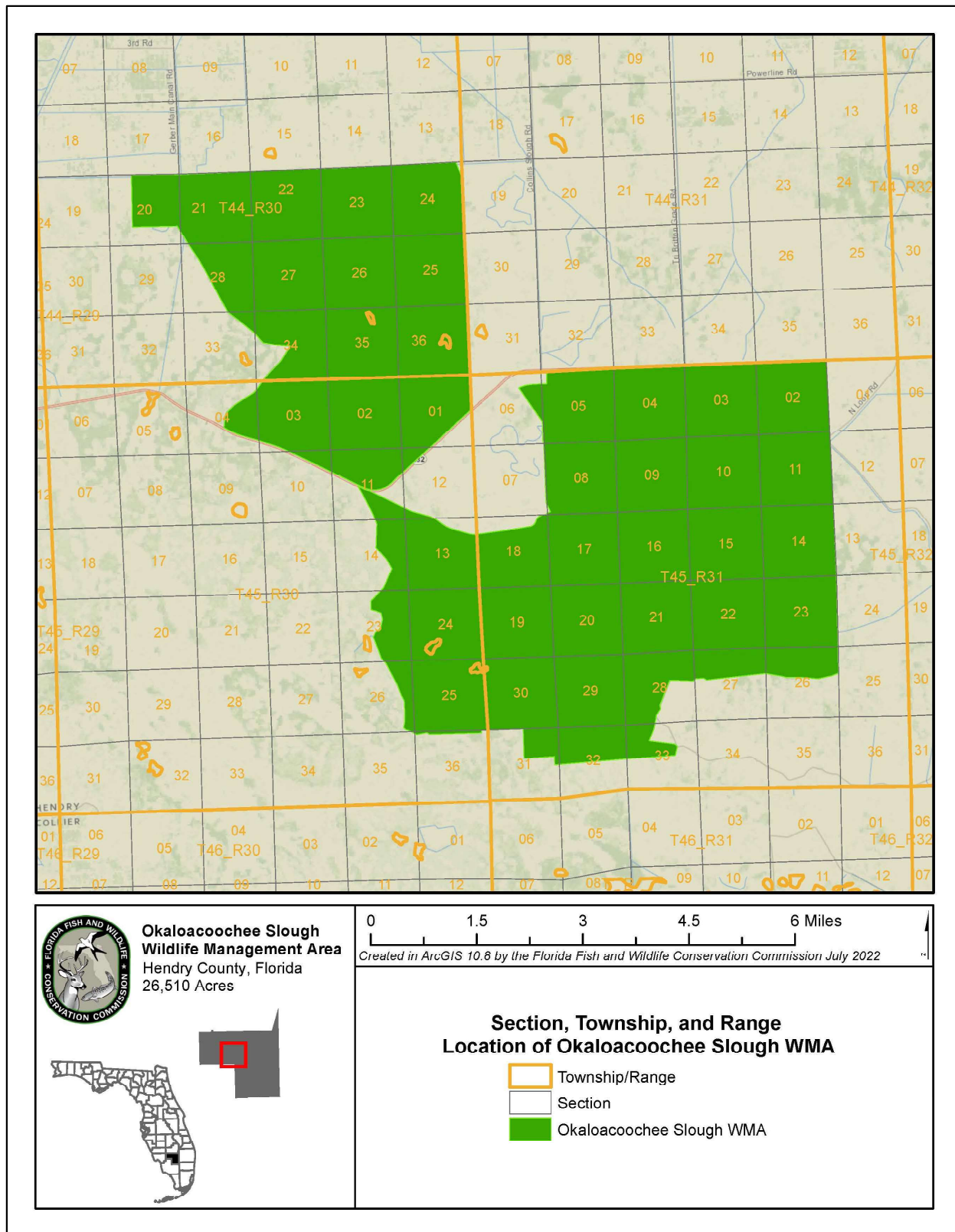


Figure 3. Section, Township, and Range Location

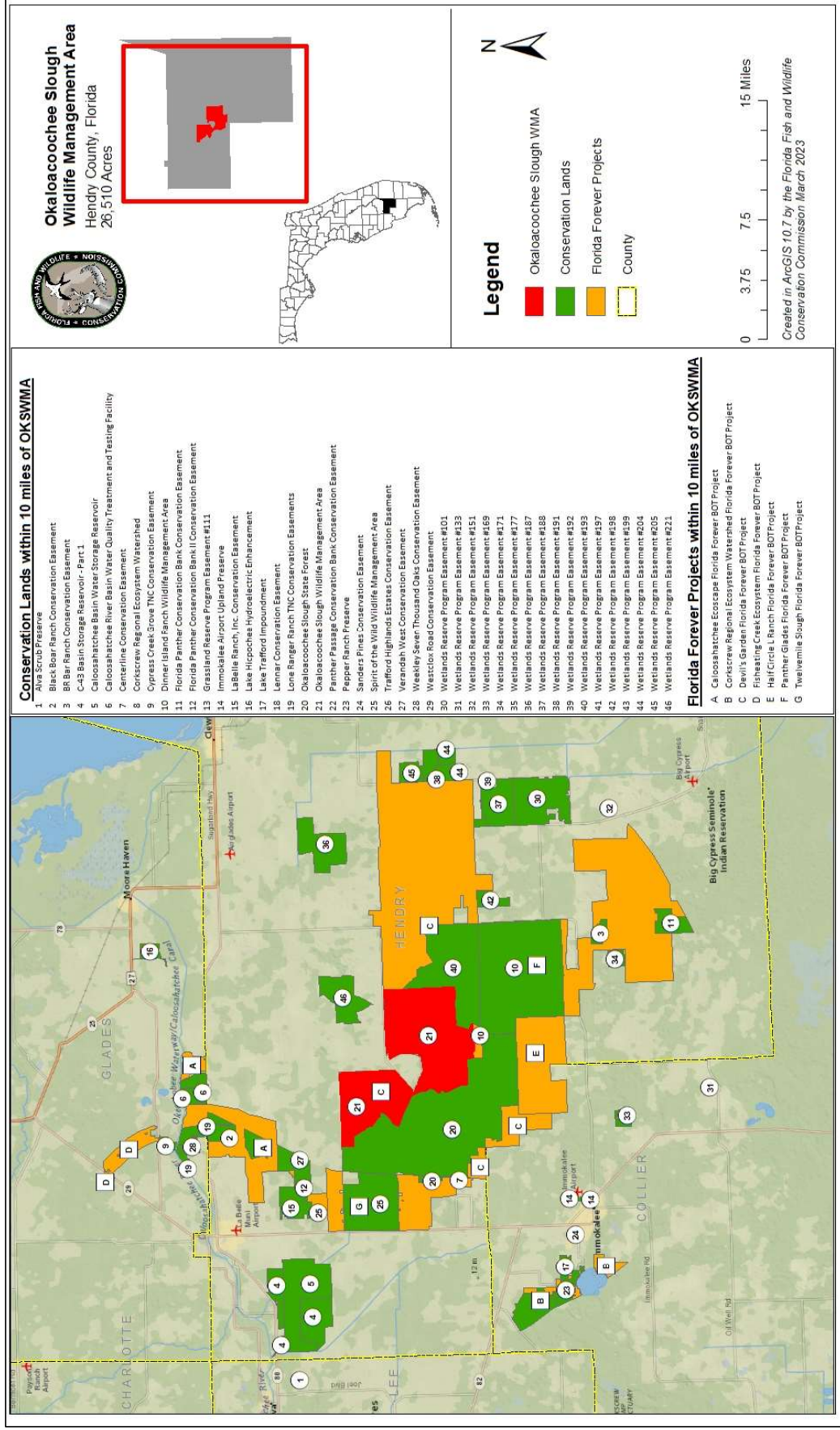


Figure 4. Nearby Conservation Lands and Florida Forever Projects

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

1.2 Acquisition

1.2.1 Acquisition History

The original 2,923 acres of the OKSWMA were purchased in February 1999 from Alico, Inc., an agribusiness and land management company that was formerly a subsidiary of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. The OKSWMA was purchased by the Board of Trustees under the Preservation 2000 land acquisition program. Subsequently, additional acreage was acquired from Alico, Inc. under the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project as follows: 5,528 acres in September 2019; 10,702 acres in September 2020; 5,734 acres in April 2021; and 1,622 acres in December 2021. These acquisitions bring the total current acreage of the OKSWMA to 26,510 acres.

1.2.2 Purpose for Acquisition of the Property

The OKSWMA was purchased to protect the watershed and waters of Okaloacoochee Slough; to provide habitat for its dependent imperiled and other native wildlife; to provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreation; and to mitigate the loss of hunting opportunities on the Brown's Farm Wildlife Management Area (BFWMA) in Palm Beach County, which was incorporated into the Everglades Restoration Project in 1994. As a provision of the Everglades Forever Act, Chapter 94-115, F.S., the loss of hunting opportunities on the BFWMA was required to be mitigated by the acquisition of the OKSWMA and additional lands. Because of the importance of the wildlife corridor provided by the OKSWMA, the Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA, the Dinner Island Ranch WMA, and the OSSF complex, subsequent lands were acquired to provide more habitat for imperiled species – especially those with large ranges, such as the Florida panther.

1.3 Title Interest and Management Authority

As State-owned lands, title to the OKSWMA is vested in the Board of Trustees. In March 2000, the DSL, as staff to the Board of Trustees, entered into a 50-year lease agreement (Lease Agreement Number 4245) granting the FWC management authority for the OKSWMA. There have since been four amendments to this lease executed in: October 2021, October 2021, February 2022, and June 2022. Further management authority derives from Article IV, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution as well as the guidance and directives of Chapters 253, 259, 327, 370, 373, 375, 378, 379, 403, 487, 597, and 870 of the F.S. These constitutional provisions and laws provide the FWC with the authority to protect, conserve, and manage the State's fish and wildlife resources.

The Board of Trustees' Lease Agreement Number 4245 with the FWC also directs the FWC to "manage the leased premises only for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and resource-based, public outdoor recreation which is compatible with the conservation and protection of these public lands, as set forth in subsection 253.023(11), F.S..." The lease agreement further directs the FWC to "implement applicable Best Management Practices for all activities under this lease in compliance with paragraph 18-2.018(2)(h), F.A.C., which have been selected, developed, or approved by lessor, lessee, or other land managing agencies for the protection and enhancement of the leased premises."

1.3.1 Encumbrances

There is one easement for the non-exclusive access, ingress/egress of Alico Inc., which is in Township 45 S, Range 31 E, Section 11. This easement is described in the Official Record Book of Hendry County (Book 581, Page 30) as referenced on the official boundary survey.

1.4 Planning Philosophy

The FWC's planning philosophy focuses on producing conservation outcomes that align with the needs of an ever-changing world. The FWC emphasizes consensus-building from the beginning of the planning process in order to engage, understand, and incorporate the ideas of the various interests, user groups, and communities that the FWC serves. To achieve this holistic management approach, the FWC convenes a MAG meeting which engages stakeholders from various user groups at the beginning of FWC's planning process, and a public hearing in which the public can provide formal testimony. The FWC also engages field staff, as well as other FWC staff expertise and other agency experts, in developing Management Plans, thereby facilitating development of meaningful management intent language. Further management planning input is also received through Land Management Reviews (LMR) conducted every five years. LMRs include both a review of the current management plan and a field review of the area conducted by a diverse team of land management auditors, providing the FWC with important information and guidance (Section 4.1).

Furthermore, the FWC maintains transparency and accountability throughout the development and implementation of the Management Plan by following a "living document" concept which links each plan with the previous plan by reporting on the objectives, management activities, and projects accomplished over the last planning timeframe (see Section 4).¹ The Management Plan serves as the guiding framework to implement an adaptive management process and content will be evaluated throughout the planning period to achieve comprehensive conservation goals (Section 4.2). As needed, amendments to Management Plans are presented to the DSL and ARC for review and consideration.

1.5 Public Involvement

The FWC conducted a Management Advisory Group (MAG) meeting in Felda, Florida on February 1, 2023, to obtain input from both public and private stakeholders regarding management of the OKSWMA. Results of this meeting were used by the FWC to develop management goals and objectives and to identify opportunities and strategies for inclusion in a Management Prospectus. Further, a public hearing, as required by Chapter 259.032(10), F.S., was held in LaBelle, Florida on May 3, 2023, to solicit input and comments from the public regard this Management Plan. The Management Prospectus was made available to the public 30 days prior to the hearing. A report of that hearing is included in Appendix 11.4.2. A website is also maintained for receipt of public input at <https://myfwc.com/conservation/management-plans/develop-mps/>. Further testimony and input are received at a public hearing held by ARC.

2 Natural and Cultural Resources

2.1 Physiography

2.1.1 Topography and Geologic Formations

Florida has a storied geological history. The State of Florida is a part of the Florida platform that extends into the Atlantic Ocean and extends over 100 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. During the Paleozoic and Mesozoic ages, volcanic and sedimentary rock formed to create the base layer of what is now Florida. Due to rifting and tectonic shift, North America broke away from Pangea and during this time the panhandle of Florida was underwater. Due to the waterway separating Florida from the rest of the United States, sediments eroding from the Appalachian Mountains kept Florida waters clear. This also created a limestone layer that, due to karstification, created the intricate aquifer and cave system in Florida. The final stage that brought Florida into the geologic condition represented today was the northern movement of the continent and receding water levels. This event also created the panhandle of Florida which is characterized by siliciclastic sediments created by the erosion of previously deposited rocks. Through these changes, Florida has a mosaic of geologic formations and soil types.

Florida is part of the Coastal Plain physiographic province, which stretches from Cape Cod to the Mexican border. The Coastal Plain is divided into six physiographic sections, and Florida lies between two of these sections: the Floridian section which encompasses most of peninsular Florida, and the East Gulf Plain section which encompasses the panhandle of Florida. Additionally, there are a total of ten physiographic divisions within Florida. The OKSWMA is in the Immokalee Rise Physiographic Province, a region dominated by shelly sediments from the plio-pleistocene eras. This sediment layer is characterized by robust and diverse fossil faunas, and highly variable sediments ranging from quartz sands to fossiliferous limestones (marine and freshwater). This region is found within the Everglades district and therefore has some of the youngest strata and landscapes in the state. Elevations within the Immokalee Rise vary from approximately 15 feet above mean sea level (MSL) at the outer edge of the province to approximately 45 feet above MSL in the central area of the province. Elevation on the OKSWMA averages around 30 feet above MSL and is variable by up to 5 feet throughout the area. Further, as part of the Everglades District, the OKSWMA is part of a complex drainage system that hydrologically connects a large portion of South Florida. The OKSWMA does not contain beaches, dunes, or virgin timber.

The lands comprising and surrounding the OKSWMA contain two slightly elevated ridges that support flatwoods, which flank the central slough system that is the namesake of the area. The easternmost ridge supports most of the upland vegetation because most of the western ridge has been cleared for agricultural uses. Several topographically higher islands occur within the central slough.

Much of the habitat on the OKSWMA is inundated or saturated on a seasonal or year-round basis. Natural communities in the OKSWMA with substantial hydrological features include depression marshes, slough marshes, wet flatwoods, and wet prairie. Further, as the OKSWMA forms the

headwaters of the flow of waters that eventually supply the Fakahatchee Strand and the mangrove swamps of Ten Thousand Islands, the Okaloacoochee Slough is a hydrological resource of benefit to the greater region as a whole.

2.1.2 Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) data were used to identify the OKSWMA soil series and soil depth to water table (Figures 5 and 6). The map units described in the soil survey of the OKSWMA are distributed as shown in Figure 5. Analyses of depth to water table for map units occurring within the OKSWMA are also provided in Figure 6. The NRCS defines a soil map unit as: “a collection of soil areas or non-soil areas (miscellaneous areas) delineated in a soil survey.” Soil map units may contain multiple soil components, which are given names that are unique identifiers. Appendix 11.6 lists the names and official map unit descriptions of areas delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey or by miscellaneous areas in the survey area as determined by the NRCS. Specific soils found on the OKSWMA are mostly Oldsmar sand (23.0%), Tuscawilla fine sand (13.0%), Riviera sand (13.8%), and Winder fine sand (10.6%).

2.1.3 Climate

In general, moderate climates occur in Hendry County. The OKSWMA is characterized by long, warm summers and mild winters. The average daily winter temperature over the last ten years has been 69 degrees Fahrenheit (F), with an average minimum temperature of approximately 59 degrees F. The average daily summer temperature is 82 degrees F with an average maximum temperature of approximately 91 degrees F. Over the last ten years, the OKSWMA also has seen an average annual rainfall of approximately 50 inches with the majority (60%) occurring from June to September. About 17% falls during May and October, with November through April being the driest months (23%)².

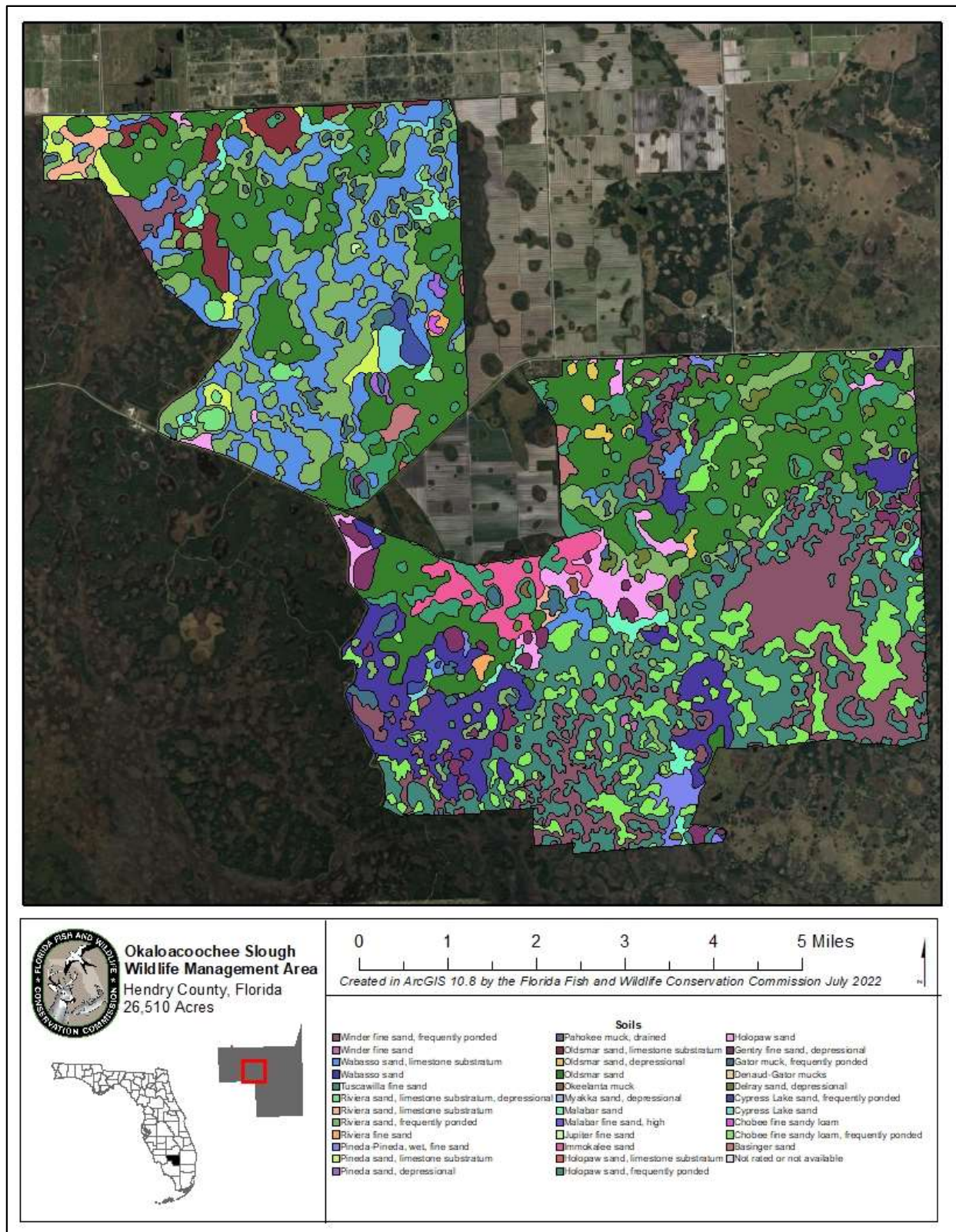


Figure 5. Soil Types on the OKSWMA

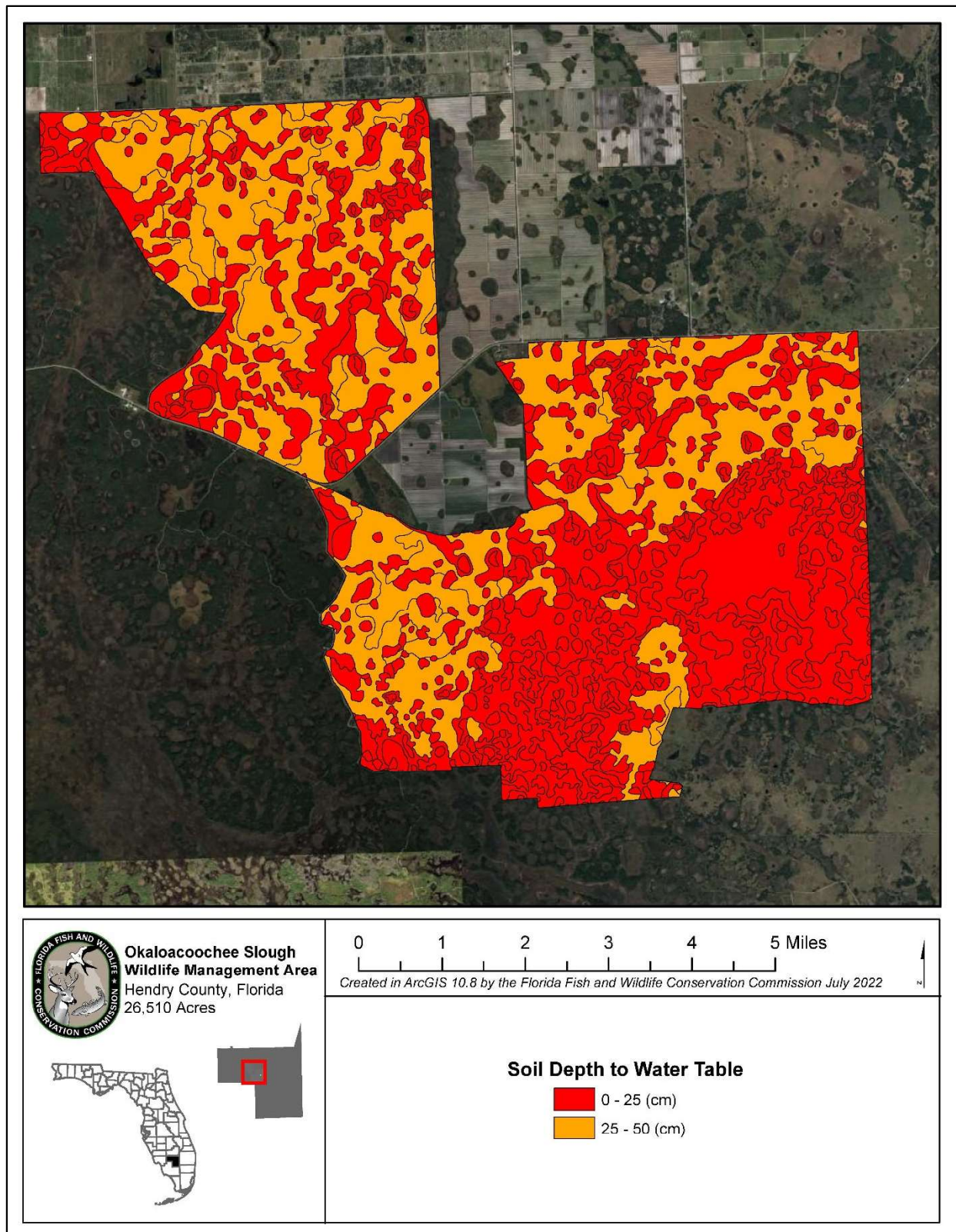


Figure 6. Depth to Water Table on the OKSWMA

2.2 Vegetation

The FWC manages the lands in the WMA system using a proactive natural community-focused approach. As applied by the FWC, natural resource management starts by classifying lands into distinct natural communities. The FWC then conducts management activities to maintain or enhance each community's structure and function. Land management that has a positive influence on natural community conditions benefits species occurring in these habitats.

Through the services of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), the FWC has mapped the current and historic communities of the OKSWMA and documented 19 natural and altered community types existing on the OKSWMA (Table 3, Figures 7 and 8).

Additionally, plant species found on the OKSWMA have been documented and recorded by either FWC staff or contractors (Appendix 11.5). Currently, 12 imperiled plant species have been documented on the area (Table 4) and 55 non-native and invasive plant species (Table 5) have been documented on the area (Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.3).

Table 3. Natural and Altered Community Types on the OKSWMA

Community Type	Acres	Percentage
Pasture - improved	7,094.20	26.67%
Basin marsh	4,395.28	16.52%
Slough marsh	3,175.66	11.94%
Depression marsh	2,825.06	10.62%
Abandoned field/abandoned pasture	2,533.56	9.53%
Successional hardwood forest	2,251.25	8.46%
Pasture - semi-improved	1,392.73	5.24%
Mesic hammock	601.96	2.26%
Mesic flatwoods	520.13	1.96%
Restoration mesic flatwoods	512.59	1.93%
Successional hydric shrubland/forest	412.36	1.55%
Wet prairie	271.16	1.02%
Wet flatwoods	253.65	0.95%
Canal/ditch	124.08	0.47%
Road	74.59	0.28%
Invasive non-native monoculture	63.46	0.24%
Firebreak	34.48	0.13%
Artificial pond	27.25	0.10%
Restoration wet prairie	18.71	0.07%
Restoration wet flatwoods	6.24	0.02%
Clearing	5.80	0.02%
Developed	4.43	0.02%

2.2.1 FNAI Natural Community Descriptions

The primary natural communities found within the OKSWMA are basin marsh, slough marsh, and depression marsh. The OKSWMA is hydrologically connected to the surrounding region, and this hydrology has a large impact on the prominent natural communities and resources in the area. The FNAI natural and altered community descriptions for the OKSWMA are as follows:

Basin Marsh (4,395.3 acres, 16.5%)

Basin marshes are herbaceous or shrubby depressional wetlands, generally protected from frequent fire by their large size or by their location within a non-pyrogenic landscape. Species composition is heterogeneous both within and between marshes, but can generally be divided into submersed, floating-leaved, emergent, and grassy zones from deepest to shallowest portions; shrub patches may be present within any of these zones.

Basin marshes are common throughout the OKSWMA. The majority of these marshes are currently surrounded by improved pasture, successional hardwood forest, abandoned pasture, or mesic hammock. The higher edges of these marshes are being invaded with hammock species, specifically cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*). Other scattered shrubs in the outermost zone include peelbark St. John's wort (*Hypericum fasciculatum*) and water toothleaf (*Stillingia aquatica*). The grassy zone usually has some degree of invasion by torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*). If not dominated by torpedo grass, this zone contains a diversity of herbs including Indian jointvetch (*Aeschynomene indica*), blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum*), broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), lemon bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*), herb-of-grace (*Bacopa monnieri*), chestnutleaf falsecrotton (*Caperonia castaneifolia*), spadeleaf (*Centella asiatica*), sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*), bluejoint panicum (*Coleataenia tenera*), Colombian waxweed (*Cuphea carthagenensis*), southern umbrella sedge (*Fuirena scirpoidea*), manyflower marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus* ssp. *solutus*), narrowfruit horned beaksedge (*Rhynchospora inundata*), Tracy's beaksedge (*Rhynchospora tracyi*), and yellow-eyed grasses (*Xyris* spp.). The emergent zone is composed of maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), bulltongue arrowhead (*Sagittaria lancifolia*), alligatorflag (*Thalia geniculata*), and southern cattail (*Typha domingensis*). Floating leaved plants are intermixed in the emergent zone and include big floatingheart (*Nymphoides aquatica*), combleaf mermaidweed (*Proserpinaca pectinata*), leafy bladderwort (*Utricularia foliosa*), and small purple bladderwort (*Utricularia resupinata*). The deepest portions of these marshes typically contain shrubs such as common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and coastalplain willow (*Salix caroliniana*).

Some basin marshes currently mapped south of County Road 832 were historically slough marsh. A portion of the historic slough marshes were eliminated by pasture conversion, and the deepest isolated marshes that remain have been classified as basin marsh in the current map. Most of the basin marshes on the property are negatively impacted by the conversion of surrounding uplands to pasture, or by hydrological alternations due to drainage ditches. Wax myrtle can form dense monocultures along the edges of these affected marshes, and torpedo grass invasion poses an ongoing threat. Hog rooting has been documented around the perimeter of some basin marshes.

Control of torpedo grass and hogs, and restoration of natural hydrology are management considerations for this community.

Depression Marsh (2,825.1 acres, 10.6%)

Depression marshes are isolated, herbaceous wetlands situated in shallow, relatively small and often rounded or oval shaped depressions. They are characterized by concentric zones of vegetation that reflect drier, more fluctuating hydrological conditions in the outer rings and wetter conditions proceeding to the center. The substrate is usually acidic sand with deepening peat toward the center. Hydrological conditions vary, with most depression marshes drying in most years. Hydroperiods range widely from as few as 50 days or less to more than 200 days per year.

Depression marshes are scattered throughout the OKSWMA and range in size from 0.75 acres to 59 acres. The largest marshes appear to be a convergence of two or more historically separate depressions. They are irregular in shape and still retain multiple deeper water centers with the outer zones forming shallower connections.

Because water depth in depression marshes usually increases toward the center, vegetation typically forms distinctive zones corresponding to depth. On the OKSWMA, there is usually an inner, central zone occupied by arrowhead, pickerelweed, or both. Deeper depression marshes may contain fireflag (*Thalia geniculata*), sawgrass, and occasionally willow. The zone encircling the center is often dominated by maidencane and queen's delight (*Stillingia sylvatica*) with blue maidencane commonly dominating the outermost herbaceous edge. Other herbaceous species found mainly in the outer zones include hatpins (*Eriocaulon compressum*, *E. decangulare*), yellow-eyed grass, beakrushes (*Rhynchospora inundata*, *R. corniculata*), blue water-hyssop (*Bacopa caroliniana*), yellow bladderworts (*Utricularia subulata*), floatingheart, water dropwort (*Oxypolis filiformis*), little marsh elder (*Iva microcephala*), umbrella sedge, and erect-leaf witchgrass (*Dichanthelium erectifolium*). The outermost zone often includes scattered St. John's wort (*H. brachyphyllum*) and queen's delight.

Torpedo grass, an invasive non-native, has created a monoculture around some of the marshes. Soil disturbance and fragmentation of its creeping underground rhizomes only encourages further spreading of this noxious species. Fire is important in maintaining the open herbaceous character of depression marshes by restricting shrub invasion and the formation of peat. Fire should be encouraged to burn into the marshes to limit shrub invasion and to encourage flowering and reproduction of grasses, sedges, and forbs.

Mesic Flatwoods (520.1 acres, 2%)

Mesic flatwoods on the OKSWMA are upland areas with an open pine canopy or no canopy, scattered cabbage palm subcanopy, and an understory dominated by saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) or gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), with a variety of other shrubs, herbs, grasses, and sedges, including pasture grasses depending on their location. They comprise approximately 520 acres on the OKSWMA. The largest area, approximately 110 acres, occurs between the main road running southeast to northwest off Twin Mills Road and the southern boundary of the OKSWMA. The remaining acreage of mesic flatwoods occurs as small remnant patches in the pasture matrix.

Historically, mesic to wet flatwoods, interspersed with depression marshes, comprised the majority of the OKSWMA landscape.

The largest area of flatwoods is also the area least affected by past cattle operations. The area was logged and cleared in the early 1990s, as evident on 1994 aerial photography, but not altered for cattle grazing. These flatwoods now have a shrubby understory with various amounts and differing composition of canopy and subcanopy cover depending on the relatively recent clearing activities. Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and/or cabbage palm are generally present in the canopy, although some sites have no canopy. Oaks (*Quercus virginiana* and *Q. laurifolia*) typically occur in the subcanopy or as a tall shrub layer. The shrub cover is generally dense (50-100%) and may include saw palmetto, gallberry, wax myrtle, shiny lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*), stagger bush (*Lyonia fruticosa*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), St John's wort (*H. tetrapetalum*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), myrsine (*Myrsine guineensis*), and dwarf live oak (*Quercus minima*). The herbaceous cover is generally sparse to moderate (1 to 25%) although a few areas are exceptions to this. Species include blackroot (*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*), bottlebrush three-awn (*Aristida spiciformis*), blue maidencane, panic grasses (*Dichanthelium* spp.), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), pale meadowbeauty (*Rhexia mariana*), and redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*). Weedy species are generally sparse to moderate and include bluestem (*A. glomeratus*), slender goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), and groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*). Some areas within these larger flatwoods seem to be a mixture of hammock and flatwoods and are difficult to categorize.

Forty-seven other areas were delineated as mesic flatwoods and total approximately 70 acres, with an average size of 11 acres. One area, approximately 15 acres, has been cutover but not "improved". This area is one of the few places where wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*) is found. This area also has low areas with more hydric species. Some of these spots appear to have been created when the site was logged, but other areas may be natural wet prairie. Additional species not mentioned above include Malaysian false pimpernel (*Lindernia crustacea*), false pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*), marsh goldenrod (*Solidago fistulosa*), thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*), rattlesnakemaster (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). Most of the other flatwoods are smaller and have dense pockets of saw palmetto and a more disturbed groundcover often dominated by bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). The pasture areas have additional areas where pockets of pines have been left or young pines are abundant.

Burning is needed to control the high shrub density at most of the flatwoods sites. This will also help increase the herbaceous cover, including wiregrass. Some of the flatwoods on the northwest parcel are sandwiched between depression marshes or are adjacent to the main swale system in the southern central portion of the OKSWMA. These areas may naturally be subject to more moist conditions and less frequent fires because of their location.

Mesic Hammock (602.0 acres, 2.3%)

Mesic hammocks are closed-canopy forests usually dominated by live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and with a diverse shrub layer that may include tropical species. Mesic hammocks are naturally protected from fire by their position on the landscape. On the OKSWMA, they typically occur as

“tree islands” in a wetland or sandwiched among wetlands. Soils in mesic hammocks are moist because of a dense litter layer and the humid conditions that prevail under the closed canopy but are rarely inundated.

All of the hammocks on the OKSWMA were classified as mesic. The canopy and subcanopy are generally comprised of live oak, laurel oak, cabbage palm, and/or slash pine. Most hammocks have a moderate to dense (25 to 75%) shrub strata dominated by cabbage palm, saw palmetto, and myrsine. Occasional species include citrus (*Citrus* sp.), wax myrtle, hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), hog plum (*Ximenia americana*), and smooth bumelia (*Bumelia reclinata*). Some of the tropical species found in the understory include myrsine, strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), Spanish stopper (*Eugenia foetida*), and twinberry (*Myrcianthes fragrans*). Herbaceous cover is typically sparse (0 to 25%) and mostly found in canopy gaps or areas with ground disturbance caused by natural or artificial means. Some of the herbs are swamp fern (*Blechnum serrulatum*), knotweed (*Polygonum* sp.), marshpennywort, dayflower (*Commelina diffusa* var. *diffusa*), and graminoids (*Cyperus* spp.). Most of the hammocks observed have an abundance of oak leaf litter and palm fronds covering the ground.

Hog rooting and past cattle activity are especially problematic in the larger hammocks. Caesarweed (*Urena lobata*) has taken full advantage of the disturbance caused by hogs and cows and is abundant in these hammocks. Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) is present, usually in canopy gaps or on edges of hammocks.

Slough Marsh (3,175.7 acres, 11.9%)

Slough marsh is a primarily herbaceous community growing in a narrow to broad shallow channel with intermittently flowing water in flat sandy landscapes. Slough marshes are generally dominated by emergent grasses, sedges, and herbs. Vegetation is found in zones based on length of hydroperiod and depth of flooding. Woody species are generally low if frequent fires in surrounding communities are allowed to burn into the marshes and extinguish naturally or burn through them. Deeper channels within sloughs may contain willow, pond apple (*Annona glabra*), and alligatorflag.

Slough marsh is present along the western boundary of the original OKSWMA property and in a much larger area on the south-central portion of the 2021 addition. These marshes connect to the main Okaloacoochee Slough marsh that runs through the neighboring OSSF and Dinner Island Ranch WMA. Slough marsh was largely inaccessible for ground-truthing purposes on the 2021 addition due to deep water, thus most of the community was mapped using 1948-49 aerial photos and current aerial photography. On the western boundary of the original OKSWMA property, herbaceous cover is moderate to high and includes maidencane, blue water-hyssop, rushes (*Juncus* spp.), water cowbane (*Tiedemannia filiformis* ssp. *filiformis*), three-awn (*Aristida* sp.), little marsh elder, and yellow-eyed grass. Wax myrtle and queen’s delight are sparse. Patches of alligatorflag and sawgrass with pond apple and willow are visible. The limited areas of accessible slough marsh on the 2021 addition have a dense tall and short shrub layer of coastalplain willow, southern bayberry (*Myrica caroliniensis*), and common buttonbush. Brazilian pepper and Peruvian primrosewillow (*Ludwigia peruviana*) are common here and dominate the shrub layer in

some areas. The herbaceous layer is dense with various species, including giant leather fern (*Acrostichum danaeifolium*), lemon bacopa, chestnutleaf falsecrotton, spadeleaf, sawgrass, manyflower marshpennywort, clustered bushmint (*Hyptis alata*), winged loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum* var. *lanceolatum*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*), maidencane, torpedo grass, rosy camphorweed (*Pluchea baccharis*), milkwort (*Polygala* sp.), pickerelweed, combleaf mermaidweed, narrowfruit horned beaksedge, bulltongue arrowhead, Wright's nutrush (*Scleria lacustris*), aster (*Symphotrichum* sp.), Canadian germander (*Teucrium canadense*), Caesarweed, leafy bladderwort, and Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*). Torpedo grass and Wright's nutrush have been documented in the herbaceous layer.

Wet Flatwoods (253.7 acres, 1%)

Wet flatwoods comprise only 242 acres of the OKSWMA, although historically it probably made up a large portion of the flatwoods matrix community. The remnant parcels have a sparse canopy of slash pine with a relatively open understory of scattered shrubs and dense groundcover of hydrophytic herbs, or a dense shrubby understory and a sparse groundcover.

A feature of wet flatwoods that distinguishes them from mesic flatwoods is the absence or small amount of saw palmetto. Because of the open understory and generally wet soil conditions, wet flatwoods support a rich ground layer of grasses, forbs, and sedges. Twenty-one areas are classified as wet flatwoods. The largest, approximately 60 acres, consists of scattered cabbage palm and saw palmetto with some shiny lyonia and gallberry. Swamp fern and Virginia chain fern are also present. This area has been cutover and lacks a dense pine overstory but does not appear to have been improved for cattle grazing. Two small patches of wet flatwoods are located on the northeastern boundary and do have a "pasture" component. These areas have sparse to abundant (5 to 75%) canopy cover of younger mature to mature slash pine and a moderate (5 to 25%) shrub cover that includes wax myrtle, saw palmetto, laurel oak, pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*), and cabbage palm. The herbaceous cover is high (50 to 75%) and includes bahiagrass, wiregrass, blue maidencane, maidencane, thin paspalum (*Paspalum setaceum*), bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), camphorweed (*Pluchea rosea*), dogfennel (*Eupatorium* spp.), umbrella sedge, spadeleaf, beaksedge (*Rhynchospora fasciculata*), seaside primrose willow (*Ludwigia maritima*), tickseed (*Coreopsis* sp.), queen's delight, pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), clustered mille graine (*Hedyotis uniflora*), clustered bushmint, and swamp fern. Vasey grass (*Paspalum urvillei*), smutgrass (*Sporobolus indicus*), and Caesarweed are some invasive species that occur in these flatwoods.

Wet Prairie (271.2 acres, 1%)

Wet prairie is sparsely scattered throughout the OKSWMA. Historically, areas of wet prairie formed a broad, shallow prairie/slough marsh between portions of Okaloacoochee Slough, Lime Slough, and Graham Marsh. Drainage, agriculture, and cattle grazing have greatly upset the natural hydrology of this area. Extensive orange groves lie north of the OKSWMA and sugar cane to the northeast. What remains is approximately 271 acres of wet prairie surrounded by depression marshes, basin marshes, slough marshes, and pasture. Wet prairies are seasonally inundated or saturated for 50 to 100 days each year and burn every two to four years.

Shrub cover is generally moderate to high (25 to 50%) with queen's delight and saffron plum (*Bumelia celastrina*) common but sparsely distributed in the large western wet prairie, and wax myrtle and saw palmetto common in the smaller prairies. Herbaceous cover is high (50 to 100%) and includes a variety of Asteraceae spp., little marsh elder, butterwort (*Pinguicula pumila*), mermaidweed, and others. Grasses and sedges are abundant and may include gulfdune paspalum (*Paspalum monostachyum*), blue maidencane, maidencane, three-awn (*Aristida palustris*), lovegrass (*Eragrostis* sp.), muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), beakrushes (*Rhynchospora* spp.), flatsedges, and umbrella sedge.

West Indian marsh grass (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*) and torpedo grass have been documented frequently in the margins of the wet prairie community. Torpedo grass has been documented as the dominant vegetation in the adjacent old agriculture fields. Wet prairies are especially vulnerable to off-road vehicles (ORVs), which compact soil and damage the hydrologic connections with other communities.

2.2.1.1 Altered Community Descriptions

Abandoned Field/Abandoned Pasture (2,533.6 acres, 9.5%)

Abandoned fields or pastures are defined as old fields, fallow pastures, or early successional areas formerly grazed or in agriculture without recent activity to maintain the area as pasture or planted field. On the OKSWMA, these areas are slowly succeeding to a weedy hammock. The canopy and subcanopy are scattered to dense with laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), live oak, and cabbage palm. Southern bayberry and Brazilian pepper are very common in the shrub layer. The herb layer is weedy and includes big carpetgrass (*Axonopus furcatus*), spadeleaf, dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), slender goldenrod, torpedo grass, bahiagrass, and Caesarweed.

Artificial Pond (27.3 acres, 0.1%)

Artificial ponds are a created habitat meant for water retention, cattle ponds, etc. Several artificial ponds are mapped on the OKSWMA. Most of these ponds have a very small raised spoil area adjacent to them where canopy trees such as cabbage palm are occasional. Vegetation surrounding the ponds is typically weedy or invasive. Invasive aquatic species such as water-lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) were noted in at least one artificial pond. These ponds are frequently used by American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*).

Canal/Ditch (124.1 acres, 0.5%)

Canals and ditches are artificial linear drainage ways. Several canals are mapped throughout the property, running through basin marshes, depressions marshes, and slough marsh. The canal along Twin Mills Grade Road hosts abundant wildlife, including American alligator, great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), limpkin (*Aramus guarana*), and anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). The invasive water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) was observed along this canal. The large canal that runs along Loop Road and cuts south through the property contains many FISC Category I species including water hyacinth, Peruvian primrosewillow, water-lettuce, and Brazilian pepper.

Firebreak (34.5 acres, 0.1%)

Firebreaks include long-term, routinely maintained features used to limit the spread of fire.

Invasive Non-Native Monoculture (63.5 acres, 0.2%)

Invasive non-native monocultures are stands of invasive non-native plant species that have eliminated the native vegetation, or nearly so. A nearly solid monoculture of torpedo grass occurs in the southwestern corner of the 2020 WMA addition in an area of historic wet prairie that was converted to pasture prior to 1949.

Pasture – Improved (7,094.2 acres, 26.7%)

Improved pastures lack a canopy layer or less commonly have a sparse to moderate canopy of live oak and cabbage palm and are dominated by bahiagrass, bluestems, slender goldenrod, and dogfennel. FISC Category I species such as Brazilian pepper and Caesarweed are commonly found growing under the shade of these sparse canopy trees. Shrub species are occasional and mostly consist of southern bayberry and young cabbage palms and tree species are infrequent, with a groundcover of bahiagrass, and also small patches where slash pine is the overstory. The herbaceous layer is dense and dominated by bahiagrass. Other scattered weedy herbs include broomsedge bluestem, scarlet milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), big carpetgrass, spadeleaf, witchgrasses, pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*), dogfennel, slender flattop goldenrod, manyflower marshpennywort, vasey grass, licoriceweed, and smutgrass. Additional herbaceous species present include smutgrass, vasey grass, carpetgrass (*Axonopus sp.*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora filifolia*), licoriceweed (*Scoparia dulcis*), Caesarweed, and others. The few shrub species that occur are usually wax myrtle, saw palmetto, and groundsel tree. Slash pine and cabbage palm are infrequent and typically found as young seedlings.

Pasture - Semi-improved (1,392.7 acres, 5.2%)

Semi-improved pastures are areas that have been stripped of a significant percentage of their native vegetation and seeded in pasture grasses, but still retain some natural structure. This altered community shares many of the same species as improved pasture but shows more affinity to the historic natural community. Semi-improved pastures occur throughout the property, mostly in former flatwoods and wet prairie.

In semi-improved pastures within former mesic flatwoods, small patches of intact habitat remains. The canopy consists of scattered South Florida slash pine. Live oak and cabbage palm are sparse in the subcanopy. The shrub layer is fairly dense with saw palmetto where flatwoods remain intact. Other shrubs include netted pawpaw, American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), fourpetal St. John's wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*), gallberry, coastalplain staggerbush, southern bayberry, wild pennyroyal (*Piloblephes rigida*), dwarf live oak, and shiny blueberry. Herbaceous groundcover contains a mix of flatwoods vegetation, including tall elephantsfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*), Mohr's thoroughwort (*Eupatorium mohrii*), and blackroot, and weedy vegetation, including big carpetgrass and dogfennel.

A few semi-improved pastures on the northwest side of the 2021 addition that were historically wet prairie retain a fair amount of natural species composition and structure. The canopy is either

absent or sparse with live oak and cabbage palm. Cabbage palms and young South Florida slash pines may be scattered in the tall shrub layer. The short shrub layer is sparse and includes southern bayberry, roundpod St. John's wort (*H. cistifolium*), and peelbark St. John's wort. The herbaceous layer is a dense mix of native vegetation and pasture grasses and/or torpedo grass. Patches of native vegetation include blue maidencane, bluestems (*Andropogon* spp.), big carpetgrass, witchgrasses, pink sundew, slender flattop goldenrod, southern umbrella sedge, clustered bushmint, turkey tangle fogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), camphorweed (*Pluchea* sp.), yellow milkwort (*Polygala rugelii*), West Indian meadowbeauty (*Rhexia cubensis*), fascicled beaksedge (*Rhynchospora fascicularis*), largeflower rosegiant (*Sabatia grandiflora*), buttonweed (*Spermacoce* sp.), spring ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*), bog white violet (*Viola lanceolata*), and savannah yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris flabelliformis*).

Restoration (537.5 acres, 2%)

Restoration is considered an altered landcover type where active restoration has been initiated in order to return the community to its historic state. Examples of restoration activities include pine thinning, longleaf pine planting, groundcover restoration, hydrology restoration, and removal of invasives and other undesirable vegetation. In historically pyrogenic natural communities, restoration activities are accompanied by the application of prescribed fire. Restoration altered communities on the OKSWMA include restoration mesic flatwoods (387.9 acres, 1.6%), restoration wet flatwoods (2.1 acres, <0.1%), and restoration wet prairie (18.7 acres, 0.1%). Currently, staff are finding success in groundcover restoration activities on semi-improved pasture. This process involves: chemical treatment of an expanded list of pasture grasses [i.e., bahiagrass, smutgrass, vasey grass, Caesarweed, and Thalia's lovegrass (*Eragrostis atrovirens*)] along with torpedo grass and bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*); prescribed burning; mechanical treatment; and native plantings. Using this method, staff have successfully converted 330 acres of "semi-improved pasture" into "restoration mesic flatwoods".

Road (74.6 acres, 0.3%)

Roads are areas that are maintained by the FWC and used for vehicular traffic. Some are maintained for public use, while others are firebreaks or two-tracks used regularly by area staff to access and manage the OKSWMA and may or may not be accessible to the public.

Successional Hardwood Forest (2,251.3 acres, 8.5%)

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

On the OKSWMA, successional hardwood forests occur in areas of former mesic flatwoods that have been excluded from fire, allowing live oak and cabbage palm to establish a closed canopy. These forests are very similar in structure to mesic hammocks, but typically have a younger canopy and a moderate to heavy infestation of invasive species. In some areas, the FISC

Category I Java plum (*Syzygium cumini*) has completely replaced the oak canopy. Disturbances such as hog rooting are common throughout these areas.

Restoration of these forests includes mechanical tree removal and reintroduction of fire. Where characteristic herbaceous species (e.g., wiregrass) have been lost, reintroduction via seed or plants may be necessary to restore natural species composition and community function.

The Land Management Plan continues below on page 26.

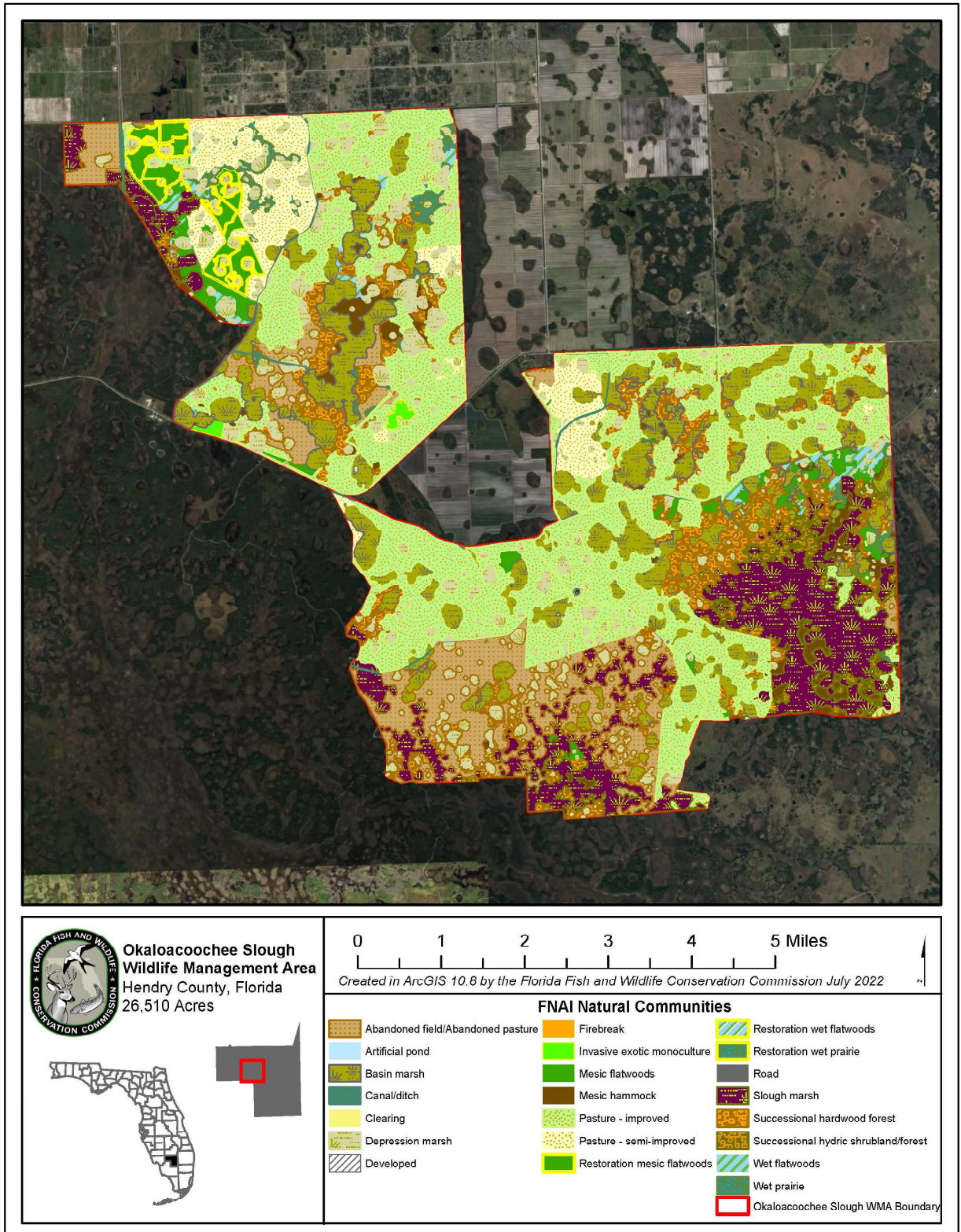


Figure 7. FNAI Natural and Altered Communities

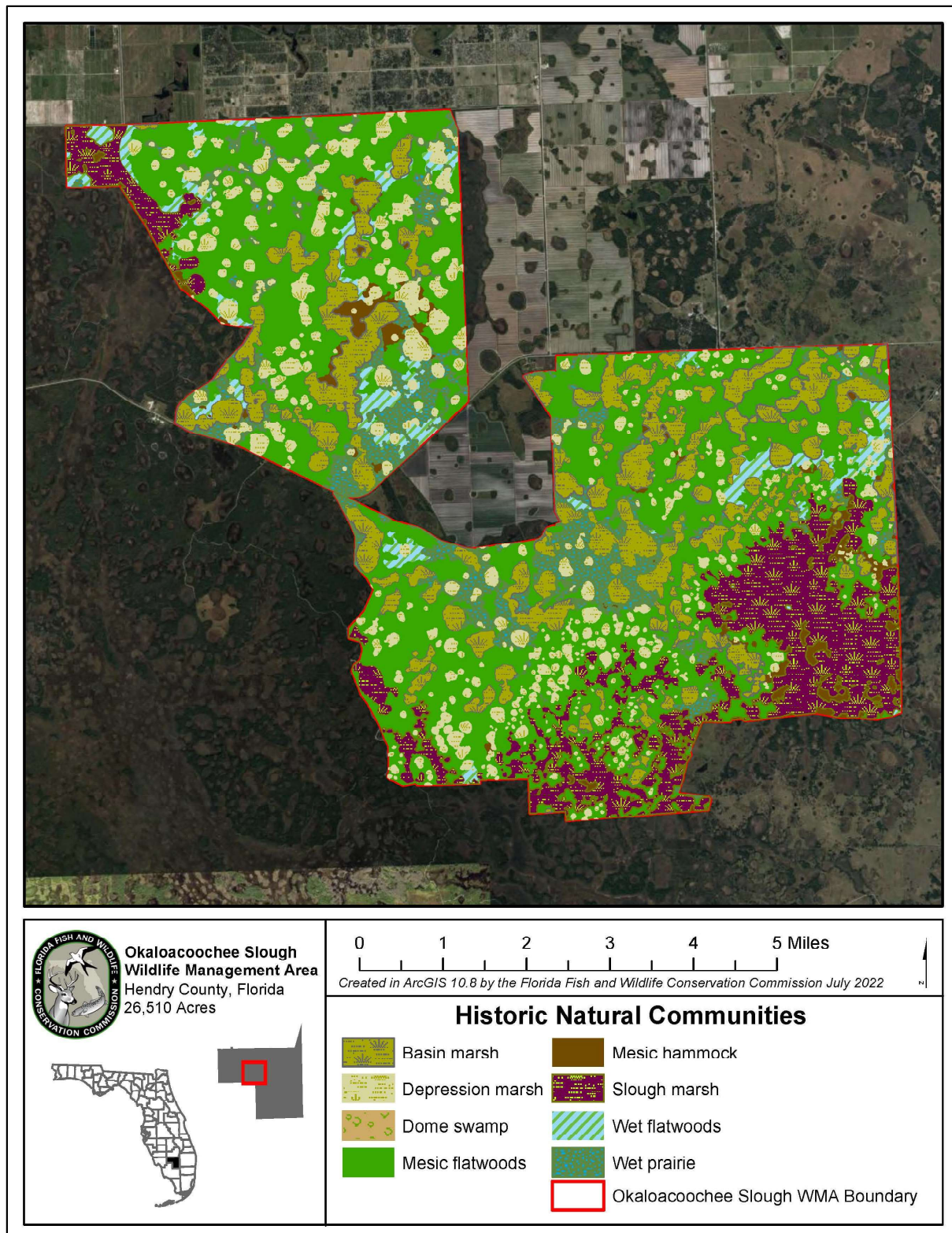


Figure 8. FNAI Historic Natural Communities

2.2.2 Imperiled Plants

For the purposes of this Management Plan, the term “imperiled species” as it relates to plants refers to plant species that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated as Endangered or Threatened. This designation is commonly known as “listed species”, and all names and status determinations were derived from Florida’s Regulated Plant Index Rule (5B-40.0055 F.A.C.) that is maintained by FDACS.

FNAI conducted a rare plant survey in 2014/2015 on the OKSWMA and identified 12 imperiled plant species known to occur on the area. Of these, three are state-designated Endangered, eight are state-designated Threatened, and none are federally-designated Endangered or federally-designated Threatened (Table 4). The protections afforded plants that occur on conservation lands, in conjunction with management actions including invasive plant removal and prescribed fire, will continue to maintain and enhance habitat for these and other rare plants. As such, these species should persist under planned management.

In addition to the imperiled plants, one plant that is State listed as Commercially Exploited is known to occur on the OKSWMA (Table 4). The FWC will continue to monitor the known occurrences of these species and report any illegal collection to the appropriate authorities.

Table 4. Imperiled Plant Species on the OKSWMA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FNAI Ranks*
<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	Satin-leaf	ST	G5, S3
<i>Coelorachis tuberculosa</i>	Piedmont joint grass	ST	G3, S3
<i>Encyclia tampensis</i>	Butterfly orchid	CE	G4, SNR
<i>Eulophia ecristata</i>	Non-crested eulophia	ST	G2G3, S2
<i>Lilium catesbaei</i>	Catesby lily	ST	G4, S4, S4
<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	Simpson’s stopper	ST	G4, S4
<i>Panicum abscissum</i>	Cut-throat grass	SE	G3, S3
<i>Stenorrhynchos lanceolatus</i>	Leafless beaked orchid	ST	G4T1, S1
<i>Tillandsia balbisiana</i>	Inflated and reflexed wildpine	ST	G4G5, S3
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	Common wild-pine	SE	G5, SNR
<i>Tillandsia flexuosa</i>	Twisted or banded air-plant	ST	G5, S3
<i>Tillandsia utriculata</i>	Giant wild-pine	SE	G5, S3
<i>Zephyranthes simpsonii</i>	Simpson’s zephyr-lily	ST	G2G3, S2S3

Acronym	Status
CE	Commercially Exploited
SE	State Endangered
ST	State Threatened

It is possible other imperiled species occur on the OKSWMA, and if encountered, staff will document these occurrences. Florida’s imperiled species are adapted to natural communities and should continue to benefit from the FWC’s ongoing and planned management to maintain and

enhance natural community structure and function. Under the FWC's management, these species have a higher probability of persistence than in the absence of this management. However, while habitat management provides overall benefits to a host of species reliant upon these natural communities, imperiled species sometimes require specific attention.

Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) - Butterfly orchid is epiphytic on many different trees, and prefers moist to wet areas in depression marshes, glades marshes, rockland hammocks, sloughs, strand swamps, tidal swamps, and wet flatwoods. It may occur in dome swamps, floodplain swamps, hydric hammocks, and mesic hammocks. This species does not require fire, but staff should allow fire to naturally enter and extinguish within its habitats when feasible. Illegal collecting negatively affects this species; therefore, protect known occurrences and make sure not to negatively influence areas with known occurrences. While plants are identifiable all year by their well-developed pseudobulbs, surveys for flowers can occur during peak flowering, which occurs May to September, and surveys for fruits can occur throughout the year.

Catesby Lily (*Lilium catesbaei*) - Catesby lily, also known as pine lily, prefers open areas in wet pine flatwoods and wet prairies, especially in pitcher plant bogs with sphagnum. Unlike most lily species, pine lilies require warm, moist, acidic soil, and will grow in saturated soil conditions. This species requires a fire regime that includes frequent (two- to three-year) fire to maintain and promote the open grassy habitats that it favors, with most fire occurring during the growing season. This species thrives with disturbance from fire, demonstrating a more vigorous flowering. Soil and hydrologic disturbances negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should limit the impact of disruptive activities, and maintain and restore the natural hydrology where practicable. Flowering, which occurs from August to November, is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

Inflated and Reflexed Wild Pine (*Tillandsia balbisiana*), Common Wild-pine (*Tillandsia fasciculata*), Twisted or Banded Airplant (*T. flexuosa*) and Giant Wild Pine (*T. utriculata*) - Airplants occur in many natural communities in Florida, both wet and dry. Most airplants are primarily epiphytes (plants that grow harmlessly upon another plant and derive their moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and sometimes from debris accumulating around it) that grow on stumps, tree trunks, and branches. However, large individuals may fall to the ground and successfully continue to live. While many airplants grow in communities that the FWC typically does not actively manage, if conducting management activities near known occurrences, staff should make efforts to protect the plant and host plant from fire, chemicals, and mechanical treatments. When an individual plant occurs in a fire-maintained habitat, prior to conducting a prescribed fire, to the extent practicable, staff will take appropriate actions to protect known occurrences. Airplants are experiencing massive population losses due to the Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*), a non-native pest, making the protection and management of these plants from other threats all the more critical. Flowering, which occurs throughout the year (majority of flowering occurs from early spring to early fall), is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

Cutthroat Grass (*Panicum abscissum*) - Cutthroat grass prefers areas of slight to strong groundwater seepage. It grows mainly on the eastern and western sandy seepage slopes of the Lake Wales Ridge. Cutthroat grass also occurs around depression marshes, ponds, and in low spots in wet and mesic flatwoods. This species needs prescribed fire every one to three years during the growing season for it to survive. Cutthroat grass very rarely flowers without fire, and it blooms vigorously within a few months after a fire. If cutthroat grass is top-killed by fire, it survives by resprouting from rhizomes. Hydrologic disturbances negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should protect seepage habitats from erosion by limiting vehicular and foot traffic in the seepage habitats to the extent practicable, especially during wet periods. Cutthroat grass is identifiable all year, and the best time for conducting flower surveys is from mid-June to late September or a few months after a growing season fire.

Leafless Beaked Orchid (*Stenorrhynchos lanceolatus*) - Leafless beaked orchid prefers dry to wet areas with full sunlight to partial shade in basin swamps, dome swamps, floodplain swamps, hydric hammocks, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammocks, sandhills, wet flatwoods, wet prairies, and strand swamps. This species may occur along dry to wet roadsides and ditches. The specific fire requirements are unknown for this species. However, since this species occurs in mesic flatwoods, sandhill, and wet prairies, a fire regime that includes frequent (two- to three-year) growing season fires that reduce the encroachment of woody species will be beneficial for this species when they occur in these natural communities. Fire suppression and hydrologic disturbances negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should avoid constructing fire breaks in ecotones, maintain and restore the natural hydrology, and apply natural community specific fire regimes. Flowering, which occurs from late March to July, is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

Non-Crested Eulophia (*Eulophia ecristata*) - Non-crested eulophia prefers open areas, with at least filtered sunlight and no dense shrub competition in mesic flatwoods, pine rocklands, sandhills, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and wet flatwoods. While this species may persist for long periods in xeric habitats without fire, occasional fire is needed to reduce competition and shading by shrubs. However, non-crested eulophia is dependent on frequent fire in moist habitats that experience rapid shrub growth, and prescribed fire should occur with a frequency that will create or maintain open areas, limit the shrub layer, and encourage diverse herbaceous cover. Excessive site preparation and illegal collecting negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should protect areas with known occurrences. Flowering, which occurs from July to September, or fruiting, which occurs from September to November, is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

Piedmont Joint Grass (*Coelorachis tuberculosa*) - Piedmont joint grass prefers moist to wet open areas in wet flatwoods, wet prairies, or the margins of dome swamps and depression marshes. This species depends on frequent fire (one to three years) in its habitat to survive. Hydrological disturbances and fire suppression negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should maintain and restore the natural hydrology where practicable, and prescribed fire should occur with a frequency that will create or maintain open areas, limit the shrub layer, and encourage diverse

herbaceous cover. The best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity is during flowering and fruiting, which occurs from June to December.

Satin-leaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*) - Satin-leaf prefers coquina, coral, sandy, and shelly soils in hydric hammocks, maritime hammocks, mesic hammocks, prairie hammocks, and rockland hammocks. This species is not fire tolerant, but its habitats occasionally burn during drought conditions. Hydrological disturbances negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should maintain and restore the natural hydrology where practicable. The coppery undersides of this species leaves are diagnostic all year, and June to November is the best time for conducting flower surveys.

Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) - Simpson's stopper prefers hydric hammocks (including the variant coastal hydric hammock), mesic hammocks, prairie hammocks, and rockland hammocks. This species occasionally occurs in dome swamps, floodplain swamps, and wet flatwoods. This species is not a fire-adapted species. While fires may reach the edge of hammocks, saturated soils and humid conditions within the hammocks typically limit the extent of a burn. However, periodic burns in adjoining communities can reduce woody encroachment and lessen the likelihood of fires spreading into hammocks. Soil and hydrologic disturbance negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should maintain and restore the natural hydrology where practicable and avoid using heavy machinery in wetlands with known occurrences of these species. Flowering, which occurs throughout the year with the heaviest blooming occurring from February to June, is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

Simpson's Zephyr-lily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*) - Simpson's zephyr-lily prefers open-canopied mesic and wet flatwoods. However, this species may occur in bottomland forests, hydric hammocks, mesic hammocks, upland hardwood forests, upland mixed forests, and wet prairies. This species does not require fire. However, it vigorously flowers following fires. Hydrological disturbances, illegal collecting, and fire suppression in flatwoods negatively affect this species; therefore, staff should maintain and restore the natural hydrology where practicable, protect areas with known occurrences, and prescribed fire conducted within flatwoods should occur with a frequency that will create or maintain open areas, limit the shrub layer, and encourage diverse herbaceous cover. Flowering, which occurs from late February to May, is the best time for conducting surveys or verifying species identity.

2.2.3 Invasive and Non-native Plants

FWC biologists and contractors have documented 55 non-native and invasive plant species on the OKSWMA (Table 5). Species that are considered invasive are species that (a) are non-native to a specified geographic area; (b) were introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally); and (c) do or can cause environmental, economic, or human harm. The FWC relies on FISC for the categorization of invasive plant species.

Table 5. Non-native and Invasive Plant Species Observed on the OKSWMA

Scientific Name	Common Name	FISC Category
<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Rosary pea; blackeyed susan	I

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan

<i>Alysicarpus ovalifolius</i>	False moneywort	-
<i>Ceratopteris thalictroides</i>	Watersprite	-
<i>Commelina diffusa</i> var. <i>diffusa</i>	Common dayflower	-
<i>Crotalaria pallida</i> var. <i>obovata</i>	Smooth rattlebox	-
<i>Cuphea carthagenensis</i>	Colombian waxweed	-
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermudagrass	-
<i>Cyperus brevifolius</i>	Shortleaf spikeseedge	-
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Yellow nutgrass	-
<i>Cyperus pumilus</i>	Low flatsedge	-
<i>Desmodium triflorum</i>	Threeflower tick-trefoil	-
<i>Eleocharis nigrescens</i>	Black spikerush	-
<i>Emilia fosbergii</i>	Florida tasselflower	-
<i>Eragrostis atrovirens</i>	Thalia lovegrass	-
<i>Fimbristylis schoenoides</i>	Ditch fimbry	-
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	West Indian marsh grass	I
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Cogongrass	I
<i>Justicia brandegeana</i>	Shrimpplant	-
<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	Peruvian primrosewillow	I
<i>Macroptilium lathyroides</i>	Wild bushbean, phasey bean	II
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Melaleuca, Paper bark	I
<i>Melochia corchorifolia</i>	Chocolateweed	-
<i>Murdannia nudiflora</i>	Nakedstem dewflower	-
<i>Murdannia spirata</i> var. <i>parviflora</i>	Asiatic dewflower	-
<i>Panicum repens</i>	Torpedo grass	I
<i>Paspalum acuminatum</i>	Brook crowngrass	-
<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Bahiagrass	-
<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	Vasey grass	-
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	Chamber bitter	-
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Strawberry guava	I
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guava	I
<i>Sacciolepis indica</i>	Indian cupscale	-
<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i>	Bowstring hemp	II
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper	I
<i>Scleria lacustris</i>	Wright's nutrush	I
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	Tropical soda apple	I
<i>Sporobolus indicus</i>	Smutgrass	-
<i>Torenia crustacea</i>	Malaysian false pimpernel	-
<i>Urena lobata</i>	Caesarweed	I

2.3 Fish and Wildlife Resources

As described above, the OKSWMA has a variety of natural communities and habitat types that support a wide array of imperiled and more common wildlife species. Active wildlife management

practices make the OKSWMA an excellent place to view wildlife. The OKSWMA's slough marsh, basin marsh, Depression Marsh and other natural communities provide critical habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. The FWC maintains an inventory of fauna occurring on the OKSWMA listed in Appendix 11.5, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

2.3.1 Imperiled Fish and Wildlife

For the purposes of this Management Plan, the term “imperiled species” refers to plant and animal species that are designated as Endangered or Threatened by the FWC or that are designated as Endangered or Threatened by the USFWS. This designation is also commonly known as “listed species.” Table 6 outlines all imperiled fish and wildlife that have been observed on the OKSWMA.

Table 6. Imperiled Wildlife Species Observed on the OKSWMA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FNAI Ranks*
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida burrowing owl	ST	G4T3, S3
<i>Caracara plancus audubonii</i>	Audubon's crested caracara	FT	G5, S2
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little blue heron	FT	G5, S4
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored heron	FE	G5, S4
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	Southeastern American kestrel	ST	G5T4, S3
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	ST	G3, S3
<i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida sandhill crane	ST	G5T2, S2
<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	Ceraunus blue butterfly	ST	-
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	ST	G4, S2
<i>Neovison vison evergladensis</i>	South Florida (everglades) mink	ST	G5T2Q, S2
<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	Roseate spoonbill	FE	G5, S2
<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>	Florida panther	ST	G5T1, S1
<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	Everglade snail kite	FT	G4G5, S2

Acronym	Status
FE	Federal Endangered
FT	Federally Threatened
ST	State Threatened

At its November 2016 Commission meeting, the FWC approved Florida's Imperiled Species Management Plan (<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/imperiled/plan/>), which included changes to the listing status for many wildlife species. Subsequent rule changes (68A-27.003 and 68A-27.005 F.A.C.) have come into effect since the Imperiled Species Management Plan was approved and those changes have been incorporated into this Management Plan. All federally listed species that occur in Florida are included in Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species list (<https://myfwc.com/media/1945/threatened-endangered-species.pdf>) as federally-designated Endangered or federally-designated Threatened. Species that are not federally listed, but which have been identified by the FWC as being at some level of risk of extinction, are listed as state-designated Threatened.

Based on a preliminary GIS analysis conducted by the FWC, the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA does not meet the Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (April 2023; <https://myfwc.com/media/11854/gt-permitting-guidelines.pdf>), and, therefore, would not be permissible as a gopher tortoise recipient site. This determination is due to the site's soil composition being primarily wet, poorly drained soil types. Although there are some gopher tortoises present on OKSWMA, they are found within altered and drained areas, and overall, the site's primary soil composition is wet, poorly drained soil types, which are not conducive to supporting viable gopher tortoise populations and do not meet the recipient site criteria of the Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (April 2024).

2.3.2 Invasive and Non-native Wildlife Species

In addition to the species listed in Appendix 11.5, eight invasive and non-native wildlife species have been documented on the OKSWMA (Table 7). The FWC will continue to document any occurrences of invasive and non-native species found on the OKSWMA. More information on monitoring and management of invasive and non-native wildlife can be found in Section 4.5 and Section 5.4.

Table 7. Invasive and Non-native Wildlife Species Observed on the OKSWMA

Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Anolis sagrei</i>	Brown anole
<i>Chaemeleo calpytratus</i>	Veiled chameleon
<i>Clarius batrachus</i>	Walking catfish
<i>Eleutherodactylus planirostris</i>	Greenhouse frog
<i>Osteopilus septentrionalis</i>	Cuban tree frog
<i>Python molurus</i>	Burmese python
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European starling
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Wild hog

2.3.3 FNAI Element Occurrences

A diversity of wildlife species is found on the OKSWMA. The FWC uses the FNAI Natural Heritage Database to assist in identifying and recording resources on FWC-managed areas. This database also supplemented the development of the species tables found in Appendix 11.5. FNAI's Natural Heritage Database is a comprehensive compilation of records documenting the location and ecological status of rare plant and animal species in the state. The database consists of "element occurrences", where an "element" is any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, or other ecological feature; and an "element occurrence" is an area of land and/or water where an element is, or was, present. FNAI scientists "track" (collect information on) approximately 233 vertebrates, 562 invertebrates, and 492 plants representing approximately 13% of the state's vertebrate species, less than 5% of the invertebrates, and about 12% of the plants. The status of each tracked element is assessed using standardized methodology; each tracked element is assigned ranks that reflect its rarity and degree of imperilment at the global and state level. These ranks are applied using a standardized

methodology that incorporates many factors, including geographic range; number, size, and condition of known occurrences; population size and trends; life history characteristics; and threats. The Natural Heritage ranking system and definitions can be found on the following website: https://www.fnai.org/PDFs/Rank_and_Status_Explanation.pdf.

The FNAI Natural Heritage Database includes element occurrences of six tracked wildlife species, and six tracked plant species on the OKSWMA. Several of the imperiled species discussed in Section 2.2.2 and Section 2.3.1 in this report are tracked by FNAI. These species and their ranks are listed in Table 6. In addition to the imperiled species listed in Table 6, FNAI also tracks the following rare or vulnerable species that occur on the OKSWMA: hairy woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*, G5, S3); Bachman's sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*, G3, S3) black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*, G5, S3), glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*, G5, S3), short-tailed hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*, G4G5, S1), swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*, G5, S2), merlin (*Falco columbarius*, G5, S2), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, G5, S3S4), painted bunting (*Passerina ciris*, G5T3Q, S1S2), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, G4, S2) snowy egret (*Egretta thula*, G5, S3), white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*, G5, S4), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*, G3, S3); southern hognose snake (*Heterodon simus*, G2, S2S3); and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*, G5T4, S4). Appendix 11.9 contains a letter from FNAI authorizing the FWC to utilize their database for the purpose of identifying known plant and animal resources.

2.4 Water Resources

All surface waters of the State are classified by the DEP according to designated uses as described in Chapter 62-302.44 F.A.C. The surface waters of the OKSWMA are designated as Class III and classified for fish consumption; recreation or limited recreation; as well as propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife.

It is the policy of the DEP to afford the highest protection to Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) and Outstanding National Resource Waters (Chapter 62-302.700 F.A.C.). There are no OFWs or Outstanding National Resource Waters at the OKSWMA. Furthermore, the OKSWMA is not located within and/or adjacent to an aquatic preserve. The main slough area itself, however, is a significant wetland/marsh system with importance to both the Fakahatchee Strand to the south, and the Caloosahatchee River to the north.

2.5 Forest Resources

The management of timber resources was considered in the context of the overall land management goals and activities for the OKSWMA. Based on discussions with the Florida Forest Service (FFS), it was concluded that there is currently no marketable timber on the OKSWMA. The FWC will continue to manage timber resources for wildlife benefits and natural community restoration. Management activities including the use of timber thinning and harvesting may be utilized. However, FWC staff have determined that the majority of the pine flatwoods on the OKSWMA will be managed as very open flatwoods or prairie where natural regeneration of South Florida slash pine will be the only source of pine reforestation; this management strategy was designed to promote forage for wildlife such as deer as a game species and prey for the Florida panther, as well as sparrows, quail, and turkey.

The area southwest of the North Loop East trail is maintained in a later stage of flatwoods succession to provide cover and denning areas for the Florida panther. Logging activity would reduce the density of vegetation, so logging is not a priority for this area. The primary management technique for encouraging reforestation is protection of young trees and seedlings on these sites from damage. However, where natural regeneration is lacking, artificial reforestation may be implemented. Planting trees on these selected sites is used to increase the rate of reforestation and to ensure diversity. Snags will be protected to benefit cavity-nesting species.

A Timber Assessment of the forest resources of the OKSWMA has been conducted by the FFS, however, due to the size of recent acquisitions, a large amount of the OKSWMA has not yet been assessed for forest resources. FWC staff are currently working with the FFS on an updated Timber Assessment. The management of forest resources will be considered in the context of the updated Timber Assessment and the overall land management goals and activities. Finally, the FWC will continue to consult with the FFS or a professional forestry consultant regarding forest management activities as appropriate.

2.6 Beaches and Dunes

The OKSWMA does not contain any beaches or dunes.

2.7 Mineral Resources

There are no known commercial deposits of minerals on the OKSWMA.

2.8 Cultural Resources

The Florida Master Site File (FMSF), maintained by the State's Division of Historical Resources (DHR), is the State of Florida's official inventory of cultural resources, archaeological and historical survey reports, and other manuscripts relevant to historic preservation in Florida. Categories of resources recorded at the FMSF include archaeological sites, historical structures, historical cemeteries, historical bridges, and historical resource groups (comprised of historic districts, landscapes, and linear features).

To date, the FMSF indicates that four previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted on the OKSWMA. Two archaeological sites and one resource group have been recorded on the OKSWMA (Table 8). The FWC consults with the DHR to determine the necessary actions for resource inventory and preservation. All identification, assessment, and preservation strategies are developed in consultation with the DHR.

Table 8. Cultural Resources on the OKSWMA

FMSF No.	Resource Category	Resource Title	Acres	National Register of Historic Places Eligibility
HN00249	Archeological Site	Nugget Island	2.0	Not Evaluated
HN00264	Archeological Site	OK Sawmill	11.7	Not Evaluated
HN00293	Archeological Site	Mineralized Bone Site	0.1	No
HN00284	Archeological Site	Cardinal Site	2.5	Yes

2.9 Scenic Resources

As one of the few places in Florida where the pre-colonial landscape can be observed, the OKSWMA provides scenic views of unique natural communities such as slough marsh, depression marsh, and several others. Additionally, the namesake of this WMA—the Okaloacoochee Slough itself—is an important hydrogeologic resource to the surrounding area and can be viewed from the OKSWMA.

3 Uses of the Property

3.1 Previous Use and Development

The first Paleoindian inhabitants of Florida arrived at least 13,000 years ago. While these and subsequent native inhabitants of Florida were largely fisher-gatherer-hunters, subsequent cultures began to produce domesticated crops, such as maize, beans, squash, and other crops for a growing and increasingly sedentary population. For thousands of years before Europeans arrived, Native peoples thrived in South Florida by hunting, fishing, and gathering of wild plants and shellfish. The forced removal of these cultures began shortly after the arrival of Europeans, either by the introduction of disease—to which the Native Americans had no resistance—or through outright conflict. In modern day Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida are federally recognized tribes, the Muscogee Nation of Florida is state recognized, and the Muscogee, along with several other tribes, have active petitions for federal recognition.

By the time Europeans arrived, the landscape of Florida had been shaped and modified by Native Americans for thousands of years. Along with novel agricultural practices, the Spanish, and later, the British and other settlers, brought cattle, hogs, horses, and other livestock to Florida. Social programs such as British agricultural land grants led to the proliferation of intensive agriculture throughout the state.

Agricultural practices such as rangeland cattle grazing quickly became crucial to the economy of the state from the 16th through the 20th century. The influx of settlers and resulting intensification of agricultural practices led to additional landscape alteration, continuing a trend that had been occurring for centuries. This alteration was quickly outpaced by Florida's boom-and-bust economies of the 19th and 20th centuries. The ensuing widespread environmental modification and commercial and residential development would permanently transform the cultural and ecological landscape of the state.

The northwest parcel of the OKSWMA was periodically logged from the early part of the 20th century until 1992. It had been managed primarily for cattle from the late 1980s (estimate) until state acquisition in 1998. By 1990, the improved area had been converted to pasture with a few pockets of pines left standing, usually adjacent to depression marshes.

In the mid to late 1800s, the area surrounding the OKSWMA was primarily used by cattle drovers and trappers. The Caloosahatchee River provided a link to the port in Punta Rassa and access to other markets. Though the OKSWMA itself was historically used for rangeland cattle grazing, beginning in the early 1900s and continuing for most of the century, a large amount of land in the region was used for silviculture. Removal of virgin pine timber and pulpwood took place during this time period, with the logged material being loaded onto rail cars at the Keri Wood Yard, just east of an existing railroad right-of-way.

Most of the uplands in this region were ditched and cultivated to produce tomatoes, watermelons, and cucumbers, but cultivation for these purposes has mostly ceased since the end of the twentieth century. Historical agricultural uses on land adjacent to the OKSWMA, primarily to the north and east, continue and consist of row crops, improved pasture, and citrus groves. Evidence of old dog pens, bunkhouses, hog pens, and swamp buggies indicate that other past uses include hunting and camping.

3.2 Current Use of the Property

Currently, the OKSWMA is managed for the conservation and protection of fish and wildlife habitat and fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreation. A wide range of operational and resource management actions are conducted on the OKSWMA each year, including activities such as prescribed burning; wildlife habitat restoration and improvement; invasive species maintenance and control; road repairs and maintenance; imperiled and locally important species management, monitoring, and protection; facilities and infrastructure maintenance and repair; conservation acquisition and stewardship activities; cultural resources monitoring and protection; and research related activities.

The OKSWMA is being managed as a multiple-use conservation land. Multiple-use management strategies incorporate uses related to wildlife, fisheries, forest management, and fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreation that are compatible with the original purposes for acquisition. Current and anticipated resource uses of the property are diverse. Hunting continues to be a popular recreational activity on the OKSWMA. The area also offers excellent opportunities for wildlife watching, especially for wading birds. The diversity of vegetation not only harbors a variety of bird species, but also provides good opportunities for mammalian wildlife watching. Other uses include hiking, photography, biking, sightseeing, and horseback riding. Due to the proximity of population centers in neighboring counties, public use can be expected to increase as public awareness of opportunities increases.

3.2.1 Hunting

Currently, the OKSWMA offers several hunting opportunities, including archery, small game, muzzleloading gun, family hunt, turkey, hog, and migratory birds. For more information on hunting opportunities at the OKSWMA visit the following website: [MyFWC.com/Hunting](https://myfwc.com/hunting).

3.2.2 Fishing

Fishing is authorized year-round at the OKSWMA.

3.2.3 Paddling and Boating

Paddling is permitted on the area, however, as there are no launch sites and water levels are relatively low on the OKSWMA, areas to paddle are limited.

3.2.4 Trails and Roads

Currently, the OKSWMA offers 0.84 miles of marked, multi-use trails and 16.6 miles of roads. Hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding are available on all roads and trails within the OKSWMA. Approximately 15 miles of roads on the OKSWMA are open for public vehicular access; the remaining road mileage is reserved for staff access to the OKSWMA for management.

3.2.5 Camping

No primitive camping is permitted on the OKSWMA, however, camping facilities are available on the adjacent OSSF.

3.2.6 Geocaching

Geocaching, also known as Global Positioning System (GPS) Stash Hunt and GeoStash, is a contemporary combination of orienteering and scavenger hunting generally utilizing a GPS receiver unit. Geocache websites routinely promote good stewardship. However, the potential exists for resource damage, user conflicts, or safety issues caused by inappropriately placed caches and/or links that do not provide adequate information about the area.

It is the policy of the FWC to allow placement of geocaches only in those locations that do not present the potential for resource damage, user conflicts, or threats to the safety of the activity participants. The placement of geocaches on the FWC-managed lands is governed by specific guidelines. These guidelines may be found on the following FWC website: <https://myfwc.com/license/public-land-use/geocaching/guidelines/>.

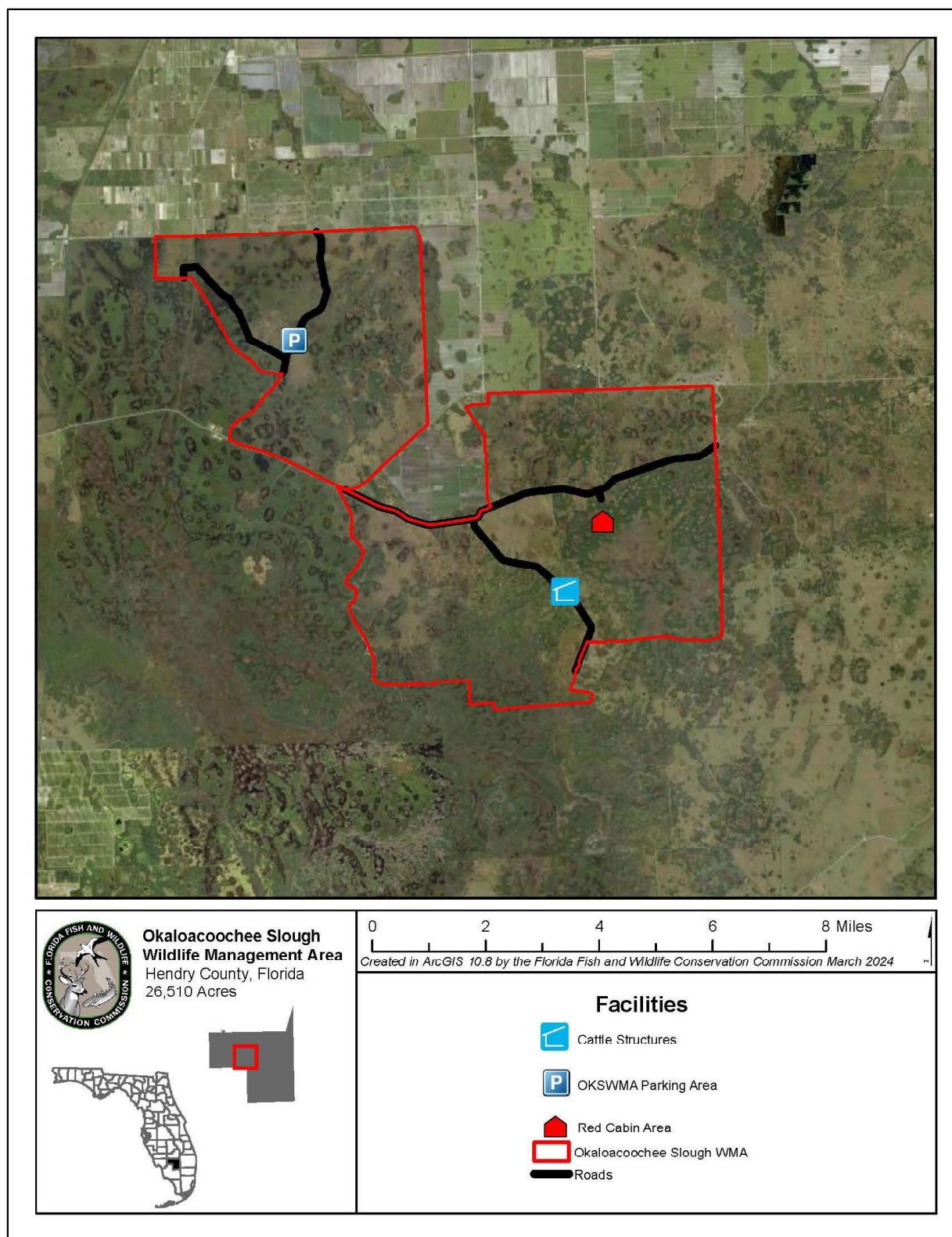


Figure 9. Facilities on the OKSWMA

3.3 Adjacent Land Uses

The OKSWMA is located in southeastern Hendry County, northwest of Immokalee. The 2021 U.S. Census estimates that there are 40,540 people living in Hendry County. The Department of Economic Affairs, Bureau of Economic and Business Research's (BEBR) medium-range population projection indicates that in the year 2035, there will be 44,500 people living in Hendry County. The BEBR population projections for the counties surrounding Hendry County for the year 2035 are as follows: Collier County – 455,100; Broward County – 2,145,200; Palm Beach County – 1,702,700; Glades County – 12,900; Charlotte County – 225,800; and Lee County – 983,700.

The current zoning ordinances for the OKSWMA are General Agriculture, Agriculture/Conservation, and Planned Unit Development. According to Hendry County's Comprehensive Plan, these designations allow for one unit per five acres, one unit per 20 acres, and development not to exceed 25% of total area, respectively. Hendry County's future land use maps indicate that the OKSWMA will continue to be designated and zoned as Agriculture/Conservation and General Agriculture; however, land within the OKSWMA zoned as Planned Unit Development will be rezoned as Agriculture/Conservation or General Agriculture. Lands immediately adjacent to the OKSWMA are classified as Agriculture/Conservation, General Agriculture, and Planned Unit Development.

Lands adjacent to the OKSWMA are primarily conservation lands, privately-owned pasture, and agricultural lands. The OKSWMA is located approximately three miles north of the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern, which encompasses the Okaloacoochee Slough from its headwaters in the OSSF south to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand State Park, and the Big Cypress National Preserve. The OKSWMA is bordered to the south and west by the OSSF. Farther to the west is the Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA and to the southeast is the Dinner Island Ranch WMA, both of which are managed by the FWC. Lands to the north of the OKSWMA are mostly private agricultural land, vacant residential lots, and packing plants owned by multiple landowners. The area to the east is agricultural and is currently used for sugarcane production. Adjacent agricultural uses present the threat of invasive species spreading along the OKSWMA boundary and through connective waterways.

Three private water control districts, Gerber Groves Water Control District, Collins Slough Water Control District, and Devil's Garden Water Control District, regulate the volume of water that flows through the OKSWMA. Hydrology on the OKSWMA is impacted by this regulation, which is often dictated by the water needs of adjacent agricultural lands. This creates high variability for water levels on the OKSWMA, and often results in extended periods of high-water levels during periods of rainfall. Since water flows north on the OKSWMA, agricultural activities to the north affect the property by dictating the amount and timing of water that can be discharged from the OKSWMA through the C-2 canal; this canal flows north through an adjustable weir at Sears Road on the north boundary of the OKSWMA, which is operated by Gerber Groves Water Control District.

3.4 Visitation, Economic Benefits, and Revenue-Generating Potential

Visitation and public use of the area for fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational opportunities is the primary source of economic benefits from the OKSWMA, which contributes to the overall economy for the South region of Florida. In Fiscal Year 2020-21, an estimated 8,103 people visited the OKSWMA. Primarily, as a result of this visitation and use of the area, the FWC economic analysis estimates indicate that the OKSWMA generated an estimated annual economic impact of \$1,583,245.17* for the State and the OKSWMA region. This estimated annual economic impact has aided in the support or creation of an estimated 16.1 jobs.*

Further revenue generating potential of the OKSWMA will depend upon future uses described in this Management Plan. Additional revenue from environmental lands such as the OKSWMA might include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects could be feasibly developed. The annual area regulations can be consulted to clarify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Additionally, the long-term value of ecosystem services, including the protection of air and water quality functions, are significant to local and regional land and water resources, as well as human health.

**The above figures are based on expenditure data from the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (USFWS) and 2006 IMPLAN economic models assembled by Southwick Associates and the USFWS. The results were updated to 2010 based on hunting and fishing license trends and inflation. The results were combined and weighted based on the numbers of hunters, anglers, and wildlife viewers statewide. The results assume participants' expenditures and the values used to calculate these expenditures are consistent throughout the state. Users applying these results to local situations should be aware that differences might exist between these statewide averages and the site in question and make adjustments if needed.*

3.5 Single- or Multiple-use Management

As mentioned previously, the OKSWMA will be managed under the multiple-use concept as a WMA. The OKSWMA will provide fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreation and educational opportunities, while protecting the natural and cultural resources found on the area. Any natural and cultural resources on the OKSWMA will be managed under the guidance of the ARC, the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan, and as outlined in the original purposes for acquisition. A detailed assessment of the benefits and potential impacts of planned uses and activities on natural and cultural resources was an integral part of the development of the management activities and intent, goals, objectives, challenges, and strategies sections of this Management Plan.

3.5.1 Analysis of Multiple-use Potential

The following actions or activities have been considered under the multiple-use concept as possible uses to be allowed on the OKSWMA. Uses classified as "Approved" are in accordance with the purposes for acquisition; the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan; and the FWC agency mission, goals, and objectives as expressed in the FWC Agency Strategic Plan (Appendix

11.10). Uses classified as "Conditional" indicate that the use may be acceptable but will be allowed only if approved through a process other than the management plan development and approval process (e.g., special-use permitting, managed-area regulation and rule development). Uses classified as "Rejected" are not considered to be in accordance with the original purpose of acquisition or one or more of the various forms of guidance available for planning and management.

	Approved	Conditional	Rejected
Apiaries		✓	
Archery		✓	
Astronomy	✓		
Bicycling	✓		
Cattle grazing		✓	
Citrus or other agriculture			✓
Ecosystem services and maintenance	✓		
Ecotourism		✓	
Environmental education	✓		
First-responder training		✓	
Fishing		✓	
Geocaching		✓	
Hiking	✓		
Horseback riding	✓		
Hunting		✓	
Linear facilities			✓
Military training		✓	
Preservation of cultural resources	✓		
Primitive camping			✓
Protection of imperiled species	✓		
Off-road vehicle use			✓
Shooting sports park			✓
Soil and water conservation	✓		
Timber harvest		✓	
Wildlife observation	✓		

3.5.2 Incompatible Uses and Linear Facilities

Consideration of incompatible uses and linear facilities on the OKSWMA are made in accordance with the requirements of Section 253.034(10) F.S.; various applicable Florida constitution, statute, rule, and policy requirements; and other provisions governing applications for proposed incompatible uses or linear facilities on state-owned conservation lands. Upon approval and implementation of the management plan, any proposed future uses that have been classified herein as Rejected, or other proposed future uses that are determined to be incompatible with the purposes of acquisition or other management authorizations and guidance, will be forwarded for

review and approval consideration to the DEP-DSL, ARC, and the Board of Trustees prior to any incompatible use or linear facility being authorized on the OKSWMA.

3.6 Acreage Recommended for Potential Surplus Review

On conservation lands where the FWC is the lead manager, the FWC evaluates and identifies recommended areas for a potential surplus designation by the DSL, ARC, and the Board of Trustees. This evaluation consists of GIS modeling and analysis, aerial photography interpretation, analysis of fish and wildlife resources, a review of resource and operational management needs, and a review of public access and recreational use of the area. Also, the FWC considers recommendations for surplus lands as they relate to Florida's "No Net Loss of Hunting Lands" legislation (Ch. 379.3001 F.S.), as well as surplus restrictions for lands acquired through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) or through other federal grant programs.

The evaluation of the OKSWMA by the FWC has determined that all portions of the area are being managed and operated for the original purposes of acquisition and remain integral to the continued conservation of important fish and wildlife resources and continue to provide good fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreational opportunities. Therefore, no portion of the OKSWMA is recommended for potential surplus review.

4 Management Activities and Intent

The following section provides a description of agency plans to locate, identify, protect, preserve, or otherwise use fragile natural resources and non-renewable cultural resources. In general, the FWC management intent for the OKSWMA is to restore and maintain natural communities in a condition that sustains ecological processes and conserves biological diversity, especially fish and wildlife resources. In conjunction with this primary emphasis, it is the FWC's intent to provide quality fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational opportunities on the OKSWMA. The FWC will utilize the best available data, guidelines, natural resource management practices, and recreational management practices to achieve these outcomes in accordance with the original purposes for acquisition. Furthermore, as noted previously, the management activities described in this section are in compliance with those of the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan.

4.1 Land Management Review

On-site reviews of conservation and recreation lands that exceed 1,000 acres and are titled in the name of the Board of Trustees are required every five years by Section 259.036, F.S. These reviews determine whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to Section 259.032, F.S. According to statute, the 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 LMR of the OKSWMA was completed in 2016. The LMR team found that the FWC was managing the area in accordance with the purposes of acquisition. The recommendations from the LMR team were considered and addressed in the development of this Management Plan, including development of management intent language, goals and objectives, and identification of management challenges and development of solution strategies. However, since the LMR was completed, there have been substantial acquisitions. An updated LMR will be completed in this management cycle and will include such acquisitions.

4.2 Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is "learning by doing";⁴ it is the adjustment or modification of conservation actions to achieve a desired conservation goal. In practice, adaptive management is a rigorous process that includes sound planning and experimental design with a systematic evaluation process that links monitoring to management.^{4, 5} Adaptive management requires flexibility for implementation, but should be fitted over a fundamentally sound, well-planned design.

An adaptive management process produces the strongest inference and most reliable results when experimental design components are incorporated into the monitoring process. Adaptive management is most rigorously applied in an active format when components of experimental design (i.e., controls, replication, and randomization) are included in the monitoring process.^{4, 5} Incorporating valid statistical analyses of results will further enhance the value of the adaptive management process. However, in some situations, rigorous experimental design procedures can be relaxed without invalidating monitoring results. In a passive format, adaptive management can involve applying a conservation action at a site, observing the results, and adjusting the action in the future if warranted.^{4, 5}

Proposed adaptive management, monitoring, and performance measures are developed through literature reviews and FWC staff meetings. Overall, a results-based approach is incorporated into the Management Plan, for which effective monitoring is an integral component. The FWC will monitor conservation actions, species, habitats, and major threats to the conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the OKSWMA.

4.2.1 Monitoring

A well-developed monitoring protocol is also one of the principal required criteria for the management of the OKSWMA. Monitoring and performance measures are important, but often overlooked, elements of conservation planning. Monitoring provides the critical link between implementing conservation actions and revising management goals.

Monitoring is the systematic, repeated measurement of environmental characteristics to detect changes, and particularly trends, in those characteristics. Monitoring provides essential feedback, the data needed to understand the costs, benefits, and effectiveness of planned conservation actions and the management projects undertaken to address them.²

For natural communities, monitoring protocols are established through the FWC's Objective Based Vegetation Management (OBVM) program, which monitors how specific vegetative attributes are responding to FWC management (Section 4.3.1). For imperiled and locally important fish and wildlife species, monitoring protocols are established through the FWC's Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery (WCPR) program (Section 4.4.1). FWC staff may monitor additional fish and wildlife species when deemed appropriate. Invasive plant and animal species are also monitored as needed and appropriate (Section 4.5). Recreational uses are monitored through the FWC's Public Access Services Office (PASO), and work in conjunction with the establishment and adjustment of public access carrying capacities (Section 4.6.3). Cultural resources are monitored with guidance from the DHR (Section 4.9).

4.2.2 Florida Landscape Assessment Model

The FWC has developed the Florida Landscape Assessment Model (FLAM) as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based assessment tool that incorporates a wide variety of landscape and wildlife species data. The FLAM evaluates the Florida landscape based upon important natural resources and habitat needs of wildlife as a way to identify ecologically significant lands in the state, and to assess the potential impacts of management and land-use changes. The FLAM was developed to provide technical assistance to various local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and entities interested in wildlife needs and conservation in order to: (1) determine ways to avoid or minimize project impacts by evaluating alternative placements, alignments, and transportation corridors during early planning stages, (2) assess direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to habitat and wildlife resources, and (3) identify appropriate parcels for public land acquisition for wetland and upland habitat mitigation purposes. The FLAM ranks habitat from a 0-10; a rank of 10 being of greatest value. The FLAM (2021) indicates that the OKSWMA has a very high mean wildlife value of 8.5 (Figure 10).

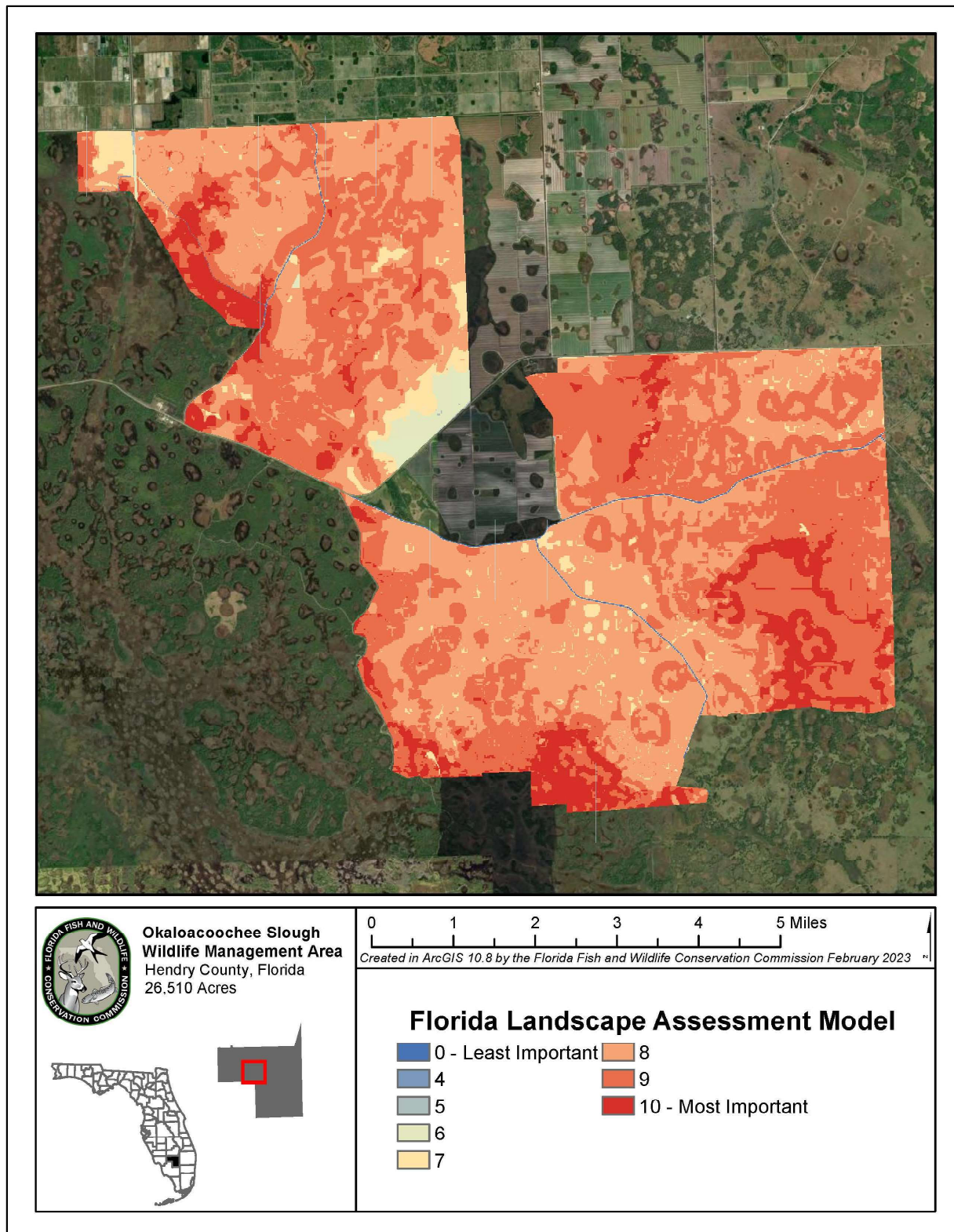


Figure 10. FLAM Values on the OKSWMA

4.2.3 Performance Measures

Performance measures include qualitative or quantitative measures used to provide an estimate or index of the characteristic of interest, and to chart the overall progress of conservation actions towards specific goals. Successful monitoring programs and their associated performance measures provide natural resource professionals with valuable feedback on the effectiveness of conservation actions and make it possible to implement a more flexible adaptive management approach. An adaptive management approach ultimately will be more efficient and effective when it tracks inputs, incorporates an effective monitoring program that integrates performance measures, and evaluates results against desired goals.

4.2.4 Implementation

The OKSWMA Management Plan serves as the guiding framework to implement this adaptive management process. It serves as the underpinning for the integration of management programs (OBVM, WCPR, PASO, Recreational Assessments, etc.) underway to accomplish needed conservation actions that are planned to manage the natural resources of the OKSWMA and resolve conservation threats to fish and wildlife and the habitats they occupy. Based on evaluations of project results, the conservation actions are revised as necessary, and the adaptive management process is repeated.

4.3 Habitat Restoration and Improvement

On the OKSWMA, the FWC will focus on managing for native habitat diversity, emphasizing maintenance of natural communities, and restoration of disturbed areas. The OKSWMA has functioning natural communities including slough marsh, depression marsh, and mesic flatwoods that the FWC will continue to manage and protect. On any disturbed upland sites, the FWC intends to continue natural community restoration. Restoration may be achieved on disturbed areas by the reintroduction of fire, the restoration of historic hydrological conditions, and/or the use of mechanical or chemical forest management techniques as appropriate.

4.3.1 Objective-Based Vegetation Management

The FWC uses a comprehensive resource management approach to improving FWC-managed areas. Restoring the form and function of Florida's natural communities is the foundation of the FWC's management philosophy. OBVM is a monitoring tool used by the FWC to monitor how specific vegetative attributes are responding to management.

The first step in implementing OBVM is to map the current, and in most cases the historic natural communities, on the managed area using the FNAI natural community classification. A natural community, as defined by FNAI, is a distinct and recurring assemblage of populations of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms naturally associated with each other and their physical environment. The FWC contracts with FNAI to provide these mapping services and plans to have natural community maps recertified for most areas on a five-year basis.

FNAI has conducted surveys and mapped the current and historic natural communities on the OKSWMA. New acquisitions that have occurred on the area are being mapped for current natural and altered communities during this planning period.

After natural communities have been mapped, FWC land managers will identify those natural communities that will influence and guide management decisions, known as the actively managed natural communities. Through OBVM monitoring, the FWC collects data on specific vegetation attributes that provide insight about natural community conditions. This information will be used to guide and prioritize management and restoration efforts on the area. Because the FWC is interested in the overall effect of management on the natural communities, OBVM data is analyzed area wide, at the natural community level, and not the management unit level.

Vegetation monitoring samples the 12 OBVM core attributes, with the results being compared to the desired future conditions (DFCs). Measurable habitat management objectives, referred to as DFCs, have been established by FNAI for each actively managed natural community. The DFCs are the acceptable range of values for quantifiable vegetation attributes, such as basal area, shrub height and cover, and ground cover. The FWC collaborated with FNAI to identify ‘reference sites’ for each actively managed natural community and applied the OBVM monitoring methodology at these reference sites to determine what attribute values occur in a high-quality community (<http://www.fnai.org/reference-natural-communities.cfm>). FWC staff generally use reference site attribute values when setting DFCs for actively managed natural communities.

All monitoring performed under OBVM is completed using the program’s Standard Operating Procedures. Consistent, long-term monitoring of managed natural communities will quantify changes in habitat conditions, provide information on the cumulative effects of management activities, and measure progress towards meeting management objectives for the DFCs. Measured changes in vegetation conditions are intended to be used to inform future land management actions.

Overall, natural community mapping, OBVM structural sampling, and plant species lists provide FWC staff with baseline data indicating natural community structure, distribution, and condition on the area. Comparing the monitoring results to desired future conditions provides important information on the structural condition and composition of a natural community at a given point in time. OBVM sampling is repeated every 5-years and comparisons with past OBVM monitoring data allows changes over time to be detected. Using this information, managers can evaluate, adjust, and modify their management practices to better natural community conditions. By comparing natural community mapping products through the years, managers can track progress in moving altered communities to functioning natural communities.

4.3.2 Prescribed Fire and Fire Management

Periodic spring and summer fires occur in fire-adapted communities under natural conditions. Plant species composition reflects the frequency and intensity of these fires. In the absence of fire or after soil disturbance (e.g., through conversion to other land uses), fire dependent natural communities including flatwoods, prairies, and marshes, typically are colonized by shrubs and/or hardwoods, resulting in habitat structure and species composition very different from the original plant community. The specific outcomes differ in different landscape settings, but the dominant role of fire in controlling woody vegetation is equally important.

Fire exclusion and land management practices, including timber harvesting, site preparation for planting, agricultural uses, and drainage, have altered the plant species composition of portions of the area, likely resulting in changes in fuel and complicating the return to the desired presettlement fire regime. Site-specific combinations of prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical vegetation control, reforestation, and restoration of natural water regimes are likely actions that will be needed to restore the area to historic natural communities.

The FWC employs a fire management regime to maintain or increase both species and habitat diversity and will continue a prescribed burning program on the OKSWMA in accordance with natural community management objectives. As fire moves across a landscape, some areas carry fire better than others. Areas with higher fine fuel loads typically burn more evenly and with greater intensity. Areas with lower fuel loads or wetland areas typically will not carry fire as evenly, and usually burn at a lower intensity. Employing a burning program with different fire frequencies, intensities, and seasonality (dormant season vs. growing season) of prescribed burns creates habitat diversity and a mosaic of vegetation patterns. This mosaic landscape will have characteristics of both frequently and infrequently burned areas, benefiting the greatest suite of flora and fauna.

On some areas, prescribed burning is limited by the buildup of mid-story brush and a lack of pyrogenic groundcover fuels. When extensive, this condition creates unsuitable habitat for many wildlife species. Used in conjunction with prescribed fire, mechanical control of brush by roller chopping, mowing, shredding, or incidentally by equipment during timber thinning operations, can reduce shading and encourage the grasses and forbs that best sustain prescribed fire. Mowing and roller chopping can be a valuable management tool, enabling the use of prescribed fires in areas heavily impacted by dense woody vegetation. However, used inappropriately, roller chopping may damage the herbaceous ground cover, especially wiregrass. Therefore, FWC will work to limit its use to situations where burning can only be accomplished after mechanical reduction of woody vegetation or where groundcover species have been eliminated.

Whenever possible, existing firebreaks such as roads and trails, as well as natural breaks such as creeks and wetlands, will be used to define management units. Disk harrows, mowing, and foam lines will be used as necessary to minimize disturbance and damage created by fire plows.

The transitional areas between two adjacent but different natural community types are known as ecotones. With the exception of wildfire suppression, mechanical soil disturbance in wetland ecotones will be avoided in order to protect habitats for important rare species that often occur between upland and wetland margins. Creation of firebreaks will be avoided in wetland margins unless necessary to defend the boundary of a managed area. When safe, fires are allowed to burn into the edges of marshes, swamps, and other wetlands in order to maintain these habitats. With some exceptions, such as depression marsh and slough marsh, most fire managed natural communities are best maintained, or improved, with fire returns of two to three years, preferably during the spring and early summer months when appropriate.

In addition to the general prescribed fire management guidelines described above, an area-specific Prescribed Burn Plan will be developed and implemented for the OKSWMA. This plan

will include, but will not be limited to, delineation of burn management units, descriptions of prescribed fire methodology, safety, and smoke management guidelines. The FWC plans to continue to conduct prescribed burning on the area's fire adapted communities, with a goal to bring 100% of the area being maintained within the recommended fire return intervals during this planning period. The continuing benefits of prescribed fire on the area's wildlife habitats, along with other ongoing habitat restoration activities that are being implemented on the OKSWMA, are discussed in more detail in Section 4.3.3.

4.3.3 Habitat Restoration and Improvement Activities and Accomplishments

Significant habitat management activities have taken place within many of the natural and altered communities on the OKSWMA over the course of the previous management plan period beginning in 2014. As stated previously, all management units with fire-adapted natural communities will be treated with prescribed fire based on rotations established within the Prescribed Burn Plan. The use of prescribed fire has aided in the improvement and restoration of native groundcover and wildlife habitat throughout the OKSWMA. Following is a list of the primary habitat restoration and improvement activities that have occurred on the OKSWMA since 2014.

- 2,690 acres of the area's fire adapted communities have been treated with prescribed fire.
- Approximately 25% of the fire-adapted communities are within the recommended fire return intervals.
- 404 acres have been mechanically treated, including roller chopping and mowing.

Continuing habitat management activities on the OKSWMA will focus on enhancing natural communities, maintaining recommended fire return intervals for fire adapted communities, treating and removing invasive plant species, and controlling vegetation through mowing and roller chopping as needed. Invasive species control is more extensively discussed in Section 4.5. Further specific habitat management and improvement objectives planned for the OKSWMA are described in Section 5.

4.4 Fish and Wildlife Management, Enhancement, and Population Restoration

Across the OKSWMA, the size and diversity of natural communities create a mosaic landscape that supports a wide variety of fish and wildlife species, including imperiled, game, and non-game species. The FWC uses the term "locally important species" to encompass imperiled species, as well as a select group of common species, that occur on the area and can help guide management activities. By managing the area's natural communities for locally important species, the area will benefit a host of other species that use these natural communities. To support this goal, the FWC emphasizes conservation, protection, and management of natural communities in order to protect and enhance populations of fish and wildlife found on the OKSWMA. Natural communities vital to locally important species on the OKSWMA include slough marsh, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, and several others. Restoration and improvement of any altered communities, in order to expand habitat on the OKSWMA, is also emphasized.

To guide species management on FWC-managed lands, the FWC takes a proactive, science-based approach in conjunction with input from species experts and individuals with knowledge of the area. Management practices are designed to restore, enhance, or maintain natural communities with an emphasis on the needs of locally important species. Locally important species (resident and migratory) will be managed for optimum richness, diversity, and abundance. This will be further augmented by following approved Federal and FWC Species Recovery Plans, guidelines, and other scientific recommendations for these species. Guided by these recommendations, land management activities including prescribed burning and timber stand improvements will further address locally important species requirements and habitat needs.

For locally important species population monitoring, the FWC takes a tiered approach. Using taxa inventory monitoring and opportunistic observations, staff identify which species occur on the OKSWMA and track diversity through time. In addition, when appropriate, staff monitor specific species to track population status. Wildlife experts help to identify the best monitoring approach for the area to inform how management is influencing the populations. Using this tiered monitoring approach, the FWC will gather information about the species using the area, and how select species are responding to management. Section 5.2 and Appendix X provide further information on FWC's comprehensive species management strategy for all locally important wildlife and their respective habitats.

4.4.1 Locally Important Species: Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery

The FWC has identified the need to: 1) demonstrate optimal wildlife habitat conservation on FWC-managed lands; 2) develop science-based performance measures to evaluate management; 3) recover imperiled species; and 4) prevent future imperilment of declining wildlife species. To help meet these needs, the FWC uses a comprehensive resource management approach to maintain FWC-managed areas. Restoring the form and function of Florida's natural communities is the foundation of this management philosophy. The FWC uses the OBVM to monitor how specific vegetative parameters are responding to management and uses the WCPR program to ensure management is having the desired effect on wildlife.

The WCPR program helps assess locally important wildlife species' needs and opportunities, prioritize what the FWC does for locally important species, prescribe management actions to aid in species recovery, prescribe monitoring to allow evaluation of the species' response to management, and ensure the information is shared with others. To determine specific management and monitoring actions needed for each species, the FWC considers the species' status on the area; the current condition of the area's natural communities; the amount and spatial arrangement of the species' potential habitat on the area and adjacent lands; the species' response to management; and any local overriding factors (e.g., status of species in the region, local declines, or extirpations). Staff then combine these assessments with area-specific management considerations to develop a Wildlife Management Strategy for the area (Appendix X). Each area-specific Strategy prescribes management actions to achieve and identifies monitoring to verify progress towards meeting desired outcomes. By providing the FWC

managers with information on actions they should undertake, the FWC intends for the Strategy to assure the presence and persistence of Florida's native wildlife.

Through the actions of this program, the FWC facilitates fulfilling the needs of locally important wildlife species on the OKSWMA. In the long-term, by implementing the WCPR Strategies on FWC-managed lands and continuing to assess wildlife species' needs, the FWC will continue to play an integral role in aiding the recovery of locally important species and preventing the future imperilment of declining wildlife species.

4.4.2 Game Populations

The FWC intends to manage game populations on a sustained-yield basis to assure healthy game populations and a high-quality recreational experience. In general, game wildlife populations will be managed to provide continued recreational sport hunting and wildlife watching opportunities. However, some of the hunting opportunities may be regulated through a limited entry hunt program to ensure the persistence of viable game species populations, as well as hunter safety and satisfaction. The potential for conflicts among recreational activities and user groups will also be considered and continually monitored.

4.4.3 Nuisance Animal Species

The FWC also works to address nuisance animal impacts on the OKSWMA. The FWC will continue to monitor impacts of nuisance animal impacts on the area and implement management strategies as needed and appropriate including through hunting activities.

4.4.4 Fish and Wildlife Management Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous planning period, the FWC conducted monitoring activities for one locally important species on the OKSWMA. Locally important species projects will continue to be implemented in accordance with the WCPR Strategy. In addition to locally important species activities, the FWC will continue to monitor and manage game and nuisance animal species. Following is a list of activities and monitoring outcomes that have occurred since 2014 in order to further FWC's mission for managing fish and wildlife on the OKSWMA.

- Audubon's crested caracara were surveyed in 2014-2019 and 2021-2023. Two nests were identified in the 2021 survey, and two more were identified in the 2022 survey.
- Game cameras were placed in plots with and without mechanical vegetation treatment to assess the effects of mechanical treatment on species density and faunal biodiversity.
- Bat species were inventoried acoustically in 2018.
- Area wide small mammal trapping study completed in 2017 to inventory small mammal species on the area.
- Amphibian trapping study and visual encounter surveys completed 2014-2015 to inventory amphibian species on the area.
- Road cruising surveys for herpetofauna conducted in 2014-2015 and 2017-2019.
- Drift fence array (with coverboard, PVC pipe traps, and aquatic trap) study to inventory herpetological species was conducted 2017-2019.
- Butterfly survey conducted in 2017 to inventory butterfly species on the area.

4.5 Invasive and Non-native Species Maintenance and Control

With non-native and invasive species populations continuing to grow in Florida, the FWC takes a proactive and comprehensive approach to the monitoring and management of invasive and non-native plants and animals, as well as pests and pathogens, on FWC-managed areas. Non-native species are those species that do not originate from Florida. These species are often introduced as a result of deliberate or accidental human activities and are closely monitored by the FWC for potential future impacts. If a non-native species is found to cause or is likely to cause physical, environmental, or economic harm to humans, it is then considered invasive. On the OKSWMA, the FWC has established a variety of control measures for the management of any found non-native or invasive plant and animal species as further outlined in Section 5.4 of this Management Plan.

4.5.1 Invasive Plant Species

The FWC will continue efforts to control the establishment and spread of FISC Category I and II plants on the OKSWMA while using the most current control technologies (CCT) which may include mechanical, herbicide, and biological control. Treatments utilizing herbicides will comply with instructions found on the herbicide labels and employ Best Management Practices and CCT for their application. More information regarding herbicides used on FWC's lead managed areas can be found here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5CWWG%5CWWG20900.pdf>.

During the previous planning period, a number of control activities have occurred (Section 4.5.3). FWC staff strive to either eradicate infestations or achieve maintenance rotation. Maintenance rotation is defined as having a given area/acreage with invasive species infestations reduced to a level where no ecological harm will occur by skipping any treatment for a period of one- to several-years, depending on the species. Maintenance rotation is not necessarily synonymous with eradication, which is usually impractical to achieve.

Maintenance rotation intervals for invasive plants vary greatly by species. Generally, woody species that form canopies will need a thorough initial treatment and a follow-up treatment the next growing season. Thereafter, the maintenance rotation treatment will need to follow seed germination and seedling/sapling regrowth patterns, with subsequent treatments being necessary every two- to ten-years, depending on initial infestation level, seed bank presence, and likely new dispersal into the area from neighboring populations of these species. Woody species that dominate the midstory will need a treatment regimen similar to those that form canopies, except the subsequent retreatment rotation would be every two- to five-years.

Herbaceous species that can affect the midstory and canopy, including vines, weak lianas, and climbing ferns need to be detected and treated as early as possible. These need to have an aggressive initial treatment, followed by yearly treatments, until the populations no longer affect the midstory. At this point, a two- to three-year rotation, with treatment as necessary, will keep these infestations in maintenance rotation.

Herbaceous and weakly woody species that only dominate the groundcover can be particularly challenging. This group is diverse, and includes species such as tropical soda apple,

Caesarweed, and cogongrass. The rotation intervals can vary from treatments once every two-to three-years (for coral ardisia), to annual treatments, to as many as four treatments in a growing season depending on the species. For this reason, rotation intervals for these species should be developed in coordination with the FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section. Infestations requiring multiple treatments in a growing season should also be mapped individually, because their treatment plans may differ from the rest of the invasive plants in any given unit.

The FWC will continue to focus control and maintenance activities on areas identified as having invasive plant occurrences, as well as treating any new occurrences as they are identified through continued monitoring activities. Natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, flooding, wildfire, and drought can both negatively and positively impact maintenance rotation of an area and affected acreage should be re-surveyed following any of these events to reassess the maintenance state of the area.

The degree of maintenance effort for invasive plant occurrences often varies substantially by species, level of disturbance, environmental conditions, and other land management activities such as timber harvesting, groundcover restoration, etc.; it can also be affected by the status of ongoing eradication and control efforts. FWC staff will take special effort to treat invasive species in coordination with mechanical treatments and prescribed fire so optimal results are achieved. Treatment strategies for invasive plants will be adjusted over time as conditions change on the OKSWMA. Changes may include hydrological restoration, wildfire, and reintroduction of endangered plant/animal species.

Additionally, the FWC will continue efforts to control the introduction of invasive species, as well as pests and pathogens, on the OKSWMA by requiring all personnel, both contracted and internal, to follow the FWC Decontamination Protocol. The OKSWMA has a designated site which can be used for decontamination of both equipment and personnel to allow for a proactive approach to controlling new introductions.

FWC area staff will continue to work closely with FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section for guidance and assistance on treatments and management of invasive species on the area. For areas on the OKSWMA that require treatments for aquatic based invasive species, FWC area staff will work closely with both FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section and FWC's Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Section for assistance and guidance on aquatic plant control.

4.5.2 Invasive and Non-native Fish and Wildlife Species

The FWC continues to work towards minimizing the adverse impacts of non-native and invasive fish and wildlife species in Florida. This task is accomplished through prevention, early detection, rapid response, control and management, and education and outreach. Early detection and rapid response are a critical defense against the establishment of invasive fish and wildlife. The FWC monitors and removes non-native species, responds to new invasions, and continues to assess the risk of species not yet present in our state. Rule 68-5, F.A.C., Federal Lacey Act, and certain F.S. govern the importation, possession, and use of non-native fish and wildlife. Rule 68-5, F.A.C. identifies Conditional and Prohibited non-native species in Florida. More information on these

regulations can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/injuriouswildlife/> and <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/chapterhome.asp?chapter=68-5>. Conditional species (formerly referred to as restricted species) and Prohibited species are considered to be dangerous to Florida's native species and habitats and could pose threats to the economy or health and welfare of the people of Florida. The FWC relies on monitoring efforts and current science including risk determination, supplemental documentation, and research to identify possible invasive species. In order to further assist the FWC's effort on invasive fish and wildlife identification and removal, the FWC encourages the public to utilize the FWC's Invasive Species Hotline at 888-Ive-Got1 (483-4681) or to visit www.IveGot1.org to report observations of non-native species. More information on these public reporting options and other components of the Wildlife Impact Management Section's Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program can be found here: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/>.

To address the presence of non-native and invasive fish and wildlife on the OKSWMA, FWC area staff will continue to work closely with FWC's Wildlife Impact Management Section for guidance and assistance. Control of invasive fish and wildlife on the OKSWMA can also be accomplished through the assistance of private python removal contractors; more information on the private contractors utilized by the FWC can be found here: www.myfwc.com/python. The FWC also relies on public assistance and participation in the control of invasive fish and wildlife species. Executive order 23-16 authorizes the lethal take of non-native reptiles on 32 FWC-managed lands. Trappers and nuisance wildlife control operators can also apply for an eradication and control permit to assist in the capture of Prohibited non-native species on private and public lands including WMAs. More information on this permit process can be found here: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/rule-development/trappers/>. Due to the growing concern related to the impacts of several non-native species, the FWC and partners take a proactive and coordinated approach towards the removal of non-native species.

An invasive animal species of concern throughout the state and on the OKSWMA is the wild hog. These animals have high reproductive rates, and when populations reach high densities, wild hogs can significantly degrade natural communities through foraging activity (rooting). The FWC will consult with other regional natural resource managing agencies and private landowners to coordinate wild hog control measures as necessary. Wild hog populations are managed by hunts during the archery, small game, general gun, and muzzleloading gun seasons. Additionally, Burmese pythons (*Python molurus*) are a growing problem in South Florida and are currently spreading northward. The Burmese python is one of the largest snakes in the world, is typically found in or around the water, and is incredibly invasive in the state of Florida. These snakes have very few predators due to their large size and are voracious predators of native mammals, birds, and herpetofauna. Non-native reptiles—such as the Burmese python—are managed by hunts during any season in which hunting is allowed.

4.5.3 Invasive and Non-native Species Activities and Accomplishments

Invasive plant species known to occur on the OKSWMA include Brazilian pepper, old world climbing fern, cogongrass, torpedo grass, Wright's nutrush, Caesarweed, Java plum, Peruvian

primrosewillow, West Indian marsh grass, water hyacinth, guava, tropical soda apple, and rosary pea. A full list of species can be found on Table 5. During the previous planning period, FWC staff have worked to survey and control invasive and non-native plant and wildlife species found on the OKSWMA. The following is a list of activities the FWC accomplished during the last planning period as well as activities that are still ongoing. Non-native and invasive species objectives and challenges for the OKSWMA for the next ten years are further detailed in Sections 5-6.

- 3,010 acres have been placed into maintenance rotation.
- Approximately 11% of the OKSWMA is considered to be in maintenance rotation. An estimated 89% of the OKSWMA remains to be surveyed, monitored, and treated as appropriate, as guided by the FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section.
- The FWC continues to offer hunts for control of wild hogs, non-native reptiles, and non-protected bird populations.

4.6 Public Access and Recreational Opportunities

To facilitate fish and wildlife centric recreational opportunities on the area, the FWC has continued to establish and maintain public access roads and informational kiosks. The FWC also offers additional opportunities to enhance public access and recreation through statewide programs. The FWC hosts annual events on WMAs throughout the State. Events are designed to help Florida residents and visitors discover some of Florida's best spots to see wildlife and enjoy the outdoors. For more information on the numerous recreation opportunities the FWC offers on all areas visit: <https://myfwc.com/recreation/>.

In addition to recreation opportunities on the OKSWMA, the FWC offers a variety of environmental education programs throughout the state. The FWC has several summer camp locations across the state. Camps vary in the activities they offer, but the theme of conservation-centered recreation is consistent throughout. Currently, FWC staff on the OKSWMA coordinate with the Everglades Youth Conservation Center. Everglades Youth Conservation Center staff are available to provide education programs or tours, such as wildlife education and ethical angling and hunting. However, the FWC identifies a need for increasing conservation centers in order to reach other areas of the state.

In addition to FWC Conservation Centers, the FWC has the educational program, Project WILD. Project WILD is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. The program is designed for educators of kindergarten through 12th grade students. However, Project WILD can also be utilized by area biologists throughout the state. Project WILD workshops can be conducted at some of the FWC-managed areas and educators or biologists can request materials and more information by visiting the following webpage: <https://myfwc.com/education/educators/project-wild/>.

Further planned public access, recreational, and educational opportunities on the area are detailed in Section 5.5. Ongoing public access and recreational opportunity management challenges are addressed in Section 6. In addition, the FWC will implement activities in accordance with the OKSWMA Recreational Assessment once developed.

4.6.1 Americans with Disabilities Act

When public facilities are developed on areas managed by the FWC, every effort is made to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Public Law 101-336). As new facilities are developed, the universal access requirements of this law are followed in all cases except where the law allows reasonable exceptions. Recreation facilities in semi-primitive or primitive zones will be planned to be universally accessible to the degree possible except as allowed by the ADA⁷ where:

1. Compliance will cause harm to historical resources, or significant natural features and their characteristics.
2. Compliance will substantially alter the nature of the setting and therefore the purpose of the facility.
3. Compliance would not be feasible due to terrain or prevailing construction practices.
4. Compliance would require construction methods or materials prohibited by federal or state statutes, or local regulations.

4.6.2 Recreational Assessment

The FWC has adopted a comprehensive approach to the planning and administration of fish and wildlife resource based public outdoor recreational opportunities for the OKSWMA. To accomplish this, the FWC will work with recreational stakeholders and the public to develop a Recreational Assessment for the OKSWMA that will be used to further design and develop appropriate infrastructure that will support the recreational use of the area by the general public. This Recreational Assessment will include planning for parking, trail design, and area resource interpretation.

4.6.3 Public Access Carrying Capacity

Baseline carrying capacities for users on the FWC-managed lands are established by conducting a site-specific sensitivity analysis using available data for the site. The intent of the carrying capacity analysis is to minimize wildlife and habitat disturbance and provide the experience of being “immersed in nature” that visitors to the FWC-managed areas desire. Carrying capacities are just a first step; management of recreational use requires a means of monitoring visitor impacts. Responding to these impacts may require adjusting the carrying capacities as necessary. The carrying capacities generated through this process are used as a tool to help plan and develop public access, wildlife watching, and fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation opportunities. Based on an analysis of the overall approved uses and supported public access user opportunities, and the anticipated proportional visitation levels of the various user groups, the FWC has determined that the OKSWMA can currently support 300 visitors per day. However, an objective to develop public access opportunities resulting in an increase in the public access carrying capacity up to 708 visitors per day has been proposed in Section 5.5 of this Management Plan. It is important to note that public access carrying capacities are not developed to serve as a goal for expanding the public use of a particular area to match the established carrying capacity. Rather, they are developed to establish maximum thresholds for public use of the respective area in order to protect the natural and cultural resources on the OKSWMA and to

ensure that visitors will have a high-quality visitor experience. The public access carrying capacity will be periodically reevaluated, and additional capacity may be contemplated.

4.6.4 Public Access and Recreational Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous ten-year planning period, the FWC completed the following public access and recreational improvements and enhancements on the OKSWMA, including:

- Increased public access via the construction of an entrance package, including an accessible parking area and a new informational kiosk on Twin Mills Road.
- Improved and enhanced kiosks and interpretive information throughout the OKSWMA.
- Developed a trail map for the Twin Mills hiking trail in cooperation with the FFS.

4.7 Hydrological Preservation and Restoration

A hydrological assessment was completed for a portion of the OKSWMA in 2018. FWC staff will work towards implementing hydrological restoration and improvement activities as recommended by the area's assessment. Some recommendations may not be feasible during this planning period due to funding and potential adjacent land impacts. However, during this planning period staff will work to improve and repair existing culverts and low water crossings, as well as installing any new culverts or low water crossings, as appropriate. Additionally, staff will work to obtain an updated hydrological assessment as there is no hydrological assessment for large portions of the OKSWMA due to the size of recent acquisitions.

Currently, staff continue to communicate and collaborate as needed with the SFWMD and the DEP on any ground or surface water quality or quantity monitoring. The FWC will cooperate with the DEP and the SFWMD to develop and implement any surface water quality and quantity monitoring protocols for the OKSWMA. In this capacity, the FWC will primarily rely on the expertise of the SFWMD and the DEP to facilitate these monitoring activities as needed. If necessary, the FWC may independently conduct or contract for water resource monitoring on the OKSWMA, as guided by the DEP and the SFWMD.

4.7.1 Hydrological Preservation and Restoration Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous ten-year planning period, the FWC completed the following hydrological improvement activities on the OKSWMA, including:

- Developed a Hydrological Restoration Plan for existing portions of the OKSWMA in 2018.
- Continued maintenance of existing hydrological structures on the area.

4.8 Forest Resource Management

An updated Timber Assessment of the timber resources of the OKSWMA is currently being conducted by the FFS. The management of timber resources will be considered in the context of the Timber Assessment and the overall land management goals and activities. The most recent Timber assessment can be found in Appendix 11.13.

Pursuant to the OBVM management goals, the FWC will continue to manage timber resources for wildlife benefits and natural community restoration. Management activities including the use

of timber thinning and harvesting may be utilized. The primary management technique for encouraging reforestation is protection of young trees and seedlings on these sites from damage. However, where natural regeneration is lacking, artificial reforestation may be implemented. Planting trees on these selected sites is used to increase the rate of reforestation and to ensure diversity. Forested wetlands are managed for stands with old growth characteristics. Snags will be protected, when possible, to benefit cavity-nesting species.

4.8.1 Forest Resource Management Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous ten-year planning period, the FWC completed several forest resource management activities on the OKSWMA, including:

- Timber Assessment completed in 2017.
- New acquisitions have been surveyed by the FFS and FWC staff anticipate another assessment to be completed in 2023.

4.9 Cultural Resources

A review of the FMSF indicates that three cultural resources have been recorded on the OKSWMA (Section 5.8). Additionally, four cultural resource surveys have been conducted on the area. In cooperation with the DHR, the FWC will continue to monitor and report on all recorded sites annually.

The FWC will consult with the DHR to determine the procedures necessary to identify, assess, and preserve any unrecorded or unevaluated cultural resources that may be present within the OKSWMA. In addition, the FWC will ensure area management staff has the latest DHR Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) training. The FWC will follow the DHR's *Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties*, and in accordance with Sections 267.061(2)(a, b), F.S., the FWC will consult with and allow the DHR a reasonable opportunity to comment prior to any undertaking that may impact historic properties. Furthermore, should any previously unidentified resources be located on the OKSWMA, the FWC will prepare and submit all necessary documentation to the FMSF.

4.10 Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

The FWC's land management philosophy is designed to conserve the maximum amount of wildlife habitat while providing the minimal number of capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to effectively conduct operational and resource management activities and provide ample opportunities for fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation. For these reasons, planned capital facilities and infrastructure will focus on improving access, recreational potential, hydrology, or other resource and operational management objectives.

Current capital facilities and infrastructure on the OKSWMA include ~16.6 miles of roads, the Red Cabin Area, Cattle Structures, Twin Mills Parking Area and Kiosk, Hunt Parking, and 0.84 miles of trails. As described in Section 4.6.1 of this Management Plan, for any public facilities that are developed on areas managed by the FWC, every effort is made to comply with the ADA Act

(Public Law 101-336). Maintenance and improvement activities of current and future capital facilities are further outlined in Section 5.9.

4.10.1 Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous ten-year planning period, the FWC completed several capital facilities and infrastructure improvements on the OKSWMA, including:

- Constructed one new entrance package, including an informational kiosk on Twin Mills Road and accessible parking.

4.11 Land Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships

[Landscape conservation](#) is an approach that brings people together across geographies, sectors, and cultures to collaborate on connecting and conserving our diverse landscapes at a large scale – across public and private lands and regardless of political and jurisdictional boundaries. The goals of conservation at the landscape scale are to **conserve** ecosystems, habitats, and species on a large scale and across all borders. Landscape conservation can only be fully achieved by pooling together resources and **connecting** staff, partners, and stakeholders to **collaborate** on conservation at the larger landscape scale.

The end goal is a resilient and adaptive landscape and economy that can support future generations of Florida. Thriving landscapes and habitats produce a range of benefits such as protecting our water and air, mitigating climate change, and providing habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants. In addition, productive landscapes power local and regional economies by supporting sustainable activities including fishing, farming, ranching, forestry, recreation, and tourism. Maintaining these benefits as Florida is facing ever-increasing significant land and water issues is paramount. Population growth, habitat loss and fragmentation, land use changes, invasive species, water crises, and climate change can threaten Florida's future. To successfully manage these challenges for the long term, there is a growing need for conservation work to be done at a larger scale and with multiple partners that can pool their resources and incorporate best scientific practices.

4.11.1 FWC's Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative

The FWC and its partners have a legacy of excellent conservation work, much of which has been done at a landscape scale. To ensure Florida's natural resources are conserved for future generations, the FWC has launched the Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative (LCSI) to serve as a catalyst for implementing further forward-looking and strategic conservation measures. In September 2021, the FWC adopted an official Landscape Conservation policy for the agency, defining a holistic conservation approach with supportive guidelines. The primary goal of the LCSI is to achieve conservation outcomes that are large-scale, long-lasting, and cost-effective, and to establish durable partnerships with government agencies, conservation organizations, private landowners, academic institutions, stakeholders, and other partners. This includes proactive, long-range planning that is multi-purpose and encompasses multiple stakeholders and jurisdictions. Additionally, using a variety of tools, FWC staff will prioritize actions that are within identified target conservation areas. These goals will be achieved through the development and

monitoring of clear, specific, and measurable indicators and targets that allow FWC staff to track conservation actions and assess landscape conservation outcomes.

4.11.2 Decision Support Tools

Florida Conservation Blueprint

The Florida Conservation Blueprint (Blueprint) is a spatial plan that identifies shared conservation priorities across Florida. The Blueprint was developed by the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PFLCC) for the cooperative, incorporation of strategies from a suite of partners. The Blueprint supports spatial conservation planning to inform conservation actions and investment. The Blueprint provides planners and managers across organizations the opportunity to align their efforts to protect fish and wildlife habitat, improve quality of life for people, and develop strong economies. The Florida Conservation Blueprint can be accessed from the Florida Conservation Planning Atlas. The FWC uses the Blueprint to help guide and prioritize landscape conservation actions and acquisition opportunities (Figures 12 and 13).

Other Decision Support Tools

There are additional data and tools that have been developed as decision support tools for identifying and prioritizing areas for conservation action as well as to guide resource (i.e., time, staff, and funding) allocation. These tools include, but are not limited to, FLAM (Section 4.2.2), Critical Lands and Water Identification project (CLIP), the Florida Ecological Greenways Network, FNAI element occurrences database, Simple Map Viewer, Fire Map Viewer, Florida Springs Dashboard, Climate Adaptation Explorer, and the Florida Ecological Report Cards. Tools and supporting data can be found at www.FNAI.org or on the Florida Conservation Planning Atlas.

4.11.3 Conservation Stewardship and Partnership Opportunities

Private Lands Partnerships

The FWC recognizes the interconnected needs of protecting and enhancing private property values and rights and creating new markets and economies that support the conservation value of private working lands. Private landowners seeking assistance with habitat management will likely find it offered within the FWC Landowner Assistance Program (LAP). The FWC LAP program provides many opportunities for conservation minded landowners to obtain the assistance and advice of FWC staff and programs for improving land conservation practices on their lands. The LAP routinely conducts workshops for interested landowners to interact with FWC staff and learn how they may participate in the program. The FWC employs biologists who are available to provide wildlife-related assistance with land use planning and habitat management. In addition, the LAP works with landowners to enroll in the Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation cost-share programs in order to assist with implementation of wildlife friendly practices. There are many forms of assistance that include technical, financial, educational, and various forms of recognition that seek to award landowners who manage their wildlife habitat responsibly. At the time of the plan development, no specific land stewardship workshops had been conducted for landowners adjacent to the OKSWMA. The FWC will continue to evaluate the level of interest and efficacy of providing technical assistance to adjacent private landowners on

enhancing the conservation management of their lands. More information on the FWC's LAP program and online habitat management tools are available online at: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/lap/>.

Landscape Conservation Partnerships

The FWC will continue to work with partners including government entities, private organizations, and academic institutions on collaborative landscape conservation efforts and acquisition opportunities. Potential partners for the OKSWMA and surrounding areas include the SFVMD, FFS, USFWS, Hendry County, DEP, Conservation Florida, the local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area and other organizations and potential grant program opportunities. The FWC will continue to commit staff time and other resources to regularly providing information to partners regarding landscape conservation science, opportunities, and progress.

FWC staff on the OKSWMA often participate in collaborative management activities, especially with the FFS. Such collaborative management activities include burning boundary units of the OKSWMA and the OSSF in coordination with the FFS; the Annual Christmas Bird Count, which involves the FFS and the Audubon Society; and an Audubon's crested caracara survey which extends into the OSSF. Finally, FWC staff hope to collaborate with OSSF staff and Dinner Island Ranch WMA staff on hydrological restoration projects throughout the area.

4.11.4 Land Acquisition

Using identified tools outlined previously, the FWC works to identify lands within or adjacent to FWC-managed areas that are important for the conservation of fish and wildlife, serve as a link or corridor to other publicly owned property, enhance the protection or management of the property, would create a more manageable boundary configuration, or have a high resource value that would otherwise be unprotected. Preservation of these lands can be accomplished through fee-simple or less-than-fee acquisition. The FWC works to pursue these opportunities through the FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition program, supporting DEP/Board of Trustees acquisition and addition of lands within the Florida Forever program, and continued partnership with other agencies and private organizations on acquisition of identified lands.

Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

Less-than-fee acquisitions, also known as conservation easements, are voluntary agreements between a landowner and government agency or conservation organization that acquires certain rights to a landowner's property for long-term conservation of the land, while the landowner still retains ownership of their property. The agreement is designed for landowners to continue to manage their land to maintain a working landscape in a manner that also enhances the conservation benefits provided by their land. These voluntary agreements to conserve land support the goals of landscape conservation. Less-than-fee acquisition is not only a means of conserving land but is also a cost-effective means for governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect land, while also providing economic and tax benefits to the landowner and local economy.

Fee-Simple Acquisition

Fee-simple acquisition is the process of acquiring complete ownership of the land. Fee-simple acquisition can be accomplished through the State's Florida Forever program, federal programs, or other grant programs or acquisition partnerships. The Florida Forever program is a land acquisition program with the purpose of conserving natural and cultural resources throughout the State. The DEP, as staff to the Board of Trustees, oversees the program. The Florida Forever program replaced the Preservation 2000 program, and since these programs' inception, nearly three million acres have been conserved throughout the State.

FWC's Additions and Inholdings Acquisition Program

Per F.A.C. 18-2.021, the FWC identifies parcels located directly in or adjacent to the subject area which can be recommended for acquisition through the FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition program. Properties, equaling 41,705.5 acres, have been identified for recommended acquisition under the auspices of the FWC's Additions and Inholdings Acquisition program for the OKSWMA (Figure 12). Consistent with Florida Forever program criteria, parcels on the list have been ranked High, Medium, or Low priority based on a score generated by a GIS-based resource evaluation model, along with technical input from FWC staff. The order of acquisition priority may be changed as necessary based on factors including available funding necessary to complete a particular acquisition project, changing development pressures, landowner willingness, funding partnerships, unique acquisition opportunities like bargain sales (less than 80% of appraised value), and donations.

The FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition List is updated through time, thus staying up to date for land ownerships, County parcel records, land conservation opportunities, and evolving management challenges. The FWC frequently analyzes, evaluates, and prioritizes its recommended conservation actions in a systematic, comprehensive, and consistent manner over time. At this time, the FWC often recommends full-fee acquisition of the lands on the FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition List for the OKSWMA to optimize the conservation of fish and wildlife, public access and use, and overall resource and operational management of the area. However, as mentioned previously, the FWC may also pursue less-than-fee acquisition with adjacent landowners. Though it should be noted that landowner preference is often the key element in determining whether to pursue a full fee or less-than-fee acquisition.

Parcels on the FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition List will be acquired if possible, according to their priority ranking for acquisition, as funding availability allows, and based on the landowner's willingness to sell their lands. Participation in any FWC acquisition is entirely voluntary and at the sole discretion of willing landowners. The FWC also continues to assist and support the DEP/Board of Trustees in the acquisition or recommend acquisition of the remaining lands within the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Devil's Garden, Fisheating Creek Ecosystem, Half Circle L Ranch, Panther Glades, and Twelvemile Slough projects as essential to the long-term conservation of wildlife and other elements important to the ecosystem function on the OKSWMA.

Alternative Options

Along with the several land acquisition options described previously, alternative land protection methods are also available. The state accepts donations of land, life estate, and first-right-of-refusal. Life estate is an alternative that allows a landowner to reside on their property during their lifetime, however, ensures state ownership after passing. Additionally, there is also the option that a landowner could offer the state a first-right-of-refusal. After a first offer is denied by a landowner, the first-right-of-refusal option provides the state with a chance to purchase the land in the future. The state offers several alternative possibilities to obtaining the rights and/or ownership to land for conservation purposes, which furthers conversation-based goals and objectives for Florida's future.

4.11.5 Landscape Conservation Activities and Accomplishments

During the previous ten-year planning period, the FWC has worked to advance landscape conservation partnerships and pursue potential acquisition opportunities. The State has acquired 23,586 acres since 2014 that has been added onto the OKSWMA. Additionally, FWC staff have conducted boundary unit burns and various bird surveys in collaboration with the FFS.

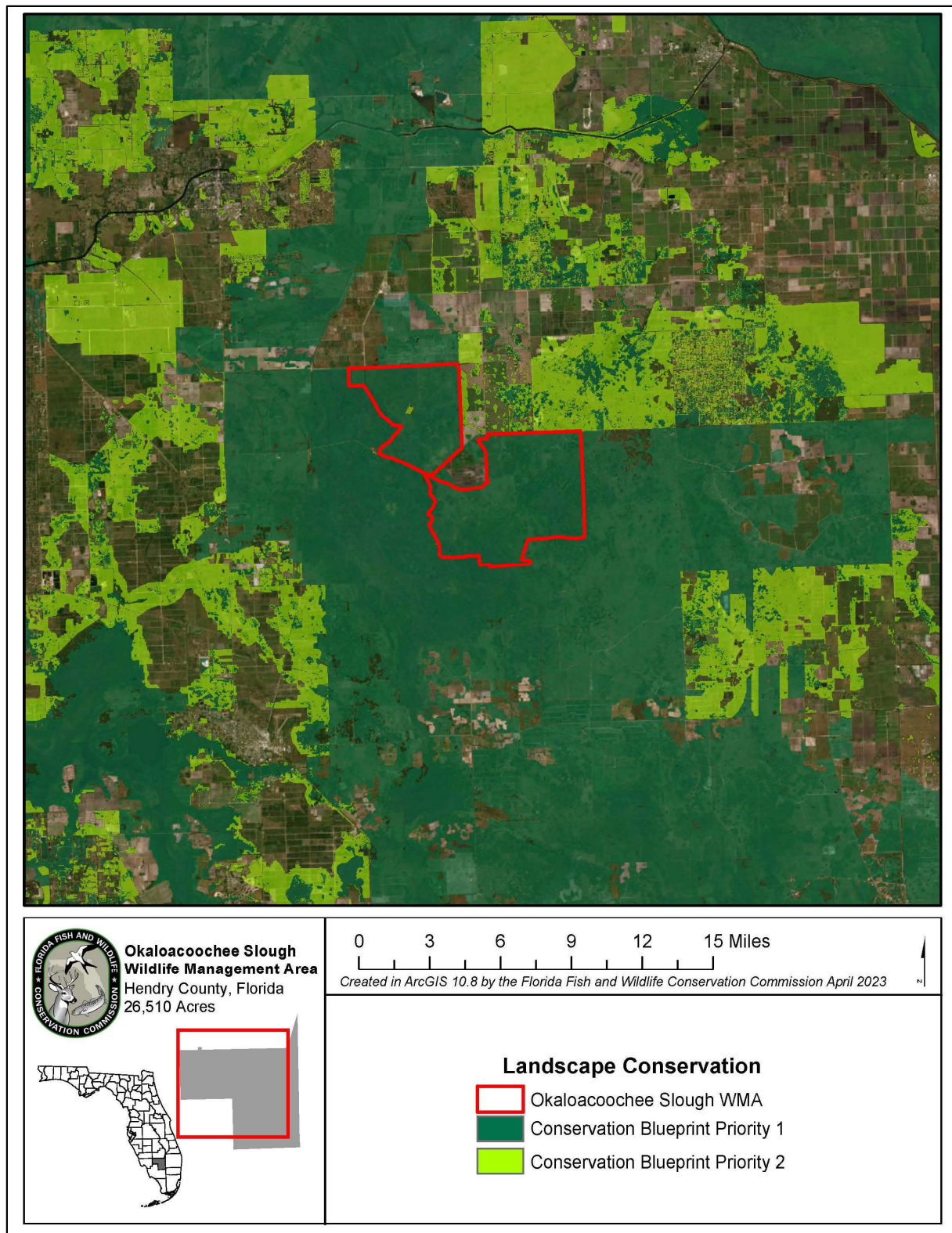


Figure 11. Landscape Conservation Blueprint

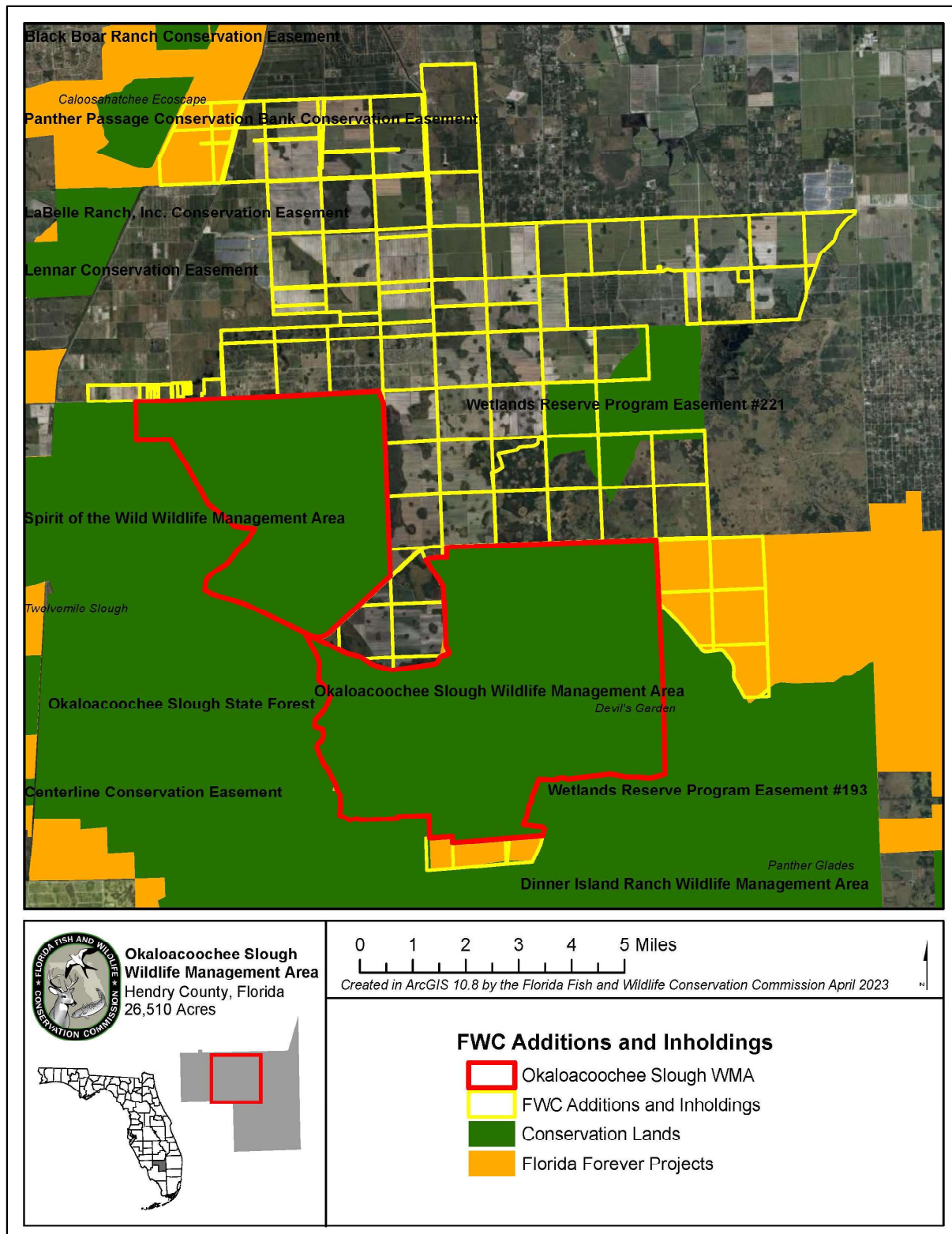


Figure 12. FWC Additions and Inholdings

4.12 Research Opportunities

The FWC intends to cooperate with researchers, universities, and others as feasible and appropriate. For the OKSWMA, the FWC will continue to assess and identify research and environmental education partnership opportunities as appropriate. Research proposals involving the use of the area are evaluated on an individual basis. All research activities on the OKSWMA must have prior approval by the FWC. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is currently conducting research on turkeys at the OKSWMA, and the University of Florida has recently begun a research project on the treatment of java plum.

4.13 Cooperative Management and Special Uses

4.13.1 Cooperative Management

The FWC is responsible for the overall management and operation of the OKSWMA as set forth in the lease agreements with the Board of Trustees, the FWC, and the FFS. In keeping with the lease agreements, and in order to conduct its management operations in the most effective and efficient manner, the FWC cooperates with other agencies to achieve management goals and objectives described in this Management Plan. These include cooperating with the DHR to ensure the requirements of the *Management Procedures Guidelines – Management of Archaeological and Historical Resources* document (Appendix 10.14) are followed with regard to any ground-disturbing activities. In addition, the FFS is a designated cooperating agency, and assists the FWC by providing technical assistance on forest resource management. Also, the FWC cooperates and consults with the SFWMD and DEP for the monitoring and management of both ground and surface water resources and the overall management of the OKSWMA.

4.13.2 First Responder and Military Training

First-responder (public governmental police department or agency, fire and emergency medical service personnel) training and military training are conditionally allowed on the OKSWMA. Such activities are considered allowable uses only when undertaken intermittently for short periods of time, and in a manner that does not impede the management and public use of the OKSWMA and causes no measurable long-term impact to the natural resources of the area. Additionally, FWC staff must be notified and approve the training through issuance of a permit prior to any such training taking place on the OKSWMA. Any first-responder or military training that is not low-impact, intermittent and occasional would require an amendment to the Management Plan, and therefore, will be submitted by the FWC to the DSL and ARC for approval consideration prior to authorization.

4.13.3 Cattle Grazing

Due to the size of recent acquisitions, there is substantial acreage of pasture. FWC staff plan to use cattle grazing as a vegetation management strategy on the OKSWMA. Cattle will be used on newly acquired pasture habitat to minimize the degradation of these areas while staff begins restoration and management activities. Cattle will be excluded from any areas with sensitive wetland habitats that cattle could potentially damage.

4.13.4 Apiaries

Currently, there are no apiaries operating on the OKSWMA. However, use of apiaries is conditionally approved for the OKSWMA, is deemed to be consistent with purposes for acquisition, is in compliance with the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan, and is consistent with the FWC agency mission, goals, and objectives as expressed in the FWC Agency Strategic Plan (Appendix 11.10). Location, management, and administration of apiaries on the OKSWMA will be guided by the FWC Apiary Policy (Appendix 11.11).

4.14 Climate Change

Florida's unique ecology and topography make impacts from climate change particularly acute and likely to affect multiple economic, agricultural, environmental, and health sectors across the state. The impact of climate change on wildlife and habitat is already occurring, from eroding shorelines and coral bleaching to increases in forest fires, severe weather events, and saltwater intrusion into inland freshwater wetlands.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a multi-national scientific body, reports that climate change is proceeding at a rate where there will be unavoidable impacts to humans, wildlife, and habitat. Given current levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions, shifts in local, regional, and national climate patterns including changes in precipitation, temperature, increased frequency, and intensity of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, tidal fluctuations, and ocean acidification are projected to accelerate. The average global temperature has increased in recent decades, and continued greenhouse gas emissions may result in projected global average increases of 2 –11.5° F by the end of the century.⁹

This apparent change in global climate is likely to disrupt natural processes; in some areas, climate change may cause significant degradation of ecosystems that provide services such as clean and abundant water, sustainable natural resources, protection from flooding, as well as hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities. Consequently, climate change is a challenge not only because of its direct effects, but also because of its potential to amplify the stress on ecosystems, habitats, and species from existing threats such as exponential increases in surface and ground water use, habitat loss due to increased urbanization, introduction of invasive species, and fire suppression.

Potential impacts that may be occurring as a result of climate change include: change in the timing of biological processes, such as flowering, breeding, hibernation, and migration;^{10, 11, 12} more frequent invasions and outbreaks of invasive species;¹³ and loss of habitat in coastal areas due to sea level rise.¹⁴ Some species are projected to adjust to these conditions through ecological or evolutionary adaptation, whereas others are projected to exhibit range shifts as their distributions track changing climatic conditions. However, the highly developed Florida coastline and significant projected urban growth in the state in coming decades is likely to make it difficult or impossible for many species and habitats to shift their ranges in response to a changing climate. Those species that are unable to respond to changing climatic conditions are projected to go extinct. Some estimates suggest that as many as 20% - 30% of the species currently assessed

by the IPCC are at risk of extinction within this century if global mean temperatures exceed increases of 2.7 – 4.5° F.¹⁵ A number of ecosystems are projected to be affected at temperature increases well below these levels.

At this time, the effects of climate change on Florida's conservation lands are just beginning to be studied and are not yet well understood. The FWC has a program in place to increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change on Florida's natural resources and to develop strategies to help wildlife and habitats adapt to changing conditions. While it may not be possible for natural resource managers to prevent or reverse the impacts of climate change, management actions can increase the resilience of natural systems. For example, the FWC follows a process that includes monitoring, evaluating, and determining what specific actions, if any, are recommended to ameliorate the projected impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife resources, native vegetation, and the possible spread of invasive species. Currently, the FWC is continuing its work on the development of future adaptation strategies. However, as noted above, the effects of climate change may become more frequent and severe within the time period covered by this Management Plan update.

For these reasons, there is a continuing need for increased information and research to enable adaptive management to cope with potential long-term climate change impacts. The most immediate actions that the FWC can take are to work with partners to gather the best scientific data possible for understanding natural processes in their current state, model possible impacts and subsequent changes from climate change, develop adaptive management strategies to enhance the resiliency of natural communities to adapt to climate change, and formulate criteria and monitoring for potential impacts when direct intervention may be necessary to protect a species. The FWC has conducted multiple species and habitat vulnerability assessments in recent years, and these models are important tools to help managers assess the severity of climate change impacts. As impacts from climate change continue to accelerate, the FWC will consider the need for updating or conducting additional vulnerability assessments to model the potential effects of climate change, especially sea level rise and storm events, on imperiled species and their habitats on FWC-managed land.

To address the potential impacts of climate change on the OKSWMA, goals and objectives have been developed as a component of this Management Plan (Section 5.11). Depending on the recommendations of the adaptive management strategies described above, additional specific goals and objectives to mitigate potential climate change impacts may be developed for the OKSWMA in the future.

4.15 Soil and Water Conservation

Soil disturbing activities will be confined to areas that have the least likelihood of experiencing erosion challenges. On areas that have been disturbed prior to acquisition, an assessment will be made to determine if soil erosion is occurring. If so, appropriate measures will be implemented to

stop or control the effects of this erosion. Water conservation is accomplished through hydrological restoration, management, and monitoring as described in Section 4.7.

5 Resource Management Goals and Objectives

The management goals and objectives described in this section are considered broad, enduring statements designed to guide the general direction of management actions to be conducted in order to achieve an overall desired future outcome for the OKSWMA. The objectives listed within each management goal offer more specific management guidance and measures and are considered the necessary steps to be completed to accomplish the management goals. Many of the objectives listed have specific end-of-the-calendar-year target dates for completion and all of them are classified as having either short-term (less than two years) or long-term (up to ten years) timelines for completion.

5.1 Habitat Restoration and Improvement

Goal: Improve extant habitat and restore disturbed areas.

Short-term

1. Create a Prescribed Burn Plan.

Long-term

1. Contract with FNAI to complete natural community mapping on future acquisitions.
2. Contract for update of historic and recertification of current natural community mapping as necessary.
3. Utilize OBVM monitoring to evaluate actively managed natural communities and adjust management efforts to meet DFCs.
4. Implement the Prescribed Burn Plan and update as necessary.
5. Continue to conduct habitat/natural community improvements, such as native plantings, mechanical control of encroaching woody species, and prescribed burning.
6. Continue to conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities.
7. Establish appropriate fire lines, as needed.
8. Work with the NRCS or private consultant to explore the feasibility of cattle grazing as a management strategy on the area.

5.2 Imperiled Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration

Goal: Maintain, improve, or restore imperiled species populations and habitats.

Short-term

Long-term

1. Continue to implement the WCPR Strategy to monitor game, imperiled, locally important, and more common wildlife species.
2. Continue to collect and record opportunistic wildlife species occurrence data.
3. Update the WCPR Strategy by 2030.
4. Conduct a rare plant species survey if feasible.

5.3 Other Wildlife (Game and Non-game) Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, and Population Restoration

Goal: Monitor, maintain, improve, or restore game and non-game species populations and habitats.

Long-term

1. Continue to monitor locally important wildlife species as identified in the WCPR strategy.
2. Continue to collect opportunistic wildlife occurrence data.
3. Continue to collect biological harvest data at check station.
4. Continue to conduct other wildlife surveys and/or monitoring as appropriate.

5.4 Invasive and Non-native Species Maintenance and Control

Goal: Remove invasive and non-native plants and animals and conduct needed maintenance and/or controls.

Long-term

1. Monitor the OKSWMA for the level of infestation of FISC Category I and Category II invasive plant species and treat as needed and appropriate.
2. When feasible, and as funding allows, conduct surveys and mapping of invasive and non-native plant species.
3. Ensure that staff are familiar with the identification, reporting procedures, and control measures of high priority non-native wildlife species.
4. Continue to implement control measures on invasive and nuisance animal species as needed and appropriate.

5.5 Public Access and Recreational Opportunities

Goal: Provide public access and recreational opportunities.

Short-term

1. Develop additional public access and recreational opportunities to allow for a carrying capacity of 386 visitors/day.
2. Mark four miles of multi-use (primarily hiking) trails.

Long-term

1. Develop, conduct, and implement a Recreational Assessment as well as the assessment results, as necessary, to provide recreational opportunities.

2. Explore the feasibility of improving the transition from where North Loop Road changes from drivable road to hiking trail.
3. Mark 15 miles of new multi-use trails.
4. Develop public access and recreational opportunities to allow for a recreational carrying capacity of 708 visitors per day.
5. Include the demographics of the area in designing and delivering conservation education programs and recreational opportunities to provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for the community.
6. Assess and improve ADA accessibility for recreation and conservation education programming as feasible.
7. Develop interpretive signage providing context to other conservation lands in the area for the entrance packages.
8. Continue to include area in statewide interpretive programming as needed and support interpretation, education, and wildlife data sharing projects.
9. Develop Spanish language interpretive, informational, and educational materials as necessary.
10. Develop a trail guide and coordinate with the FFS as appropriate.
11. Continue to provide hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, small game, and feral hogs.
12. Cooperate with other agencies, County, stakeholders, and regional landowners to investigate regional recreational opportunities including linking hiking and multi-use trail systems between adjacent public areas.
13. Continue to provide a website for the OKSWMA.

5.6 Hydrological Preservation and Restoration

Goal: Protect water quality and quantity, restore hydrology to the extent feasible, and maintain the restored condition.

Long-term

1. Conduct or obtain a site hydrological assessment to identify potential hydrology restoration needs.
2. Implement Hydrological Restoration Plan as feasible.
3. To maintain and enhance natural hydrological functions, install, maintain, or replace low-water crossings, control structures, canals, and culverts as appropriate or as guided by the Hydrological Restoration Plan.
4. Continue to cooperate with the SFWMD and the DEP for the monitoring of surface and ground water quality and quantity as needed and appropriate.

5.7 Forest Resource Management

Goal: Manage timber resources to improve or restore natural communities for the benefit of wildlife.

Short-term

1. Cooperate with the FFS to update the Timber Assessment.

Long-term

1. Continue to consult with the FFS or a professional forestry consultant regarding forest management activities as appropriate.

5.8 Cultural Resources

Goal: Protect, preserve, and maintain cultural resources.

Long-term

1. Coordinate with the DHR or private contractor to schedule and conduct a cultural resource assessment.
2. Cooperate with the DHR in designing site plans for development of infrastructure.
3. Continue to follow the DHR's *Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties* for the management of cultural and historic resources.
4. Ensure any newly identified sites are reported to the DHR for inclusion in the FMSF.
5. Coordinate with the DHR to ensure that staff have received updated Archaeological Resource Management training.
6. According to results of the cultural resource survey, annually monitor, protect, preserve, and report any changes on any recorded sites on the OKSWMA.

5.9 Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

Goal: Develop the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of this Management Plan.

Long-term

1. Construct 31 facilities, trails, and additional roads as needed, including an entrance package (with parking and an informational kiosk), an entrance kiosk, an office/shop complex (with an office, an enclosed shop, a pole barn, a chemical/herbicide storage facility, and three staff houses), a check station with associated restroom facility, pavilion, and trailer pad, and six wells and six septic systems, two additional staff housing sites (potentially including R.V. pads) with two wells and two septic systems, and four trailheads with parking as funding and feasibility allows.
2. Explore the potential for adding 9.6 miles of public access roads and construct if feasible.
3. Improve, repair, or replace facilities (e.g., Red Cabin, kiosk, etc.) existing on site as needed.
4. Monitor and maintain trails and infrastructure annually for visitor impacts.
5. Continue to maintain facilities.
6. Continue to maintain 16.6 miles of roads.

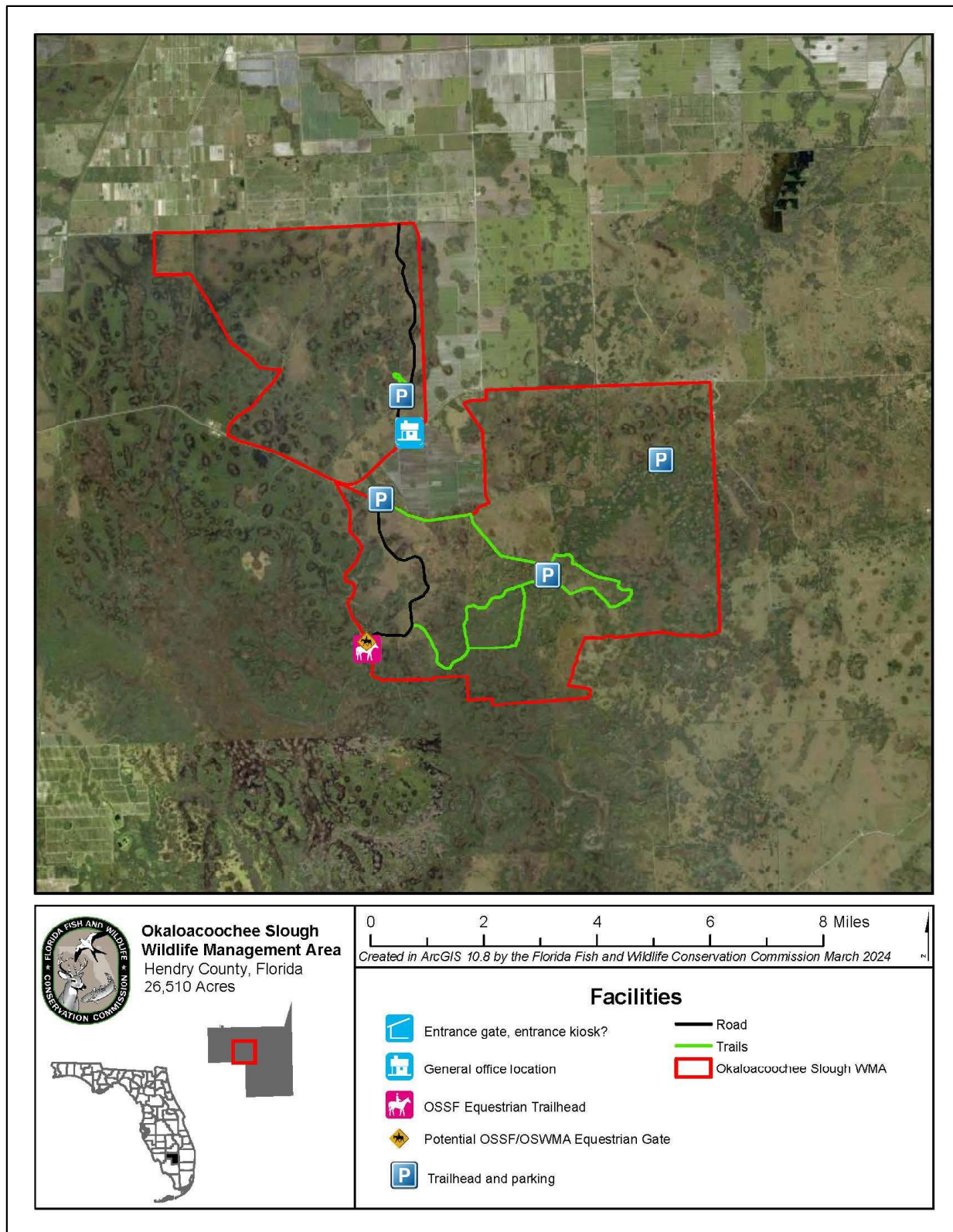


Figure 13. Proposed Facilities on the OKSWMA

5.10 Land Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships

Goal: Enhance fish and wildlife conservation, resource, and operational management through development of an optimal boundary.

Long-term

1. Continue to identify and evaluate potential important wildlife habitat, landscape-scale linkages, wildlife corridors, and operational management needs for the OKSWMA as appropriate and necessary.
2. Continue to contact and inform adjoining private landowners about the FWC Landowners Assistance Program; and coordinate with public entities to pursue conservation stewardship partnerships.
3. Continue to evaluate and identify FWC inholdings and additions priority parcels for potential conservation acquisition and pursue acquisitions as funding allows.
4. Continue to maintain a GIS shapefile and other necessary data to facilitate outreach for the FWC landowner assistance and conservation acquisition programs.
5. Continue to identify potential non-governmental land stewardship organization partnerships and grant program opportunities.
6. Determine the efficacy of conducting a landowner assistance/conservation stewardship partnership workshop(s) and pursue as appropriate.
7. Continue to evaluate and determine if any portions of the OKSWMA are no longer needed for conservation purposes, and therefore, may be designated as surplus lands.

5.11 Climate Resiliency Adaptation

Goal: Develop appropriate adaptation strategies in response to current and future projected climate change effects and their potential impacts on natural resources, including fish and wildlife, and the operational management of OKSWMA.

Long-term

1. Coordinate with the FWC's Climate Change Core Team to identify potential impacts of projected climate change on fish and wildlife resources and operational management of the OKSWMA.
2. As appropriate, update the OKSWMA Prescribed Burn Plan, WCPR Strategy, and Recreational Assessment to incorporate new scientific information regarding projected climate change.
3. As science, technology, and climate policy evolve, educate natural resource management partners and the public about the agency's policies, programs, and efforts to study, document and address potential climate change.

5.12 Cooperative Management, Special Uses, and Research Opportunities

Goal: Provide access and use of the OKSWMA to current cooperative managers and continue collaborative management and research efforts.

Long-term

1. Continue to assess the need for and cooperate with researchers, universities, and others on research and environmental education partnership opportunities as appropriate.
2. Coordinate and cooperate with Department of Defense military branches to allow for training opportunities for military personnel and other initiatives as appropriate and compatible with the conservation of the OKSWMA.

6 Resource Management Challenges and Strategies

The following section identifies and describes further management needs and challenges associated with the OKSWMA and provides solution strategies that will address these challenges. These specific challenges may not be fully addressed in the broader goals and objectives section above and are thereby provided here.

Challenge 1: Potential future development on adjacent lands could result in incompatible land uses increasing management challenges for the area.

Strategy: Cooperate and work with Hendry County to ensure that land use and zoning designations adjacent to the OKSWMA will continue to be compatible with management of the area.

Strategy: Conduct outreach activities with adjacent landowners to improve understanding of land management programs and practices such as prescribed burning.

Challenge 2: The OKSWMA's proximity to major roadways and residential areas presents smoke management challenges during prescribed burning.

Strategy: Use available tools and resources to minimize smoke impact and increase outreach for areas of potential impact.

Strategy: Notify and coordinate with highway patrol during burning activities.

Challenge 3: Unauthorized access, illegal dumping, littering, vandalism, poaching, illegal berry picking, and unauthorized ORV use may pose a continued threat to the OKSWMA.

Strategy: Continue to provide area-wide security through FWC law enforcement patrols.

Strategy: Provide interpretive signs or explore other options to inform the public that "mudding" and destructive off-road use is not allowed.

Strategy: Coordinate with the FWC Hunting and Game Management Division (FWC-HGM) to explore the possibility of limiting access before sunrise and after sunset.

Strategy: Explore the possibility of implementing more formalized designated access points.

Strategy: Coordinate with Hendry County Sheriff's Office for increased law enforcement.

Challenge 4: The OKSWMA is not a well-known public outdoor recreation destination.

Strategy: Work with local and Hendry County tourism boards to promote the OKSWMA.

Strategy: Cross-promote the OKSWMA with other regional public conservation lands.

Strategy: Work with Hendry County to install directional signage along area roads.

Challenge 5: Currently, invasive plant infestations exist at a level beyond the ability of area staff to fully maintain.

Strategy: Establish a treatment rotation and continue funding projects for contract spraying.

Strategy: Cooperate with other nearby FWC staff to assist when needed.

Challenge 7: The FWC has little to no control over neighboring water management.

Strategy: Cooperate with adjacent landowners, the FFS, the SFWMD, and appropriate water control districts to address hydrologic management and restoration measures.

Strategy: Carry out the hydrological assessment and conduct hydrological restoration as feasible.

Challenge 8: Currently there are increased populations and associated impacts from invasive or nuisance wildlife species such as Burmese pythons and other conditional species, etc. These species are impacting the native ecology of the OKSWMA.

Strategy: Coordinate with the FWC Wildlife Impact Management Section and other public agencies and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies to control or eradicate infestations.

Strategy: Continue to utilize volunteer efforts to maximize management activities.

Challenge 9: Invasive plants from adjacent lands are spreading to the OKSWMA.

Strategy: Coordinate with the local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, FWC's Upland Invasive Plant Management staff, and FWC's LAP to work with adjacent landowners to control and manage invasive plants on adjacent properties.

Strategy: Coordinate with other governmental and private organizations to obtain resources to control and manage invasive species on adjacent properties.

Challenge 11: Currently, there is no equipment storage on the OKSWMA, which increases costs and limits the overall management capabilities of the area due to the required logistics and movement of equipment on the area.

Strategy: Pursue location and funding to construct or purchase an equipment storage/shop/office facility and housing facility (potentially including R.V. pads) on or near the OKSWMA.

Challenge 12: Currently, the FWC is below the staffing standards to meet FWC law enforcement and management staff standards and needs.

Strategy: Agency staff levels will continue to be evaluated to determine if increased staffing or other alternatives can improve management needs.

Strategy: Pursue funding for increased law enforcement, management staffing, and additional private sector contract services as appropriate.

Strategy: Explore potential volunteer resources for assisting with management.

7 Cost Estimates and Funding Sources

The following represents the actual and unmet budgetary needs for managing the lands and resources of the OKSWMA. This cost estimate was developed using data developed by the FWC and other cooperating entities and is based on actual costs for land management activities, equipment purchase and maintenance, and for development of fixed capital facilities. Funds needed to protect and manage the property and to fully implement the recommended program are derived primarily from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and from State Legislative appropriations. However, private conservation organizations may be cooperators with the agency for funding of specific projects. Alternative funding sources, such as monies available through grants and potential project-specific mitigation, may be sought to supplement existing funding as needed.

The following cost estimate, although exceeding what the FWC typically receives through the appropriations process, is estimated to be what is necessary for optimal management and is consistent with the current and planned resource management and operation of the OKSWMA. Cost estimate categories are those currently recognized by the FWC and the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council. More information on these categories, as well as the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 operational plan showing detailed cost estimates by activity and categories of expenditures, may be found in Appendix 11.16.

<u>OKSWMA Management Plan Cost Estimate</u>	<i>Maximum expected one-year expenditure</i>
--	---

<u>Resource Management</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Invasive Species Control	\$2,121,465
Prescribed Burning	\$85,887
Cultural Resource Management	\$5,146
Timber Management	\$0
Hydrological Management	\$1,728,020
Vegetation Monitoring/Management	\$239,005
Wildlife Monitoring/Management	\$44,460
Subtotal	\$4,223,983
 <u>Administration</u>	
General Administration	\$24,772
 <u>Support</u>	
Land Management Planning	\$42,119
Management Reviews	\$0
Training/Staff Development	\$22,163
Vehicle Purchase	\$50,906

Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	\$87,652
Other (Technical Reports, Data Management, etc.)	\$22,470
Internal Program Review	\$3,546
Technology and Data Management	\$13,298
Subtotal	\$1,109,704
 <u>Capital Improvements</u>	
New Facility Construction	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$385,640
Subtotal	\$385,640
 <u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u>	
Info./Education/Operations	\$19,081
 <u>Law Enforcement</u>	
Resource protection	\$24,212
 Total	\$5,787,393

* Based on the characteristics and requirements of this area, 8.2 FTE positions would be optimal to fully manage this area. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

<u>OKSWMA Management Plan</u>	<u>Ten-year</u>		
<u>Cost Estimate</u>	<u>projection</u>		
<u>Resource Management</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Priority schedule:</u>
<i>Invasive Species Control</i>	\$18,639,419	(1)	(1) Immediate (annual)
<i>Prescribed Burning</i>	\$754,617	(1)	(2) <i>Intermediate (3-4 years)</i>
<i>Cultural Resource Management</i>	\$45,216	(1)	(3) <i>Other (5+ years)</i>
<i>Timber Management</i>	\$0	(1)	
<i>Hydrological Management</i>	\$15,182,569	(1)	
<i>Vegetation Monitoring/Management</i>	\$2,099,926	(1)	
<i>Wildlife Monitoring/Management</i>	\$390,629	(1)	
Subtotal	\$37,112,377		
 <u>Administration</u>			
<i>General administration</i>	\$217,653	(1)	
 <u>Support</u>			

Land Management Planning	\$370,059	(1)
<i>Management Reviews</i>	\$12,777	(3)
Training/Staff Development	\$194,725	(1)
<i>Vehicle Purchase</i>	\$3,052,950	(2)
Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	\$770,116	(1)
Other (Technical Reports, Data Management, etc.)	\$197,422	(1)
Internal Program Review	\$31,156	(1)
Technology and Data Management	\$116,835	(1)
Subtotal	\$4,746,044	
<u>Capital Improvements</u>		
<i>New Facility Construction</i>	\$31,483,548	(2)
Facility Maintenance	\$3,388,273	(1)
Subtotal	\$34,871,821	
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u>		
Info./Education/Operations	\$167,652	(1)
<u>Law Enforcement</u>		
Resource protection	\$212,732	(1)
Total	\$77,328,279	*

* Based on the characteristics and requirements of this area, 7.3 FTE positions would be optimal to fully manage this area. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

8 Analysis of Potential for Contracting Private Vendors for Restoration and Management Activities

The following management and restoration activities have been considered for outsourcing to private entities. It has been determined that items selected as “approved” are those that the FWC either does not have in-house expertise to accomplish or which can be done at less cost by an outside provider of services. Those items selected as “conditional” items are those that could be done either by an outside provider or by the agency at virtually the same cost or with the same level of competence. Items selected as “rejected” represent those for which the FWC has in-house expertise and/or which the agency has found it can accomplish at less expense than through contracting with outside sources:

	Approved	Conditional	Rejected
Dike and levee maintenance		✓	
Invasive species control		✓	
Mechanical vegetation treatment		✓	
Public contact and educational facilities development			✓
Prescribed burning		✓	
Timber harvest activities	✓		

Vegetation inventories		✓	
------------------------	--	---	--

9 Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Governmental Requirements

The operational functions of the FWC personnel are governed by the agency's Internal Management Policies and Procedures (IMPP) Manual. The IMPP Manual provides internal guidance regarding many subjects affecting the responsibilities of agency personnel including personnel management, safety issues, uniforms and personal appearance, training, as well as accounting, purchasing, and budgetary procedures.

When public facilities are developed on areas managed by the FWC, every effort is made to comply with Public Law 101 - 336, the ADA 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).

Uses planned for the OKSWMA are compliant with the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan and its requirement for "balanced public utilization," and follow the mission of the FWC as described in its Agency Strategic Plan (Appendix 11.10). Such uses also comply with the authorities of the FWC as derived from Article IV, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution as well as the guidance and directives of Chapters 253, 259, 327, 370, 373, 375, 378, 379, 403, 487, 597, and 870 F.S.

The FWC has developed and utilizes an Arthropod Control Plan for the OKSWMA in compliance with Chapter 388.4111 F.S. (Appendix 11.17). This plan was developed in cooperation with the local Hendry County arthropod control agency. This plan is also in conformance with the Local Government Comprehensive Plan as approved and adopted for Hendry County, Florida, (Appendix 11.18).

10 Endnotes

¹Shanahan, D.R. A living document: reincarnating the research article. *Trials* 16, 151 (2015).

²NOAA National Centers for Environmental information, Climate at a Glance: County Time Series, published March 2023, retrieved on March 10, 2023 from <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/time-series>

³ Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Official Soil Series Descriptions. Available online. Accessed [2019].

- ⁴ Sadahisa Kato & Jack Ahern (2008) 'Learning by doing': adaptive planning as a strategy to address uncertainty in planning, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 51:4, 543-559.
- ⁵ Wilhere, G. F. 2002. Adaptive management in Habitat Conservation Plans. *Conservation Biology* 16:20-29.
- ⁶ Walters, C. J. and R. Hilborn. 1978. Ecological optimization and adaptive management. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 9:157–188.
- ⁷ Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board on Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas, Final Report (2013).
- ⁸ Karl, T. R., J. M. Melillo, and T. C. Peterson (Eds.). 2009. *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. Cambridge University Press. New York, NY.
- ⁹ McCarty, J. P. 2001. Ecological consequences of recent climate change. *Conservation Biology* 15:320-331.
- ¹⁰ Walther, G. R., E. Post, P. Convey, A. Menzel, C. Parmesan, T. J.. Beebee, J. M. Fromentin, O. Hoegh-Guldberg, and F. Bairlein. 2002. Ecological responses to recent climate change. *Nature* 416:389–395.
- ¹¹ Parmesan, C. 2006. Ecological and evolutionary responses to recent climate change. *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 37:637-669.
- ¹² Logan, J. A., and J. A. Powell. 2009. Ecological consequences of climate change altered forest insect disturbance regimes. In *Climate Warming in Western North America: Evidence and Environmental Effects* (F. H. Wagner, Ed.). University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.
- ¹³ Stevenson, J. C., M. S. Kearney, and E. W. Koch. 2002. Impacts of sea level rise on tidal wetlands and shallow water habitats: A case study from Chesapeake Bay. *American Fisheries Society Symposium* 32:23-36.
- ¹⁴ IPCC. 2007b. *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

1 Appendices

1.1 Lease Agreement

DIVISION LOG # W1490

WA-237
CONTRACT NUMBER 99162

CONTRACT ROUTING REVIEW FORM

CONTRACTOR NAME BOT/FWC

VENDOR ID NO. _____ PROCUREMENT METHOD*/Bid/RFP NO. N/A

BRIEF TITLE INTERIM MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE DINNER ISLAND AND A&M PARCELS, HENDRY COUNTY

☒ NEW** ☐ RENEWAL ☐ EXTENSION ☐ AMENDMENT

CONTRACT BEGIN DATE 11/29/02 END DATE EXECUTION OF LEASE OPTION FOR N/A YEARS

ORIGINATOR/CONTACT P DOERR PHONE 488-3831 Div./OFFICE/MAIL DOW/ BWM

TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT \$ N/A PAYMENT AMOUNT \$ _____

BILLING PERIODS: ☐ MONTHLY ☐ QUARTERLY ☐ ANNUALLY ☐ OTHER _____

☐ EXPENDITURE** ☐ REVENUE ☒ AGREEMENT ☐ EASEMENT/DEED ☒ LEASE

BUILDING INSURANCE TO BE INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION ☒ NO ☐ YES (Notify Property Administrator)

****ALL NEW EXPENDITURE CONTRACTS:** (1) FSAA State Project Checklist: Copy must be attached. (check to verify) ☐ Yes ☐ N/A
(2) Vendor/Recipient Checklist: Copy must be attached if State Project Checklist shows this is a State Project. Attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

ORG. CODE	E.O.	OBJECT CODE	AMOUNT	PROJECT ID	FY

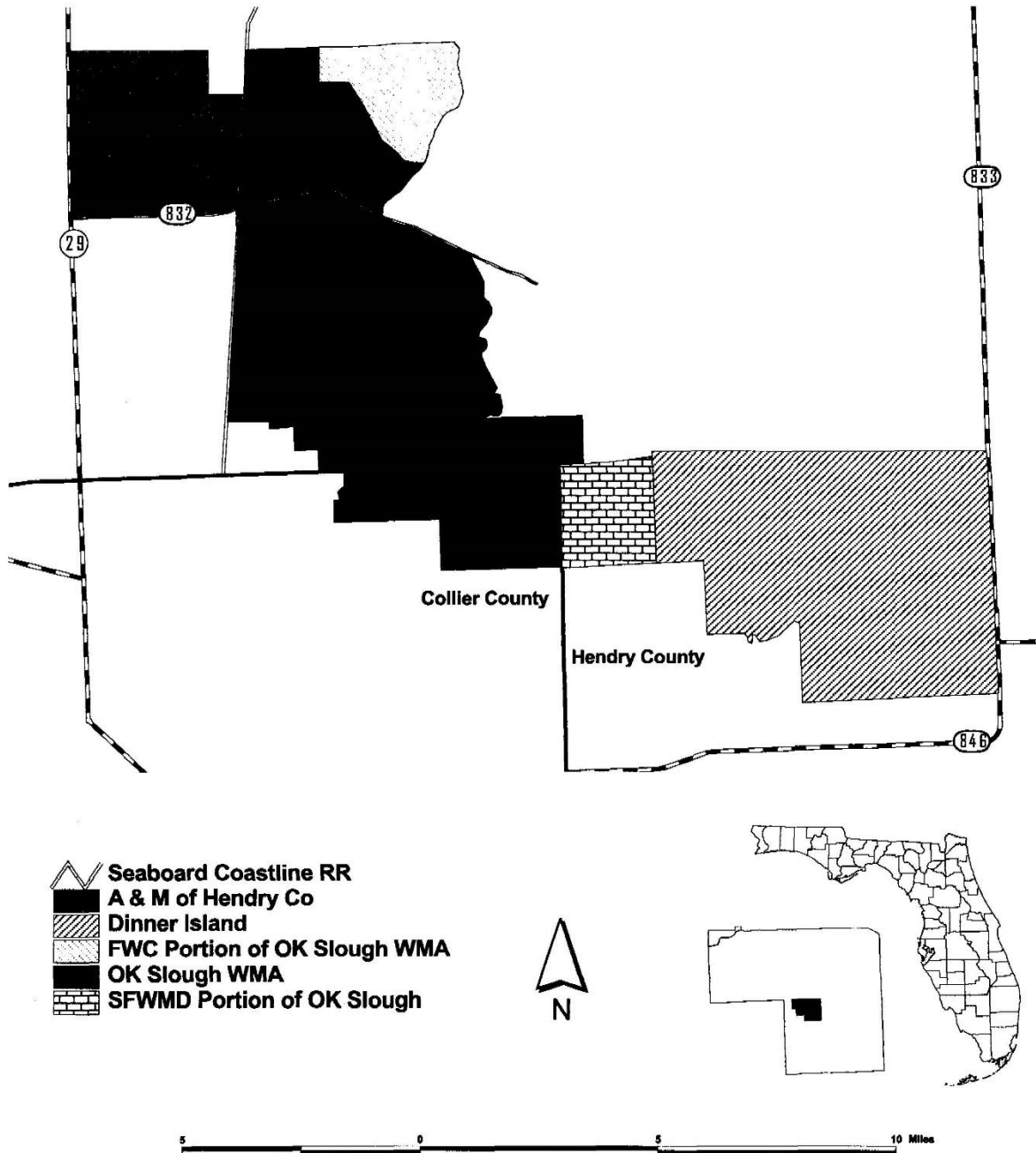
Certified Minority: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Available ☐ Not Appl. Minority Category _____ (See reverse side for options)

Class/group Code _____ FLAIR: ☐ Yes ☐ No Federal Funds: Agcy _____ CFDA _____

Routing Order for Approval	Approval (Signature)	Date	Comments
1. Project Leader	<i>DP</i>	7-19-02	
2. Bureau Chief	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-23-02	
4. Bur. of Office Operations	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-23-02	
5. Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	7/30/02	
6. Division Director. <u>execute</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	30 July 2002	
Originator to Bur. of Office Ops.			Send executed Original Contract and Routing Slip to BOO
Bur. of Office Ops. to Central Files	<i>[Signature]</i>	8-7-02	

Bwm/patti/contracts/dsl/lm_OKSlough_rtgnew

Interim Management for the 19,677-Acre
Hilliard Brothers, Dinner Island parcel and the
7,486-Acre A & M parcel, Hendry County, Florida.
Boundaries are approximate.





Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

July 16, 2002

Mr. Scott Sanders
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

RE: Interim Management
OK Slough Additions

Dear Mr. Sanders:

The Board of Trustees has acquired the following parcels for addition to OK Slough:

<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>CLOSING DATE</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>IMM</u>
A&M of Hendry County, Ltd.	July 3, 2002	7,486.08	\$ 449,165
Hilliard Brothers, Ltd.	July 3, 2002	19,677.10	\$1,180,626

A lease amendment is currently being prepared; however, the Commission will need interim management authority for the parcels until the amendment can be completed and a management plan approved. This letter shall grant the authority for the use of state-owned lands for the activities specified on the ARC/DSL approved interim management activities list (5/8/01). In some cases this authorization is subject to your agency requesting additional review and concurrence by the ARC representative from the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, and/or the Florida Natural Areas Inventory prior to initiating the activity. A contact person for each is provided in the attached list of activities. Please provide the Division of State Lands with copies of all correspondence to and from FNAI, DEP and/or the Department of State.

Acceptance of this authority in no way waives the authority and/or jurisdiction of any governmental entity. Implementation of these upland activities may require permits and/or authorization from other federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over these particular activities. Separate approval for any activities affecting the use of state-owned submerged lands must be requested through the filing of a joint application with the Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Please forward a copy of all permits for our lease file upon issuance.

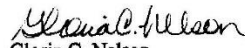
"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. Scott Sanders
July 16, 2002
Page Two

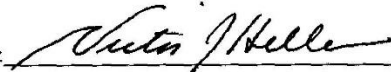
If interim management responsibility is acceptable, please sign where indicated and return a copy to Tracy Peters at the letterhead address. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Peters at 488-2291.

Sincerely,


Gloria C. Nelson
Operations and Management Consultant Manager
Bureau of Public Land Administration

GCN/tp
Attachments

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission accepts interim management of the land described in the attached deeds until such time as a lease amendment can be completed. The Commission further agrees to investigate injury or damage claims either for or against the Board of Trustees or the State of Florida pertaining to its respective areas of responsibility under this Interim Management Letter or arising out of its respective management programs or activities. In the event of such claims, the Commission shall contact the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands regarding the legal action deemed appropriate to remedy such damage or claims.

By:  Date: 30 July 2002

02okslough.iml

Project:	Panther Glades/Dinner Island
Parcel/Owner	Hilliard Brothers, Ltd.
County:	Hendry
Purchase Price:	\$35,128,668.00
DSL Approved value:	\$39,300,000.00
Acres:	19,677.1
Days to Closing:	141 days from BOT approval on 2/14/02
Title Insurer:	Smith, Thompson, Shaw, & Manausa, P. A.
Closing Services:	Janet Heath Smith, Thompson, Shaw, & Manausa, P. A.
Actual Closing Date:	7/05/02
Contract Closing Date:	7/14/02
Delay in Closing Explanation:	n/a
Adjustment Explanation:	Increase in acreage less adjustment for oil, gas, & mineral interest value.

Amend To #4245

Please Return To:
Daniel E. Manausa, Esquire
Smith, Thompson, Shaw, & Manausa, P. A.
3520 Thomasville Road, 4th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32308-3469

SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE, made this 3 day of July, A.D. 2002, between HILLIARD BROTHERS OF FLORIDA, LTD., a Florida limited partnership, and JOE MARLIN HILLIARD A/K/A JOE M. HILLIARD, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS TRUSTEE OF THE MARLIN W. HILLIARD FAMILY TRUST, whose collective post office address is Route 2, Box 175, Clewiston, Florida 33440, Grantor, and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, whose post office address is c/o Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 115, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000, grantee,

(Wherever used herein the terms "grantor" and "grantee" include all the parties to this instrument and their legal representatives, successors and assigns. "Grantor" and "grantee" are used for singular and plural, as the context requires and the use of any gender shall include all genders.)

WITNESSETH: That the said grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of \$10.00 and other good and valuable considerations to said grantor in hand paid by said grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained and sold to the said grantee, and grantee's successors and assigns forever, the following described land situate, lying and being in Hendry County, Florida, to-wit:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Property Appraiser's Parcel ID Numbers: See attached Exhibit "F"

TOGETHER WITH an easement for overhead transmission lines over and across that property described in Exhibit "G" attached hereto.

GRANTOR HEREBY RESERVES a non-exclusive perpetual easement for drainage over and under the lands further described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto, as an appurtenance to and for the benefit of the lands described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto, on the terms and conditions described in Exhibit "D" attached hereto.

GRANTOR HEREBY ADDITIONALLY RESERVES a non-exclusive, perpetual easement for ingress and egress on the terms and conditions described in Exhibit "D" over and across the lands described in Exhibit "E" attached hereto as an appurtenance to and for the benefit of the property described in Exhibit "C".

This property is not the homestead of Joe Marlin Hilliard a/k/a Joe M. Hilliard, nor contiguous to homestead property, as such homestead is defined under Florida law.

This conveyance is subject to easements, restrictions, limitations, and conditions of record if any now exist, but any such interests that may have been terminated are not hereby re-imposed.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same unto the said grantee in fee simple forever.

AND the said grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons claiming by, through or under the said grantor, but against none other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the grantor has executed these presents, the day and year first written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Bryan Reed Hilliard
(Signature of First Witness)
Bryan Reed Hilliard
Printed name of First Witness

Wayne C. Smith
(Signature of Second Witness)
Wayne C. Smith
Printed name of Second Witness

HILLIARD BROTHERS OF FLORIDA, LTD.,
a Florida limited partnership
BY: Joe M. Hilliard
Joe M. Hilliard a/k/a Joe Marlin Hilliard as General Partner

Bryan Reed Hilliard
(Signature of First Witness)
Bryan Reed Hilliard
Printed name of First Witness

Wayne C. Smith
(Signature of Second Witness)
Wayne C. Smith
Printed name of Second Witness

Joe Marlin Hilliard
Joe Marlin Hilliard a/k/a Joe M. Hilliard Individually and as
Trustee of the Marlin W. Hilliard Family Trust

Approved for Closing
By: W. Schurall
DEP Attorney
Date: 7-3-02

ent Plan

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hendry

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 3 day of July, 2002 by Joe M. Hilliard a/k/a Joe Marlin Hilliard as General partner of HILLIARD BROTHERS OF FLORIDA, LTD., a Florida limited partnership, on behalf of said partnership. Such person (notary Public must check applicable box):

- ☒ is personally known to me
☐ produced a current driver's license
☐ produced _____ as identification

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)



Tina R. Martin
Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)
Commission No.: CC 859203

My Commission Expires: 11/29/03

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hendry

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 3 day of July, 2002 by Joe Marlin Hilliard a/k/a Joe M. Hilliard, Individually and as Trustee of the Marlin W. Hilliard Family Trust. Such person (notary Public must check applicable box):

- ☒ is personally known to me
☐ produced a current driver's license
☐ produced _____ as identification

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)



Tina R. Martin
Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)
Commission No.: CC 859203

My Commission Expires: 11/29/03

ent Plan

EXHIBIT "A"

Beginning at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, as established by Collier Company Surveyors in 1935, run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 2638.98 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 16, 15, 21, 22, marking the Southwest corner of Section 15, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°09'32" East, 5496.67 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe, marking the Northwest corner of Section 15, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence South 89°18'02" West, 2627.91 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 9, 16, ¼, marking the South Quarter corner of Section 9, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence South 89°17'46" West, 2654.06 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 8, 9, 17, 16, marking the Southwest corner of Section 9, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°37'30" West, 5916.67 feet to a lightwood post; thence North 02°40'43" West, 5569.98 feet to a 3"x 3" tapered concrete monument with aluminum disk inscribed: "PROPERTY CORNER REG. SUR.NO. 1042 1996" and also inscribed with the numbers 32, 33, 5, 4; thence North 87°12'25" East, 129.62 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence North 01°20'44" West, 341.34 feet to an octagonal concrete monument with aluminum disk inscribed "T45, T46, R31E" and also inscribed with the numbers 32, 33, 5, 4; thence South 89°00'22" East, 5166.81 feet to a 1 ¾" iron pipe with aluminum disk inscribed: "PROPERTY CORNER REG.SUR.NO. 1042 1996" and also inscribed with the numbers 33, 34, 4, 3; thence South 89°04'12" East, 5340.23 feet to an octagonal concrete monument and aluminum disk inscribed: "T45, T46" and also inscribed with the numbers 34, 35, 3, 2; thence North 89°53'45" East, 5397.02 feet to an octagonal concrete monument and aluminum disk inscribed: "T45, T46" and also inscribed with the numbers 35, 36, 2, 1; thence South 88°06'30" East, 5340.08 feet to an octagonal concrete monument and aluminum disk inscribed: "T45, R 32 E, T46, R 31 E" and also inscribed with the numbers 36, 31, 1, 6; thence North 89°00'08" East, 5347.36 feet to an octagonal concrete monument and aluminum disk inscribed: "T45, T46" and also inscribed with the numbers 31, 32, 6, 5; thence North 88°13'48" East, 5339.37 feet to an octagonal concrete monument and aluminum disk inscribed: "T45, T46" and also inscribed with the numbers 32, 33, 5, 4; thence North 89°00'00" East, 5298.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed: "S.M.T. LB 6627", on the westerly right-of-way line of County Road 833; thence South 00°37'29" East, along said line, 2376.53 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument inscribed "SRD R/W"; thence South 01°34'17" East, 5447.65 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument inscribed "SRD R/W"; thence South 01°32'37" East, along said westerly right-of-way line of County Road 833 and the westerly right-of-way line of County Road 846, a distance of 13,939.98 feet to a 6"x 6" concrete monument inscribed "SRD R/W"; thence South 00°56'47" East, along the westerly right-of-way line of County Road 846,

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Hendry County
Page 1 of 3

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

a distance of 5802.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence, leaving said right-of-way line, North 89°48'55" West, 502.88 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence North 89°48'55" West, 2657.13 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°51'50" West, 2673.67 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°01'41" West, 2658.42 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 88°58'10" West, 2669.94 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 88°55'57" West, 2657.37 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 88°57'56" West, 2631.83 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 88°57'46" West, 1611.21 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 01°13'21" East, 242.83 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence North 89°25'07" West, 775.76 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence North 75°30'36" West, 1112.17 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°45'01" West, 1865.07 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'20" West, 2656.56 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'00" West, 2654.03 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°27'42" West, 2646.87 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°04'46" West, 2655.89 feet to the Point of Beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT

(Sugar Lease)

Beginning at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and pipe cap, as established by Collier Company surveyors in 1935, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 117.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°54'27" East, 268.97 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 87°03'11" East, 4081.62 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 37°04'17" East, 786.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 44°29'35" East, 153.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 73°02'29" East, 206.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 73°52'48" East, 65.86 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 49°59'14" East, 144.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE";

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Hendry County
Page 2 of 3

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

thence North 27°57'16" East, 412.77 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°26'18" East, 436.42 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 89°57'59" East, 604.57 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 08°40'54" East, 455.32 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 42°23'56" East, 39.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 74°04'44" East, 60.80 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°54'15" East, 224.90 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°28'17" East, 959.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 63°06'08" East, 783.87 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 62°44'11" East, 1071.22 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 61°48'33" East, 1118.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 02°30'49" East, 478.19 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 88°54'11" East, 636.40 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 00°19'33" West, 1032.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°27'33" West, 2273.82 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°33'31" West, 2422.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°39'19" West, 2216.28 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°10'46" East, 714.97 feet to a ¾" x 48" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 89°45'01" West, 304.54 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'20" West, 2656.56 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'00" West, 2654.03 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°27'42" West, 2646.87 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°04'46" West, 2655.89 feet to the Point of Beginning.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT

Beginning at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 8, 9, 17, 16, marking the Southwest corner of Section 9, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida and the Southeast corner of the lands described in Official Records Book 573, Page 958, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida, run North 00°37'30" West, 5916.67 feet to a 3" lightwood post, as called for in said Official Records Book 573, Page 958 (now replaced with a 2 ½" x 3' round aluminum monument with aluminum cap inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"), thence North 89°17'46" East, 10.00 feet, thence South 00°31'41" East, 5916.69 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Hendry County
Page 3 of 3

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

EXHIBIT "B"

A parcel of land in Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 24, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and cap, as established by Collier Company surveyors in 1935, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida (Grid Northing 766494.0701 feet, Grid Easting 583083.9450 feet), run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East (Grid Northing 769135.2082 feet, Grid Easting 583079.6555 feet); thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 117.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°54'27" East, 268.97 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 87°03'11" East, 3953.98 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue North 87°03'11" East, 127.64 feet TO a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 37°04'17" East, 786.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 44°29'35" East, 153.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 73°02'29" East, 206.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 73°52'48" East, 65.86 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 49°59'14" East, 144.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 27°57'16" East, 412.77 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°26'18" East, 436.42 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 89°57'59" East, 604.57 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 08°40'54" East, 455.32 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 42°23'56" East, 39.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 74°04'44" East, 60.80 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°54'15" East, 224.90 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°28'17" East, 959.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 63°06'08" East, 783.87 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 62°44'11" East, 1071.22 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 61°48'33" East, 1118.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod

Panther Glades / Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Proposed Retention Area Easement
Hendry County
Page 1 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 02°30'49" East, 211.03 feet; thence North 59°59'00" East, 985.89 feet; thence North 38°53'19" East, 892.83 feet; thence North 67°02'23" East, 493.98 feet; thence North 70°18'32" East, 1188.77 feet; thence North 78°35'45" East, 386.28 feet; thence North 41°40'05" East, 625.18 feet; thence North 34°08'19" West, 2355.25 feet; thence North 41°24'40" West, 1628.14 feet; thence North 32°29'44" West, 2184.61 feet; thence North 02°35'11" West, 422.08 feet; thence South 87°02'36" West, 476.05 feet; thence North 47°57'24" West, 677.05 feet; thence South 89°29'44" West, 1187.49 feet; thence South 83°55'35" West, 997.85 feet; thence South 77°52'06" West, 1163.16 feet; thence South 69°08'30" West, 703.75 feet; thence South 61°13'27" West, 358.92 feet; thence South 88°04'23" West, 1361.85 feet; thence South 52°57'41" West, 310.51 feet; thence South 00°37'44" West, 819.03 feet; thence South 04°04'52" East, 2987.58 feet; thence South 03°34'34" East, 2061.99 feet; thence South 03°02'57" East, 2058.72 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Grid coordinates shown hereon are on the Florida State Plane Coordinate System East Zone, as referenced to the North American Datum of 1983, Adjustment of 1990. Distances shown hereon are ground level distances and must be multiplied by the appropriate scale factors to obtain grid level distances.

Panther Glades / Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Proposed Retention Area Easement
Hendry County
Page 2 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

EXHIBIT "C"

Beginning at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and pipe cap, as established by Collier Company surveyors in 1935, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 117.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°54'27" East, 268.97 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 87°03'11" East, 4081.62 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 37°04'17" East, 786.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 44°29'35" East, 153.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 73°02'29" East, 206.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 73°52'48" East, 65.86 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 49°59'14" East, 144.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 27°57'16" East, 412.77 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°26'18" East, 436.42 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 89°57'59" East, 604.57 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 08°40'54" East, 455.32 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 42°23'56" East, 39.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 74°04'44" East, 60.80 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°54'15" East, 224.90 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°28'17" East, 959.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 63°06'08" East, 783.87 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 62°44'11" East, 1071.22 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 61°48'33" East, 1118.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 02°30'49" East, 478.19 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 88°54'11" East, 636.40 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627";

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros
Sugar Lease Area
Hendry County
Page 1 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

thence South 00°19'33" West, 1032.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°27'33" West, 2273.82 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°33'31" West, 2422.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°39'19" West, 2216.28 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°10'46" East, 714.97 feet to a ¾" x 48" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 89°45'01" West, 304.54 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'20" West, 2656.56 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°42'00" West, 2654.03 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°27'42" West, 2646.87 feet to a ¾" iron pipe and cap inscribed "GCY INC. LB 4108"; thence South 89°04'46" West, 2655.89 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros
Sugar Lease Area
Hendry County
Page 2 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

EXHIBIT "D"
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS

Use by grantor of the easements reserved herein is subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Grantor's use of the easements is non-exclusive.
2. Grantor shall discharge no hazardous materials on the easements. "Hazardous materials" shall mean any hazardous or toxic substance, material or waste of any kind or any other substance which is regulated by any Environmental Law. "Environmental Law" shall mean all federal, state and local laws, including statutes, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, judgments, orders, decrees, permits, concessions, grants, franchises, licenses, agreements and other governmental restrictions relating to the protection of the environment or human health, welfare or safety, or to the emission, discharge, seepage, release or threatened release of any contaminant, chemical, waste, irritant, petroleum product, waste product, radioactive material, flammable or corrosive substance, explosive, polychlorinated biphenyl, asbestos, hazardous or toxic substance, material or waste of any kind into the environment, including, without limitation, ambient air, surface water, ground water, or land including, but not limited to, the Federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Federal Clean Air Act, the Federal Clean Water Act, the Federal Resource and Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, the Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Chapters 161, 253, 373, 376 and 403, Florida Statutes, Rules of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Rules of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the rules of the Florida water management districts now or at any time hereafter in effect. Grantor shall indemnify and save harmless and defend grantee, its lessees, their respective officers, servants, agents and employees, and the State of Florida from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, expenditures or causes of action of whatsoever kind, including attorney's fees (whether incurred before, during, or after trial or upon any appellate level) arising from hazardous materials placed or discharged on or into the easement areas or adjacent lands as a result of grantor's ownership or use of the easements reserved herein. Grantor shall defend, at its sole cost and expense, any legal

action, claim, or proceeding instituted by any person against grantee, its lessees or the State of Florida as a result of any claim, suit, or cause of action for injuries to body, life, limb or property for which hazardous materials placed or discharged on or into the easement areas or adjacent lands arising out of grantor's ownership or use of the easements reserved herein alleged to be a contributing legal cause. Grantor shall save grantee, its lessees, their respective officers, servants, agents and employees and the State of Florida harmless from and against all judgments, orders, decrees, attorney's fees (whether incurred before, during or after trial or upon any appellate level), costs, expenses, and liabilities in and about any such claim, suit, investigation or defense thereof, which may be entered, incurred, or assessed as a result of the foregoing. The rights and remedies provided in this paragraph are in addition to and not in substitution of all other rights and remedies available at law or in equity.

3. To the extent grantor's use of the easements may result in the assessment of ad valorem taxes or other charges or assessments against the easement areas, grantor shall pay all such charges and assessments. Should grantor fail to make such payments when due, grantee may advance such payments, which shall incur interest, including after judgment, at the highest rate allowed by law from the date of demand therefor until paid in full.
4. Grantor shall not do or permit anything to be done within the easement areas that would create a lien or encumbrance of any nature against the easement areas or otherwise create no additional cloud on grantee's title to the easement areas.
5. Maintenance of the easement area shall be the responsibility of grantor, including, as to the drainage easement, maintenance of all levees required to prevent any water discharged by grantor onto the drainage easement from encroaching onto lands adjacent to the easement area. Grantor shall discharge no water onto the drainage easement unless such discharge is in full compliance with any and all required permits. If such lawful discharge encroaches onto lands adjacent to the described drainage easement area then the provisions of this Exhibit "D" shall apply to such encroached lands. Any disputes over whether water on lands adjacent to the drainage easement area are overflow from the drainage easement area shall be resolved by Grantee. The easement areas shall be maintained in a safe condition suitable for the purposes for which the easements are reserved, including but not limited to road grading, brush clearing, erosion control, and trash cleanup. Grantor shall indemnify, protect, defend, hold and save harmless grantee, its lessees, their respective officers, servants, agents and employees and the State of Florida harmless from any and all claims, causes of action, loss, damages,

injury, liability, cost or expenses, lawsuits and demands of any nature, including attorney fees (whether incurred before, during, or after trial or upon any appellate level) arising out of grantor's use of the easement areas.

6. Grantor shall drill no wells within the easement areas.
7. Grantor shall be responsible for obtaining, maintaining and remaining at all times in compliance with all permits necessary to construct necessary improvements and to conduct its operations on the easement areas, including but not limited to all surface water permits affecting the easement areas. Without intending to limit the generality of the foregoing, grantor shall remain responsible for the performance of all requirements under the provisions of permit no.26-00434-S issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
8. Grantor shall register with grantee any vehicle used by grantor on the easement areas.
9. "Grantor" shall include grantor, its successors and assigns.

EXHIBIT "E"

A 30 foot wide strip of land lying in Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and pipe cap, as established by Collier Company surveyors in 1935, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 117.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°54'27" East, 268.97 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 87°03'11" East, 4081.62 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 37°04'17" East, 786.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 44°29'35" East, 153.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 73°02'29" East, 206.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 73°52'48" East, 65.86 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 49°59'14" East, 144.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 27°57'16" East, 412.77 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°26'18" East, 436.42 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 89°57'59" East, 604.57 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 08°40'54" East, 455.32 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 42°23'56" East, 39.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 74°04'44" East, 60.80 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°54'15" East, 224.90 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°28'17" East, 959.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR

Panther Glades / Dinner Island/ Hilliard Bros.
Proposed 30 foot Ingress and Egress Easement
Hendry County
Page 1 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

LEASE"; thence North 63°06'08" East, 783.87 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 62°44'11" East, 1071.22 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 61°48'33" East, 1118.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 02°30'49" East, 94.45 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the lands herein described; thence North 60°15'14" East, 757.12 feet to a point; thence South 00°19'33" West, 746.85 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 00°19'33" West, 1032.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°27'33" West, 2273.82 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°33'31" West, 2422.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°39'19" West, 2216.28 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence South 01°10'46" East, 694.96 feet; thence North 89°45'01" East, 1563.45 feet to a point; thence South 75°30'36" East, 1011.04 feet to a point; thence South 85°17'41" East, 214.70 feet to a point; thence North 86°59'15" East, 267.92 feet to a point; thence North 82°24'47" East, 108.55 feet to a point; thence North 64°43'03" East, 108.32 feet to a point; thence North 50°18'17" East, 238.94 feet to a point; thence North 88°57'46" East, 1292.97 feet to the West line of a road and drainage easement as recorded in Official Records Book 459, Pages 837 through 844; thence continue North 88°57'46" East, 80.08 feet to the east line of said road and drainage easement; thence North 00°36'55" West along the east line of said road and drainage easement 30.00 feet to a point; thence South 88°57'46" West, 80.24 feet to the west line of said road and drainage easement; thence continue South 88°57'46" West, 1303.55 feet to a point; thence South 50°18'17" West, 245.67 feet to a point; thence South 64°43'03" West, 99.85 feet to a point; thence South 82°24'47" West, 102.68 feet to a point; thence South 86°59'15" West, 264.70 feet to a point; thence North 85°17'41" West, 210.10 feet to a point; thence North 75°30'36" West, 1012.35 feet to a point; thence South 89°45'01" West, 1537.81 feet to a point; thence North 01°10'46" West, 664.70 feet to a point; thence North 01°39'19" East, 2215.56 feet to a point; thence North 01°33'31" East, 2422.43 feet to a point; thence North 01°27'33" East, 2274.14 feet; thence North 00°19'33" East, 1831.53 feet to a point; thence South 60°15'14" West, 793.72 feet to a point; thence South 02°30'49" East, 33.74 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Panther Glades / Dinner Island/ Hilliard Bros.
Proposed 30 foot Ingress and Egress Easement
Hendry County
Page 2 of 2

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 6/25/02

EXHIBIT "F"

1014631-A0000010000
1024631-A0000010000
1034631-A0000010000
1044631-A0000010000
1094631-A0000010000
1104631-A0000010000
1114631-A0000010000
1124631-A0000010000
1134631-A0000010000
1144631-A0000010000
1154631-A0000010000
1224631-A0000010000
1234631-A0000010000
1244631-A0000010000
1254631-A0000010000
1364631-A0000010000
1034632-A0000010000
1044632-A0000010000
1044632-A0000010100
1054632-A0000010000
1064632-A0000010000
1074632-A0000010000
1084632-A0000010000
1094632-A0000010000
1104632-A0000030000
1104632-A0000040000
1154632-A0000010100
1154632-A0000010300
1164632-A0000010000
1174632-A0000010000
1184632-A0000010000
1194632-A0000010000
1204632-A0000010000
1214632-A0000010000
1224632-A0000030000
1274632-A0000020000
1284632-A0000010000
1294632-A0000010000
1304632-A0000010000
1314632-A0000020000
1324632-A0000020000
1334632-A0000020000
1344632-A0000040000

HBless

EXHIBIT "G"

Commencing at a 4"x 4" concrete monument with a ¾" pipe and pipe cap, as established by Collier Company surveyors in 1935, marking the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida, run North 00°05'35" West, 2641.28 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 28, 27, marking the West quarter corner of Section 27, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°05'29" West, 2642.21 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers 21, 22, 28, 27, marking the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°04'37" West, 2643.83 feet to a 4"x 4" concrete monument with ¾" pipe and brass disk inscribed with the numbers ¼, 21, 22, marking the West quarter corner of Section 22, Township 46 South, Range 31 East; thence North 00°00'34" West, 117.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°54'27" East, 268.97 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 87°03'11" East, 4081.62 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 37°04'17" East, 786.89 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 44°29'35" East, 153.35 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 73°02'29" East, 206.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 73°52'48" East, 65.86 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 49°59'14" East, 144.70 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 27°57'16" East, 412.77 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 85°26'18" East, 436.42 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 89°57'59" East, 604.57 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 08°40'54" East, 455.32 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 42°23'56" East, 39.38 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 74°04'44" East, 60.80 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°54'15" East, 224.90 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 72°28'17" East, 959.02 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 63°06'08" East, 783.87 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 62°44'11" East, 1071.22 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence North 61°48'33" East, 1072.36 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 61°48'33" East, 45.66 feet to a ¾" x 24" iron rod with aluminum disk inscribed "S.M.T. LB 6627 SUGAR LEASE"; thence South 02°30'49" East, 21.43 feet; thence South 89°47'03" West, 41.18 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Panther Glades/Dinner Island/Hilliard Bros.
Proposed Utility Easement (Sugar Lease Area)
Hendry County

BSM APPROVED
By: JA Date: 7/2/02

Project: Twelve-Mile Slough
Parcel/Owner A & M of Hendry County, Ltd.
County: Hendry
Purchase Price: \$11,000,000.00
DSL Approved value: \$11,603,500.00
Acres: 7,486.08
Days to Closing: 126 days from BOT approval on 2/27/02
Title Insurer: Kirk Pinkerton, P. A.
Closing Services: Janet Heath
Smith, Thompson, Shaw, & Manausa, P. A.
Actual Closing Date: 7/03/02
Contract Closing Date: 6/26/02
Delay in Closing Explanation: Phase II ESA and cleanup by seller required; Survey issues – multiple utility line encroachments/easements, cut-out required; resolution of the Roberts Canal Agreement.
Adjustment Explanation: n/a

AMEND TO # 4245

Please Return To:
William C. Strode, Esquire
Kirk Pinkerton, P. A.
720 S. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34230

APPROVED
FOR CLOSING

JUN 28 2002

By: William C. Robinson, Jr.
(DEP Attorney)

WARRANTY DEED
(STATUTORY FORM - SECTION 689.02, F.S.)

THIS INDENTURE, made this 28 day of June, A.D. 2002,
between A & M OF HENDRY COUNTY, LTD., A FLORIDA LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP, whose post office address is c/o John M. Albritton, 5430 Proctor Road, Sarasota, Florida 34233, grantor, and
the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
whose post office address is c/o Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth
Boulevard, Mail Station 115, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000, grantee,

(Wherever used herein the terms "grantor" and "grantee" include all the parties to this instrument and their legal
representatives, successors and assigns. "Grantor" and "grantee" are used for singular and plural, as the context
requires and the use of any gender shall include all genders.)

WITNESSETH: That the said grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other good and valuable
considerations, to said grantor in hand paid by said grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained
and sold to the said grantee, and grantee's successors and assigns forever, the following described land situate, lying and being in
Hendry County, Florida, to-wit:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF

Property Appraiser's Parcel Identification Numbers: 1014529-A0000060000
1014529-A0000020000
1034529-A0000010000
1044529-A0000020000
1214429-A0000010000
1224429-A0000010000
1234429-A0000010000
1254429-A0000010000
1264429-A0000010000
1274429-A0000010000
1284429-A0000010000
1334429-A0000010000
1344429-A0000010000
1374429-A0000010000
1364429-A0000010000

This conveyance is subject to easements, restrictions, limitations, and conditions of record if any now exist, but any such
interests that may have been terminated are not hereby re-imposed.

AND the said grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all
persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the grantor has hereunto set grantor's hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

A & M OF HENDRY COUNTY, LTD.
a Florida limited partnership
By: A & M Management of Hendry County,
Inc., as general partner

Julius A. Holstkamp
(Signature of First Witness)
Printed name of First Witness

By: John M. Albritton
John M. Albritton, as President

Kirk Pinkerton
(Signature of Second Witness)
Printed name of Second Witness

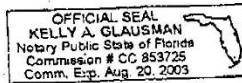
(CORPORATE SEAL)

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MANATEE

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 28th day of June, 2002, by
John M. Albritton as President of A & M Management of Hendry County, Inc., general partner of A & M of Hendry County, Ltd.,
a Florida limited partnership, on behalf of said partnership. Such person (notary Public must check applicable box):

- ☐ is personally known to me
☐ produced a current driver's license
☒ produced driver's license identification

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)



Kelly A. Glausman
Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)
Commission No.:

My Commission Expires:

EXHIBIT "A"

A parcel of land lying in Sections 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 and 36, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, and, lying in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the North right-of-way line of Keri Road and the East right-of-way line of State Road 29, run North 00°21'09" East 2605.54 feet along said East right-of-way line to the South line of Township 44 South, Range 29 East; thence North 00°24'04" East 2951.80 feet along said East right-of-way line to a point of curvature; thence 503.21 feet along the arc of a circular curve concave to the East, radius 424930.87 feet, chord bearing North 00°26'06" East, chord 503.21 feet along said East right-of-way line to a point of tangency; thence North 00°28'08" East 12108.93 feet along said East right-of-way line to the South right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence North 89°21'33" East 15384.18 feet along said South right-of-way line to a point on the East line of Section 23, Township 44 South, Range 29 East; thence South 01°12'19" East 5268.90 feet along said East line to the Northwest corner of Section 25, Township 44 South, Range 29 East; thence North 88°21'03" East 3849.27 feet along the North line of said Section 25 to a point on the West line of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad right-of-way; thence South 04°17'27" West 10456.19 feet along said West right-of-way line to the North line of Township 45 South; thence continue South 04°17'27" West 2072.48 feet to the North right-of-way line of Keri Road; thence South 69°30'40" West 170.51 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of curvature; thence 456.02 feet along the arc of a circular curve concave northerly, radius 4219.31 feet, chord bearing South 72°32'57" West, chord 455.79 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of tangency; thence South 75°38'44" West 586.62 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of curvature; thence 562.81 feet along the arc of a circular curve concave northerly, radius 5715.02 feet, chord bearing South 78°28'00" West, chord 562.58 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of tangency; thence South 81°17'17" West 1016.01 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of curvature; thence 479.59 feet along the arc of a circular curve concave Northerly, radius 3101.91 feet, chord bearing South 85°40'07" West, chord 479.11 feet, along said North right-of-way line to a point of tangency; thence North 89°57'50" West 5749.25 feet along said North right-of-way line; thence North 89°37'23" West 4051.69 feet along said North right-of-way line; thence South 89°12'38" West 5547.56 feet along said North right-of-way line to a point of intersection with the East right-of-way line of State Road 29 and the Point of Beginning.

Less and Except:

A parcel of land lying in Section 25, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Beginning at a 6" x 6" concrete monument marking the northwest corner of said Section 25, run N 88°33'44" E along the north line of said Section 25, a distance of 3849.10 feet to a 6" x 6" concrete monument on the west right-of-way line of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Right-of-way; thence S 04°30'16" W, 43.00 feet along said line to a ¾" iron rod with an aluminum cap stamped "S.M.T. LB 6627"; thence S 89°09'17" W, 3844.87 feet to a ¾" iron rod with an aluminum cap stamped "S.M.T. LB 6627" on the southerly prolongation of the east line of the southeast quarter of Section 23, Township 44 South, Range 29 East; thence N 00°59'25" W, 3.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Twelve Mile Slough, A & M of Hendry County, Ltd.

Page 1 of 1

DSM
By RB Date 6-24-02

P.25

DIVISION LOG #. W1231

WA-237
EXHIBIT 4.2 A

CONTRACT ROUTING REVIEW FORM

CONTRACT NUMBER 99162 BID/RFP NUMBER (If applicable) _____
CONTRACTOR DSL AND FWCC (TILE)
BRIEF TITLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ALICO PARCEL, OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH WMA LEASE # 4245
(X)NEW ()RENEWAL ()EXTENSION ()AMENDMENT (SEE REVERSE FOR DEFINITIONS)
CONTRACT BEGIN DATE Execution END DATE 50 Years from Execution Date OPTION FOR N/A YEARS
ORIGINATOR/CONTACT DP Patti Doerr PHONE 488-3831 DIV/OFF WILDLIFE
TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT \$ 300/yr PAYMENT AMOUNT _____
BILLING PERIODS: ()MONTHLY ()QUARTERLY ()ANNUALLY ()OTHER _____

()EXPENDITURE ()REVENUE (X)AGREEMENT ()EASEMENT/DEED

BUILDING INSURANCE TO BE INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION YES XNO (NOTIFY PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR)
RCC CODE 4712 CATEGORY _____ OBJECT CODE _____ PROJECT _____
FUND CARL MINORITY CATEGORY _____ (SEE REVERSE SIDE for options)
CERTIFIED MINORITY: ()YES ()NO ()NOT AVAILABLE (X)NOT APPLICABLE

ROUTING ORDER FOR APPROVAL	CONCUR/INITIALS	DATE	COMMENTS
1. PROJECT LEADER*♦	<u>EWB</u>	<u>2-9-00</u>	
2. DIV/REGIONAL DIRECTOR*♦	<u>TAB</u>	<u>2-11-00</u>	
3. PURCHASING*♦	<u>DS</u>	<u>2-14-00</u>	<u>OK with changes</u>
4. LEGAL♦	<u>PR</u>	<u>2-15-00</u>	
5. AD SERVICES			
CHIEF OF ACCOUNTING			
FEDERAL AID			
ACCOUNTANT*			
BUDGET REVIEW			
AD SERVICES DIRECTOR			
6. EXEC/DIV/REGION DIRECTOR*♦	<u>FA</u>	<u>22-Feb.-2000</u>	
7. RETURN TO PURCHASING			
PURCHASING TO			
ORIGINATOR			
ORIGINATOR TO	<u>DS</u>	<u>2-24-00</u>	
PURCHASING	<u>AP</u>	<u>4-26-00</u>	
COPY TO ACCOUNTING			
PURCH. TO CENT. FILES	<u>NA ORP</u> <u>FB</u>	<u>5/2/00</u>	

*ROUTING OF FEDERAL AID DOCUMENTS ONLY
♦ROUTING OF EASEMENTS/DEEDS

DIVISION/OFFICES ARE TO FORWARD COMPLETED
ORIGINAL CONTRACT AND ROUTING SLIP TO THE PURCHASING OFFICE.

CLASS/GROUP CODE _____ SACSS YES _____ NO _____

\\wildnet\\...\\Patti\\formS\\OKSI_Int.rtg

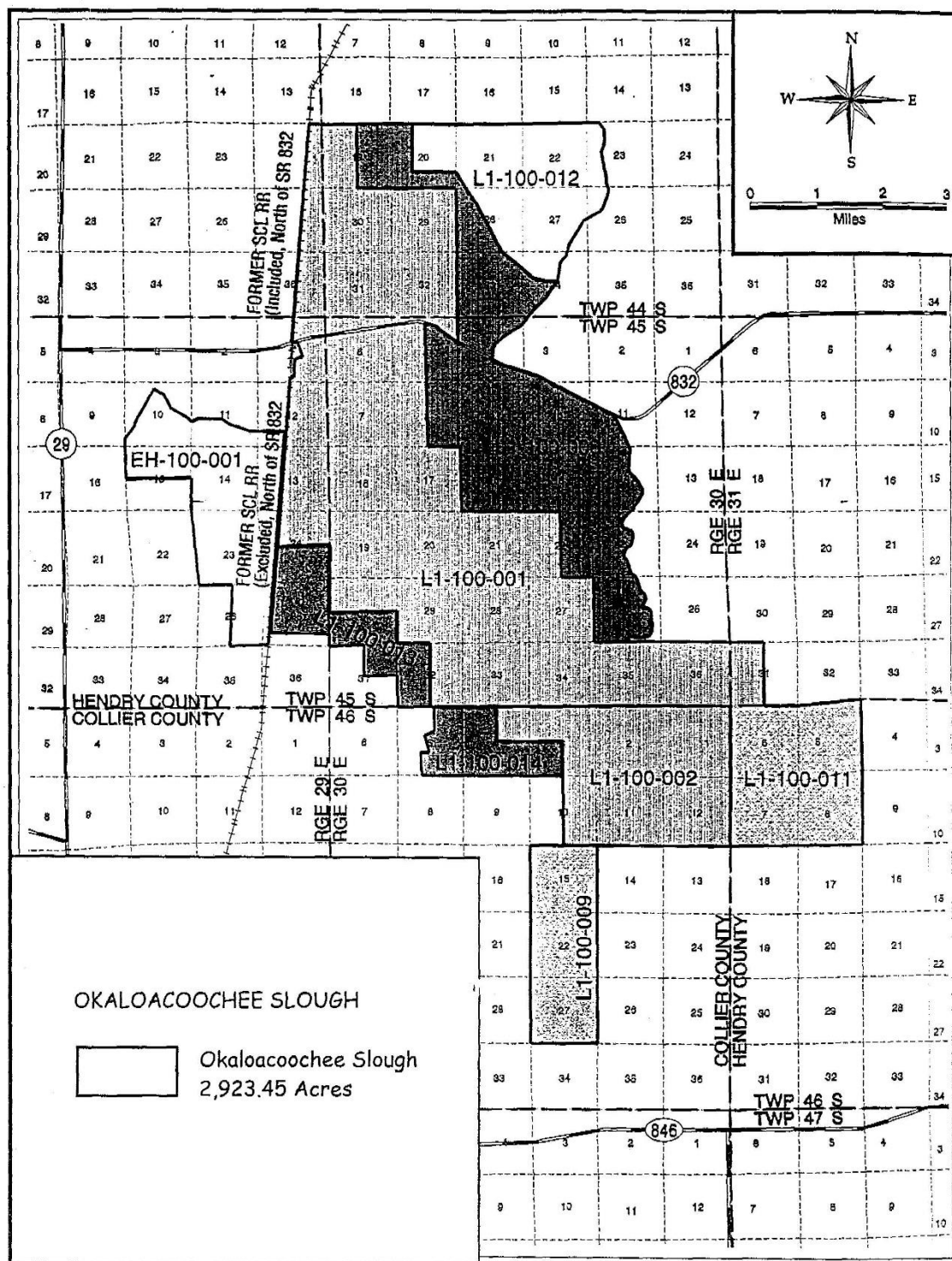
MEMORANDUM

TO: Allan L. Egbert Ph.D., Executive Director
FROM: Frank Montalbano, Director, Division of Wildlife
SUBJECT: Management for Okaloacoochee Slough

Attached are ⁴two originals of Lease Number 4245 between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This lease will give the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission management authority for the 2,923.45 acre Alico Inc. parcel. This parcel will be managed as the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

LEG 8-5
FMJSS
\\Wildnet\\...\\Patt\\memo\\OKSlough.mem
Attachment





Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

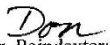
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

March 21, 2000

Mr. Don Poindexter
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Division of Wildlife
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

REF: **FWCC-DACS/DOF, Okaloacoochee Slough,
(Trustees Lease No. 4245)**

Dear  ~~Mr. Poindexter~~,

Enclosed for your file is a fully executed original of lease Number 4245 between the Board of Trustees and the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. If you have any questions about the enclosure, call me at 488-2291.

Sincerely,



David Stevenson
Bureau of Public Land Administration
Mail Station 130

DS/ds
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Nick Wylie, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Division of Wildlife, State of Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,
Mr. Jim Grubbs, Division of Forestry, State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services, with enclosure

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2000

**BUREAU OF
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

5263

SAL4

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT
TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

2,923.45 Acres

MULTIPLE AGENCY LEASE AGREEMENT

OKALOACOCHEE SLOUGH

Lease Number 4245

This lease is made and entered in this 20th day of March, 2000, between the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, hereinafter referred to as "LESSOR", and the STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, hereinafter referred to as the "LEAD AGENCY", and the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY, hereinafter referred to as the "COOPERATING AGENCY", hereinafter collectively referred to as the "MANAGING AGENCIES".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the LESSOR holds title to certain lands and property being utilized by the State of Florida for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the LESSOR is authorized in Section 253.03, Florida Statutes, to enter into leases for the use, benefit, and possession of public lands by State agencies which may properly use and possess them for the benefit of the people of the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, LESSOR leases the below described premises to the MANAGING AGENCIES subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY: LESSOR'S responsibilities and obligations herein shall be exercised by the Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection.
2. DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES: The property subject to this lease, is situated in the County of Hendry, State of Florida and

is more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and hereinafter referred to as the "leased premises".

3. TERM: The term of this lease shall be for a period of fifty years commencing on _____ and ending on _____, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the provisions of this lease.

4. PURPOSE: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall manage the leased premises only for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and resource based public outdoor recreation which is compatible with the conservation and protection of these public lands, as set forth in subsection 259.032(11), Florida Statutes, along with other related uses necessary for the accomplishment of this purpose as designated in the Management Plan required by paragraph 8 of this lease.

5. QUIET ENJOYMENT AND RIGHT OF USE: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall have the right of ingress and egress to, from and upon the leased premises for all purposes necessary to the full quiet enjoyment by said MANAGING AGENCIES of the rights conveyed herein.

6. UNAUTHORIZED USE: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall, through their agents and employees, prevent the unauthorized use of the leased premises or any use thereof not in conformance with this lease.

7. LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES: The LEAD AGENCY shall coordinate and oversee all activities on the leased premises; initiate appropriate management programs to meet the intent of the goals and objectives stated herein; coordinate preparation and periodic revision of the Management Plan; coordinate and monitor all management activities undertaken by others; and, compile and submit such reports as may be required of the MANAGING AGENCIES. The LEAD AGENCY shall provide permanent staff, as funding is acquired, for management on a day-to-day basis.

8. MANAGEMENT PLAN: The LEAD AGENCY with assistance from the COOPERATING AGENCY shall prepare and submit a Management Plan for the leased premises, in accordance with Section 253.034, Florida Statutes, and subsection 18-2.021(4), Florida Administrative Code, within twelve months of the effective date of this lease. The Management Plan shall be submitted to LESSOR for approval through the Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection. The leased premises shall not be developed or physically altered in any way other than what is necessary for security and maintenance of the leased premises without the prior written approval of LESSOR until the Management Plan is approved. The Management Plan shall emphasize the original management concept as approved by LESSOR at the time of acquisition which established the primary purpose for which the leased premises were acquired. The approved Management Plan shall provide the basic guidance for all management activities and shall be reviewed jointly by the LEAD AGENCY, COOPERATING AGENCY, Land Management Advisory Committee, and LESSOR at least every five years. The MANAGING AGENCIES shall not use or alter the leased premises except as provided for in the approved Management Plan without the prior written approval of LESSOR. The Management Plan prepared under this lease shall identify management strategies for exotic species, if present. The introduction of exotic species is prohibited, except when specifically authorized by the approved Management Plan.

9. RIGHT OF INSPECTION: LESSOR or its duly authorized agents shall have the right at any and all times to inspect the leased premises and the works and operations thereon of the MANAGING AGENCIES, in any matter pertaining to this lease.

10. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall procure and maintain fire and extended risk insurance coverage in accordance with Chapter 284, F.S., for any buildings and improvements located on the leased premises by preparing and

delivering to the Division of Risk Management, Department of Insurance, a completed Florida Fire Insurance Trust Fund Coverage Request Form and a copy of this lease immediately upon erection of any structures as allowed by paragraph 4 of this lease. A copy of said form and immediate notification in writing of any erection or removal of structures or other improvements on the leased premises and any changes affecting the value of the improvements shall be submitted to the following: Bureau of Public Land Administration, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection, Mail Station 130, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

11. LIABILITY: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall assist in the investigation of injury or damage claims either for or against LESSOR or the State of Florida pertaining to the LEAD AGENCY'S or COOPERATING AGENCY'S respective areas of responsibility under this lease agreement or arising out of the LEAD AGENCY's or COOPERATING AGENCY'S respective management programs or activities and shall contact LESSOR regarding the legal action deemed appropriate to remedy such damage or claims. The managing agencies are responsible for all personal injury and property damage attributable to the negligent acts or omissions of the managing agencies and their officers, employees, and agents.

12. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES: Execution of this lease in no way affects any of the parties' obligations pursuant to Chapter 267, Florida Statutes. The collection of artifacts or the disturbance of archaeological and historic sites on state-owned lands is prohibited unless prior authorization has been obtained from the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. The Management Plan prepared pursuant to Section 253.034, Florida Statutes, shall be reviewed by the Division of Historical Resources to insure that adequate measures have been planned to locate, identify, protect and preserve the

archaeological and historic sites and properties on the leased premises.

13. EASEMENTS: All easements including, but not limited to, utility easements are expressly prohibited without the prior written approval of LESSOR. Any easement not approved in writing by LESSOR shall be void and without legal effect.

14. SUBLEASES: This lease is for the purposes specified herein and subleases of any nature are prohibited, without the prior written approval of LESSOR. Any sublease not approved in writing by LESSOR shall be void and without legal effect.

15. POST CLOSING RESPONSIBILITIES: In an effort to define the responsibilities of the LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES with regard to resolving post closing management issues, the parties agree to the following:

a. After consultation with the MANAGING AGENCIES, LESSOR agrees to provide the MANAGING AGENCIES with the title, survey and environmental products procured by the LESSOR, prior to closing.

b. LESSOR will initiate surveying services to locate and mark boundary lines of specific parcels when necessary for immediate agency management and will provide a boundary survey of the entire acquisition project at the conclusion of all acquisition within the project boundary. Provided, however, the MANAGING AGENCIES may request individual parcel boundary surveys, if necessary, prior to the conclusion of acquisition activities within the project boundaries.

c. Unless otherwise agreed to by MANAGING AGENCIES, LESSOR shall, at its sole cost and expense, make a diligent effort to resolve all issues pertaining to all title defects, survey matters or environmental contamination associated with the leased premises, including but not limited to trash and debris, which were either known or should have been reasonably known by LESSOR at the time LESSOR acquired the leased premises. Notwithstanding

the foregoing, LESSOR will not be responsible for any of MANAGING AGENCIES' attorney's fees, costs, or liability or damages incurred by the MANAGING AGENCIES in resolving any issue in which the MANAGING AGENCIES are named as a party in any litigation or other legal or administrative proceeding.

d. With regard to all title defects, survey matters, or environmental contamination associated with the leased premises which were not known or could not have been reasonably known by LESSOR at the time LESSOR acquired the leased premises, LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES agree to cooperate in developing an appropriate strategy for jointly resolving these matters. LESSOR acknowledges and understands that MANAGING AGENCIES are unable to commit any substantial amount of their routine operating funds for the resolution of any title defect, survey matter, or environmental contamination associated with the leased premises. Notwithstanding the foregoing, LESSOR will not be responsible for any of MANAGING AGENCIES' attorney's fees, costs, or liability or damages incurred by the MANAGING AGENCIES in resolving any issue in which the MANAGING AGENCIES are named as a party in any litigation or other legal or administrative proceeding.

16. SURRENDER OF PREMISES: Upon termination or expiration of this lease, the MANAGING AGENCIES shall surrender the leased premises to LESSOR. The MANAGING AGENCIES hereby agree that in the event no further use of the leased premises or any part thereof is needed, written notification shall be made to the Bureau of Public Land Administration, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection, Mail Station 130, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, at least six months prior to the release of all or any part of the leased premises. Notification shall include a legal description, this lease number and an explanation of the release. The release shall only be valid if approved by LESSOR through execution of a

release of lease instrument with the same formality as this lease. Upon release of all or any part of the leased premises or upon termination or expiration of this lease, all permanent improvements, including both physical structures and modifications to the leased premises, shall become the property of LESSOR, unless LESSOR gives written notice to the MANAGING AGENCIES to remove any or all such improvements at the expense of the MANAGING AGENCIES. The decision to retain any improvements upon termination of this lease shall be at LESSOR'S sole discretion. Prior to surrender of all or any part of the leased premises, a representative of the Division of State Lands shall perform an on-site inspection and the keys to any buildings on the leased premises shall be turned over to the Division. If the leased premises do not meet all conditions as set forth in paragraphs 19 and 22 herein, the MANAGING AGENCIES shall pay all costs necessary to meet the prescribed conditions.

17. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: MANAGING AGENCIES shall implement applicable Best Management Practices for all activities conducted under this lease in compliance with Paragraph 18-2.018(2)(h), Florida Administrative Code, which have been selected, developed, or approved by LESSOR, MANAGING AGENCIES or other land managing agencies for the protection and enhancement of the leased premises.

18. PUBLIC LANDS ARTHROPOD CONTROL PLAN: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall identify and subsequently designate to the respective arthropod control district or districts within one year of the effective date of this lease all of the environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive lands contained within the leased premises, in accordance with Section 388.4111, Florida Statutes and Chapter 10D-54, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of obtaining a public lands arthropod control plan for such lands.

19. UTILITY FEES: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall be responsible for the payment of all charges for the furnishing of gas, electricity, water and other public utilities to the leased premises and for having all utilities turned off when the leased premises are surrendered.

20. ASSIGNMENT: This lease shall not be assigned in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of LESSOR. Any assignment made either in whole or in part without the prior written consent of LESSOR shall be void and without legal effect.

21. PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS: All buildings, structures, improvements, and signs shall be constructed at the expense of the MANAGING AGENCIES. Removable equipment placed on the leased premises by the MANAGING AGENCIES which do not become a permanent part of the leased premises will remain the property of the MANAGING AGENCIES and may be removed by the MANAGING AGENCIES upon termination of this lease agreement.

22. MAINTENANCE: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall maintain the real property contained within the leased premises and any improvements located thereon, in a state of good condition, working order and repair including, but not limited to, keeping the leased premises free of trash or litter, meeting all building and safety codes in the location situated, maintaining all planned improvements as set forth in the approved Management Plan and maintaining any and all existing roads, canals, ditches, culverts, risers, and the like in as good condition as the same may be on the effective date of this lease; provided, however, that any removal, closure, etc., of the above improvements shall be acceptable when the proposed activity is consistent with the goals of conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural or historical resources within the leased premises and with the approved Management Plan.

23. ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING: This lease sets forth the entire understanding between the parties and shall only be amended with the prior written approval of LESSOR.

24. BREACH OF COVENANTS, TERMS, OR CONDITIONS: Should the MANAGING AGENCIES breach any of the covenants, terms, or conditions of this lease, LESSOR shall give written notice to the MANAGING AGENCIES to remedy such breach within sixty days of such notice. In the event the MANAGING AGENCIES fail to remedy the breach to the satisfaction of LESSOR within sixty days of receipt of written notice, LESSOR may either terminate this lease and recover from the MANAGING AGENCIES all damages LESSOR may incur by reason of the breach including, but not limited to, the cost of recovering the leased premises or maintain this lease in full force and effect and exercise all rights and remedies herein conferred upon LESSOR.

25. NO WAIVER OF BREACH: The failure of LESSOR to insist in any one or more instances upon strict performance of any one or more of the covenants, terms and conditions of this lease shall not be construed as a waiver of such covenants, terms and conditions, but the same shall continue in full force and effect, and no waiver of LESSOR of any one of the provisions hereof shall in any event be deemed to have been made unless the waiver is set forth in writing, signed by LESSOR.

26. PROHIBITIONS AGAINST LIENS OR OTHER ENCUMBRANCES: Fee title to the leased premises is held by LESSOR. The MANAGING AGENCIES shall not do or permit anything to be done which purports to create a lien or encumbrance of any nature against the real property contained in the leased premises including, but not limited to, mortgages or construction liens against the leased premises or against any interest of the LESSOR therein.

27. CONDITIONS AND COVENANTS: All of the provisions of this lease shall be deemed covenants running with the land included in the leased premises, and construed to be "conditions" as well as

"covenants" as though the words specifically expressing or imparting covenants and conditions were used in each separate provision.

28. DAMAGE TO THE PREMISES: (a) MANAGING AGENCIES shall not do, or suffer to be done, in, on, or upon the leased premises or as affecting said leased premises or adjacent properties, any act which may result in damage or depreciation of value to the leased premises or adjacent properties, or any part thereof. (b) MANAGING AGENCIES shall not generate, store, produce, place, treat, release or discharge any contaminants, pollutants or pollution, including, but not limited to, hazardous or toxic substances, chemicals or other agents on, into, or from the leased premises or any adjacent lands or waters in any manner not permitted by law. For the purposes of this lease, "hazardous substances" shall mean and include those elements or compounds defined in 42 USC Section 9601 or which are contained in the list of hazardous substances adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the list of toxic pollutants designated by the United States Congress or the EPA or defined by any other federal, state or local statute, law, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, order or decree regulating, relating to, or imposing liability or standards of conduct concerning any hazardous, toxic, or dangerous waste, substance, material, pollutant or contaminant. "Pollutants" and "pollution" shall mean those products or substances defined in Chapters 376 and 403, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated thereunder, all as amended or updated from time to time. In the event of the MANAGING AGENCIES' failure to comply with this paragraph, the MANAGING AGENCIES shall, at their sole cost and expense, promptly commence and diligently pursue any legally required closure, investigation, assessment, cleanup, decontamination, remediation, restoration and monitoring of (1) the leased premises, and (2) all off-site ground and surface waters and lands affected by

MANAGING AGENCIES' failure to comply, as may be necessary to bring the leased premises and affected off-site waters and lands into full compliance with all applicable federal, state or local statutes, laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, orders and decrees, and to restore the damaged property to the condition existing immediately prior to the occurrence which caused the damage. MANAGING AGENCIES' obligations set forth in this paragraph shall survive the termination or expiration of this lease. Nothing herein shall relieve MANAGING AGENCIES of any responsibility or liability prescribed by law for fines, penalties and damages levied by governmental agencies, and the cost of cleaning up any contamination caused directly or indirectly by MANAGING AGENCIES' activities or facilities. Upon discovery of a release of a hazardous substance or pollutant, or any other violation of local, state or federal law, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, order or decree relating to the generation, storage, production, placement, treatment, release, or discharge of any contaminant, MANAGING AGENCIES shall report such violation to all applicable governmental agencies having jurisdiction, and to LESSOR, all within the reporting period of the applicable governmental agencies.

29. PAYMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall assume full responsibility for and shall pay all liabilities that accrue to the leased premises or to the improvements thereon, including any and all drainage and special assessments or taxes of every kind and all mechanic's or materialman's liens which may be hereafter lawfully assessed and levied against the leased premises.

30. RIGHT OF AUDIT: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall make available to LESSOR all financial and other records relating to this lease and LESSOR shall have the right to audit such records at any reasonable time. This right shall be continuous until this lease expires or is terminated. This lease may be terminated by LESSOR

should the MANAGING AGENCIES fail to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other materials made or received in conjunction with this lease, pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

31. NON-DISCRIMINATION: The MANAGING AGENCIES shall not discriminate against any individual because of that individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status with respect to any activity occurring within the leased premises or upon lands adjacent to and used as an adjunct of the leased premises.

32. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS: The MANAGING AGENCIES agree that this lease is contingent upon and subject to the MANAGING AGENCIES obtaining all applicable permits and complying with all applicable permits, regulations, ordinances, rules, and laws of the State of Florida or the United States or of any political subdivision or agency of either.

33. TIME: Time is expressly declared to be of the essence of this lease.

34. GOVERNING LAW: This lease shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Florida.

35. SECTION CAPTIONS: Articles, subsections and other captions contained in this lease are for reference purposes only and are in no way intended to describe, interpret, define, or limit the scope, extent or intent of this lease or any provisions thereof.

36. ADMINISTRATIVE FEE: The LEAD AGENCY shall pay LESSOR an annual administrative fee of \$300. The initial annual administrative fee shall be payable within thirty days from the date of execution of this lease agreement and shall be prorated based on the number of months or fraction thereof remaining in the fiscal year of execution. For purposes of this lease agreement, the fiscal year shall be the period extending from July 1 to June 30. Each annual payment thereafter shall be due and payable on July 1 of each subsequent year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this lease to be executed on the day and year first above written.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL
IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA

Judy Woodard
Witness
Judy Woodard
Print/Type Witness Name
[Signature]
Witness
Heather Vickers
Print/Type Witness Name

By: Gloria C. Nelson (SEAL)
GLORIA C. NELSON, OPERATIONS
AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
MANAGER, BUREAU OF PUBLIC
LAND ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION
OF STATE LANDS, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

"LESSOR"

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this
20th day of March, 2000, by Gloria C. Nelson, as
Operations and Management Consultant Manager, Bureau of Public
Land Administration, Division of State Lands, Department of
Environmental Protection, as agent for and on behalf of the Board
of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State
of Florida.



Sylvia S. Roberts
MY COMMISSION # CC854057 EXPIRES
July 25, 2001
BONDED THRU TROY FAIR INSURANCE, INC.

Sylvia S. Roberts
Notary Public, State of Florida

Print/Type Notary Name

Commission Number:

Commission Expires:

Approved as to Form and Legality

By: [Signature]
DEP Attorney

Brenda Collins
Witness
Brenda Collins
Print/Type Witness Name
Cynthia Ward
Witness
Cynthia Ward
Print/Type Witness Name

STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By: Victor J. Heller (SEAL)

Victor J. Heller
Print/Type Name

Its: Assistant Ex. Director

"LEAD AGENCY"

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this
22nd day of February, 2000, by Victor J. Heller, as
Assistant Executive Director, State of Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission, who is personally known to me
or who has produced _____ as
identification.

Jimmie C. Bevis
Notary Public, State of Florida

JIMMIE C. BEVIS
Print/Type Notary Name

Commission Number:

Commission Expires:



Jimmie C. Bevis
MY COMMISSION # 00702362 EXPIRES
December 28, 2001
BONDED THRU TROY FAIN INSURANCE, INC

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
[Signature]
Commissioner

Ben C. Brown
Witness

Ben C. Brown
Print/Type Witness Name

Susie P. Burkh
Witness

Susie P. Burkh
Print/Type Witness Name

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

By: Mike Gresham (SEAL)

Mike Gresham
Type/Print Name

Its: Director of Administration

"COOPERATING AGENCY"

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this
7th day of March, 2000, by MIKE GRESHAM,
as DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, Division of Forestry, State of
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, who is
personally known to me or who has produced
as identification.



Karen A. Meyer
MY COMMISSION # CC688277 EXPIRES
October 20, 2000
BONDED THRU TROY FAY INSURANCE, INC.

Karen A. Meyer
Notary Public, State of Florida

KAREN A. MEYER
Print/Type Notary Name

Commission Number:

Commission Expires:

EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LEASED PREMISES

44.50 rec.
19206.60 slough

This instrument prepared by and return to:
Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

FL 9902193 B 581 P 430
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

DOC STAMPS 19,206.60
INTANG TAX .00 MS

Tax Folio # Part of 1-20-44-30-A 00-0001.000-0
+ c/line

Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
Tract: 100-012

CHRISTINE PRATT CLERK
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

FILED AND RECORDED
DT 02/17/1999 TIME 16:27

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 16th day of February, 1999, between ALICO, INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, the Grantor, whose mailing address is 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, Florida, 33935, Hendry County, in consideration, of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration received from BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, the Grantee, whose mailing address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399, Leon County, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, the real property located in Hendry County, Florida, described as:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

RESERVING unto Grantor a non-exclusive access, ingress and egress easement ("Access Easement") with respect to the real property described in Schedule "1" attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Parcel"). This Access Easement is reserved to Grantor for the use and benefit of its officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, for access, ingress and egress, over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel to the lands owned in fee by Grantor, more particularly described in Schedule "2" attached hereto and made a part hereof ("Grantor's Benefited Parcel"), together with any and all purposes reasonably deemed by the Grantor to be necessary, convenient or incident to access, ingress and egress over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel. At no time, however, shall the road bed located within the Easement Parcel ever exceed thirty (30) feet in width unless consented to by Grantee in writing, and Grantee makes no representations that such consent will be granted. In addition, Grantor shall have the right to use this Access Easement to access and maintain Grantor's ditch and fence located immediately east of the Easement Parcel.

This Access Easement shall at no time be obstructed by any object which would prohibit access, ingress or egress to and from Grantor's Benefited Parcel, or in any manner, interfere with the purposes of this Access Easement, except that Grantee may install gates within the Easement Parcel at locations determined by Grantee provided Grantee provides Grantor access through such gates. Grantor shall have the right, but not the obligation, to improve the Easement Parcel as reasonably determined by Grantor in order to insure the full enjoyment of the rights reserved by this Access Easement. In addition, any damage to the Easement Parcel caused by Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, reasonable wear and tear excepted. In the event that Grantee routinely maintains the Easement Parcel and Grantor's use and/or the use of Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns causes an appreciable increase in maintenance of the Easement Parcel, Grantor agrees to undertake the pro-rated share of the appreciable increase in maintenance. Grantee shall have no obligation with respect to maintenance of the Easement Parcel.

By reservation hereof, Grantor expressly assumes all risk in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Grantee from and against all loss, damage, and liability incurred by Grantee (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs) which arises in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns.

This Access Easement shall run with the land and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantee, their successors and assigns and all subsequent owners and of the Easement Parcel and the Grantor's Benefited Parcel.

TOGETHER with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple forever.

AND the Grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever; subject to restrictions, easement and reservations of record, if any.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Grantor has caused these presents to be executed in its name and its corporate seal to be affixed hereto, by its proper officer thereunto duly authorized the day and year first above written.

Signed and sealed in the presence of:

Donna H. Reppress
Witness: Donna H. Reppress
J.C. Barrow Jr.
Witness: J.C. BARROW, JR.

ALICO, INC., a Florida corporation

By: Ben Hill Griffin III
Ben Hill Griffin, III, Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Polk

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of February
1999 by Ben Hill Griffin, III, as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of
ALICO, INC., a Florida Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally
known to me or he has
produced as identification.



Donna H. Reppress
Notary Public

Donna H. Reppress
Print

My Commission Expires October 23, 2001

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 433
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 434
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	2 FEB 99

Page 20 of 25
Lease No. 4245
Revised 2/22/99

ent Plan

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 435
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 436
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

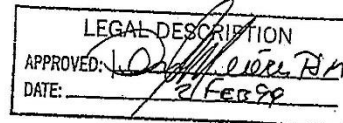
09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A".
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999



Page 22 of 25
Lease No. 4245
Revised 2/22/99

ent Plan

Schedule 1
Tract No. L1-100-019

A strip of land 50.00 feet wide (as measured at right angles) over and across Sections 23, 26, 27 and a portion of Section 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said Strip lying West of, parallel, adjacent and contiguous to the following described line:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida; thence South 00°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to an intersection with a non-tangent and non-radial curve on the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road), from which the radius bears North 29°50'11" East, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, a central angle of 04°28'24" and a long chord that bears South 62°24'02" East; thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 654.86 feet; thence North 23°27'40" East a distance of 89.19 feet; thence North 09°40'35" East a distance of 93.64 feet; thence North 05°05'04" East a distance of 555.08 feet; thence North 18°28'53" East a distance of 314.81 feet; thence North 31°24'08" East a distance of 178.02 feet; thence North 49°25'02" East a distance of 773.87 feet; thence North 56°55'25" East a distance of 631.01 feet; thence North 59°47'56" East a distance of 988.65 feet; thence North 46°42'12" East a distance of 203.58 feet; thence North 38°24'49" East a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence North 46°20'38" East a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence North 39°42'57" East a distance of 147.92 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 1402.46 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continuing North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North

Schedule "1"
Page 1 of 2

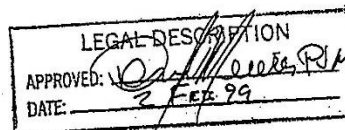
17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North 09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road and the Point of Terminus of this description; this last point located 903.43 feet East of the West boundary line of said Section 23.

Sidelines to be shortened or extended so as to form a continuous strip that begins on a line that passes through the POINT OF BEGINNING on a bearing of South 87°50'05" East and ends on the said Southerly right-of-way line of Sears Road.

OKA\Sellers's (Alico) Reserved Access Easement over L1-100-012

H:\data\oka\100-019.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

Schedule "1"
Page 2 of 2



FL 9902193 B 581 P 439
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Schedule 2
Seller's Benefited Property

Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

OKA\Apurtenant Lands for Twin Mills Rd. (L1-100-012)

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-Twin Mills Rd.
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

Page 25 of 25
Lease No. 4245
Revised 2/22/99

ent Plan



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

February 9, 2000

Mr. Don Poindexter
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

REF: **FWCC and DACS/DOF, Okaloacoochee Slough**
(Trustees Lease No. 4245)

Don
Dear ~~Mr. Poindexter~~

Attached are four unexecuted originals of lease Number 4245 between the Board of Trustees and South Florida Water Management District and the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF). *Please expedite the signing, witnessing, and notarization of each of the originals. Upon completion, send the five originals to Jim Grubbs at the DOF for signing.*

We have asked Mr. Grubbs to do the same for the other two unexecuted OK Slough leases to which your agency is a signatory. You should be receiving them within a few days. As soon as they are signed, witnessed and notarized, return them to this office for execution in the case of Lease Number 4246 and transmittal to the South Florida Water Management District in the case of Lease Number 4247. If this is not possible, please advise immediately. Following execution, one of the originals will be sent to your office for filing.

Hopefully, one or more of the instruments will reach you before February 15. If you have any questions, please call me at 488-2291.

Sincerely,

David B. Stevenson, Planner IV
Bureau of Public Land Administration
Mail Station 130

DBS/ds
Attachments

"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"

Printed on recycled paper.

This instrument prepared by:
Jay Sircy,
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Public Administration
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 130
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
AID# 42305

ATL1
[5,528.20 acres +/-]

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT
TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO LEASE NUMBER 4245

THIS LEASE AMENDMENT is entered into this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, hereinafter referred to as "LESSOR" and **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**, hereinafter referred to as the "LEAD AGENCY" and the **STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**, hereinafter referred to as the "COOPERATING AGENCY", hereinafter collectively referred to as the "MANAGING AGENCIES";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, LESSOR, by virtue of Section 253.03, Florida Statutes, holds title to certain lands and property for the use and benefit of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2000, LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES entered into Lease Number 4245 (the "lease"); and

WHEREAS, LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES desire to amend the lease to add land to the leased premises.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The legal description of the leased premises set forth in Exhibit "A" of Lease Number 4245 is hereby amended to include the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.
2. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that in each and every respect the terms of Lease Number 4245, except as amended, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and the same are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES as of the date of this amendment.
3. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that this Amendment Number One to Lease Number 4245 is hereby binding upon the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Amendment to Lease to be executed on the day and year first above written.

WITNESSES:

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL
IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE
OF FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

BY:

Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration,
Division of State Lands, State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection,
as agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal
Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida

"LESSOR"

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ___ physical presence or ___ online notarization this ___ day of ___, 20___, by Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration, Division of State Lands, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida. He is personally known to me.

APPROVED SUBJECT TO PROPER EXECUTION:

DEP Attorney

09-22-2020

Date

Notary Public, State of Florida

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires

Commission/Serial No.

WITNESSES:

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Original Signature

(SEAL)

Print/Type Name of Witness

BY: _____
Eric Sutton, Executive Director

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

“LEAD AGENCY”

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ____ physical presence or ____ online notarization this ____ day of _____, 20____, by Eric Sutton, as Executive Director, for and on behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Notary Public, State of Florida

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires: _____

Commission/Serial No. _____

WITNESSES:

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

Original Signature

(SEAL)

Print/Type Name of Witness

BY: _____
Joey B. Hicks, Director, Division of Administration

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

“COOPERATING AGENCY”

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ____ physical presence or ____ online notarization this ____ day of _____, 20____, by Joey B. Hicks, Director, Division of Administration, for and on behalf of the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service. He is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Notary Public, State of Florida

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires: _____

Commission/Serial No. _____

EXHIBIT "A"

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 AND 36, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; AND IN SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 AND 11, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 01°02'57" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 24 FOR 1237.77 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING** OF THE PARCEL OF LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE S 01°02'57" E ALONG SAID EAST LINE FOR 1430.64 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 24; THENCE S 01°02'57" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE FOR 2668.41 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE S 00°51'50" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 25 FOR 2655.89 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 25; THENCE S 00°51'50" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE FOR 2655.89 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE S 00°46'45" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 36 FOR 2640.90 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 36; THENCE S 00°46'45" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE FOR 2633.38 FEET TO A POINT LYING 7.52 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 36; THENCE N 85°10'25" W DEPARTING THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 36 FOR 2478.59 FEET; THENCE S 44°35'47" W FOR 3451.75 FEET; THENCE N 45°24'13" W FOR 1091.23 FEET; THENCE S 44°35'47" W FOR 1652.29 FEET; THENCE S 45°24'13" E FOR 1091.23 FEET; THENCE S 44°35'47" W FOR 5471.81 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832); THENCE ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR THE FOLLOWING EIGHT (8) COURSES: 1.) THENCE N 63°04'01" W FOR 3508.96 FEET; 2.) THENCE N 62°59'31" W FOR 1163.11 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A NON-TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; 3.) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 5779.58 FEET, A DELTA ANGLE OF 07°42'00", CHORD BEARING N 66°50'31" W, AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 776.14 FEET, FOR 776.72 FEET; 4.) THENCE N 70°41'31" W FOR 1042.90 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT; 5.) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 11509.16 FEET, A DELTA ANGLE OF 02°19'00", CHORD BEARING N 71°51'01" W, AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 465.32 FEET, FOR 465.36 FEET; 6.) THENCE N 73°00'31" W FOR 1235.68 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT; 7.) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 2814.81 FEET, A DELTA ANGLE OF 12°38'00", CHORD BEARING N 66°41'31" W AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 619.39 FEET, FOR 620.65 FEET; 8.) THENCE N 60°22'53" W FOR 668.59 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF TWIN MILLS ROAD EASEMENT, ALSO KNOWN AS TRACTS L1-100-019 AND L1-100-020, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 581, PAGES 430 THROUGH 451, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF TWIN MILLS ROAD EASEMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING FORTY EIGHT (48) COURSES: 1.) THENCE N 23°31'39" E FOR 90.23 FEET; 2.) THENCE N 09°44'34" E FOR 93.64 FEET; 3.) THENCE N 05°09'03" E FOR 555.11 FEET; 4.) THENCE N 18°33'57" E FOR 314.62 FEET; 5.)

DEVIL'S GARDEN
ALICO, INC.
HENDRY COUNTY

BSM
BY SK
DATE: 7.19.2019

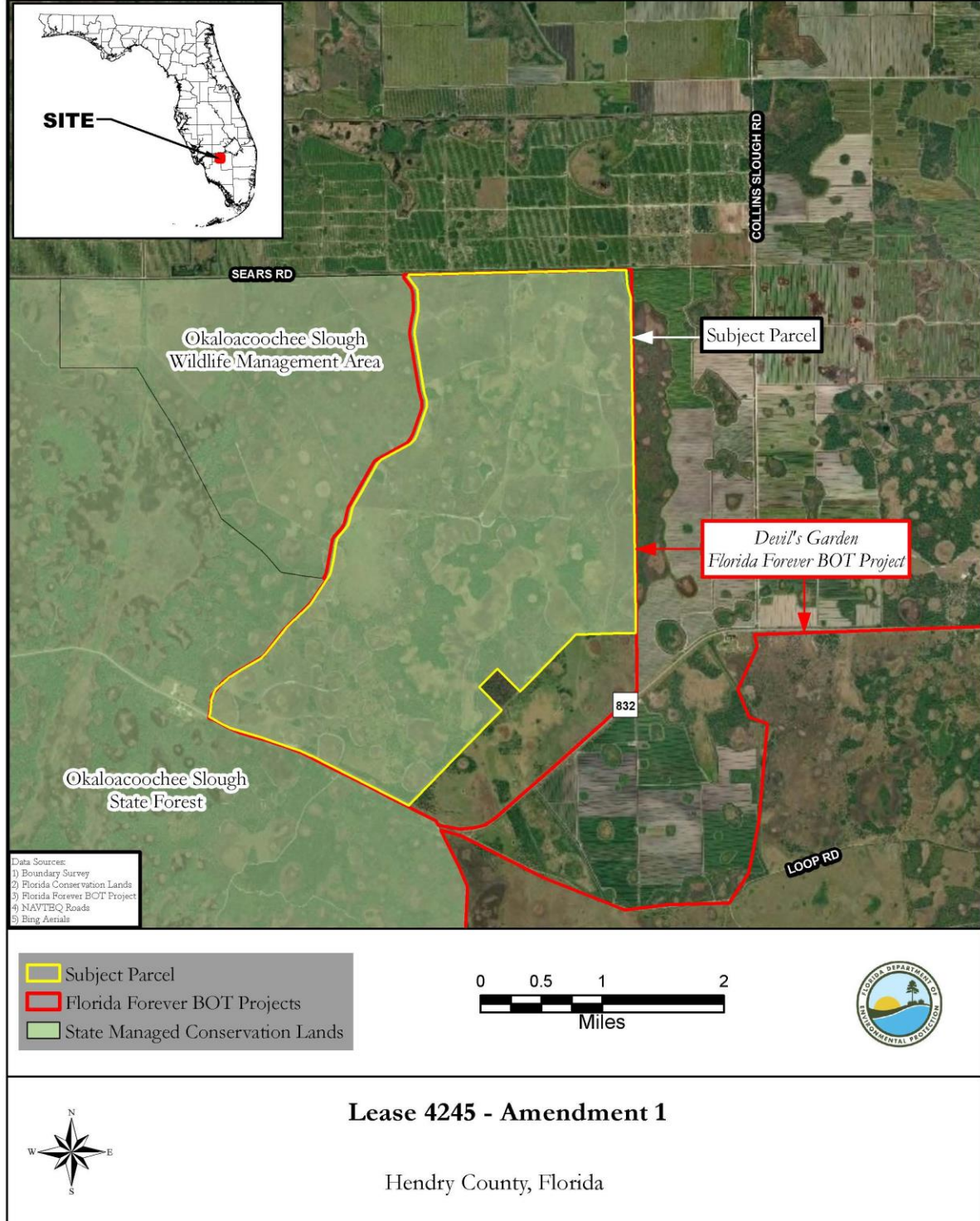
THENCE N 31°27'19" E FOR 178.22 FEET; 6.) THENCE N 49°29'18" E FOR 773.99 FEET; 7.) THENCE N 56°59'49" E FOR 631.06 FEET; 8.) THENCE N 59°52'47" E FOR 988.83 FEET; 9.) THENCE N 46°47'02" E FOR 203.60 FEET; 10.) THENCE N 38°29'49" E FOR 1562.88 FEET; 11.) THENCE N 46°26'07" E FOR 1283.89 FEET; 12.) THENCE N 39°46'54" E FOR 148.20 FEET; 13.) THENCE N 33°35'46" E FOR 1402.53 FEET; 14.) THENCE N 33°39'54" E FOR 56.77 FEET; 15.) THENCE N 23°43'55" E FOR 161.35 FEET; 16.) THENCE N 10°48'11" E FOR 478.19 FEET; 17.) THENCE N 10°11'50" E FOR 776.83 FEET; 18.) THENCE N 12°11'12" E FOR 196.94 FEET; 19.) THENCE N 30°11'02" E FOR 141.09 FEET; 20.) THENCE N 40°55'13" E FOR 462.41 FEET; 21.) THENCE N 34°40'09" E FOR 187.67 FEET; 22.) THENCE N 17°32'57" E FOR 180.24 FEET; 23.) THENCE N 12°59'52" E FOR 550.36 FEET; 24.) THENCE N 25°32'24" E FOR 160.89 FEET; 25.) THENCE N 29°51'33" E FOR 689.13 FEET; 26.) THENCE N 29°32'11" E FOR 1377.77 FEET; 27.) THENCE N 36°59'44" E FOR 131.52 FEET; 28.) THENCE N 50°46'23" E FOR 153.92 FEET; 29.) THENCE N 61°57'13" E FOR 1329.38 FEET; 30.) THENCE N 53°01'05" E FOR 159.82 FEET; 31.) THENCE N 41°13'50" E FOR 201.30 FEET; 32.) THENCE N 26°14'43" E FOR 223.74 FEET; 33.) THENCE N 19°06'29" E FOR 1230.17 FEET; 34.) THENCE N 04°55'47" E FOR 154.65 FEET; 35.) THENCE N 07°55'01" W FOR 174.17 FEET; 36.) THENCE N 17°14'31" W FOR 282.73 FEET; 37.) THENCE N 14°14'00" W FOR 170.64 FEET; 38.) THENCE N 09°06'28" W FOR 1105.08 FEET; 39.) THENCE N 09°08'18" W FOR 1273.11 FEET; 40.) THENCE N 05°50'45" W FOR 125.37 FEET; 41.) THENCE N 04°19'09" E FOR 130.44 FEET; 42.) THENCE N 10°39'30" E FOR 788.88 FEET; 43.) THENCE N 03°06'21" E FOR 149.85 FEET; 44.) THENCE N 02°38'54" W FOR 678.06 FEET; 45.) THENCE N 09°08'22" W FOR 145.07 FEET; 46.) THENCE N 27°55'44" W FOR 122.99 FEET; 47.) THENCE N 36°36'55" W FOR 508.40 FEET; 48.) THENCE N 03°16'05" W FOR 118.38 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SEARS ROAD; THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) COURSES; 1.) THENCE N 88°50'24" E FOR 1724.79 FEET; 2.) THENCE N 88°44'29" E FOR 2625.10 FEET; 3.) THENCE N 88°51'47" E FOR 2640.04 FEET; 4.) THENCE N 88°31'19" E FOR 2468.10 FEET; THENCE S 05°17'23" E DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR 666.13 FEET; THENCE S 10°17'40" E FOR 159.81 FEET; THENCE S 16°00'55" E FOR 377.24 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

As recorded in Official Records Book 962, Page 1440, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

DEVIL'S GARDEN
ALICO, INC.
HENDRY COUNTY

BSM
BY SK
DATE: 7.19.2019

THIS PAGE AND ANY FOLLOWING PAGES ARE ATTACHED ONLY FOR STATE OF FLORIDA TRACKING PURPOSES AND FORM NO PART OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ARE NOT TO BE RELIED ON BY ANY PARTY



File Location: \\FLDEP1\tech_cad\County_GIS\Hendry\Aloof_Devils_Garden\Lease\Lease_4245_Amendment.mxd
 Date Saved: 6/10/2020 11:08:47 AM
 Map Created By: GW Seiler



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

10/05/2021

Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission
Attn: Ms. Laramé Ferry
620 South Meridian
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399

RE: Lease 4245 Amendment No. 2
Action No. 43252

Dear Laramé,

Enclosed is a fully executed original of the above referenced Lease Agreement No. 4245, Amendment for your records.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 245-2625 or Jay.Sircy@FloridaDEP.gov.

Sincerely,

Jay Sircy
Bureau of Public Land Administration
Division of State Lands
State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.state.fl.us

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ACTION

DOA Number:	<u>DSL - 24</u>	Lease No.	<u>4245</u>
Action ID:	<u>43252</u>	Instrument No.	<u>NA</u>
Type of Action:	☐ New ☒ Amendment ☐ Release ☐ Partial Release + ☒ Lease ☐ Easement ☐ Sublease ☐ Use Agreement ☐ Road Right-of-Way Reservation ☐ Canal Reservation ☐ Oil and Mineral Reservation ☐ Other		
Project Name:	<u>Amendment Two to Lease 4245</u>		
Title Worksheet ID:	<u>NA</u>	LITS Surplus ID:	<u>NA</u>
Applicant:	<u>FWCC and FFS</u>		
County/Location:	<u>Hendry</u>		
S/T/R:	<u>See below</u>		
Acreage:	<u>10,702.03 acres +/-</u>		
Consideration:	<u>NA</u>		
Received:	☐		
Date:	<u>NA</u>		

Conservation Lands ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Name of Facility/Park/Trail:
Okaloacoochee Slough WMA

☐ ARC/Mini-ARC Approval **Date:** NA

NPB/Additional Comp. Amount: NA

☐ Satisfied per land manager **Date:** NA

STAFF REMARKS

This amendment will add 10,702.03 acres acquired on September 10, 2020 from Alico, Inc. with FF funds. The FWC consented to managing this parcel in a letter dated September 2, 2020.

SEC 11,12,13,14,23 and 24, T 45S, R 30E
 SEC 4,5,6,7,8,9,16,17,18,19,20,21,28,29,30,31,32 and 33 T 45 S R 31 E

Jay Sircy Digitally signed by Jay Sircy Date: 2021.02.01 14:42:54 -05'00' _____ Originator Date <i>Michelle Stevens</i> 2/4/2021 _____ OMCM Date	<i>G.L. Ballard</i> Digitally signed by Gary L. Ballard Date: 2021.03.12 00:18:59 -05'00' _____ DEP Attorney Date <i>BRN</i> Digitally signed by Brad Richardson Date: 2021.10.05 14:02:09 -04'00' _____ Executing Authority Date
---	---

This instrument prepared by:
Jay Sircy
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Public Administration
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 130
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
AID# 43252

ATL1
[10,702.03 acres +/-]

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT
TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO LEASE NUMBER 4245

THIS LEASE AMENDMENT is entered into this 5th day of October, 2021, by and between the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, hereinafter referred to as "LESSOR" and **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**, hereinafter referred to as "LEAD AGENCY" and the **STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**, hereinafter referred to as the "COOPERATING AGENCY", hereinafter collectively referred to as the "MANAGING AGENCIES";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, LESSOR, by virtue of Section 253.03, Florida Statutes, holds title to certain lands and property for the use and benefit of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2000, LESSOR and LESSEE entered into Lease Number **4245** (the "lease"); and

WHEREAS, LESSOR and LESSEE desire to amend the lease to add land to the leased premises.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The legal description of the leased premises set forth in Exhibit "A" of Lease Number **4245** is hereby amended to include the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.
2. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that in each and every respect the terms of Lease Number **4245**, except as amended, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and the same are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES as of the date of this amendment.

3. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that this Amendment Number 2 to Lease Number 4245 is hereby binding upon the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank; Signature page follows]

Page 2 of 8
Amendment Number 2 to Lease Number 4245
Revised 05/13

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Amendment to Lease to be executed on the day and year first above written.

WITNESSES:

Michele Stevens
Original Signature

Michele Stevens
Print/Type Name of Witness

Jay Sircy
Original Signature

Jay Sircy
Print/Type Name of Witness

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL
IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE
OF FLORIDA

(SEAL)

BY: [Signature]
Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration,
Division of State Lands, State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection,
as agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal
Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

"LESSOR"

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online notarization this 5th day of October, 2021, by Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration, Division of State Lands, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida. He is personally known to me.

APPROVED SUBJECT TO PROPER EXECUTION:

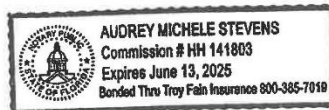
[Signature] 03-12-2021
DEP Attorney Date

Audrey Michele Stevens
Notary Public, State of Florida

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires: _____

Commission/Serial No. _____



WITNESSES:

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

Original Signature

Print/Type Name of Witness

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BY:

Eric Sutton, Executive Director

(SEAL)

"LEAD AGENCY"

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

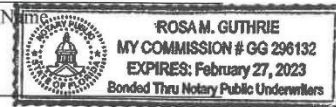
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online
notarization this 23 day of March, 2021, by Eric Sutton, as Executive Director, for and on behalf of the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He is personally known to me or has produced
as identification. David Johnson HSC Deputy Director

Notary Public, State of Florida

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires:

Commission/Serial No.



WITNESSES:

Sarah South
Original Signature

Sarah South
Print/Type Name of Witness

Charmen Bell
Original Signature

Charmen Bell
Print/Type Name of Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

BY: [Signature] (SEAL)
Joey B. Hicks, Director, Division of Administration

"COOPERATING AGENCY"

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ✓ physical presence or online notarization this 30 day of July, 2021, by Joey B. Hicks, Director, Division of Administration, for and on behalf of the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service. He is personally known to me or has produced as identification.



CARMELITA GRAHAM
Commission # GG 932368
Expires March 15, 2024
Bonded Three Budget Notary Services

Carmelita Graham
Notary Public, State of Florida

Carmelita Graham
Printed, Typed or Stamped Name

My Commission Expires: March 15, 2024

Commission/Serial No. GG932368

EXHIBIT "A"

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 11, 12, 13, 14, 23 AND 24, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; AND IN SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 AND 33, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 00°01'45" W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4 FOR 50.02 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832) AND THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**. THENCE CONTINUE S 00°01'45" W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4 FOR 2628.40 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S 00°01'45" W CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 4 FOR 2678.42 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°02'01" W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 9 FOR 2683.96 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S 00°02'01" W CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 9 FOR 2683.96 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG A LINE BETWEEN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9 AND THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 33 FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) COURSES: 1) S 00°27'47" E FOR 2607.03 FEET; 2) S 00°27'47" E FOR 2607.03 FEET; 3) S 00°27'47" E FOR 2607.03 FEET; 4) S 00°27'47" E FOR 2607.03 FEET; 5) S 00°27'47" E FOR 2231.03 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 865, PAGE 1364, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID PARCEL OF LAND FOR THE FOLLOWING NINE (9) COURSES: 1) S 42°56'37" W FOR 203.13 FEET; 2) N 80°17'33" W FOR 1589.02 FEET; 3) S 22°30'23" W FOR 3114.91 FEET; 4) S 53°05'48" E FOR 65.90 FEET; 5) S 10°27'29" W FOR 919.21 FEET; 6) S 24°36'10" W FOR 899.18 FEET; 7) S 81°19'05" E FOR 2002.07 FEET; 8) S 23°45'41" E FOR 263.07 FEET; 9) S 15°57'25" W FOR 698.97 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF ALICO MITIGATION AREA NO. 2A, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 648, PAGE 1244, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 87°10'45" W ALONG SAID LINE FOR 3352.24 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF ALICO MITIGATION AREA NO. 1A, AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 669, PAGE 1643, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG SAID PARCEL FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) COURSES: 1) N 06°41'18" E FOR 19.30 FEET; 2) S 87°10'12" W FOR 5695.70 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF A PANTHER MITIGATION PARCEL AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 620, PAGE 1383, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG SAID PARCEL FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) COURSES: 1) N 00°22'30" W FOR 624.86 FEET; 2) S 87°34'58" W FOR 2652.03 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST ONE HALF OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE N 00°29'20" W FOR 2099.26 FEET TO THE NORTH QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31; THENCE S 87°58'56" W ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31 FOR 2733.97 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE N 00°24'07" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 30 FOR 2668.96 FEET TO THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE N 00°24'07" W CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 30 FOR 2668.96 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE S 89°37'58" W ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 24 FOR 2659.75 FEET TO THE SOUTH QUARTER CORNER OF

Devils Garden
Allico Inc.
Sheet 1 of 3

Page 6 of 8
Amendment Number Two to Lease Number 4245

SAID SECTION 24; THENCE S 89°37'58" W CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 24 FOR 2659.75 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE N 89°55'34" W ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 23 FOR 1626.28 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF TRACT L1-100-008 AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 581, PAGE 445, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID EAST LINE ALSO BEING THE EAST LINE OF WILD COW ROAD, A THIRTY FOOT ACCESS EASEMENT AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 581, PAGE 449, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID TRACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING EIGHTEEN (18) COURSES: 1) N 38°13'47" W FOR 627.21 FEET; 2) N 19°47'26" W FOR 1654.87 FEET; 3) N 23°45'19" E FOR 407.51 FEET; 4) N 58°39'44" E FOR 313.89 FEET; 5) N 41°33'33" E FOR 208.32 FEET; 6) N 14°44'58" E FOR 606.83 FEET; 7) N 10°32'31" W FOR 526.05 FEET; 8) N 70°46'59" W FOR 812.08 FEET; 9) N 03°06'58" E FOR 616.28 FEET; 10) N 45°13'08" E FOR 890.69 FEET; 11) N 42°30'37" E FOR 500.51 FEET; 12) N 25°42'16" E FOR 1511.65 FEET; 13) N 29°31'44" W FOR 797.91 FEET; 14) N 40°34'06" W FOR 1175.20 FEET; 15) N 03°21'06" E FOR 1776.96 FEET; 16) N 19°59'43" W FOR 758.04 FEET; 17) N 26°14' 59" W FOR 1764.21 FEET; 18) N 28°56'59" W FOR 650.23 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832); THENCE S 63°04'06" E ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 450.37 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 14°34'01", RADIUS = 1959.86 FEET, CHORD BEARING = S 70°21'07" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 496.94 FEET) FOR 498.28 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 937, PAGE 1284, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY AND EASTERLY LINES OF SAID PARCEL FOR THE FOLLOWING TWENTY-ONE (21) COURSES: 1) S 62°53'17" E FOR 1642.38 FEET; 2) S 62°07'32" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 1616.89 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; 3) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 11°38'21", RADIUS = 2490.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING = S 67°56'42" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 504.95 FEET) FOR 505.82 FEET; 4) S 73°45'53" E FOR 1113.05 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT; 5) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 19°27'52", RADIUS = 1510.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING = S 64°01'57" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 510.51 FEET) FOR 512.98 FEET; 6) S 54°18'01" E FOR 704.16 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; 7) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 18°37'11", RADIUS = 2390.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING S 63°36'36" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 773.28 FEET) FOR 776.69 FEET; 8) S 72°55'12" E FOR 1322.45 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; 9) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 23°40'44", RADIUS = 1490.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING = S 84°45'33" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 611.41 FEET) FOR 615.78 FEET; 10) N 83°24'05" E FOR 3086.86 FEET; 11) N 82°26'30" E FOR 869.77 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT; 12) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 61°37'56", RADIUS = 590.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING = N 51°37'32" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 604.50 FEET) FOR 634.65 FEET; 13) N 20°48'34" E FOR 125.79 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT; 14) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (DELTA ANGLE = 48°58'24", RADIUS = 460.00 FEET, CHORD BEARING = N 45°17'46" E, CHORD DISTANCE = 381.32 FEET) FOR 393.18 FEET; 15) N 69°46'58" E FOR 840.44 FEET; 16) N 24°51'19" W FOR 887.70 FEET; 17) N 00°50'22" W FOR 4505.84 FEET; 18) S 89°54'30" W FOR 5.00 FEET; 19) N 00°43'45" W FOR 1398.51 FEET; 20) N 33°09'25" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 3078.69 FEET; 21) N 22°44'12" W FOR 108.72 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID LINE, N 77°56'34" E FOR 456.38 FEET; THENCE N 77°52'50" E FOR 246.37 FEET; THENCE N 84°32'14" E FOR 305.34 FEET; THENCE N 89°08'10" E FOR 466.41 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A PARCEL OF LAND AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 961, PAGE 515, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTH, EAST AND NORTH BOUNDARY LINES OF SAID PARCEL FOR THE

Devils Garden
Alico Inc.
Sheet 2 of 3

Page 7 of 8
Amendment Number Two to Lease Number 4745

FOLLOWING THREE (3) COURSES: 1) N 89°28'42" E FOR 660.00 FEET; 2) N 00°31'18" W FOR 660.00 FEET; 3) S 89°28'42" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 660.00 FEET; THENCE N 00°31'18" W FOR 307.45 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832); THENCE N 89°27'59" E ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 10991.54 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

SAID DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINING 466,180,360.79 SQUARE FEET AND/OR 10,702.03 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

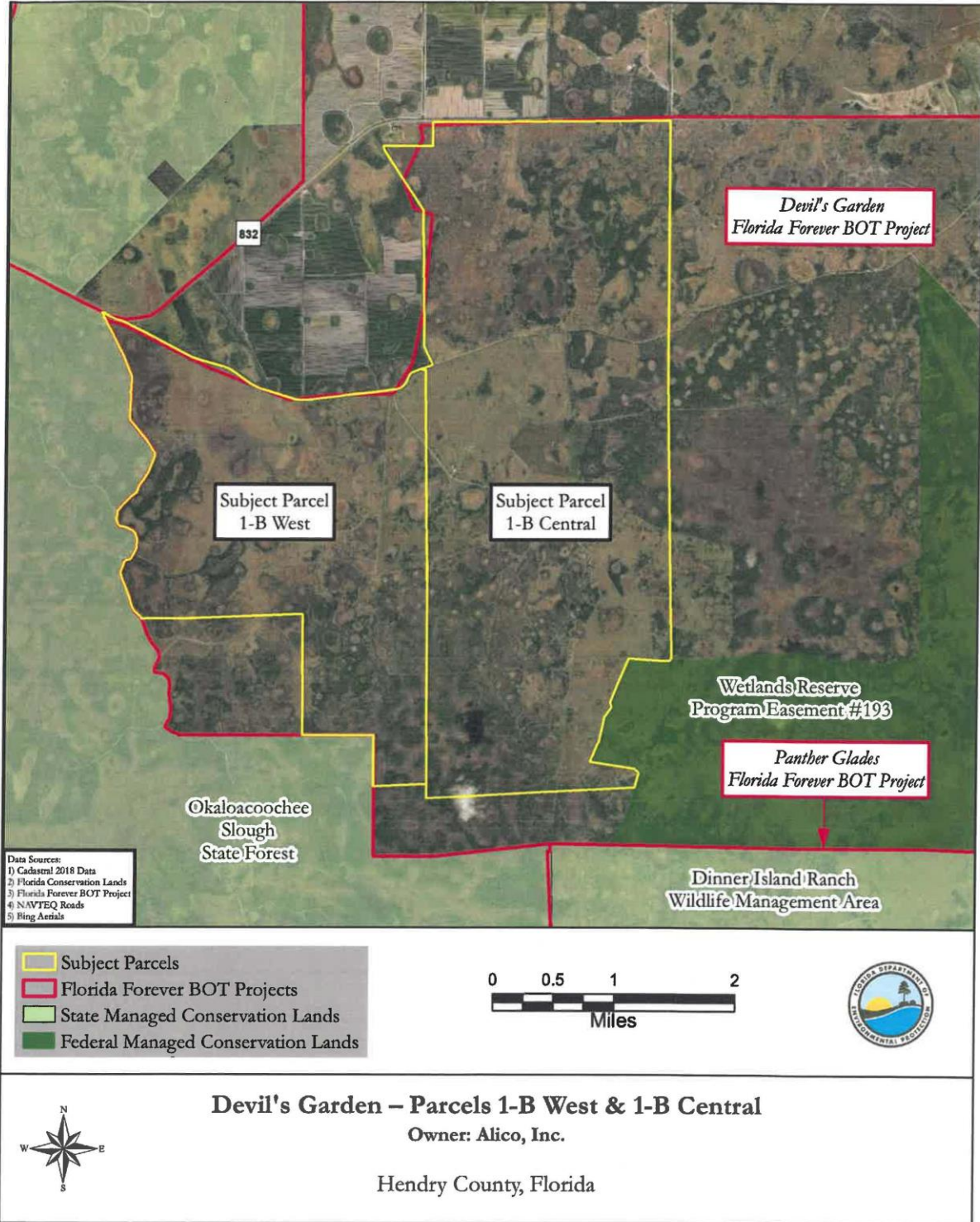
BSM APPROVED

By: *J.A.* Date: 8/20/2020

Devils Garden
Alico Inc.
Sheet 3 of 3

Page 8 of 8

OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ARE NOT TO BE RELIED ON BY ANY PARTY.



This instrument prepared by:
Christopher Crenshaw
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Public Administration
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 130
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
AID# 43640

ATL1
[5,733.76 +/- acres]

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT
TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO LEASE NUMBER 4245

THIS LEASE AMENDMENT is entered into this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, hereinafter referred to as "LESSOR" and the **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**, hereinafter referred to as "LEAD AGENCY" and the **STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**, hereinafter referred to as the "COOPERATING AGENCY", hereinafter collectively referred to as the "MANAGING AGENCIES";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, LESSOR, by virtue of Section 253.03, Florida Statutes, holds title to certain lands and property for the use and benefit of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2000, LESSOR and LESSEE entered into Lease Number **4245** (the "lease"); and

WHEREAS, LESSOR and LESSEE desire to amend the lease to add land to the leased premises.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The legal description of the leased premises set forth in Exhibit "A" of Lease Number **4245** is hereby amended to include the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.
2. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that in each and every respect the terms of Lease Number **4245**, except as amended, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and the same are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES as of the date of this amendment.
3. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and MANAGING AGENCIES that this Amendment Number **3** to Lease Number **4245** is hereby binding upon the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

4. This lease amendment may be executed by electronic signature, which shall be considered as an original signature for all purposes and shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. Without limitation, "electronic signature" shall include faxed versions of an original signature or electronically scanned and transmitted versions (e.g., via pdf) of an original signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this lease amendment to be executed on the day and year first above written.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL
IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF
THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

BY: _____
Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land
Administration, Division of State Lands, State of
Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
as agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees
of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State
of Florida

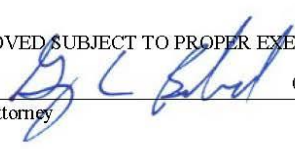
"LESSOR"

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

David B.
BY: Johnson Digitally signed by David B.
For: Eric Sutton Johnson
Executive Director Date: 2021.08.25 15:54:30
-04'00'

"LEAD AGENCY"

APPROVED SUBJECT TO PROPER EXECUTION

By:  07-21-2021
DEP Attorney

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

BY: _____ (SEAL)
Joey B. Hicks, Director, Division of Administration

"COOPERATING AGENCY"

Exhibit "A"

Inst. Number: 202126004946 Book: 996 Page: 1644 Page 1 of 7 Date: 4/15/2021 Time: 1:00 PM
Kimberley Barrineau Clerk of Courts, Hendry County, Florida Doc Mort: 0.00 Int Tax: 0.00 Doc Deed: 101,115.00

This Instrument Prepared By and
Please Return To:
American Government Services Corporation
3812 W. Linebaugh Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
AGS#: 30306

WARRANTY DEED

(STATUTORY FORM - SECTION 689.02, F.S.)

THIS INDENTURE is made this 15th day of April, A.D. 2021, between **Alico, Inc. f/k/a Alico Land Development Company, Inc., a Florida corporation**, whose post office address is 10070 Daniels Interstate Court, Suite 100, Fort Myers, FL 33913 ("Grantor"), and the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, whose post office address is c/o Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 115, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 ("Grantee").

(Wherever used herein the terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" include all the parties to this instrument and their heirs, legal representatives, successors and assigns. "Grantor" and "Grantee" are used for singular and plural, as the context requires and the use of any gender shall include all genders.)

WITNESSETH: That the said Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other good and valuable considerations, to said Grantor in hand paid by said Grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained and sold to the said Grantee, and Grantee's successors and assigns forever, the following described land situate, lying and being in **Hendry County, Florida**, to-wit:

See **EXHIBIT "A"** attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Tax Collector's Account Numbers: 1024531-A0000010000, 1034531-A0000010000, 1104531-A0000010000, 1114531-A0000010000, 1144531-A0000010000, 1154531-A0000010000, 1224531-A0000010000, 1234531-A0000010000, 1264531-A0000010000, 1274531-A0000010000

Property Appraiser's Parcel ID Numbers: 1-31-45-02-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-03-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-10-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-11-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-14-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-15-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-22-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-23-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-26-A00-0001.0000, 1-31-45-27-A00-0001.0000

This conveyance is subject to easements, restrictions, limitations, and conditions of record, if any, but any such interests that may have been terminated are not hereby re-imposed.

RESERVING unto the Grantor an easement upon, over, through, across and under the portion of the Property legally described on **Exhibit "B"** attached hereto (the "**Easement Property**") for the purpose of vehicular and pedestrian access to and from, and for the benefit of, adjacent lands owned by Grantor, which easement shall be upon the terms and conditions specifically set forth in **Exhibit "C"** attached hereto and incorporated herein.

This property is not the homestead property of the grantor, nor contiguous to homestead property, as such homestead is defined under Florida law.

AND the said Grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR SIGNATURES

Exhibit "A"
Page 3 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Grantor has hereunto set Grantor's hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

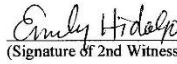
Signed, sealed and delivered in
the presence of:

**Alico, Inc. f/k/a Alico Land Development Company,
Inc., a Florida corporation**


(Signature of 1st Witness)

By: 
John E. Kiernan, as President and CEO

PROSTON BROWN
(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of 1st Witness)


(Signature of 2nd Witness)

Emily Hidalgo
(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of 2nd Witness)

STATE OF New York
COUNTY OF Richmond

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online
notarization, this 13th day of April, 2021, by **John E. Kiernan, as President and
CEO of Alico, Inc. f/k/a Alico Land Development Company, Inc., a Florida corporation**, on behalf of
said corporation. Such person (Notary Public must check applicable box):

- (☒) is personally known to me.
() produced a driver license.
() produced _____ as identification.


Notary Public
Bobbi DiMartini
(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)

Commission No.: 01D16221605

My Commission Expires: May 10, 2022

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)



Warranty Deed (Statutory Form - Section 689.02 F.S.)

Exhibit "A"
Page 4 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

EXHIBIT "A"

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23 AND A PORTION OF SECTION 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 00°01'45" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 3 FOR 50.00 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832) AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832) FOR THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) COURSES: 1) N 89°18'52" E FOR 2841.42 FEET; 2) N 89°18'52" E FOR 2641.42 FEET; 3) N 89°26'51" E FOR 2678.20 FEET; 4) N 89°26'51" E FOR 2678.20 FEET TO A INTERSECTION WITH THE SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE AND THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°17'31" E ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2 FOR 2603.76 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE S 00°17'31" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 2 FOR 2649.50 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°22'44" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 11 FOR 2647.21 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 11; THENCE S 00°22'44" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 11 FOR 2647.21 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°37'25" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 14 FOR 2647.30 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 14; THENCE S 00°37'25" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 11 FOR 2647.30 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°39'14" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 23 FOR 2647.32 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 23; THENCE S 00°39'14" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SECTION 23 FOR 2647.32 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S 00°24'00" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 26 FOR 2190.94 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 885, PAGE 1364, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID PARCEL OF LAND FOR THE FOLLOWING SEVEN (7) COURSES: 1) S 80°33'52" W FOR 1366.03 FEET; 2) N 89°53'14" W FOR 1693.72 FEET; 3) N 80°34'20" W FOR 2293.57 FEET; 4) S 85°08'16" W FOR 4315.29 FEET; 5) N 50°36'43" W FOR 434.90 FEET; 6) S 87°19'01" W FOR 652.99 FEET; 7) S 42°56'37" W FOR 213.21 FEET TO A LINE BETWEEN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST AND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE ALONG SAID LINE FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) COURSES: 1) N 00°27'47" W FOR 2231.03 FEET; 2) N 00°27'47" W FOR 2607.03 FEET; 3) N 00°27'47" W FOR 2607.03 FEET; 4) N 00°27'47" W FOR 2607.03 FEET; 5) N 00°27'47" W FOR 2607.03 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE N 00°02'01" E ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 10 FOR 2683.96 FEET TO THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE N 00°02'01" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 10 FOR 2683.96 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE N 00°01'45" E ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 3 FOR 2678.42 FEET TO THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE N 00°01'45" E CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 3 FOR 2628.40 FEET TO SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832) AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINING 249,762,737.14 SQUARE FEET AND/OR 5,733.76 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

BSM APPROVED

By: g.a. Date: 04/05/2021

Devils Garden
Alico
Hendry County

Exhibit "A"
Page 5 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

EXHIBIT "B"

EASEMENT PROPERTY

A STRIP OF LAND 30 FEET IN WIDTH AND LYING IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALSO LYING 15.00 FEET EACH SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTERLINE:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 01, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST; THENCE S00°36'49"E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 01, A DISTANCE OF 48.50 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 832 (KERI ROAD) AS SHOWN ON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP "STATE ROAD S-832" SECTION 0752-151-2601 (DATED 01/07/1972); THENCE S89°26'24"W ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 9.34 FEET MORE OR LESS TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE APPROXIMATE CENTERLINE OF AN EXISTING DIRT ROAD (LOOP ROAD); THENCE ALONG SAID DIRT ROAD FOR THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) COURSES: S14°59'48"W A DISTANCE OF 554.10 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 1000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 27°21'56" AND A CHORD BEARING OF S28°40'46"W; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, A DISTANCE OF 477.62 FEET TO THE TANGENT END OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S42°21'44"W A DISTANCE OF 4674.96 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 2500.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 13°39'39" AND A CHORD BEARING OF S49°11'33"W; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE A DISTANCE OF 596.06 FEET TO THE TANGENT END OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S56°01'22"W A DISTANCE OF 1580.95 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, AND THE **POINT-OF-BEGINNING** OF THIS DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUE S56°01'22"W, A DISTANCE OF 298.15 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE APPROXIMATE CENTERLINE OF AN EXISTING DIRT ROAD TO THE SOUTHEAST (OFF HILL GRADE ROAD); THENCE S44°44'18"E ALONG SAID DIRT ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 355.20 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12 AND THE **POINT-OF-TERMINUS** OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

SIDELINES TO BE LENGTHENED OR SHORTENED SO AS TO FORM A CONTINUOUS LINE AND TO INTERSECT THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 12 AT THE POINT-OF-BEGINNING AND THE POINT-OF-TERMINUS.

SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD.

BSM APPROVED
By: g. H. Date: 3/23/2021

Alico - FDEP
Loop Road Easement
Hendry County

Exhibit "A"
Page 6 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

EXHIBIT C

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESS EASEMENT

1. The easement reserved unto Grantor shall be perpetual. The easement rights reserved and granted herein are non-exclusive in nature and the owner of the Easement Property shall have the right to use the Easement Property for any purpose not inconsistent with the full use and enjoyment of the rights established hereby and herein to benefit the Grantor. The easement rights granted and reserved herein (a) shall be utilized in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and agreements of, and pursuant to all permits issued by, any applicable governmental authority, and (b) are subject to all matters of record.
2. The Grantee shall not erect any barriers, obstructions, fences or other structures, or otherwise do anything which would impair the ability of the Grantor, its employees, contractors, agents, invitees, guests, tenants, tenants' employees, tenants' guests, tenants' contractors, tenants' agents, and tenants' invitees, to continue to use the Easement Property consistent with the rights reserved and granted herein, and the Grantee agrees to use the Easement Property consistent with its current use and in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and agreements of, and pursuant to all permits issued by, any applicable governmental authority.
3. The rights granted herein shall also include the right, but not the obligation, in favor of the Grantor to enter upon the Easement Property as and to the extent reasonably necessary for the purpose of maintaining the Easement Property and repairing and replacing any access improvements and related facilities currently existing within the Easement Property. It is the sole responsibility of the Grantor to maintain, repair or replace the existing improvements on the easement. This easement will be terminated when the access no longer exists within the Easement Property.
4. No rights created herein to enter upon the Easement Property shall permit or empower the Grantor to encumber the Easement Property with liens. In this regard, in case of any such lien attaching, the Grantor shall immediately pay and remove same. If any such liens are filed, and, thereafter, the Grantor fails to pay and remove same within ten (10) days of its actual notice that said lien has arisen, then the owner of the Easement Property, at its election, may pay and satisfy the same, or transfer same to other security, and in such event the Grantor shall reimburse the party to satisfy the lien any and all sums so paid, including interest at the highest rate allowed by Florida law accruing from the date of payment and including all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the satisfying owner in connection therewith, including attorneys' fees incurred before or at trial or at any re-hearing or appeal.
5. To the fullest extent allowable under applicable law, the Grantor will indemnify and hold harmless the Grantee and its officers, directors, members, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, actions, demands, liabilities, damages, injury, costs, penalties, forfeitures, losses or expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs that result from any act or omission of the Grantor or any person or entity claiming by, through or under the Grantor, with respect to the easement granted herein.

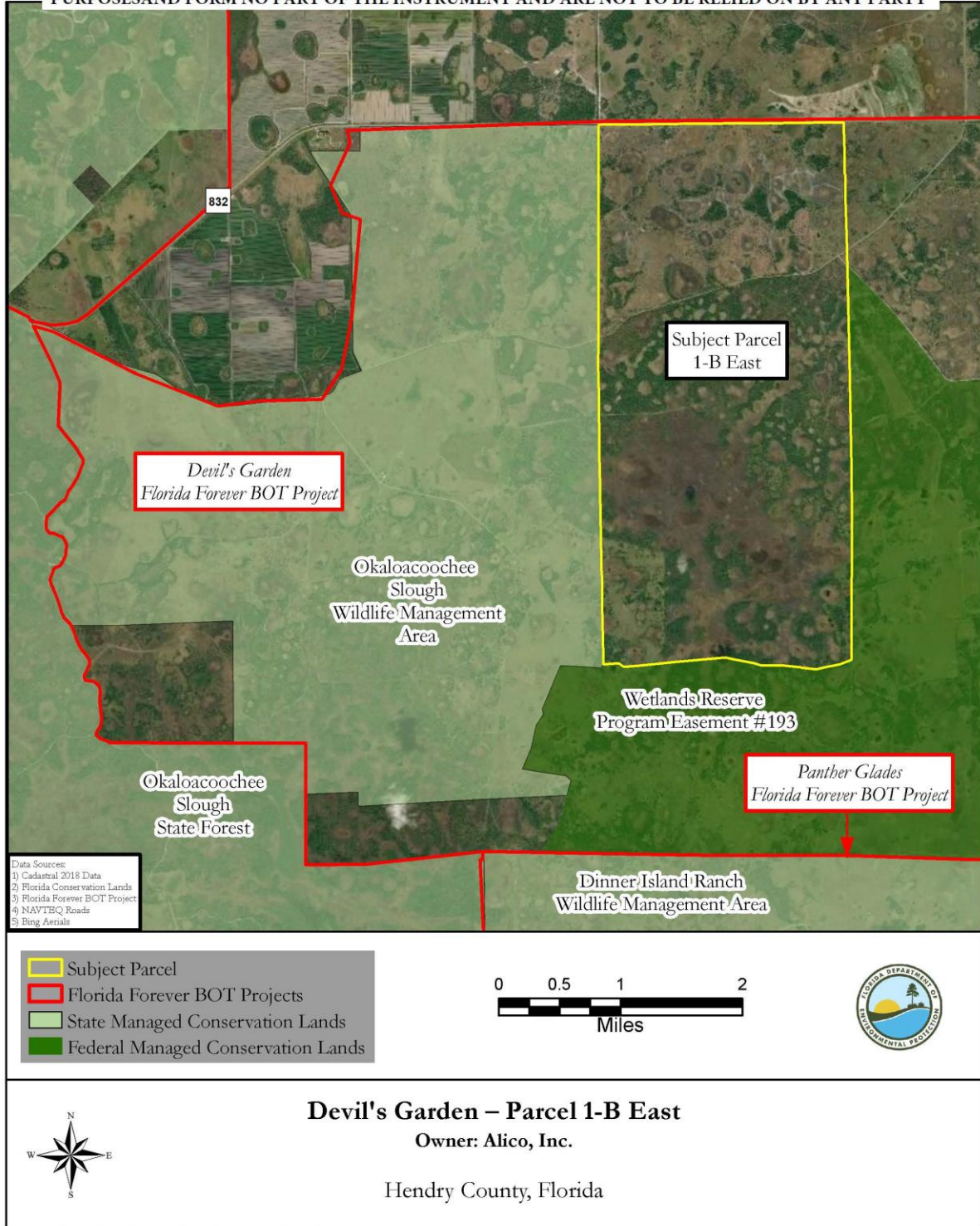
Exhibit "A"
Page 7 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

6. This easement shall be construed under the laws of the State of Florida. This easement may only be modified, supplemented or terminated in writing signed by the parties, or their successors or assigns, and any modification shall take effect only upon recordation of the same in the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. This easement will be terminated when the access no longer exists within the Easement Property.

7. All rights, privileges, benefits and burdens reserved or created herein are covenants and agreements running with the title to the Property and shall be binding upon and inuring to the benefit of the Grantor and the Grantee, and their respective successors in title.

Exhibit "A"
Page 8 of 9
Amendment Number 3 to Lease 4245
v1.0

THIS PAGE AND ANY FOLLOWING PAGES ARE ATTACHED ONLY FOR STATE OF FLORIDA TRACKING PURPOSES AND FORM NO PART OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ARE NOT TO BE RELIED ON BY ANY PARTY



File Location: \\FLDEP1\tech_csd\Counties_GIS\Hendry\Alico_Devils_Garden\Phase II\Alico_Devils_Garden_Phase_1_B_East.mxd
 Date Saved: 10/29/2020 2:19:00 PM
 Map Created By: GW Seiler

Document Type: Current Upland Lease [CUL Coversheet] ✓

Linked _____ FL-SOLARIS # _____ L786 _____ DM ID# _____

Lease # _____ 4245 _____

Instrument Type _____ AMENDMENT _____

Amendment # _____ FOUR (4) _____

Document Date _____ 6/13/2022 _____

Original County _____ HENDRY _____

Section(s) _____ 36 --- 1, 2, 11, 12, 25, 26 _____

Township(s) _____ 44S --- 45S _____

Range(s) _____ 30E --- 30E _____

Total Area _____ 1622.1 _____ Area Unit _____ (A) Acre(s) _____

Recording Data _____ B: _____ P: _____

Recording County Instrument # _____ I _____

Comments: _____ DEVIL'S GARDEN/OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH _____

Date prepped:
6/14/2022

Flip Card: ✓

Land Use Summary #

692276

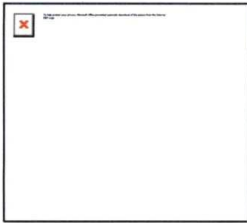
MAA'd For Rescan & Additional Pages _____ Scan Box # _____

The information on this page was collected during the prep phase of scanning and is an aid for data entry.
Please refer to the document for actual information.

nent Plan

Stockwell, Connie

From: no-reply@dep.state.fl.us
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Stockwell, Connie; Reecy, Karen G; Timothy.Canavan@MyFWC.com; Ferry, Laramie; Alan.Davis@fdacs.gov
Subject: Final Approved Title Notification
Attachments: A-Amendment 4_Lease 4245 Final.pdf; AID44815_Final_Transmittal_Amend 4-Lease 4245.pdf; B AID 44815 DOA Final.pdf



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection**

Carr Building
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

**Final Approved Title Notification
Bureau of Public Lands Administration (BPLA)**

Upland Management Section Completed Project Worksheet

Action ID :	44815	TITLE & LAND RECORDS SURVEYING & MAPPING JUN 14 2022 RECEIVED
Title Worksheet ID :	null	
Processor :	Karen Reecy	
Status :	Active	
Instrument # :	4245	
Related # :	{relatedInstr}	
Previous # :		
Modification # :		
Action Type :	Amendment #4	
Instrument Type :	Lease Agreement	
Grantee/Lessee :	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission / Division of Habitat and Species Conservation	
Facility Name :	Okaloacoochee Slough WMA	
Activity Type :	State	
Section/Township/Range :	1/45S/30E;11/45S/30E;12/45S/30E;2/45S/30E;23/44S/30E;24/44S/30E;25/44S/30E;26/44S/30E;	



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

June 14, 2022

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Attn: Laramie Ferry
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

AND

FDACS/Florida Forest Service
Attn: Alan Davis
3125 Conner Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**RE: Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245
Action No. 44815; Okaloacoochee Slough WMA**

Dear Alan and Laramie,

Attached is a fully executed original of the above referenced Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245, for your records.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 245-2796 or Karen.G.Reecy@FloridaDEP.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lee Reecy".

Karen Lee Reecy
Bureau of Public Land Administration
Division of State Lands
State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection

klr/Attachment
cc: Tim Canavan, FWC

www.dep.state.fl.us

FDACS CONTRACT#
5263

This instrument prepared by:
Karen Lee Reecy
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Public Administration
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 130
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
AID# 44815

ATL1
[1622.1 +/- acres]

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT
TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

AMENDMENT NUMBER 4 TO LEASE NUMBER 4245

THIS LEASE AMENDMENT is entered into this 13th day of June, 2022, by and between the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, hereinafter referred to as "LESSOR" and **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**, hereinafter referred to as "LEAD AGENCY" and **STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**, hereinafter referred to as "COOPERATING AGENCY", hereinafter collectively referred to as the "MANAGING AGENCIES";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, LESSOR, by virtue of Section 253.03, Florida Statutes, holds title to certain lands and property for the use and benefit of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2000, LESSOR and the MANAGING AGENCIES entered into Lease Number **4245** (the "lease"); and

WHEREAS, LESSOR and the MANAGING AGENCIES desire to amend the lease to add land to the leased premises.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The legal description of the leased premises set forth in Exhibit "A" of Lease Number **4245** is hereby amended to include the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.
2. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and the MANAGING AGENCIES that in each and every respect the terms of Lease Number **4245**, except as amended, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and the same are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed by LESSOR and the MANAGING AGENCIES as of the date of this amendment.

3. It is understood and agreed by LESSOR and the MANAGING AGENCIES that this Amendment Number **4** to Lease Number **4245** is hereby binding upon the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.
4. This lease amendment may be executed by electronic signature, which shall be considered as an original signature for all purposes and shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. Without limitation, "electronic signature" shall include faxed versions of an original signature or electronically scanned and transmitted versions (e.g., via pdf) of an original signature.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank; Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Amendment to Lease to be executed on the day and year first above written.

"LESSOR"

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL
DEPARTMENT OF IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

BY:  (SEAL)

Brad Richardson, Chief, Bureau of Public Land
Administration, Division of State Lands, State of
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as
agent for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the
Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of
Florida

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

BY:  (SEAL)

David B. Johnson, Deputy Division Director,
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

"LEAD AGENCY"

Approved subject to proper execution:

BY:  03-01-2022

DEP Attorney Date

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

(SEAL)

BY: Crissy Drake
For Joey B. Hicks, Director
Division of Administration

"COOPERATING AGENCY"

Page 4 of 5 Pages
Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245

EXHIBIT "A"

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; AND IN SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 00°56'55" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 1 FOR A DISTANCE OF 2561.51 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF KERI ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 832); THENCE ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE (3) COURSES: 1.) S 48°55'59" W FOR 8171.05 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT; 2.) THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1859.86 FEET, A DELTA ANGLE OF 68°00'00", CHORD BEARING S 82°55'59" W, AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 2080.04 FEET, FOR 2207.33 FEET; 3.) THENCE N 63°04'01" W FOR 1921.34 FEET; THENCE N 44°35'47" E DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 5471.81 FEET; THENCE N 45°24'13" W FOR 1091.23 FEET; THENCE N 44°35'47" E FOR 1652.29 FEET; THENCE S 45°24'13" E FOR 1091.23 FEET; THENCE N 44°35'47" E FOR 3451.75 FEET; THENCE S 85°10'25" E FOR 2478.59 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 44 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE S 00°46'45" E ALONG SAID EAST LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 7.52 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**

AND:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 25 AND 26, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, THENCE ALONG THE NORTH, EAST AND SOUTH LINES OF SAID SECTION 25 THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) COURSES: 1). N 89°37'58" E FOR 2659.75 FEET TO THE NORTH QUARTER CORNER; 2). N 89°37'58" E FOR 2659.75 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER; 3). S 00°24'07" E FOR 2668.96 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER; 4). S 00°24'07" E FOR 2668.96 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER; 5). S 89°50'26" W FOR 2659.99 FEET TO THE SOUTH QUARTER CORNER; 6). S 89°50'26" W FOR 1256.90 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF TRACT L1-100-008 AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 581, PAGE 445, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID EAST LINE ALSO BEING THE EAST LINE OF WILD COW ROAD, A THIRTY-FOOT ACCESS EASEMENT AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 581, PAGE 449, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG SAID EAST LINE THE FOLLOWING TWELVE (12) COURSES: 1). N 48°55'03" W FOR 197.50 FEET; 2). S 80°30'02" W FOR 803.32 FEET; 3). N 59°19'56" W, CROSSING THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 25 AT 539.25 FEET, FOR 627.25 FEET; 4). N 73°24'41" W FOR 255.79 FEET; 5). N 49°59'03" W FOR 235.26 FEET; 6). N 12°15'32" E FOR 463.39 FEET; 7). N 02°33'48" E FOR 538.49 FEET; 8). N 01°35'43" W FOR 1004.44 FEET; 9). N 27°21'24" W FOR 419.79 FEET; 10). N 19°04'57" W FOR 827.94 FEET; 11). N 25°32'21" W FOR 1748.73 FEET; 12). N 38°13'47" W FOR 60.16 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST; THENCE S 89°55'34" E ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 26 FOR 1626.28 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 25 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

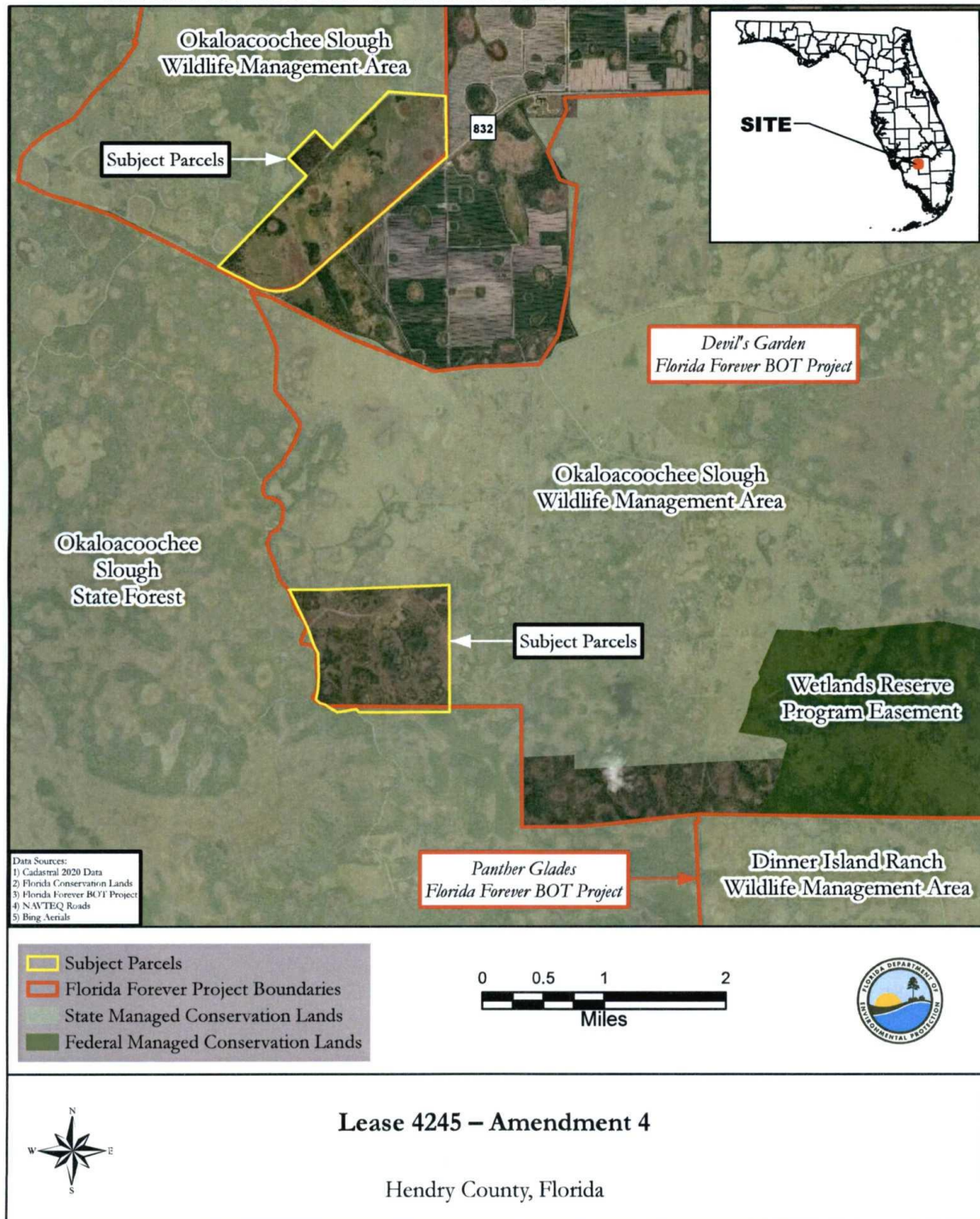
BSM APPROVED:

By: BA Date: 11/2/2021

As recorded in Official Records Book 1013, Page 1863, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Exhibit "A"
Page 5 of 5 Pages
Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245

LUS # 692276



DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ACTION

DOA Number:	DSL-21	Lease No.	4245
Action ID:	44815	Instrument No.	N/A
Type of Action:	☐ New ☒ Amendment ☐ Release ☐ Partial Release	☒ Lease ☐ Easement ☐ Sublease ☐ Use Agreement	☐ Road Right-of-Way Reservation ☐ Canal Reservation ☐ Oil and Mineral Reservation ☐ Other
Project Name:	Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245		
Title Worksheet ID:	N/A	LITS Surplus ID:	N/A
Applicant:	FWCC and FFS (Okaloacoochee Slough WMA and Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest)		
County/Location:	Hendry		
S/T/R:	see below		
Acreage:	1622.1 acres +/-		
Consideration:	N/A		
Received:	☐		
Date:	N/A		

Conservation Lands ☒ Yes ☐ No
Name of Facility/Park/Trail:
Okaloacoochee Slough WMA
☐ ARC/Negative Response Approval Date: N/A
NPB/Additional Comp. Amount: **N/A**
☐ Satisfied per land manager Date: N/A

STAFF REMARKS

Approval of Amendment No. 4 to Lease No. 4245 to add 1622.1 acres that were acquired on December 3, 2021 from Alico, Inc. with Florida Forever funds. The FWC consented to managing these lands in a letter dated November 4, 2021.

SEC 36/ T 44S/ R 30 E and
SECs 01, 02, 11, 12, 25, and 26/ T 45S/ 30E

Karen Lee Reecy Digitally signed by Karen Lee Reecy Date: 2022.02.04 17:44:53 -05'00'		Gary L. Ballard Digitally signed by Gary L. Ballard Date: 2022.02.21 16:17:57 -05'00'	
Originator	Date	DEP Attorney	Date
Michele Stevens Digitally signed by Michele Stevens Date: 2022.02.07 09:44:20 -05'00'		 Digitally signed by Brad Richardson Date: 2022.06.13 08:44:19 -04'00'	
OMCM	Date	Executing Authority	Date

Re-signed on 3-1-22 after change to amendment number from 3 to 4.

1.2 Easements and/or Other Agreements

DIVISION LOG # 2101

AGREEMENT NUMBER 00292

AGREEMENT ROUTING REVIEW FORM

CONTRACTOR DOF / FWC

VENDOR ID NO. _____ PROCUREMENT METHOD*/BID/RFP NO. _____

PROJECT TITLE OKALOACOOCHEE (OK) SLOUGH WMA - OCCUPANY AGREEMENT TEMP OFFICE SPACE

ORIGINATOR/CONTACT D. JERMYN _____ PHONE 488-3831 _____ DIV./OFFICE/MAIL 10

☒ NEW** ☐ AMENDMENT ☐ RENEWS OR EXTENDS **PURCHASING USE ONLY: POSTING - 7 DAY: 72 HR**

☐ EXPENDITURE** ☐ REVENUE ☒ AGREEMENT ☐ EASEMENT/DEED ☐ LEASE (INCLUDES WMA OR FMA LEASES)

AGREEMENT BEGINNING DATE/EXECUTION 5/6/01 END DATE INDEFINITE OPTION FOR _____ YEARS TOTAL

CONTRACT AMOUNT _____ CONTRACT AMOUNT _____

BILLING PERIODS: ☐ MONTHLY ☐ QUARTERLY ☐ ANNUALLY ☐ OTHER _____

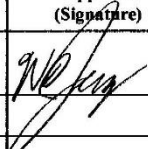
BUILDING INSURANCE TO BE INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION (LEASES) ☐ NO ☐ YES (Notify Property Administrator)

****NEW EXPENDITURE:** (1) Attach a copy of the State Project checklist or, for Existing State Projects, show the CSFA No. _____
CONTRACTS (2) Vendor/Recipient Checklist: Attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No - not a State Project per (1) Checklist

ORG. CODE	E.O.	OBJECT CODE	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT ID	FY

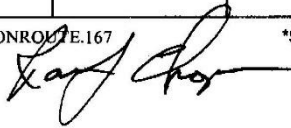
Certified Minority: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Available ☐ Not Appl. Minority Category _____ (See reverse side for options)

Commodity Code _____ Federal Funds: Agency _____ CFDA _____

Routing Order for Approval	Approval (Signature)	Date	Comments
1. Project Leader		<u>12/14/09</u>	Budget Sheet is available upon request by external sources. ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Budget Director (Expenditure Only)			Budget Authority: ☐ Existing ☐ New
3. Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir./Section Leader			
4. Contracts Administrator			
5. Legal			
6. Accounting			Funds Availability: ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. review (check below).			
☐ Expenditure Contracts: Return to Originator for Contractor signature. ☐ Other documents: Send to (circle) Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. for signature.			Expenditure Contracts: After Contractor signs, send to Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Director for signature and dating.
8. Exec./Div./Reg./Inst. Dir. execute			
Originator Copy to Accounting*			Send a complete copy of the Contract & Routing Form
Originator to Contracts Administrator*			Send executed Original Contract & Original Routing Form
Originator to OIG FSAA Originals			Send to OIG: Mail Code 1E

FWC 167/rev. 01/08 \SHARE\FORMS\CONTRACT E.167

*See reverse for Codes/Definitions/Distribution

 12/14/09

DIVISION LOG # W1349CONTRACT NUMBER 00292

CONTRACT ROUTING REVIEW FORM

CONTRACTOR NAME DACS-DOE AND FWCVENDOR ID NO. _____ PROCUREMENT METHOD*/BID/RFP NO. N/ABRIEF TITLE OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT FOR OFFICE AND STORAGE SPACE AT THE OK SLOUGH FIELD OFFICE☒ NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ EXTENSION ☐ AMENDMENTCONTRACT BEGIN DATE EXECUTION END DATE INDEF. OPTION FOR _____ YEARSORIGINATOR/CONTACT P.DOERR PHONE 8-3831 DIV./OFFICE/MAIL DOW/BWMTOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT N/A PAYMENT AMOUNT _____BILLING PERIODS: ☐ MONTHLY ☐ QUARTERLY ☐ ANNUALLY ☐ OTHER N/A☐ EXPENDITURE ☐ REVENUE ☒ AGREEMENT ☐ EASEMENT/DEED ☐ LEASE (INCLUDES WMA OR FMA LEASES)BUILDING INSURANCE TO BE INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION ☒ YES ☐ NO (Notify Property Administrator)

ORG. CODE	E.O.	OBJECT CODE	AMOUNT	PROJECT ID	FY

Certified Minority: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Available ☒ Not Appl. Minority Category _____

Division/offices Are to forward executed Original Contract and Routing Slip to The Bureau of Office Operations.

Class/group Code _____ FLAIR: ☐ Yes ☒ No FSAA Checklist ☐ Yes ☒ No

Routing Order for Approval	Approval (Signature)	Date	Comments
1. Project Leader★	<i>DP</i>	4-26-01	
2. Bureau Chief	<i>[Signature]</i>	4-26-01	
4. Bur. of Office Operations★	<i>[Signature]</i>	5-11-01	
5. Legal	<i>PRR</i>	5-11-01	Signed - note 768.28 verbiage not inserted w/o same due to short time period of agreement
6. Dir. of Auditing (Expenditure/Revenue)	<i>[X]</i>		
7. Bureau of Accounting	<i>[X]</i>		
8. Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. review (check below) ★			
— Expenditure Contracts: Return to Originator for Contractor signature.			
— Other documents: Send to (circle)			
— Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. for			
8. Division Director <u>execute</u> ★	<i>[Signature]</i>	16-May-01	
Originator to Bur. of Office Ops.			
Copy to Accounting			
Bur. of Office Ops. to Central Files			

★Routing of Federal Aid Documents

bwm\patti\contracts\misc\okslough\officespacertg

MEMORANDUM

TO: Contract Reviewers

FROM: Nick Wiley, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife Management

SUBJECT: Occupancy Agreement for OK Slough

Attached are four originals of an Occupancy Agreement between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This agreement is for office and storage space for a FWC biologist at the Division of Forestry's Okaloacoochee Slough Field Office, Keri, Florida. This Agreement is for temporary office space only, with no payments involved.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

LEG 8-5
FMDDPD
//wildnet/.../patti/memos/oksloughofficespace
Attachment

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made on this 16th day of May,

2001 by and between the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY of Tallahassee, Florida hereinafter referred to as the "DIVISION" and the STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION of Tallahassee, Florida hereinafter referred to as the "COMMISSION";

WITNESSETH:

THAT in consideration of certain services on State Forests to be furnished by the COMMISSION including but not limited to wildlife research, environmental regulations relating to game and fresh water fish, the conducting of managed hunts and the providing of other technical assistance, the DIVISION does agree to provide office space on a temporary basis for official business purposes to the COMMISSION subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. THE DIVISION agrees to furnish the COMMISSION, an office of approximately 130 square feet, to include electricity, at the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest Field Office in Keri, Florida. Other utilities as may be necessary will be the responsibility of the COMMISSION.

2. THE DIVISION agrees to make available adequate parking space as may be necessary for a COMMISSION employee or representative to conduct official COMMISSION business.

3. THE COMMISSION agrees, during the term of occupancy of the office, to keep said office in good, clean, sanitary condition and to maintain the office in a manner that will not detract from the overall Field Office.

4. THE COMMISSION agrees to furnish a separate telephone system which will include a muted bell to be activated during periods when COMMISSION personnel are absent from the office.

5. THE DIVISION shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of any property brought on the premises by the COMMISSION nor shall the DIVISION be under any obligation to repair or restore any loss sustained by the COMMISSION.

6. THE COMMISSION agrees that the office will be used for official business purposes and that no personal business will be conducted by COMMISSION representatives who may occupy the office.

7. THE COMMISSION agrees that no alterations or changes shall be made except under prior written approval from the Director of the DIVISION.

8. THE DIVISION agrees to furnish the COMMISSION a space of approximately 7200 square feet, upon which equipment for the land management of the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area will be stored.

9. THE COMMISSION agrees that fuel storage tanks will be above ground, and that in the event of a spill or contamination of the surrounding land or water the COMMISSION will be solely liable for all costs and activities associated with clean-up.

10. THE COMMISSION agrees that all toxic or otherwise potentially harmful chemicals, fuels, etc., will be stored in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, federal, state, and local laws.

11. IT IS UNDERSTOOD that when the COMMISSION'S temporary office space is required for anticipated DIVISION personnel, the COMMISSION will be given as much advanced notice as possible (a minimum of 60 days) prior to having to vacate the office.

12. IT IS UNDERSTOOD that this agreement shall remain in effect only as long as mutually agreeable with both parties and that termination may occur at anytime without cause by either party following sixty (60) days written notice to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed the day and year first above written.

Witnessed by:

Loren A. Meyer
Ma Daniel
As to Division

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY

By:

Mike Guba

Director, Division of Administration

Witnessed by:

Brenda Collins
Cynthia Ward
As to Commission

STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By:

Victor J. Keller
ASSISTANT Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
P. J. [Signature]
Commission Attorney

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made on this 16th day of May,
2001 by and between the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY of Tallahassee, Florida
hereinafter referred to as the "DIVISION" and the STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION of Tallahassee, Florida hereinafter
referred to as the "COMMISSION";

WITNESSETH:

THAT in consideration of certain services on State Forests to be furnished by the
COMMISSION including but not limited to wildlife research, environmental regulations
relating to game and fresh water fish, the conducting of managed hunts and the providing
of other technical assistance, the DIVISION does agree to provide office space on a
temporary basis for official business purposes to the COMMISSION subject to the
following terms and conditions:

1. THE DIVISION agrees to furnish the COMMISSION, an office of
approximately 130 square feet, to include electricity, at the Okaloacoochee Slough State
Forest Field Office in Keri, Florida. Other utilities as may be necessary will be the
responsibility of the COMMISSION.

2. THE DIVISION agrees to make available adequate parking space as may be necessary for a COMMISSION employee or representative to conduct official COMMISSION business.

3. THE COMMISSION agrees, during the term of occupancy of the office, to keep said office in good, clean, sanitary condition and to maintain the office in a manner that will not detract from the overall Field Office.

4. THE COMMISSION agrees to furnish a separate telephone system which will include a muted bell to be activated during periods when COMMISSION personnel are absent from the office.

5. THE DIVISION shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of any property brought on the premises by the COMMISSION nor shall the DIVISION be under any obligation to repair or restore any loss sustained by the COMMISSION.

6. THE COMMISSION agrees that the office will be used for official business purposes and that no personal business will be conducted by COMMISSION representatives who may occupy the office.

7. THE COMMISSION agrees that no alterations or changes shall be made except under prior written approval from the Director of the DIVISION.

8. THE DIVISION agrees to furnish the COMMISSION a space of approximately 7200 square feet, upon which equipment for the land management of the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area will be stored.

9. THE COMMISSION agrees that fuel storage tanks will be above ground, and that in the event of a spill or contamination of the surrounding land or water the COMMISSION will be solely liable for all costs and activities associated with clean-up.

10. THE COMMISSION agrees that all toxic or otherwise potentially harmful chemicals, fuels, etc., will be stored in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, federal, state, and local laws.

11. IT IS UNDERSTOOD that when the COMMISSION'S temporary office space is required for anticipated DIVISION personnel, the COMMISSION will be given as much advanced notice as possible (a minimum of 60 days) prior to having to vacate the office.

12. IT IS UNDERSTOOD that this agreement shall remain in effect only as long as mutually agreeable with both parties and that termination may occur at anytime without cause by either party following sixty (60) days written notice to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed the day and year first above written.

Witnessed by:

James A. Meyer
Ma Daniel
As to Division

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY

By:

Walter G. Gula
Director, Division of Administration

Witnessed by:

Brenda Collins
Cynthia Lillard
As to Commission

STATE OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By:

Victor J. Hella
Assistant Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
P. J. [Signature]
Commission Attorney



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
TERRY L. RHODES, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

Please Respond to:

Division of Forestry
Forest Management Bureau
3125 Conner Blvd., C25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

April 23, 2001

Mr. Nick Wiley, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Division of Wildlife
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Attn: Don Poindexter, Business Manager

Dear Nick:

We have enclosed, for your review and signature, four (4) original Occupancy Agreements between the Division of Forestry and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This agreement authorizes the use of office space along with equipment storage space for a FWC biologist at the Division of Forestry's Okaloacoochee Slough Field Office in Keri, Florida. If you find everything in order, please have all four agreements signed.

Keep one of the fully executed agreements for your files, forward one to the FWC biologist and return two to State Lands Supervisor John F. O'Meara at the above address. If you have any questions, please contact John at 414-9926.

Sincerely,

TERRY L. RHODES
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Charles Maynard, Chief
Forest Management Bureau
Division of Forestry

:jms

Enclosures (4)

cc: John F. O'Meara, State Lands Supervisor
Kevin Podkowka, Senior Forester, OSSF



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$53 Billion for Florida's Economy



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



James L. AJamie@ Adams, Jr. Bushnell	Barbara C. Barsh Jacksonville	Patrick E. Geraghty Ft. Myers	Quinton L. Hedgepeth, DDS Miami	H.A. AHerky@ Huffman Deltona	
Thomas B. Kibler Lakeland	David K. Meehan St. Petersburg	Julie K. Morris Sarasota	Tony Moss Miami	Edwin P. Roberts, DC Pensacola	John D. Rood Jacksonville

FRANK MONTALBANO, Director
TIMOTHY A. BREAUULT, Assistant Director

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
www.state.fl.us/fwc
(850)488-3831
TDD (850)488-9542

May 18, 2001

Mr. John F. O'Meara, State Lands Supervisor
Division of Forestry
Forest Management Bureau
3125 Conner Boulevard, C25
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

Dear Mr. O'Meara:

Enclosed are two executed originals Occupancy Agreements between the Division of Forestry and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This agreement authorizes the temporary use of office space and equipment storage space for one biologist at the Division of Forestry's OK Slough Field Office in Kerri, Florida. If you require further information please call me at 488-3831.

Sincerely,

Patti Doerr
Land Management Specialist

PD
Enclosures

/bwm/patti/contracts/misc/Okslough_office

www.state.fl.us/fwc/
ONE OF "FLORIDA'S BEST" WEB SITES

DIVISION LOG # 2101

AGREEMENT NUMBER

AGREEMENT ROUTING REVIEW FORM

CONTRACTOR ALICO INC / BOT DEP / FWC

VENDOR ID NO. _____

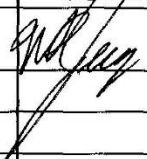
PROCUREMENT METHOD*/BID/RFP NO. _____

PROJECT TITLE OKALOACOOCHEE (OK) SLOUGH WMA - MOUORIGINATOR/CONTACT D. JERMYN PHONE 488-3831 DIV./OFFICE/MAIL 10☒ **NEW**** ☐ **AMENDMENT** ☐ **RENEWS OR EXTENDS** **PURCHASING USE ONLY: POSTING - 7 DAY: 72 Hr**☐ **EXPENDITURE**** ☐ **REVENUE** ☒ **AGREEMENT** ☐ **EASEMENT/DEED** ☐ **LEASE** (INCLUDES WMA OR FMA LEASES)AGREEMENT BEGINNING DATE/EXECUTION 2/16/99 END DATE INDEFINITE OPTION FOR YEARS TOTALCONTRACT AMOUNT CONTRACT AMOUNT BILLING PERIODS: ☐ **MONTHLY** ☐ **QUARTERLY** ☐ **ANNUALLY** ☐ **OTHER**BUILDING INSURANCE TO BE INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION (LEASES) ☐ **NO** ☐ **YES** (Notify Property Administrator)

****NEW EXPENDITURE:** (1) Attach a copy of the State Project checklist or, for Existing State Projects, show the CSFA No. _____
CONTRACTS (2) Vendor/Recipient Checklist: Attached? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** - not a State Project per (1) Checklist

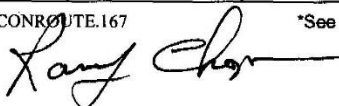
ORG. CODE	E.O.	OBJECT CODE	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT ID	FY

Certified Minority: ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Not Available** ☐ **Not Appl.** Minority Category (See reverse side for options)Commodity Code Federal Funds: Agcy CFDA

Routing Order for Approval	Approval (Signature)	Date	Comments
1. Project Leader		<u>12/14/09</u>	Budget Sheet is available upon request by external sources. ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Budget Director (Expenditure Only)			Budget Authority: ☐ Existing ☐ New
3. Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir./Section Leader			
4. Contracts Administrator			
5. Legal			
6. Accounting			Funds Availability: ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. review (check below).			
☐ Expenditure Contracts: Return to Originator for Contractor signature. ☐ Other documents: Send to (circle) Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Dir. for signature.			Expenditure Contracts: After Contractor signs, send to Exec./Div./Reg./Inst./Off. Director for signature and dating.
8. Exec./Div./Reg./Inst. Dir. execute			
Originator Copy to Accounting*			Send a complete copy of the Contract & Routing Form
Originator to Contracts Administrator*			Send executed Original Contract & Original Routing Form
Originator to OIG FSAA Originals			Send to OIG: Mail Code 1E

FWC 167/rev. 01/08 \SHARE\FORMS\CONROUTE.167

*See reverse for Codes/Definitions/Distribution

 12/14/09

Tax Folio Numbers:

(Hendry) 1-01-45-29-A00-0002.0100;
 1-01-45-29-A00-0005.0100; 1-01-45-29-A00-0007.0000;
 1-05-45-30-A00-0002.0000; 1-05-45-30-A00-0003.0000;
 1-06-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-06-45-30-A00-0002.0000;
 1-07-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-08-45-30-A00-0002.0000;
 1-12-45-29-A00-0001.0000; 1-13-45-29-A00-0003.0000;
 1-17-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-18-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-19-44-30-A00-0002.0000; 1-19-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-20-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-21-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-22-45-30-A00-0002.0000; 1-24-44-29-A00-0001.0100;
 1-24-44-29-A00-0004.0000; 1-24-45-29-A00-0001.0100;
 1-25-44-29-A00-0002.0000; 1-25-44-29-A00-0003.0000;
 1-27-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-28-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-29-44-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-29-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-30-44-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-30-45-30-A00-0002.0000;
 1-31-44-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-31-45-31-A00-0002.0000;
 1-32-44-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-32-45-30-A00-0002.0000;
 1-33-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-34-45-30-A00-0001.0000;
 1-35-45-30-A00-0001.0000; 1-36-44-29-A00-0002.0000
 and 1-36-44-29-A00-0003.0000
 (Collier) 0008990007; 0008990005; 0008990104;
 0008990106; 0008990101; 0008990003 and
 0008990005;

This instrument prepared by and return to:
 Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
 South Florida Water Management District
 3301 Gun Club Road, P. O. Box 24680
 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
 Tracts: portion of 100-001
 and all of 100-002

QUITCLAIM DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 11th day of February, 1999, between the **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**, a public corporation of the State of Florida, whose mailing address is Post Office Box 24680, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680, Palm Beach County, hereinafter referred to as Grantor, in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other valuable considerations, received from the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, whose address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, hereinafter referred to as Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, by these presents does remise, release and quitclaim unto said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, **an undivided one-half (1/2) interest** in the following described land, situate, lying and being in Hendry and Collier Counties, State of Florida, to wit:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof

The purpose of this instrument is to convey to the Grantee an undivided one-half (1/2) fee simple interest in the lands described in the attached Exhibit "A".

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same together with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, interest and claim whatsoever of the said Grantor, either in law or in equity, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the South Florida Water Management District has caused these presents to be executed in its name and its official seal affixed hereto by its Governing Board, acting by the Chairman of said Board and attested by its Assistant Secretary, at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, State of Florida.



Anthony Burns, Assistant Secretary

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, by its Governing Board

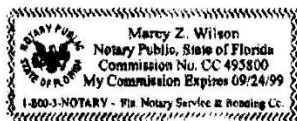
By: Frank Williamson, Jr.
Frank Williamson, Jr., Chairman

Legal Form Approved
SFWMD Office of Counsel

By: Richard F. Ross Date: 2/11/99

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 11th day of February, 1999 by Frank Williamson, Jr. and Anthony Burns, Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, a public corporation of the State of Florida, on behalf of the corporation, who are personally known to me.



Marcy Z. Wilson
Notary Public

MARCY Z. WILSON
Print

My Commission Expires: 9/24/99

EXHIBIT "A"

TRACT NO. 11-100-001
OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH

A parcel of land situate in Hendry County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

All that portion of Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, said Hendry County, lying Easterly of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company right of way.

TOGETHER WITH:

The West half (W 1/2) of Section 19, Sections 29, 30, 31 and 32, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, said Hendry County.

TOGETHER WITH:

All that portion of Sections 1, 12, 13, and the North half (N 1/2) of Section 24, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, lying Easterly of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad right of way less the right of way for County Road S-832.

TOGETHER WITH:

The West half (W 1/2) of Section 5, and that portion of the East half (E 1/2) of Section 5 lying Northerly of the Northerly right of way line of State Road S-832, Sections 6, 7 the West half (W 1/2) of Section 8, Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, the West half (W 1/2) of Section 22, Sections 27, 28, 29, the North half (N 1/2) of Section 30, the East half (E 1/2) of Section 32, Sections 33, 34, 35 and 36, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, said Hendry County, less the right of way for County Road S-832.

TOGETHER WITH:

The West half (W 1/2) of Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County.

Exhibit "A" - page 1 of 3

Exhibit "A" (continued)

TOGETHER WITH:

All that portion of Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, and Sections 1, 12, 13 and the North half (N 1/2) of Section 24, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, lying within those certain parcels described in Official Records Book 345, Pages 679 through 683, and Official Records Book 445, Pages 420 through 428, Public Records of Hendry County. Less that portion lying Southerly of the Southerly right of way line of County Road S-832.

LESS that portion of said Section 1, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1 with the West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 2300 feet; thence, Easterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said West right-of-way line, a distance of 400 feet; thence, Northerly, along a line 400 feet East of and parallel with said West right-of-way, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point on a line lying 1300 feet Southerly of and parallel with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road 832; thence, Northeasterly, along said line a distance of 600 feet; thence Northwesterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 1300 feet to a point on said Southerly right-of-way line; thence, Southwesterly, along said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to a point on said West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS the North 50 feet of the West half (W 1/2) of Section 19, Township 44 South, Range 30 East and LESS the North 50 feet of that portion of Section 24, Township 44 South, Range 29 East lying Easterly of the East line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Bearings based on the east boundary line of Township 46 South, Range 30 East, being assumed at S 0°52'54" E.

Exhibit "A" - page 2 of 3

EXHIBIT "A"

TRACT NO. L1-100-002
OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH

Lands situated in Collier County, Florida, in Township 46 South, Range 30 East:

Beginning at a concrete monument marking the common township corner which is the Southeast corner of Township 45 South of Range 30 East; the Southwest corner of Township 45 South of Range 31 East; the Northeast corner of Township 46 South of Range 30 East, and the Northwest corner of Township 46 South of Range 31 East; thence Southerly along the East boundary of Township 46 South of Range 30 East, South 0°52'54" East a distance of 10,610.76 feet to a concrete monument; thence continuing South 0°52'54" E a distance of 468.98 feet to a concrete monument (and an existing old barbed wire fence); thence Westerly along said barbed wire fence for the following five (5) courses:

Bearings	Distance (ft)	Monument
S 89°59'25" W	2,333.98 to	Found conc. mon.
S 89°45'13" W	2,654.70 to	Found conc. mon.
S 89°46'11" W	2,656.49 to	Found conc. mon.
S 89°24'21" W	2,657.14 to	Found conc. mon.
N 89°42'35" W	2,745.92 to	Found conc. mon.

thence North 0°17'25" East leaving the old barbed wire fence a distance of 5,644.35 feet to a concrete monument; thence North 02°23'33" East a distance of 2,693.75 feet to a 1-1/4" metal pipe; thence North 87°25'28" West a distance of 2,810.00 feet to a concrete monument; thence North 89°53'14" West a distance of 2,667.50 feet to a concrete monument; thence North 08°47'26" West a distance of 2,670.77 feet to a 1-1/4" metal pipe marking the South one quarter corner (SW corner of SE 1/4 and SE corner of the SW 1/4) of Section 33, Township 45 South of Range 30 East (which point is also on the North boundary line of Township 46 South of Range 30 East); thence Easterly along the said North line of Township 46 South of Range 30 East, being North 89°58'32" E a distance of 18,619.29 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 3,635.06 acres, more or less.

Bearings based on the east boundary line of Township 46 South, Range 30 East, being assumed at S 0°52'54" E.

Exhibit "A" - page 3 of 3

46.50 rec.
19206.60 stamps

This instrument prepared by and return to:
Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

FL 9902193 B 581 P 430
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

DOC STAMPS 19,206.60
INTANG TAX .00 *ML*

Tax Folio # *Part of 1-20-44-30-A 00-0001.000-0*
+ c/this

Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
Tract:100-012

CHRISTINE PRATT CLERK
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

FILED AND RECORDED
DT 02/17/1999 TIME 16:27

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 16th day of February, 1999, between **ALICO, INC.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, the Grantor, whose mailing address is 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, Florida, 33935, Hendry County, in consideration, of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration received from **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, the Grantee, whose mailing address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399, Leon County, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, the real property located in Hendry County, Florida, described as:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

RESERVING unto Grantor a non-exclusive access, ingress and egress easement ("Access Easement") with respect to the real property described in Schedule "1" attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Parcel"). This Access Easement is reserved to Grantor for the use and benefit of its officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, for access, ingress and egress, over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel to the lands owned in fee by Grantor, more particularly described in Schedule "2" attached hereto and made a part hereof ("Grantor's Benefited Parcel"), together with any and all purposes reasonably deemed by the Grantor to be necessary, convenient or incident to access, ingress and egress over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel. At no time, however, shall the road bed located within the Easement Parcel ever exceed thirty (30) feet in width unless consented to by Grantee in writing, and Grantee makes no representations that such consent will be granted. In addition, Grantor shall have the right to use this Access Easement to access and maintain Grantor's ditch and fence located immediately east of the Easement Parcel.

This Access Easement shall at no time be obstructed by any object which would prohibit access, ingress or egress to and from Grantor's Benefited Parcel, or in any manner, interfere with the purposes of this Access Easement, except that Grantee may install gates within the Easement Parcel at locations determined by Grantee provided Grantee provides Grantor access through such gates. Grantor shall have the right, but not the obligation, to improve the Easement Parcel as reasonably determined by Grantor in order to insure the full enjoyment of the rights reserved by this Access Easement. In addition, any damage to the Easement Parcel caused by Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, reasonable wear and tear excepted. In the event that Grantee routinely maintains the Easement Parcel and Grantor's use and/or the use of Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns causes an appreciable increase in maintenance of the Easement Parcel, Grantor agrees to undertake the pro-rated share of the appreciable increase in maintenance. Grantee shall have no obligation with respect to maintenance of the Easement Parcel.

By reservation hereof, Grantor expressly assumes all risk in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Grantee from and against all loss, damage, and liability incurred by Grantee (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs) which arises in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns.

This Access Easement shall run with the land and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantee, their successors and assigns and all subsequent owners and of the Easement Parcel and the Grantor's Benefited Parcel.

TOGETHER with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple forever.

AND the Grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever; subject to restrictions, easement and reservations of record, if any.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Grantor has caused these presents to be executed in its name and its corporate seal to be affixed hereto, by its proper officer thereunto duly authorized the day and year first above written.

Signed and sealed in the presence of:

Donna H. Respress
Witness: Donna H. Respress

J.C. Barrow Jr.
Witness: J.C. BARROW, JR.

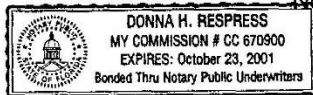
ALICO, INC., a Florida corporation

By: Ben Hill Griffin III
Ben Hill Griffin, III, Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Polk

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of February 1999 by Ben Hill Griffin, III, as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ALICO, INC., a Florida Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally known to me or he has produced as identification.

Donna H. Respress
Notary Public



Donna H. Respress
Print

My Commission Expires October 23, 2001

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 433
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 434
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

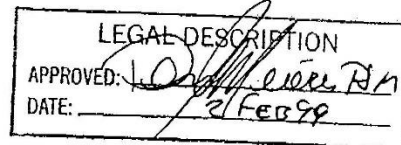


Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 435
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 436
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	2 Feb 99

Schedule 1
Tract No. L1-100-019

A strip of land 50.00 feet wide (as measured at right angles) over and across Sections 23, 26, 27 and a portion of Section 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said Strip lying West of, parallel, adjacent and contiguous to the following described line:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida; thence South 00°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to an intersection with a non-tangent and non-radial curve on the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road), from which the radius bears North 29°50'11" East, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, a central angle of 04°28'24" and a long chord that bears South 62°24'02" East; thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 654.86 feet; thence North 23°27'40" East a distance of 89.19 feet; thence North 09°40'35" East a distance of 93.64 feet; thence North 05°05'04" East a distance of 555.08 feet; thence North 18°28'53" East a distance of 314.81 feet; thence North 31°24'08" East a distance of 178.02 feet; thence North 49°25'02" East a distance of 773.87 feet; thence North 56°55'25" East a distance of 631.01 feet; thence North 59°47'56" East a distance of 988.65 feet; thence North 46°42'12" East a distance of 203.58 feet; thence North 38°24'49" East a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence North 46°20'38" East a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence North 39°42'57" East a distance of 147.92 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 1402.46 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continuing North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North

Schedule "1"
Page 1 of 2

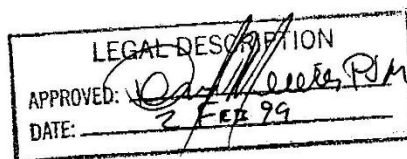
17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North 09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road and the Point of Terminus of this description; this last point located 903.43 feet East of the West boundary line of said Section 23.

Sidelines to be shortened or extended so as to form a continuous strip that begins on a line that passes through the POINT OF BEGINNING on a bearing of South 87°50'05" East and ends on the said Southerly right-of-way line of Sears Road.

OKA\Sellers's (Alico) Reserved Access Easement over L1-100-012

H:\data\oka\100-019.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

Schedule "1"
Page 2 of 2



FL 9902193 B 581 P 439
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Schedule 2
Seller's Benefited Property

Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Twin Mills Rd. (L1-100-012)

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-Twin Mills Rd.
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

55.50 rec
31,178.50 stamp

12

This instrument prepared by and return to:
Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

FL 9902194 B 581 P 440
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

DOC STAMPS 31,178.00
INTANG TAX .00 ml

Tax Folio # 1-19-44-30-A 00-0001.0000
Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
Tract: 100-008

CHRISTINE PRATT CLERK
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

FILED AND RECORDED
DT 02/17/1999 TIME 16:27

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 16th day of February, 1999, between **ALICO, INC.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, the Grantor, whose mailing address is 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, Florida 33935, Hendry County, in consideration of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration, received from **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, the Grantee, whose mailing address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, Leon County, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, the real property located in Hendry County, State of Florida, described as:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

RESERVING unto Grantor a non-exclusive access, ingress and egress easement ("Access Easement") with respect to the real property described in Schedules "1-A" and "1-B" attached hereto and made apart hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Parcels". This Access Easement is reserved to Grantor for the use and benefit of its officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, for access, ingress and egress, over, under and across or through the Easement Parcels to the lands owned in fee by Grantor, as hereinafter provided, together with any and all purposes reasonably deemed by the Grantor to be necessary, convenient or incident to such access, ingress and egress over, under and across or through the Easement Parcels. The real property described in Schedule "2-A" is benefited by the easement described in Schedule "1-A", which is appurtenant thereto. The real property described in Schedule "2-B" is benefited by easement described in Schedule "1-B", which is appurtenant thereto. (The lands described in Schedules "2-A" and "2-B" are hereinafter referred to as Grantor's Benefited Parcels.) Unless consented to by Grantee in writing and Grantee makes no representations that such consent will be given, at no time shall the road bed located within the Easement Parcel described in Schedule "1-A" attached hereto and made a part hereof ever exceed thirty (30) feet in width. In addition, Grantor shall

have the right to use this Access Easement to access and maintain Grantor's ditch and fence located immediately to the east of the Easement Parcels referenced in Schedule "1-A" and Schedule "1-B".

This Access Easement shall at no time be obstructed by any object which would prohibit access, ingress or egress to and from Grantor's Benefited Parcels, or in any manner, interfere with the purposes of this Access Easement, except that Grantee may install gates within the Easement Parcels at locations determined by Grantee provided Grantee provides Grantor access through such gates. Grantor shall have the right, but not the obligation, to improve the Easement Parcels as reasonably determined by Grantor in order to insure the full enjoyment of the rights reserved by this Access Easement. In addition, Grantor shall be responsible for promptly repairing at Grantor's sole cost and expense any damage to the Easement Parcels caused by Grantor's use of the Easement Parcels and/or the use of the Easement Parcels by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, reasonable wear and tear excepted. In the event the Grantee routinely maintains the Easement Parcels and Grantor's use of the Easement Parcels and/or the use of the Easement Parcels by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns causes an appreciable increase in maintenance of the Easement Parcels, Grantor agrees to undertake the pro-rated share of the appreciable increase in maintenance. Grantee shall have no obligation with respect to maintenance of the Easement Parcels.

By reservation hereof, Grantor expressly assumes all risk in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcels and/or the use of the Easement Parcels by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns and Grantor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Grantee from and against all loss, damage, and liability incurred by Grantee (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs) which arises in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcels and/or use of the Easement Parcels by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns.

This Access Easement shall run with the land and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantee, their successors and assigns and all subsequent owners of the Easement Parcels and the Grantor's Benefited Parcels.

TOGETHER with all the tenements hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple forever.

AND the Grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever; subject to restrictions, easements and reservations of record, if any.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE Grantor has caused these presents to be executed in its name And its corporate seal to be affixed hereto, by its proper officer thereunto duly authorized, the day and year first above written.

Signed and sealed in the presence of:

ALICO, INC., a Florida corporation

Donna H. Respress
Witness: Donna H. Respress

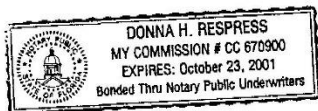
Ben Hill Griffin, III
Witness: J. C. BARROW, JR.

By: Ben Hill Griffin, III
Ben Hill Griffin, III, Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Polk

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of February 1999 by Ben Hill Griffin, III, as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ALICO, INC., a Florida Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally known to me or he has produced as identification.

Donna H. Respress
Notary Public



Donna H. Respress
Print

My Commission Expires: October 23, 2001

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902194 B 581 P 443
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Tract No. L1-100-008, North of County Road 832 (Keri Road)

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East and in Sections 3 and 4 in Township 45 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continuing South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence South 33°31'12" West a distance of 1402.46 feet; thence South 39°42'57" West a distance of 147.92 feet; thence South 46°20'38" West a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence South 38°24'49" West a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence South 46°42'12" West a distance of 203.58 feet; thence South 59°47'56" West a distance of 988.65 feet; thence South 56°55'25" West a distance of 631.01 feet; thence South 49°25'02" West a distance of 773.87 feet; thence South 31°24'08" West a distance of 178.02 feet; thence South 18°28'53" West a distance of 314.81 feet; thence South 05°05'04" West a distance of 555.08 feet; thence South 09°40'35" West a distance of 93.64 feet; thence South 23°27'40" West a distance of 89.19 feet to an intersection with the Northerly right-of-way of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence along said right-of-way of County Road No. 832, North 60°31'34" West a distance of 654.86 feet to the beginning of a curve, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°34'54" West; thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence continuing along said right-of-way of County Road No. 832, North 64°38'13" West a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°24'02" West, thence

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 5

Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet, through a central angle of 04°28'24" to an intersection with the West boundary line of said Section 4; thence non-tangent and non-radial to the aforementioned curve, North 00°25'16" West along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence North 01°01'49" West along the West boundary line of said Section 33 a distance of 5210.53 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 33; thence North 01°18'37" West along the West boundary line of said Section 28 a distance of 5211.06 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 28; thence North 89°38'26" West along the South boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 5345.81 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 20; thence South 89°31'08" West along the South boundary line of said Section 19 a distance of 2663.96 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 19; thence North 00°54'56" East along the North-South quarter Section line of said Section 19 a distance of 5181.39 feet to an intersection with the South boundary line of the right-of-way of said Sears Road; thence North 89°25'57" East along said South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road, said line being parallel and 50.00 feet South of the North boundary line of said Section 19, a distance of 2867.18 feet; thence South 89°19'25" East along said South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road, said line being parallel and 50.00 feet South of the North boundary line of said Section 20, a distance of 1745.27 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 1913.00 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 5

OKA\Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-008-Premises-North Parcel.lgl
October 12, 1998

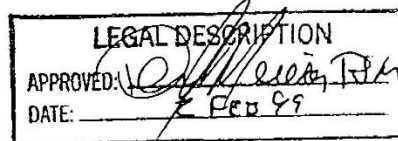


Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

Tract No. L1-100-008, South of County Road 832 (Keri Road)

Parcel of land in portions of Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25 and 26 in Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida.

Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Section 25, thence North 89°46'16" East along the South boundary line of said Section 25 a distance of 1406.50 feet; thence North 48°59'48" West a distance of 199.87 feet; thence South 80°25'17" West a distance of 803.28 feet; thence North 59°24'41" West a distance of 627.22 feet; thence North 73°29'26" West a distance of 255.78 feet; thence North 50°03'48" West a distance of 235.25 feet; thence North 12°10'47" East a distance of 463.37 feet; thence North 02°29'03" East a distance of 538.46 feet; thence North 01°40'28" West a distance of 1004.39 feet; thence North 27°26'09" West a distance of 419.77 feet; thence North 19°09'42" West a distance of 827.90 feet; thence North 25°37'06" West a distance of 1748.65 feet; thence North 38°17'20" West a distance of 687.36 feet; thence North 19°50'50" West a distance of 1654.83 feet; thence North 23°45'15" East a distance of 407.37 feet; thence North 58°32'25" East a distance of 313.82 feet; thence North 41°33'02" East a distance of 208.32 feet; thence North 14°41'41" East a distance of 606.90 feet; thence North 10°35'41" West a distance of 526.10 feet; thence North 70°50'31" West a distance of 812.11 feet; thence North 03°04'31" East a distance of 646.27 feet; thence North 45°09'56" East a distance of 890.59 feet; thence North 42°28'06" East a distance of 500.47 feet; thence North 25°39'48" East a distance of 1511.54 feet; thence North 29°34'18" West a distance of 798.00 feet; thence North 40°36'56" West a distance of 1175.21 feet; thence North 03°18'36" East a distance of 1776.89 feet; thence North 20°01'59" West a distance of 757.90 feet; thence North 26°17'58" West a distance of 1764.33 feet; thence North 28°59'45" West a distance of 637.51 feet; to an intersection with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence along said right-of-way line of County Road No. 832, North 63°08'31" West a distance of 6175.66 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 66°56'32" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 753.42 feet, through a central angle of 07°36'02"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 70°44'35" West a distance of 1028.75 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 71°54'05" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 461.31 feet, through a central angle of 02°19'00"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 73°03'35" West a distance of 1235.68 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave

Exhibit "A"
Page 3 of 5

Northeasterly, having a radius of 2914.79 feet, whose long chord bears North 66°47'34" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 637.60 feet, through a central angle of 12°32'00"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 60°31'34" West a distance of 1336.36 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°34'54" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 818.51 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 64°38'13" West a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5779.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 60°20'28" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 866.70 feet, through a central angle of 08°35'31"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 56°02'42" West a distance of 612.17 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5139.07 feet, whose long chord bears North 52°53'08" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 535.97 feet, through a central angle of 05°58'32"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 49°44'43" West a distance of 388.20 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 1117.96 feet, whose long chord bears North 63°13'34" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 526.59 feet, through a central angle of 26°59'17"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 76°38'17" West a distance of 588.97 feet to an intersection with the North-South quarter line of said Section 5; thence South 00°23'32" East along the said North-South quarter line of said Section 5 a distance of 4802.11 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 5; thence along the North-South quarter line of said Section 8, South 00°31'05" East a distance of 5311.55 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 8; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 8, North 89°39'47" East a distance of 2664.81 feet to the Southeast corner of said Section 8; thence along the West boundary line of said Section 16, South 00°19'34" East a distance of 5315.19 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 16; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 16, South 89°57'59" East a distance of 5320.22 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 22; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 22, North 89°45'44" East a distance of 2661.44 feet to the North quarter corner of said Section 22; thence along the North-South quarter line of said Section 22, South 00°25'52" East a distance of 5316.66 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 22; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 22, North 89°49'58" East a distance of 2665.66 feet to the Southeast corner of said Section 22;

Exhibit "A"
Page 4 of 5

thence along the West boundary line of said Section 26, South 0°25'13" East a distance of 5319.95 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 26; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 26, North 89°59'32" East a distance of 5323.52 feet to the said Southwest corner of said Section 25 and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 5269.06 acres, more or less.

LESS and EXCEPT the following parcel:

Parcel of land in Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence South 0°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 2064.82 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East a distance of 1021.92 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description, this point being on the South boundary line of the right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence continuing South 64°38'13" East along said right-of-way line a distance of 499.88 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 818.51 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said right-of-way line a distance of 91.46 feet; thence South 26°51'20" West a distance of, 608.35 feet; thence North 63°08'40" West a distance of 1409.37 feet; thence North 26°51'20" East a distance of 607.55 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

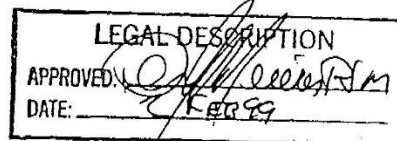
Containing 20.00 acres, more or less.

Containing a net area (5269.06 - 20.00) equal to 5249.06 acres.

OKA\Alico to TILF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-008-premises-South Parcel.lgl
October 12, 1998
Revised: January 20, 1999

Exhibit "A"
Page 5 of 5



Schedule 1-A
Tract No. L1-100-020

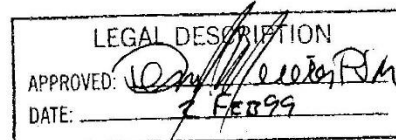
A strip of land 50.00 feet wide (as measured at right angles) over and across Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, and over and across a portion of Section 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said Strip lying West of, parallel, adjacent and contiguous to the following described line:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence South 00°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to an intersection with a non-tangent and non-radial curve on the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road), from which the radius bears North 29°50'11" East, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, a central angle of 04°28'24" and a long chord that bears South 62°24'02" East; thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 654.86 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence North 23°27'40" East a distance of 89.19 feet; thence North 09°40'35" East a distance of 93.64 feet; thence North 05°05'04" East a distance of 555.08 feet; thence North 18°28'53" East a distance of 314.81 feet; thence North 31°24'08" East a distance of 178.02 feet; thence North 49°25'02" East a distance of 773.87 feet; thence North 56°55'25" East a distance of 631.01 feet; thence North 59°47'56" East a distance of 988.65 feet; thence North 46°42'12" East a distance of 203.58 feet; thence North 38°24'49" East a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence North 46°20'38" East a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence North 39°42'57" East a distance of 147.92 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 1402.46 feet to the Point of Terminus of this description.

Sidelines to be shortened or extended so as to form a continuous strip that begins on the said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 and ends on a line that passes through the Point of Terminus on a bearing of South 87°50'05" East.

OKA\Sellers's (Alico) Reserved Access Easement over L1-100-008

H:\data\oka\100-020.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999



Schedule 1-B
Tract No. L1-100-007

A 30.00 foot wide strip of land lying 15.00 feet on each side of the center line of an existing dirt road locally known as Wild Cow Grade, over and across portions of Sections 11, 14, 23, 25 and 26, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said strip of land beginning at a point on the South boundary line of said Section 25 at a distance of approximately 1400 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 25; thence following said center line of the dirt road going first Westerly and then Northerly to the South boundary of the Right-of-Way line of County Road No. 832 (Kerl Road), this intersection located approximately 2200 feet (as measured along the center line of said County Road No. 832) East of the West boundary line of said Section 11. Said road is located to the West of the Easterly boundary of that portion of Tract No. L1-100-008, as described herein, lying South of County Road No. 832 and generally following said Easterly boundary of said Tract No. L1-100-008 from the South boundary line of said Section 25 to the said South boundary of the Right-of-Way of County Road No. 832.

OKA\Seller's (Alico) Reserved Access Esmt.

H:\data\oka\100-007.lgl
October 7, 1998
Revised: January 20, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	2 Feb 99

FL 9902194 B 581 P 450
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Schedule 2-A
Seller's Benefited Property

Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

Oka\Appurtenant Lands for Twin Mills Rd. (L1-100-008)

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-A-Twin Mills Rd.

September 17, 1998

Revised: October 9, 1998

FL 9902194 B 581 P 451
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

**Schedule 2-B
Seller's Benefited Property**

Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, and Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Wild Cow Grade

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-B-wild cow grade
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

2435995 OR: 2514 PG: 0200

RECORDED in OFFICIAL RECORDS of COLLIER COUNTY, FL
02/18/99 at 09:23AM DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK

REC FEE 42.00
DOC-.70 .70

Retn:
HARRY O HENDRY
P O BOX 1509
FT MYERS FL 33902

42.00
9928.10 stamps
10.00 cert. copy

This instrument prepared by and return to:
Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

FL 9902192 B 581 P 421
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

DOC STAMPS 9,928.10
INTANG TAX .00

Tax Folio # 1-24-43-29-1700-0001.0000
Project: Okaloacoochee Slough *to Henry*
Tract: 100-013, 014, 015

CHRISTINE PRATT CLERK
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

FILED AND RECORDED
DT 02/17/1999 TIME 16:27

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 16th day of February, 1999, between **ALICO, INC.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, the Grantor, whose mailing address is 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, Florida 33935, Hendry County, in consideration of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration, received from **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, the Grantee, whose mailing address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, Leon County, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, the real property located in Hendry and ~~Collier~~ Counties, State of Florida, described as:

This Access Easement shall at no time be obstructed by any object which would prohibit access, ingress or egress to and from Grantor's Benefited Parcel, or in any manner, interfere with the purposes of this Access Easement, except that Grantee may install gates within the Easement Parcel at locations determined by Grantee provided Grantee provides Grantor access through such gates. Grantor shall have the right, but not the obligation, to improve the Easement Parcel as reasonably determined by Grantor in order to insure the full enjoyment of the rights reserved by this Access Easement. In addition, Grantor shall be responsible for promptly repairing at Grantor's sole cost and expense any damage to the Easement Parcel caused by Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, reasonable wear and tear excepted. In the event the Grantee routinely maintains the Easement Parcel and Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns causes an appreciable increase in maintenance of the Easement Parcel, Grantor agrees to undertake the pro-rated share of the appreciable increase in maintenance. Grantee shall have no obligation with respect to maintenance of the Easement Parcel.

By reservation hereof, Grantor expressly assumes all risk in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or the use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns and Grantor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Grantee from and against all loss, damage, and liability incurred by Grantee (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs) which arises in connection with Grantor's use of the Easement Parcel and/or use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor's officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns.

This Access Easement shall run with the land and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantee, their successors and assigns and all subsequent owners of the Easement Parcel and the Grantor's Benefited Parcel.

TOGETHER with all the tenements hereditament sand appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple forever.

AND the Grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whosever; subject to restrictions, easements and reservations of record, if any.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Grantor has caused these presents to be executed in it name and it corporate seal to be affixed hereto, by its proper officer thereunto duly authorized, the day and year first above written.

OR: 2514 PG: 0201

Signed and sealed in the presence of:

Donna H. Respress
Witness: Donna H. Respress

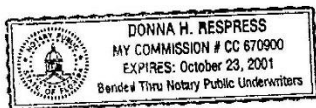
W.C. Barrow, Jr.
Witness: W.C. Barrow, Jr.

ALICO, INC., a Florida corporation

By: Ben Hill Griffin, III
Ben Hill Griffin, III, Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Polk

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of February 1999 by Ben Hill Griffin, III, as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ALICO, INC., a Florida Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally known to me or he has produced as identification.



Donna H. Respress
Notary Public

Donna H. Respress
Print

My Commission Expires October 23, 2001

OR: 2514 PG: 0202

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 424
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-013

That Portion of the South half of Section 24, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

Containing 252.74 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

That Portion of the North half of Section 25, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

Containing 267.54 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

That Portion of the South half of Section 25, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

LESS

The south 1009.89 feet thereof.

Containing 173.47 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The South half of Section 30, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 312.36 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The Northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 156.01 Acres.

OR: 2514 PG: 0203

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 4

- 1 -

FL 9902192 B 581 P 425
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

TOGETHER WITH:

The Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 162.30 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The Southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 162.17 Acres.

All in Hendry County, Florida

Containing a total of 1486.59 acres.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 4

OR: 2514 PG: 0204

OKA\Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-013-Exhibit A.lgl

October 6, 1998

Revised: January 14, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i>
DATE: <i>7 Feb 99</i>

- 2 -

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 426
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-014

A parcel of land in Township 46 South, Range 30 East, lying in Collier County, Florida, described as follows:

Beginning at the South quarter corner of Section 33, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, thence Westerly along the Township line common to Township 45 South and Township 46 South, for the following three courses, South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 2,659.90 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 33; thence continuing South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 2,659.90 feet to the South quarter corner of Section 32; thence continuing South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 0°01'28" East, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence North 89°58'32" East, a distance of 520.13 feet to an existing fence leading Southerly; thence along said fence South 02°46'32" West, a distance of 1,911.91 feet; thence continuing along said fence South 65°10'51" West, a distance of 870.39 feet; thence continuing along said fence and its extension South 08°08'25" East, a distance of 1,135.13 feet; thence North 89°41'57" West, a distance of 593.67 feet; thence South 0°18'03" West, a distance of 1,951.97 feet; thence South 89°41'57" East, a distance of 11,945.94 feet; thence North 02°23'33" East, a distance of 2,693.75 feet; thence North 87°25'28" West, a distance of 2,810.00 feet; thence North 89°53'14" West, a distance of 2,667.50 feet; thence North 08°47'26" West, a distance of 2,670.77 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 1073.41 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 3 of 4

OR: 2514 PG: 0205

OKA\Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-014-Exhibit A.lgl
October 6, 1998

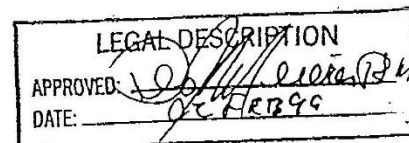


Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 427
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Tract No. L1-100-015

A 130 foot wide strip of land over and across portions of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24 and 25 in Township 45 South, Range 29 East, situated in the same physical location as the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad right-of-way (now abandoned), as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420 to 428, Hendry County Public Records.

Said strip located South of the "Woodyard" parcel as described below and extending South to a line located 1009.89 feet North of and parallel with the South line of said Section 25.

All in Hendry County, Florida.

Containing 62.03 acres, more or less.

"Woodyard" Parcel

Parcel of land in portion of Section 1, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1 with the West right-of-way line of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 2300 feet; thence, Easterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said West right-of-way line, a distance of 400 feet; thence, Northerly, along a line 400 feet East of and parallel with said West right-of-way line, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point on a line lying 1300 feet Southerly of and parallel with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road 832; thence, Northeasterly, along said line, a distance of 600 feet; thence, Northwesterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 1300 feet to a point on said Southerly right-of-way line; thence, Southwesterly, along said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to a point on said West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

OR: 2514 PG: 0206

Exhibit "A"
Page 4 of 4

OKA\ Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-015-Exhibit A.lgl
September 17, 1998

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	2 FEB 99

Schedule 1-C
Tract No. L1-100-018

FL 9902192 B 581 P 428
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

A 130 foot wide strip of land over and across portions of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24 and 25 in Township 45 South, Range 29 East, situated in the same physical location as the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad right-of-way (now abandoned), as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420 to 428, Hendry County Public Records.

Said strip located South of the "Woodyard" parcel as described below and extending South to a line located 1009.89 feet North of and parallel with the South line of said Section 25.

All in Hendry County, Florida.

Containing 62.03 acres, more or less.

"Woodyard" Parcel

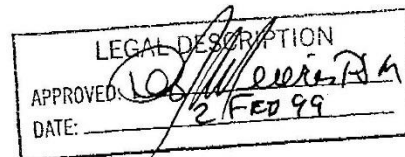
Parcel of land in portion of Section 1, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1 with the West right-of-way line of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 2300 feet; thence, Easterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said West right-of-way line, a distance of 400 feet; thence, Northerly, along a line 400 feet East of and parallel with said West right-of-way line, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point on a line lying 1300 feet Southerly of and parallel with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road 832; thence, Northeasterly, along said line, a distance of 600 feet; thence, Northwesterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 1300 feet to a point on said Southerly right-of-way line; thence, Southwesterly, along said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to a point on said West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

OR: 2514 PG: 0207

OKA\Seller's (Alico) Reserved Access Esmt

H:\data\oka\100-018.lgl
September 17, 1998



Schedule 2-C
Seller's Benefited Property

FL 9902192 B 581 P 429
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, more specifically described in Official Records, Book 575, Page 1303, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida and those portions of Sections 25 and 36 lying Easterly of the West right of way line of the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad right of way (now abandoned) as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420-428, Hendry County Public Records, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, and Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

TOGETHER WITH:

Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Township 46 South, Range 29 East and Sections 5 through 10, inclusive, 16, and 21, Township 46 South, Range 30 East, all in Collier County, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA
HENDRY COUNTY
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE
FOREGOING 9 PAGES IS A TRUE
AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
CHRISTINE PRATT, CLERK
BY Christine Pratt D.C.
DATE 2-17-99

*** OR: 2514 PG: 0208 ***

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Railroad Grade

H:\data\oka\Appurtenant Lands.lgl
October 7, 1998
Revised: February 3, 1999

SFWMD/161/"name"

Memorandum

To: Kathy Miklus, Title & Land Records Section
From: Patty Byrd, Bureau of Land Acquisition
Date: 08/03/99
Re: South Florida Water Management District/161 Acquisitions

Medalist Golf Company, Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project, Tracts 100-001 and 018

- Special Warranty Deed
- Trustee's Deed
- Easement Agreement (OR Book 1377, Page 2451)
- Easement Agreement (OR Book 1377, Page 2478, re-recorded OR Book 1386, Page 1629)

- Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Easements and Restrictions
- Title Policy

Miller, North Fork St. Lucie River Project, Tract 100-017

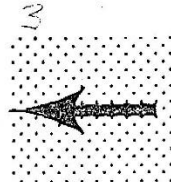
- Warranty Deed
- Title Policy

Alico, Inc., Okaloacoochee Slough Project, Tracts 100-018 and 012 through 015

- Warranty Deed, Tract 100-008
- Warranty Deed, Tracts 100-013 through 015
- Warranty Deed, Tract 100-012
- Title Policy

Received by: K. Miklus
Title and Land Records Section

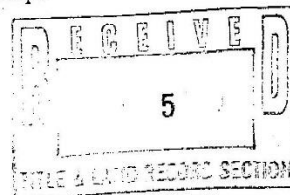
Date: 8-5-99



SIGN
HERE

* Please return a signed copy of memo as acknowledgment of receipt.

cc: BPT
C/c





South Florida Water Management District

LAN 06-02
Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
Tracts: 100-008 and 012/015

July 13, 1999

Robert Hicks
Operations and Management Consultant
Bureau of Land Acquisitions
Division of State Lands
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

BOT is the grantee!

Dear Mr. Hicks:

**Subject: Original Closing Documents for 161 Acquisition – Alico, Inc.,
Okaloacoochee Slough Project, Tracts 100-018 and 012 through 015**

Enclosed are the original closing documents for subject acquisition, as follows:

- ◆ Warranty Deed – Tract 100-008
- ◆ Warranty Deed – Tracts 100-013 through 015
- ◆ Warranty Deed – Tract 100-012
- ◆ Title Policy

If any further information is needed, please contact me at (561) 682-6694 (suncom 229-6694).

Sincerely,

Marcy Z. Wilson
Title Examiner Supervisor
Real Estate Division

MZW/sb
Enclosures

Governing Board:
Michael Collins, *Chairman*
Michael D. Minton, *Vice Chairman*
Mitchell W. Berger

Vera M. Carter
Gerardo B. Fernandez
Patrick J. Gleason

Nicolas J. Gutierrez, Jr.
Harkley R. Thornton
Trudi K. Williams

Frank R. Finch, P.E., *Executive Director*
Michael Slayton, *Deputy Executive Director*
Trevor Campbell, *Deputy Executive Director*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

OWNER'S TITLE INSURANCE POLICY

Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

SUBJECT TO THE EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE, THE EXCEPTIONS FROM COVERAGE CONTAINED IN SCHEDULE B AND THE CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS, ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND, INC., a Florida corporation, herein called The Fund, insures, as of Date of Policy shown in Schedule A, against loss or damage, not exceeding the Amount of Insurance stated in Schedule A, sustained or incurred by the insured by reason of:

1. Title to the estate or interest described in Schedule A being vested other than as stated therein;
2. Any defect in or lien or encumbrance on the title;
3. Unmarketability of the title;
4. Lack of a right of access to and from the land.

The Fund will also pay the costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in defense of the title, as insured, but only to the extent provided in the Conditions and Stipulations.

In Witness Whereof, ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND, INC. has caused this policy to be signed and sealed as of Date of Policy shown in Schedule A, the policy to become valid when countersigned by an authorized signatory.



Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc.

By

Charles J. Kovaleski
President

S E R I A L

OPM - 1594062

FUND OWNER'S FORM

Tract LI-100-012

Schedule A

Policy No.: 1594062

Effective Date: February 17, 1999
4:27 P.M.

Agent's File Reference: 98315

Amount of Insurance: \$ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 2,743,705.00

1. Name of Insured:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE
OF FLORIDA

2. The estate or interest in the land described herein and which is covered by this policy is a fee simple (if other, specify same) and is at the effective date hereof vested in the named insured as shown by instrument recorded in Official Records Book 581, Page 430, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

3. The land referred to in this policy is described as follows:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

I, the undersigned agent, hereby certify that

- the transaction insured herein is governed by RESPA,
- if Yes to the above, I have performed all "core title agent services."

☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☐ NoHARRY O. HENDRY - CO-AGENT
THOMAS B. HART - CO-AGENT6565
4797

ISSUING AGENT - ATTORNEY OR FIRM OF ATTORNEYS

AGENT NO.

AGENT'S SIGNATURE

P.O. Box 1509

Fort Myers, Florida 33902

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP

FUND Form OPM-SCH. A (Rev. 12/92) [486]

FUND OWNER'S FORM

Schedule B

Policy No.: 1594062

This policy does not insure against loss or damage by reason of the following exceptions:

1. Taxes for the year of the effective date of this policy and taxes or special assessments which are not shown as existing liens by the public records.
2. Rights or claims of parties in possession not shown by the public records.
3. Encroachments, overlaps, boundary line disputes, and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the premises.
4. Easements or claims of easements not shown by the public records.
5. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material heretofore or hereafter furnished, imposed by law and not shown by the public records.
6. Any adverse ownership claim by the State of Florida by right of sovereignty to any portion of the lands insured hereunder, including submerged, filled and artificially exposed lands, and lands accreted to such lands.

Standard Exceptions 1-6 above are hereby deleted.

7. Final Judgment - Incorporation - Devil's Garden Water Control District recorded in O.R. Book 135, page 209, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

This Exception will be deleted upon dissolution of the Devil's Garden Water Control District by the Legislature.

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 433
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 434
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

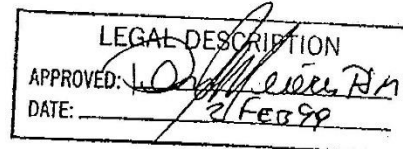


Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902193 B 581 P 435
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-012

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continue South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North 17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 2

FL 9902193 B 581 P 436
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

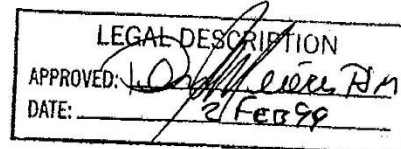
09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road; thence along said right-of-way line South 88°43'17" West a distance of 903.43 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°50'35" West a distance of 5303.03 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line South 88°51'12" West a distance of 5299.78 feet; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 89°19'25" West a distance of 3387.60 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 2923.45 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 2

OKA\Alico to TIIF (Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.)

H:\data\oka\100-012-premises-exhibit A.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999



Schedule 1
Tract No. L1-100-019

A strip of land 50.00 feet wide (as measured at right angles) over and across Sections 23, 26, 27 and a portion of Section 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said Strip lying West of, parallel, adjacent and contiguous to the following described line:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida; thence South 00°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to an intersection with a non-tangent and non-radial curve on the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road), from which the radius bears North 29°50'11" East, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, a central angle of 04°28'24" and a long chord that bears South 62°24'02" East; thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 654.86 feet; thence North 23°27'40" East a distance of 89.19 feet; thence North 09°40'35" East a distance of 93.64 feet; thence North 05°05'04" East a distance of 555.08 feet; thence North 18°28'53" East a distance of 314.81 feet; thence North 31°24'08" East a distance of 178.02 feet; thence North 49°25'02" East a distance of 773.87 feet; thence North 56°55'25" East a distance of 631.01 feet; thence North 59°47'56" East a distance of 988.65 feet; thence North 46°42'12" East a distance of 203.58 feet; thence North 38°24'49" East a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence North 46°20'38" East a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence North 39°42'57" East a distance of 147.92 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 1402.46 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continuing North 33°31'12" East a distance of 56.70 feet; thence North 23°37'14" East a distance of 161.33 feet; thence North 10°43'53" East a distance of 478.28 feet; thence North 10°07'34" East a distance of 776.39 feet; thence North 12°06'03" East a distance of 196.98 feet; thence North 30°08'54" East a distance of 141.35 feet; thence North 40°50'16" East a distance of 462.41 feet; thence North 34°33'51" East a distance of 187.35 feet; thence North 17°30'23" East a distance of 180.28 feet; thence North 12°54'56" East a distance of 550.45 feet; thence North 25°29'25" East a distance of 161.11 feet; thence North 29°47'37" East a distance of 688.86 feet; thence North 29°26'56" East a distance of 1377.24 feet; thence North 36°53'55" East a distance of 131.80 feet; thence North 50°41'42" East a distance of 154.16 feet; thence North 61°52'25" East a distance of 1329.13 feet; thence North 52°58'38" East a distance of 160.00 feet; thence North 41°07'41" East a distance of 201.35 feet; thence North 26°07'56" East a distance of 223.43 feet; thence North 19°00'58" East a distance of 1230.11 feet; thence North 04°51'29" East a distance of 154.83 feet; thence North 08°00'22" West a distance of 174.16 feet; thence North

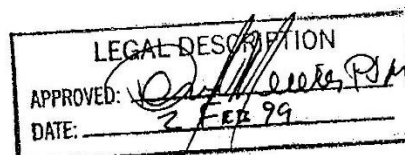
17°21'27" West a distance of 282.71 feet; thence North 14°18'31" West a distance of 170.41 feet; thence North 09°11'38" West a distance of 1105.01 feet; thence North 09°14'11" West a distance of 1273.11 feet; thence North 05°54'47" West a distance of 125.23 feet; thence North 04°15'27" East a distance of 130.43 feet; thence North 10°33'25" East a distance of 788.75 feet; thence North 03°00'23" East a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 02°44'04" West a distance of 678.07 feet; thence North 09°15'57" West a distance of 145.29 feet; thence North 28°00'57" West a distance of 122.67 feet; thence North 36°43'12" West a distance of 508.38 feet; thence North 02°26'31" West a distance of 119.08 feet to an intersection with the said Southern right-of-way line of Sears Road and the Point of Terminus of this description; this last point located 903.43 feet East of the West boundary line of said Section 23.

Sidelines to be shortened or extended so as to form a continuous strip that begins on a line that passes through the POINT OF BEGINNING on a bearing of South 87°50'05" East and ends on the said Southerly right-of-way line of Sears Road.

OKA\Sellers's (Alico) Reserved Access Easement over L1-100-012

H:\data\oka\100-019.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999

Schedule "1"
Page 2 of 2



FL 9902193 B 581 P 439
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Schedule 2
Seller's Benefited Property

Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Twin Mills Rd. (L1-100-012)

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-Twin Mills Rd.
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

Fund may pursue any litigation to final determination by a court of competent jurisdiction and expressly reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to appeal from any adverse judgment or order.

(d) In all cases where this policy permits or requires The Fund to prosecute or provide for the defense of any action or proceeding, the insured shall secure to The Fund the right to so prosecute or provide defense in the action or proceeding, and all appeals therein, and permit The Fund to use, at its option, the name of the insured for this purpose. Whenever requested by The Fund, the insured, at The Fund's expense, shall give The Fund all reasonable aid (i) in any action or proceeding, securing evidence, obtaining witnesses, prosecuting or defending the action or proceeding, or effecting settlement, and (ii) in any other lawful act which in the opinion of The Fund may be necessary or desirable to establish the title to the estate or interest as insured. If The Fund is prejudiced by the failure of the insured to furnish the required cooperation, The Fund's obligations to the insured under the policy shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, with regard to the matter or matters requiring such cooperation.

5. Proof of Loss or Damage

In addition to and after the notices required under Section 3 of these Conditions and Stipulations have been provided The Fund, a proof of loss or damage signed and sworn to by the insured claimant shall be furnished to The Fund within 90 days after the insured claimant shall ascertain the facts giving rise to the loss or damage. The proof of loss or damage shall describe the defect in, or lien or encumbrance on the title, or other matter insured against by this policy which constitutes the basis of loss or damage and shall state, to the extent possible, the basis of calculating the amount of the loss or damage. If The Fund is prejudiced by the failure of the insured claimant to provide the required proof of loss or damage, The Fund's obligations to the insured under the policy shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, with regard to the matter or matters requiring such proof of loss or damage. In addition, the insured claimant may reasonably be required to submit to examination under oath by any authorized representative of The Fund and shall produce for examination, inspection and copying, at such reasonable times and places as may be designated by any authorized representative of The Fund, all records, books, ledgers, checks, correspondence and memoranda, whether bearing a date before or after Date of policy, which reasonably pertain to the loss or damage. Further, if requested by any authorized representative of The Fund, the insured claimant shall grant its permission, in writing, for any authorized representative of The Fund to examine, inspect and copy all records, books, ledgers, checks, correspondence and memoranda in the custody or control of a third party, which reasonably pertain to the loss or damage. All information designated as confidential by the insured claimant provided to The Fund pursuant to this Section shall not be disclosed to others unless, in the reasonable judgment of The Fund, it is necessary in the administration of the claim. Failure of the insured claimant to submit for examination under oath, produce other reasonably requested information or grant permission to secure reasonably necessary information from third parties as required in this paragraph shall terminate any liability of The Fund under this policy as to that claim.

6. Options To Pay or Otherwise Settle Claims; Termination of Liability

In case of a claim under this policy, The Fund shall have the following additional options:

(a) To Pay or Tender Payment of the Amount of Insurance.

To pay or tender payment of the amount of insurance under this policy together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by the insured claimant, which were authorized by The Fund, up to the time of payment or tender of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay.

Upon the exercise by The Fund of this option, all liability and obligations to the insured under this policy, other than to make the payment required, shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, and the policy shall be surrendered to The Fund for cancellation.

(b) To Pay or Otherwise Settle With Parties Other than the Insured or With the Insured Claimant.

(i) to pay or otherwise settle with other parties for or in the name of an insured claimant any claim insured against under this policy, together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred

by the insured claimant which were authorized by The Fund up to the time of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay; or

(ii) to pay or otherwise settle with the insured claimant the loss or damage provided for under this policy, together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by the insured claimant which were authorized by The Fund up to the time of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay.

Upon the exercise by The Fund of either of the options provided for in paragraphs (b) (i) or (ii), The Fund's obligations to the insured under this policy for the claimed loss or damage, other than the payments required to be made, shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute or continue any litigation.

7. Determination, Extent of Liability and Coinsurance

This policy is a contract of indemnity against actual monetary loss or damage sustained or incurred by the insured claimant who has suffered loss or damage by reason of matters insured against by this policy and only to the extent herein described.

(a) The liability of The Fund under this policy shall not exceed the least of:

(i) the Amount of Insurance stated in Schedule A; or,

(ii) the difference between the value of the insured estate or interest as insured and the value of the insured estate or interest subject to the defect, lien or encumbrance insured against by this policy.

(b) (This paragraph dealing with Coinsurance was removed from Florida policies.)

(c) The Fund will pay only those costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in accordance with Section 4 of these Conditions and Stipulations

8. Apportionment

If the land described in Schedule A consists of two or more parcels which are not used as a single site, and a loss is established affecting one or more of the parcels but not all, the loss shall be computed and settled on a pro rata basis as if the amount of insurance under this policy was divided pro rata as to the value on Date of Policy of each separate parcel to the whole, exclusive of any improvements made subsequent to Date of Policy, unless a liability or value has otherwise been agreed upon as to each parcel by The Fund and the insured at the time of the issuance of this policy and shown by an express statement or by an endorsement attached to this policy.

9. Limitation of Liability

(a) If The Fund establishes the title, or removes the alleged defect, lien or encumbrance, or cures the lack of a right of access to or from the land, or cures the claim of unmarketability of title, all as insured, in a reasonably diligent manner by any method, including litigation and the completion of any appeals therefrom, it shall have fully performed its obligations with respect to that matter and shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused thereby.

(b) In the event of any litigation, including litigation by The Fund or with The Fund's consent, The Fund shall have no liability for loss or damage until there has been a final determination by a court of competent jurisdiction, and disposition of all appeals therefrom, adverse to the title as insured.

(c) The Fund shall not be liable for loss or damage to any insured for liability voluntarily assumed by the insured in settling any claim or suit without the prior written consent of The Fund.

10. Reduction of Insurance; Reduction or Termination of Liability

All payments under this policy, except payments made for costs, attorneys' fees and expenses, shall reduce the amount of the insurance pro tanto.

11. Liability Noncumulative

It is expressly understood that the amount of insurance under this policy shall be reduced by any amount The Fund may pay under any policy insuring a mortgage to which exception is taken in Schedule B or to which the insured has agreed, assumed, or taken subject, or which is hereafter executed by an insured and which is a charge or lien on the estate or interest described or referred to in Schedule A, and the amount so paid shall be deemed a payment under this policy to the insured owner.

12. Payment of Loss

(a) No payment shall be made without producing this policy for endorsement of the payment unless the policy has been lost or destroyed, in which case proof of loss or destruction shall be furnished to the satisfaction of The Fund.

(b) When liability and the extent of loss or damage has been definitely fixed in accordance with these Conditions and Stipulations,

OWNER'S TITLE INSURANCE POLICY

Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

SUBJECT TO THE EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE, THE EXCEPTIONS FROM COVERAGE CONTAINED IN SCHEDULE B AND THE CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS, ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND, INC., a Florida corporation, herein called The Fund, insures, as of Date of Policy shown in Schedule A, against loss or damage, not exceeding the Amount of Insurance stated in Schedule A, sustained or incurred by the insured by reason of:

1. Title to the estate or interest described in Schedule A being vested other than as stated therein;
2. Any defect in or lien or encumbrance on the title;
3. Unmarketability of the title;
4. Lack of a right of access to and from the land.

The Fund will also pay the costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in defense of the title, as insured, but only to the extent provided in the Conditions and Stipulations.

In Witness Whereof, ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND, INC. has caused this policy to be signed and sealed as of Date of Policy shown in Schedule A, the policy to become valid when countersigned by an authorized signatory.



Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc.

By

Charles J. Kovalski
President

S E R I A L

OPM - 1594061

FUND OWNER'S FORM

Schedule A

Policy No.: 1594061

Effective Date: February 17, 1999 Agent's File Reference: 98315
4:27 P.M.

Amount of Insurance: \$ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 5,872,227.00

1. Name of Insured:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE
OF FLORIDA

2. The estate or interest in the land described herein and which is covered by this policy is a fee simple (if other, specify same) and is at the effective date hereof vested in the named insured as shown by instrument recorded in Official Records Book 581, Page 440-451, and, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. 421-429
And recorded in Collier County, Florida in Official Records Book 2514, Page 200, Public Records of Collier County, Florida.

3. The land referred to in this policy is described as follows:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

I, the undersigned agent, hereby certify that

- the transaction insured herein is governed by RESPA,
- if Yes to the above, I have performed all "core title agent services."

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Yes ☒ No

HARRY O. HENDRY - CO-AGENT

6565

THOMAS B. HART - CO-AGENT

4797

ISSUING AGENT - ATTORNEY OR FIRM OF ATTORNEYS

AGENT NO.

AGENT'S SIGNATURE

P.O. Box 1509

MAILING ADDRESS

Fort Myers, Florida 33902

CITY

ZIP

FUND Form OPM-SCH. A (Rev. 12/92) [486]

FUND OWNER'S FORM

Schedule B

Policy No.: 1594061

This policy does not insure against loss or damage by reason of the following exceptions:

1. Taxes for the year of the effective date of this policy and taxes or special assessments which are not shown as existing liens by the public records.
2. Rights or claims of parties in possession not shown by the public records.
3. Encroachments, overlaps, boundary line disputes, and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the premises.
4. Easements or claims of easements not shown by the public records.
5. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material heretofore or hereafter furnished, imposed by law and not shown by the public records.
6. Any adverse ownership claim by the State of Florida by right of sovereignty to any portion of the lands insured hereunder, including submerged, filled and artificially exposed lands, and lands accreted to such lands.

Standard Exceptions 1-6 above are hereby deleted.

AS TO COLLIER COUNTY:

7. Oil, Gas and Mineral Rights as set forth in deed by Collier Corporation recorded in Deed Book 16, Page 89, Public Records of Collier County, Florida. No determination has been made as to the current record owner of the interest excepted herein.

AS TO HENDRY COUNTY:

8. Easement contained in instrument recorded March 1, 1982, OR Book 304, Page 470, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. (this is a 10 foot wide easement in Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, to Florida Power & Light Company.)
9. Easement contained in instrument recorded April 16, 1991, in OR Book 470, Page 353, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. (this is a 15 foot wide easement in Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, to Florida Power & Light Company.)
10. Reservations in favor of Board of Education of the State of Florida, as set forth in Deed recorded in Deed Book 27, Page 2, Public Records of Lee County, Florida; as amended by Deed recorded in OR Book 44, Page 546, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.
11. Easement between Alico, Inc. and Hendry County, a Florida Political Subdivision, contained in instrument recorded in OR Book 579, at Page 676, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. (This is a 130' easement along the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad right-of-way running north from County Road 830.)

FUND Form OPM-SCH. B (rev. 5/94) [486]

FUND CONTINUATION SHEET

(SCHEDULEB-II CONTINUED)

Commitment or Policy No.: OPM-1594061

12. Final Judgment - Incorporation - Devil's Garden Water Control District recorded in O.R. Book 135, page 209, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

This Exception will be deleted upon dissolution of the Devil's Garden Water Control District by the Legislature.

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902194 B 581 P 443
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-008, North of County Road 832 (Keri Road)

A parcel of land located in portions of Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East and in Sections 3 and 4 in Township 45 South, Range 30 East in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 1745.27 feet; thence South 00°14'30" West a distance of 50.00 feet to the South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence continuing South 00°14'30" West a distance of 3836.83 feet; thence South 89°47'14" East a distance of 3349.85 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 20 and 21; thence South 31°13'10" East a distance of 1565.02 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 21 and 28; thence South 32°19'45" East a distance of 1421.49 feet; thence South 27°44'17" East a distance of 4505.44 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 28 and 33; thence South 51°17'07" East a distance of 2279.99 feet to an intersection with the Section line between said Sections 33 and 34; thence South 41°31'25" East a distance of 1179.06 feet; thence South 80°19'30" East a distance of 1033.60 feet; thence South 87°50'05" East a distance of 863.62 feet; thence South 33°31'12" West a distance of 1402.46 feet; thence South 39°42'57" West a distance of 147.92 feet; thence South 46°20'38" West a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence South 38°24'49" West a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence South 46°42'12" West a distance of 203.58 feet; thence South 59°47'56" West a distance of 988.65 feet; thence South 56°55'25" West a distance of 631.01 feet; thence South 49°25'02" West a distance of 773.87 feet; thence South 31°24'08" West a distance of 178.02 feet; thence South 18°28'53" West a distance of 314.81 feet; thence South 05°05'04" West a distance of 555.08 feet; thence South 09°40'35" West a distance of 93.64 feet; thence South 23°27'40" West a distance of 89.19 feet to an intersection with the Northerly right-of-way of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence along said right-of-way of County Road No. 832, North 60°31'34" West a distance of 654.86 feet to the beginning of a curve, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°34'54" West; thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence continuing along said right-of-way of County Road No. 832, North 64°38'13" West a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°24'02" West, thence

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 5

Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet, through a central angle of 04°28'24" to an intersection with the West boundary line of said Section 4; thence non-tangent and non-radial to the aforementioned curve, North 00°25'16" West along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence North 01°01'49" West along the West boundary line of said Section 33 a distance of 5210.53 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 33; thence North 01°18'37" West along the West boundary line of said Section 28 a distance of 5211.06 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 28; thence North 89°38'26" West along the South boundary line of said Section 20 a distance of 5345.81 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 20; thence South 89°31'08" West along the South boundary line of said Section 19 a distance of 2663.96 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 19; thence North 00°54'56" East along the North-South quarter Section line of said Section 19 a distance of 5181.39 feet to an intersection with the South boundary line of the right-of-way of said Sears Road; thence North 89°25'57" East along said South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road, said line being parallel and 50.00 feet South of the North boundary line of said Section 19, a distance of 2867.18 feet; thence South 89°19'25" East along said South boundary line of the right-of-way of Sears Road, said line being parallel and 50.00 feet South of the North boundary line of said Section 20, a distance of 1745.27 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 1913.00 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 5

OKA\Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-008-Premises-North Parcel.lgl
October 12, 1998

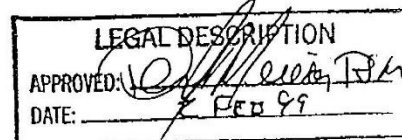


Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

Tract No. L1-100-008, South of County Road 832 (Keri Road)

Parcel of land in portions of Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25 and 26 in Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida.

Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Section 25, thence North 89°46'16" East along the South boundary line of said Section 25 a distance of 1406.50 feet; thence North 48°59'48" West a distance of 199.87 feet; thence South 80°25'17" West a distance of 803.28 feet; thence North 59°24'41" West a distance of 627.22 feet; thence North 73°29'26" West a distance of 255.78 feet; thence North 50°03'48" West a distance of 235.25 feet; thence North 12°10'47" East a distance of 463.37 feet; thence North 02°29'03" East a distance of 538.46 feet; thence North 01°40'28" West a distance of 1004.39 feet; thence North 27°26'09" West a distance of 419.77 feet; thence North 19°09'42" West a distance of 827.90 feet; thence North 25°37'06" West a distance of 1748.65 feet; thence North 38°17'20" West a distance of 687.36 feet; thence North 19°50'50" West a distance of 1654.83 feet; thence North 23°45'15" East a distance of 407.37 feet; thence North 58°32'25" East a distance of 313.82 feet; thence North 41°33'02" East a distance of 208.32 feet; thence North 14°41'41" East a distance of 606.90 feet; thence North 10°35'41" West a distance of 526.10 feet; thence North 70°50'31" West a distance of 812.11 feet; thence North 03°04'31" East a distance of 646.27 feet; thence North 45°09'56" East a distance of 890.59 feet; thence North 42°28'06" East a distance of 500.47 feet; thence North 25°39'48" East a distance of 1511.54 feet; thence North 29°34'18" West a distance of 798.00 feet; thence North 40°36'56" West a distance of 1175.21 feet; thence North 03°18'36" East a distance of 1776.89 feet; thence North 20°01'59" West a distance of 757.90 feet; thence North 26°17'58" West a distance of 1764.33 feet; thence North 28°59'45" West a distance of 637.51 feet; to an intersection with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence along said right-of-way line of County Road No. 832, North 63°08'31" West a distance of 6175.66 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 66°56'32" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 753.42 feet, through a central angle of 07°36'02"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 70°44'35" West a distance of 1028.75 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 71°54'05" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 461.31 feet, through a central angle of 02°19'00"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 73°03'35" West a distance of 1235.68 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave

Exhibit "A"
Page 3 of 5

Northeasterly, having a radius of 2914.79 feet, whose long chord bears North 66°47'34" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 637.60 feet, through a central angle of 12°32'00"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 60°31'34" West a distance of 1336.36 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears North 62°34'54" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 818.51 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 64°38'13" West a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5779.58 feet, whose long chord bears North 60°20'28" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 866.70 feet, through a central angle of 08°35'31"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 56°02'42" West a distance of 612.17 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Northeasterly, having a radius of 5139.07 feet, whose long chord bears North 52°53'08" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 535.97 feet, through a central angle of 05°58'32"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 49°44'43" West a distance of 388.20 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 1117.96 feet, whose long chord bears North 63°13'34" West, thence Northwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 526.59 feet, through a central angle of 26°59'17"; thence continuing along said right-of-way line North 76°38'17" West a distance of 588.97 feet to an intersection with the North-South quarter line of said Section 5; thence South 00°23'32" East along the said North-South quarter line of said Section 5 a distance of 4802.11 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 5; thence along the North-South quarter line of said Section 8, South 00°31'05" East a distance of 5311.55 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 8; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 8, North 89°39'47" East a distance of 2664.81 feet to the Southeast corner of said Section 8; thence along the West boundary line of said Section 16, South 00°19'34" East a distance of 5315.19 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 16; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 16, South 89°57'59" East a distance of 5320.22 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 22; thence along the North boundary line of said Section 22, North 89°45'44" East a distance of 2661.44 feet to the North quarter corner of said Section 22; thence along the North-South quarter line of said Section 22, South 00°25'52" East a distance of 5316.66 feet to the South quarter corner of said Section 22; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 22, North 89°49'58" East a distance of 2665.66 feet to the Southeast corner of said Section 22;

Exhibit "A"
Page 4 of 5

thence along the West boundary line of said Section 26, South 0°25'13" East a distance of 5319.95 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 26; thence along the South boundary line of said Section 26, North 89°59'32" East a distance of 5323.52 feet to the said Southwest corner of said Section 25 and the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

Containing 5269.06 acres, more or less.

LESS and EXCEPT the following parcel:

Parcel of land in Section 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, in Hendry County, Florida.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence South 0°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 2064.82 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East a distance of 1021.92 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description, this point being on the South boundary line of the right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road); thence continuing South 64°38'13" East along said right-of-way line a distance of 499.88 feet to the beginning of a curve of said right-of-way line, concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,409.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 818.51 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said right-of-way line a distance of 91.46 feet; thence South 26°51'20" West a distance of 608.35 feet; thence North 63°08'40" West a distance of 1409.37 feet; thence North 26°51'20" East a distance of 607.55 feet to the said POINT OF BEGINNING of this description.

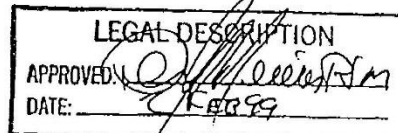
Containing 20.00 acres, more or less.

Containing a net area (5269.06 - 20.00) equal to 5249.06 acres.

OKA\Alico to TIF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-008-premises-South Parcel.lgl
October 12, 1998
Revised: January 20, 1999

Exhibit "A"
Page 5 of 5



Schedule 1-A
Tract No. L1-100-020

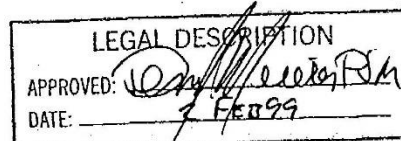
A strip of land 50.00 feet wide (as measured at right angles) over and across Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, and over and across a portion of Section 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said Strip lying West of, parallel, adjacent and contiguous to the following described line:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence South 00°25'16" East along the West boundary line of said Section 4 a distance of 1934.55 feet to an intersection with a non-tangent and non-radial curve on the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 (Keri Road), from which the radius bears North 29°50'11" East, having a radius of 5679.58 feet, a central angle of 04°28'24" and a long chord that bears South 62°24'02" East; thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 443.43 feet; thence South 64°38'13" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 1135.48 feet to the beginning of a curve concave Southwesterly, having a radius of 11,509.16 feet, whose long chord bears South 62°34'54" East, thence Southeasterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 825.69 feet, through a central angle of 04°06'38"; thence South 60°31'34" East continuing along said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 a distance of 654.86 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of this description; thence North 23°27'40" East a distance of 89.19 feet; thence North 09°40'35" East a distance of 93.64 feet; thence North 05°05'04" East a distance of 555.08 feet; thence North 18°28'53" East a distance of 314.81 feet; thence North 31°24'08" East a distance of 178.02 feet; thence North 49°25'02" East a distance of 773.87 feet; thence North 56°55'25" East a distance of 631.01 feet; thence North 59°47'56" East a distance of 988.65 feet; thence North 46°42'12" East a distance of 203.58 feet; thence North 38°24'49" East a distance of 1562.64 feet; thence North 46°20'38" East a distance of 1284.09 feet; thence North 39°42'57" East a distance of 147.92 feet; thence North 33°31'12" East a distance of 1402.46 feet to the Point of Terminus of this description.

Sidelines to be shortened or extended so as to form a continuous strip that begins on the said Northerly right-of-way line of County Road No. 832 and ends on a line that passes through the Point of Terminus on a bearing of South 87°50'05" East.

OKA\Sellers's (Alico) Reserved Access Easement over L1-100-008

H:\data\oka\100-020.lgl
October 13, 1998
Revised: February 2, 1999



Schedule 1-B
Tract No. L1-100-007

A 30.00 foot wide strip of land lying 15.00 feet on each side of the center line of an existing dirt road locally known as Wild Cow Grade, over and across portions of Sections 11, 14, 23, 25 and 26, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, Hendry County, Florida. Said strip of land beginning at a point on the South boundary line of said Section 25 at a distance of approximately 1400 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 25; thence following said center line of the dirt road going first Westerly and then Northerly to the South boundary of the Right-of-Way line of County Road No. 832 (Kerl Road), this intersection located approximately 2200 feet (as measured along the center line of said County Road No. 832) East of the West boundary line of said Section 11. Said road is located to the West of the Easterly boundary of that portion of Tract No. L1-100-008, as described herein, lying South of County Road No. 832 and generally following said Easterly boundary of said Tract No. L1-100-008 from the South boundary line of said Section 25 to the said South boundary of the Right-of-Way of County Road No. 832.

OKA\Seller's (Alico) Reserved Access Esmt.

H:\data\oka\100-007.lgl
October 7, 1998
Revised: January 20, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	2 Feb 99

FL 9902194 B 581 P 450
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

**Schedule 2-A
Seller's Benefited Property**

Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 3 and 4, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Twin Mills Rd. (L1-100-008)

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-A-Twin Mills Rd.
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

FL 9902194 B 581 P 451
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

Schedule 2-B
Seller's Benefited Property

Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, and
Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, all in Hendry County,
Florida.

OKA\Appurtenant Lands for Wild Cow Grade

H:\data\oka\schedule 2-B-wild cow grade
September 17, 1998
Revised: October 9, 1998

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 42
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-013

That Portion of the South half of Section 24, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida. (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

Containing 252.74 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

That Portion of the North half of Section 25, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

Containing 267.54 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

That Portion of the South half of Section 25, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, East of the Right-of-Way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad described in Official Record Book 345, pages 679 to 683, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida (This right-of-way is now abandoned).

LESS

The south 1009.89 feet thereof.

Containing 173.47 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The South half of Section 30, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 312.36 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The Northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 156.01 Acres.

Exhibit "A"
Page 1 of 4

FL 9902192 B 581 P 425
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

TOGETHER WITH:

The Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 162.30 Acres.

TOGETHER WITH:

The Southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 45 South, Range 30 East.

Containing 162.17 Acres.

All in Hendry County, Florida

Containing a total of 1486.59 acres.

Exhibit "A"
Page 2 of 4

OKA\Alico to TILF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-013-Exhibit A.lgl
October 6, 1998
Revised: January 14, 1999

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	3 Feb 99

- 2 -

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 426
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-014

A parcel of land in Township 46 South, Range 30 East, lying in Collier County, Florida, described as follows:

Beginning at the South quarter corner of Section 33, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, thence Westerly along the Township line common to Township 45 South and Township 46 South, for the following three courses, South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 2,659.90 feet to the Southwest corner of said Section 33; thence continuing South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 2,659.90 feet to the South quarter corner of Section 32; thence continuing South 89°58'32" West, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 0°01'28" East, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence North 89°58'32" East, a distance of 520.13 feet to an existing fence leading Southerly; thence along said fence South 02°46'32" West, a distance of 1,911.91 feet; thence continuing along said fence South 65°10'51" West, a distance of 870.39 feet; thence continuing along said fence and its extension South 08°08'25" East, a distance of 1,135.13 feet; thence North 89°41'57" West, a distance of 593.67 feet; thence South 0°18'03" West, a distance of 1,951.97 feet; thence South 89°41'57" East, a distance of 11,945.94 feet; thence North 02°23'33" East, a distance of 2,693.75 feet; thence North 87°25'28" West, a distance of 2,810.00 feet; thence North 89°53'14" West, a distance of 2,667.50 feet; thence North 08°47'26" West, a distance of 2,670.77 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 1073.41 acres, more or less.

Exhibit "A"
Page 3 of 4

OKA\Alico to THF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-014-Exhibit A.lgl
October 6, 1998

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
APPROVED:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	OCT 1998

Exhibit "A"
(Premises)

FL 9902192 B 581 P 427
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

Tract No. L1-100-015

A 130 foot wide strip of land over and across portions of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24 and 25 in Township 45 South, Range 29 East, situated in the same physical location as the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad right-of-way (now abandoned), as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420 to 428, Hendry County Public Records.

Said strip located South of the "Woodyard" parcel as described below and extending South to a line located 1009.89 feet North of and parallel with the South line of said Section 25.

All in Hendry County, Florida.

Containing 62.03 acres, more or less.

"Woodyard" Parcel

Parcel of land in portion of Section 1, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1 with the West right-of-way line of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 2300 feet; thence, Easterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said West right-of-way line, a distance of 400 feet; thence, Northerly, along a line 400 feet East of and parallel with said West right-of-way line, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point on a line lying 1300 feet Southerly of and parallel with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road 832; thence, Northeasterly, along said line, a distance of 600 feet; thence, Northwesterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 1300 feet to a point on said Southerly right-of-way line; thence, Southwesterly, along said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to a point on said West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Exhibit "A"
Page 4 of 4

OKA\ Alico to THF (Div. of Forestry)

H:\data\oka\100-015-Exhibit A.lgl
September 17, 1998

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i>
DATE: 2 FEB 99

Schedule 1-C
Tract No. L1-100-018

FL 9902192 B 581 P 428
CO: HENDRY ST: FL

A 130 foot wide strip of land over and across portions of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24 and 25 in Township 45 South, Range 29 East, situated in the same physical location as the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad right-of-way (now abandoned), as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420 to 428, Hendry County Public Records.

Said strip located South of the "Woodyard" parcel as described below and extending South to a line located 1009.89 feet North of and parallel with the South line of said Section 25.

All in Hendry County, Florida.

Containing 62.03 acres, more or less.

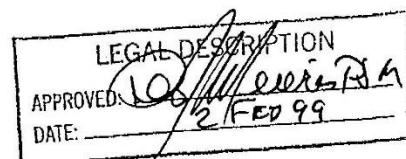
"Woodyard" Parcel

Parcel of land in portion of Section 1, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1 with the West right-of-way line of the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 2300 feet; thence, Easterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said West right-of-way line, a distance of 400 feet; thence, Northerly, along a line 400 feet East of and parallel with said West right-of-way line, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point on a line lying 1300 feet Southerly of and parallel with the Southerly right-of-way line of County Road 832; thence, Northeasterly, along said line, a distance of 600 feet; thence, Northwesterly, along a line lying perpendicular to said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 1300 feet to a point on said Southerly right-of-way line; thence, Southwesterly, along said Southerly right-of-way line, a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to a point on said West right-of-way line of said former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence, Southerly, along said West right-of-way line, a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

OKA\Seller's (Alico) Reserved Access Esmt

H:\data\oka\100-018.lgl
September 17, 1998



Seller's Benefited Property

Portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, more specifically described in Official Records, Book 575, Page 1303, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida and those portions of Sections 25 and 36 lying Easterly of the West right of way line of the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad right of way (now abandoned) as described in Official Records Book 445, Pages 420-428, Hendry County Public Records, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, and Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, all in Hendry County, Florida.

Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Township 46 South, Range 29 East and Sections 5 through 10, inclusive, 16, and 21, Township 46 South, Range 30 East, all in Collier County, Florida.

Revised: February 3, 1999

Fund may pursue any litigation to final determination by a court of competent jurisdiction and expressly reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to appeal from any adverse judgment or order.

(d) In all cases where this policy permits or requires The Fund to prosecute or provide for the defense of any action or proceeding, the insured shall secure to The Fund the right to so prosecute or provide defense in the action or proceeding, and all appeals therein, and permit The Fund to use, at its option, the name of the insured for this purpose. Whenever requested by The Fund, the insured, at The Fund's expense, shall give The Fund all reasonable aid (i) in any action or proceeding, securing evidence, obtaining witnesses, prosecuting or defending the action or proceeding, or effecting settlement, and (ii) in any other lawful act which in the opinion of The Fund may be necessary or desirable to establish the title to the estate or interest as insured. If The Fund is prejudiced by the failure of the insured to furnish the required cooperation, The Fund's obligations to the insured under the policy shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, with regard to the matter or matters requiring such cooperation.

5. Proof of Loss or Damage

In addition to and after the notices required under Section 3 of these Conditions and Stipulations have been provided The Fund, a proof of loss or damage signed and sworn to by the insured claimant shall be furnished to The Fund within 90 days after the insured claimant shall ascertain the facts giving rise to the loss or damage. The proof of loss or damage shall describe the defect in, or lien or encumbrance on the title, or other matter insured against by this policy which constitutes the basis of loss or damage and shall state, to the extent possible, the basis of calculating the amount of the loss or damage. If The Fund is prejudiced by the failure of the insured claimant to provide the required proof of loss or damage, The Fund's obligations to the insured under the policy shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, with regard to the matter or matters requiring such proof of loss or damage. In addition, the insured claimant may reasonably be required to submit to examination under oath by any authorized representative of The Fund and shall produce for examination, inspection and copying, at such reasonable times and places as may be designated by any authorized representative of The Fund, all records, books, ledgers, checks, correspondence and memoranda, whether bearing a date before or after Date of policy, which reasonably pertain to the loss or damage. Further, if requested by any authorized representative of The Fund, the insured claimant shall grant its permission, in writing, for any authorized representative of The Fund to examine, inspect and copy all records, books, ledgers, checks, correspondence and memoranda in the custody or control of a third party, which reasonably pertain to the loss or damage. All information designated as confidential by the insured claimant provided to The Fund pursuant to this Section shall not be disclosed to others unless, in the reasonable judgment of The Fund, it is necessary in the administration of the claim. Failure of the insured claimant to submit for examination under oath, produce other reasonably requested information or grant permission to secure reasonably necessary information from third parties as required in this paragraph shall terminate any liability of The Fund under this policy as to that claim.

6. Options To Pay or Otherwise Settle Claims; Termination of Liability

In case of a claim under this policy, The Fund shall have the following additional options:

(a) To Pay or Tender Payment of the Amount of Insurance.

To pay or tender payment of the amount of insurance under this policy together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by the insured claimant, which were authorized by The Fund, up to the time of payment or tender of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay.

Upon the exercise by The Fund of this option, all liability and obligations to the insured under this policy, other than to make the payment required, shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute, or continue any litigation, and the policy shall be surrendered to The Fund for cancellation.

(b) To Pay or Otherwise Settle With Parties Other than the Insured or With the Insured Claimant.

(i) to pay or otherwise settle with other parties for or in the name of an insured claimant any claim insured against under this policy, together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred

by the insured claimant which were authorized by The Fund up to the time of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay; or

(ii) to pay or otherwise settle with the insured claimant the loss or damage provided for under this policy, together with any costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by the insured claimant which were authorized by The Fund up to the time of payment and which The Fund is obligated to pay.

Upon the exercise by The Fund of either of the options provided for in paragraphs (b) (i) or (ii), The Fund's obligations to the insured under this policy for the claimed loss or damage, other than the payments required to be made, shall terminate, including any liability or obligation to defend, prosecute or continue any litigation.

7. Determination, Extent of Liability and Coinsurance

This policy is a contract of indemnity against actual monetary loss or damage sustained or incurred by the insured claimant who has suffered loss or damage by reason of matters insured against by this policy and only to the extent herein described.

(a) The liability of The Fund under this policy shall not exceed the least of:

(i) the Amount of Insurance stated in Schedule A; or,
(ii) the difference between the value of the insured estate or interest as insured and the value of the insured estate or interest subject to the defect, lien or encumbrance insured against by this policy.

(b) *(This paragraph dealing with Coinsurance was removed from Florida policies.)*

(c) The Fund will pay only those costs, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in accordance with Section 4 of these Conditions and Stipulations

8. Apportionment

If the land described in Schedule A consists of two or more parcels which are not used as a single site, and a loss is established affecting one or more of the parcels but not all, the loss shall be computed and settled on a pro rata basis as if the amount of insurance under this policy was divided pro rata as to the value on Date of Policy of each separate parcel to the whole, exclusive of any improvements made subsequent to Date of Policy, unless a liability or value has otherwise been agreed upon as to each parcel by The Fund and the insured at the time of the issuance of this policy and shown by an express statement or by an endorsement attached to this policy.

9. Limitation of Liability

(a) If The Fund establishes the title, or removes the alleged defect, lien or encumbrance, or cures the lack of a right of access to or from the land, or cures the claim of unmarketability of title, all as insured, in a reasonably diligent manner by any method, including litigation and the completion of any appeals therefrom, it shall have fully performed its obligations with respect to that matter and shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused thereby.

(b) In the event of any litigation, including litigation by The Fund or with The Fund's consent, The Fund shall have no liability for loss or damage until there has been a final determination by a court of competent jurisdiction, and disposition of all appeals therefrom, adverse to the title as insured.

(c) The Fund shall not be liable for loss or damage to any insured for liability voluntarily assumed by the insured in settling any claim or suit without the prior written consent of The Fund.

10. Reduction of Insurance; Reduction or Termination of Liability

All payments under this policy, except payments made for costs, attorneys' fees and expenses, shall reduce the amount of the insurance pro tanto.

11. Liability Noncumulative

It is expressly understood that the amount of insurance under this policy shall be reduced by any amount The Fund may pay under any policy insuring a mortgage to which exception is taken in Schedule B or to which the insured has agreed, assumed, or taken subject, or which is hereafter executed by an insured and which is a charge or lien on the estate or interest described or referred to in Schedule A, and the amount so paid shall be deemed a payment under this policy to the insured owner.

12. Payment of Loss

(a) No payment shall be made without producing this policy for endorsement of the payment unless the policy has been lost or destroyed, in which case proof of loss or destruction shall be furnished to the satisfaction of The Fund.

(b) When liability and the extent of loss or damage has been definitely fixed in accordance with these Conditions and Stipulations,

Online Sunshine
[View Statutes](#) [Search Statutes](#) [Constitution](#) [Laws of Florida](#) [Order](#)
 Select Year:

The 2000 Florida Statutes

Title XXVIII **Chapter 373** **[View Entire Chapter](#)**
 NATURAL RESOURCES; CONSERVATION, RECLAMATION, AND USE Water Resources

373.4592 Everglades improvement and management.--

(1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

(a) The Legislature finds that the Everglades ecological system not only contributes to South Florida's water supply, flood control, and recreation, but serves as the habitat for diverse species of wildlife and plant life. The system is unique in the world and one of Florida's great treasures. The Everglades ecological system is endangered as a result of adverse changes in water quality, and in the quantity, distribution, and timing of flows, and, therefore, must be restored and protected.

(b) The Legislature finds that, although the district and the department have developed plans and programs for the improvement and management of the surface waters tributary to the Everglades Protection Area, implementation of those plans and programs has not been as timely as is necessary to restore and protect unique flora and fauna of the Everglades, including the Everglades National Park and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Therefore, the Legislature determines that an appropriate method to proceed with Everglades restoration and protection is to authorize the district to proceed expeditiously with implementation of the Everglades Program.

(c) The Legislature finds that, in the last decade, people have come to realize the tremendous cost the alteration of natural systems has exacted on the region. The Statement of Principles of July 1993 among the Federal Government, the South Florida Water Management District, the Department of Environmental Protection, and certain agricultural industry representatives formed a basis to bring to a close 5 years of costly litigation. That agreement should be used to begin the cleanup and renewal of the Everglades ecosystem.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote Everglades restoration and protection through certain legislative findings and determinations. The Legislature finds that waters flowing into the Everglades Protection Area contain excessive levels of phosphorus. A reduction in levels of phosphorus will benefit the ecology of the Everglades Protection Area.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to pursue comprehensive and innovative solutions to issues of water quality, water quantity, hydroperiod, and invasion of exotic species which face the Everglades ecosystem. The Legislature recognizes that the Everglades ecosystem must be restored both in terms of water quality and water quantity and must be preserved and protected in a manner that is long term and comprehensive. The Legislature further recognizes that the EAA and adjacent areas provide a base for an agricultural industry, which in turn provides important products, jobs, and income regionally and nationally. It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve natural values in the Everglades while also maintaining the quality of life for all residents of South Florida, including those in agriculture, and to minimize the impact on South Florida jobs, including agricultural, tourism, and natural resource-related jobs, all of which contribute to a robust regional economy.

(f) The Legislature finds that improved water supply and hydroperiod management are crucial elements to overall revitalization of the Everglades ecosystem, including Florida Bay. It is the intent of the Legislature to expedite plans and programs for improving water quantity reaching the

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

Everglades, correcting long-standing hydroperiod problems, increasing the total quantity of water flowing through the system, providing water supply for the Everglades National Park, urban and agricultural areas, and Florida Bay, and replacing water previously available from the coastal ridge in areas of southern Dade County. Whenever possible, wasteful discharges of fresh water to tide shall be reduced, and the water shall be stored for delivery at more optimum times. Additionally, reuse and conservation measures shall be implemented consistent with law. The Legislature further recognizes that additional water storage may be an appropriate use of Lake Okeechobee.

(g) The Legislature finds that the Statement of Principles of July 1993, the Everglades Construction Project, and the regulatory requirements of this section provide a sound basis for the state's long-term cleanup and restoration objectives for the Everglades. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a sufficient period of time for construction, testing, and research, so that the benefits of the Everglades Construction Project will be determined and maximized prior to requiring additional measures. The Legislature finds that STAs and BMPs are currently the best available technology for achieving the interim water quality goals of the Everglades Program. A combined program of agricultural BMPs, STAs, and requirements of this section is a reasonable method of achieving interim total phosphorus discharge reductions. The Everglades Program is an appropriate foundation on which to build a long-term program to ultimately achieve restoration and protection of the Everglades Protection Area.

(h) The Everglades Construction Project represents by far the largest environmental cleanup and restoration program of this type ever undertaken, and the returns from substantial public and private investment must be maximized so that available resources are managed responsibly. To that end, the Legislature directs that the Everglades Construction Project and regulatory requirements associated with the Statement of Principles of July 1993 be pursued expeditiously, but with flexibility, so that superior technology may be utilized when available. Consistent with the implementation of the Everglades Construction Project, landowners shall be provided the maximum opportunity to provide treatment on their land.

(2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

(a) "Best management practice" or "BMP" means a practice or combination of practices determined by the district, in cooperation with the department, based on research, field-testing, and expert review, to be the most effective and practicable, including economic and technological considerations, on-farm means of improving water quality in agricultural discharges to a level that balances water quality improvements and agricultural productivity.

(b) "C-139 Basin" or "Basin" means those lands described in subsection (16).

(c) "Department" means the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

(d) "District" means the South Florida Water Management District.

(e) "Everglades Agricultural Area" or "EAA" means the Everglades Agricultural Area, which are those lands described in subsection (15).

(f) "Everglades Construction Project" means the project described in the February 15, 1994, conceptual design document together with construction and operation schedules on file with the South Florida Water Management District, except as modified by this section.

(g) "Everglades Program" means the program of projects, regulations, and research provided by this section, including the Everglades Construction Project.

(h) "Everglades Protection Area" means Water Conservation Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Everglades National Park.

(i) "Master permit" means a single permit issued to a legally responsible entity defined by rule, authorizing the construction, alteration, maintenance, or operation of multiple stormwater management systems that may be owned or operated by different persons and which provides an opportunity to achieve collective compliance with applicable department and district rules and the provisions of this section.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index..../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

must be the local sponsor of the federal project that will include STA 1 East, and STA 1 West if so authorized by federal law. Land acquisition shall be completed for STA 1 West by April 1, 1996, and for STA 1 East by July 1, 1998;

2. Construction of STA 1 East is to be completed under the direction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the currently authorized C-51 flood control project by July 1, 2002;

3. The district must complete construction of STA 1 West and STA 1 Inflow and Distribution Works under the direction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if the direction is authorized under federal law, in conjunction with the currently authorized C-51 flood control project, by January 1, 1999;

4. The district must complete construction of STA 2 by February 1, 1999;

5. The district must complete construction of STA 3/4 by October 1, 2003;

6. The district must complete construction of STA 5 by January 1, 1999; and

7. The district must complete construction of STA 6 by October 1, 1997.

8. East Beach Water Control District, South Shore Drainage District, South Florida Conservancy District, East Shore Water Control District, and the lessee of agricultural lease number 3420 shall complete any system modifications described in the Everglades Construction Project to the extent that funds are available from the Everglades Fund. These entities shall divert the discharges described within the Everglades Construction Project within 60 days of completion of construction of the appropriate STA. Such required modifications shall be deemed to be a part of each district's plan of reclamation pursuant to chapter 298.

(b) Everglades water supply and hydroperiod improvement and restoration.--

1. A comprehensive program to revitalize the Everglades shall include programs and projects to improve the water quantity reaching the Everglades Protection Area at optimum times and improve hydroperiod deficiencies in the Everglades ecosystem. To the greatest extent possible, wasteful discharges of fresh water to tide shall be reduced, and water conservation practices and reuse measures shall be implemented by water users, consistent with law. Water supply management must include improvement of water quantity reaching the Everglades, correction of long-standing hydroperiod problems, and an increase in the total quantity of water flowing through the system. Water supply management must provide water supply for the Everglades National Park, the urban and agricultural areas, and the Florida Bay and must replace water previously available from the coastal ridge areas of southern Dade County. The Everglades Construction Project redirects some water currently lost to tide. It is an important first step in completing hydroperiod improvement.

2. The district shall operate the Everglades Construction Project as specified in the February 15, 1994, conceptual design document, to provide additional inflows to the Everglades Protection Area. The increased flow from the project shall be directed to the Everglades Protection Area as needed to achieve an average annual increase of 28 percent compared to the baseline years of 1979 to 1988. Consistent with the design of the Everglades Construction Project and without demonstratively reducing water quality benefits, the regulatory releases will be timed and distributed to the Everglades Protection Area to maximize environmental benefits.

3. The district shall operate the Everglades Construction Project in accordance with the February 15, 1994, conceptual design document to maximize the water quantity benefits and improve the hydroperiod of the Everglades Protection Area. All reductions of flow to the Everglades Protection Area from BMP implementation will be replaced. The district shall develop a model to be used for quantifying the amount of water to be replaced. The district shall publish in the Florida Administrative Weekly a notice of rule development on the model no later than July 1, 1994, and a notice of rulemaking no later than July 1, 1995. The timing and distribution of this replaced water will be directed to the Everglades Protection Area to maximize the natural balance of the Everglades Protection Area.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

(j) "Phosphorus criterion" means a numeric interpretation for phosphorus of the Class III narrative nutrient criterion.

(k) "Stormwater management program" shall have the meaning set forth in s. 403.031(15).

(l) "Stormwater treatment areas" or "STAs" means those treatment areas described and depicted in the district's conceptual design document of February 15, 1994, and any modifications as provided in this section.

(3) EVERGLADES SWIM PLAN.--The Legislature finds that the Everglades Program required by this section establishes more extensive and comprehensive requirements for surface water improvement and management within the Everglades than the SWIM plan requirements provided in ss. 373.451-373.456. In order to avoid duplicative requirements, and in order to conserve the resources available to the district, the SWIM plan requirements of those sections shall not apply to the Everglades Protection Area and the EAA during the term of the Everglades Program, and the district will neither propose, nor take final agency action on, any Everglades SWIM plan for those areas until the Everglades Program is fully implemented; however, funds under s. 259.101(3)(b) may be used for acquisition of lands necessary to implement the Everglades Construction Project, to the extent these funds are identified in the Statement of Principles of July 1993. The district's actions in implementing the Everglades Construction Project relating to the responsibilities of the EAA and C-139 Basin for funding and water quality compliance in the EAA and the Everglades Protection Area shall be governed by this section. Other strategies or activities in the March 1992 SWIM plan may be implemented if otherwise authorized by law.

(4) EVERGLADES PROGRAM.--

(a) *Everglades Construction Project.*--The district shall implement the Everglades Construction Project. By the time of completion of the project, the state, district, or other governmental authority shall purchase the inholdings in the Rotenberger and such other lands necessary to achieve a 2:1 mitigation ratio for the use of Brown's Farm and other similar lands, including those needed for the STA 1 Inflow and Distribution Works. The inclusion of public lands as part of the project is for the purpose of treating waters not coming from the EAA for hydroperiod restoration. It is the intent of the Legislature that the district aggressively pursue the implementation of the Everglades Construction Project in accordance with the schedule in this subsection. The Legislature recognizes that adherence to the schedule is dependent upon factors beyond the control of the district, including the timely receipt of funds from all contributors. The district shall take all reasonable measures to complete timely performance of the schedule in this section in order to finish the Everglades Construction Project. The district shall not delay implementation of the project beyond the time delay caused by those circumstances and conditions that prevent timely performance. The district shall not levy ad valorem taxes in excess of 0.1 mill within the Okeechobee Basin for the purposes of the design, construction, and acquisition of the Everglades Construction Project. The ad valorem tax proceeds not exceeding 0.1 mill levied within the Okeechobee Basin for such purposes shall be the sole direct district contribution from district ad valorem taxes appropriated or expended for the design, construction, and acquisition of the Everglades Construction Project unless the Legislature by specific amendment to this section increases the 0.1 mill ad valorem tax contribution, increases the agricultural privilege taxes, or otherwise reallocates the relative contribution by ad valorem taxpayers and taxpayers paying the agricultural privilege taxes toward the funding of the design, construction, and acquisition of the Everglades Construction Project. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 200.069 to the contrary, any millage levied under the 0.1 mill limitation in this paragraph shall be included as a separate entry on the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes pursuant to s. 200.069. Once the STAs are completed, the district shall allow these areas to be used by the public for recreational purposes in the manner set forth in ¹s. 373.59(11), considering the suitability of these lands for such uses. These lands shall be made available for recreational use unless the district governing board can demonstrate that such uses are incompatible with the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project or the water quality and hydrological purposes of the STAs or would otherwise adversely impact the implementation of the project. The district shall give preferential consideration to the hiring of agricultural workers displaced as a result of the Everglades Construction Project, consistent with their qualifications and abilities, for the construction and operation of these STAs. The following milestones apply to the completion of the Everglades Construction Project as depicted in the February 15, 1994, conceptual design document:

1. The district must complete the final design of the STA 1 East and West and pursue STA 1 East project components as part of a cost-shared program with the Federal Government. The district

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

4. The Legislature recognizes the complexity of the Everglades watershed, as well as legal mandates under Florida and federal law. As local sponsor of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, the district must coordinate its water supply and hydroperiod programs with the Federal Government. Federal planning, research, operating guidelines, and restrictions for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project now under review by federal agencies will provide important components of the district's Everglades Program. The department and district shall use their best efforts to seek the amendment of the authorized purposes of the project to include water quality protection, hydroperiod restoration, and environmental enhancement as authorized purposes of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, in addition to the existing purposes of water supply, flood protection, and allied purposes. Further, the department and the district shall use their best efforts to request that the Federal Government include in the evaluation of the regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee a review of the regulatory releases, so as to facilitate releases of water into the Everglades Protection Area which further improve hydroperiod restoration.

5. The district, through cooperation with the federal and state agencies, shall develop other programs and methods to increase the water flow and improve the hydroperiod of the Everglades Protection Area.

6. Nothing in this section is intended to provide an allocation or reservation of water or to modify the provisions of part II. All decisions regarding allocations and reservations of water shall be governed by applicable law.

7. The district shall proceed to expeditiously implement the minimum flows and levels for the Everglades Protection Area as required by s. 373.042 and shall expeditiously complete the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan.

(c) *STA 3/4 modification.*--The Everglades Program will contribute to the restoration of the Rotenberger and Holey Land tracts. The Everglades Construction Project provides a first step toward restoration by improving hydroperiod with treated water for the Rotenberger tract and by providing a source of treated water for the Holey Land. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the easternmost tract of the Holey Land, known as the "Toe of the Boot," be removed from STA 3/4 under the circumstances set forth in this paragraph. The district shall proceed to modify the Everglades Construction Project, provided that the redesign achieves at least as many environmental and hydrological benefits as are included in the original design, including treatment of waters from sources other than the EAA, and does not delay construction of STA 3/4. The district is authorized to use eminent domain to acquire alternative lands, only if such lands are located within 1 mile of the northern border of STA 3/4.

(d) *Everglades research and monitoring program.*--

1. By January 1996, the department and the district shall review and evaluate available water quality data for the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters and identify any additional information necessary to adequately describe water quality in the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters. By such date, the department and the district shall also initiate a research and monitoring program to generate such additional information identified and to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs and STAs, as they are implemented, in improving water quality and maintaining designated and existing beneficial uses of the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters. As part of the program, the district shall monitor all discharges into the Everglades Protection Area for purposes of determining compliance with state water quality standards.

2. The research and monitoring program shall evaluate the ecological and hydrological needs of the Everglades Protection Area, including the minimum flows and levels. Consistent with such needs, the program shall also evaluate water quality standards for the Everglades Protection Area and for the canals of the EAA, so that these canals can be classified in the manner set forth in paragraph (e) and protected as an integral part of the water management system which includes the STAs of the Everglades Construction Project and allows landowners in the EAA to achieve applicable water quality standards compliance by BMPs and STA treatment to the extent this treatment is available and effective.

3. The research and monitoring program shall include research seeking to optimize the design and operation of the STAs, including research to reduce outflow concentrations, and to identify other treatment and management methods and regulatory programs that are superior to STAs in

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

other treatment and management methods and regulatory programs that are superior to STAs in achieving the intent and purposes of this section.

4. The research and monitoring program shall be conducted to allow completion by December 2001 of any research necessary to allow the department to propose a phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area, and to evaluate existing state water quality standards applicable to the Everglades Protection Area and existing state water quality standards and classifications applicable to the EAA canals. In developing the phosphorus criterion, the department shall also consider the minimum flows and levels for the Everglades Protection Area and the district's water supply plans for the Lower East Coast.

5. The district, in cooperation with the department, shall prepare a peer-reviewed interim report regarding the research and monitoring program, which shall be submitted no later than January 1, 1999, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for their review. The interim report shall summarize all data and findings available as of July 1, 1998, on the effectiveness of STAs and BMPs in improving water quality. The interim report shall also include a summary of the then-available data and findings related to the following: the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan of the district, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Everglades Mercury Study, the United States Army Corps of Engineers South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Study, the results of research and monitoring of water quality and quantity in the Everglades region, the degree of phosphorus discharge reductions achieved by BMPs and agricultural operations in the region, the current information on the ecological and hydrological needs of the Everglades, and the costs and benefits of phosphorus reduction alternatives. Prior to finalizing the interim report, the district shall conduct at least one scientific workshop and two public hearings on its proposed interim report. One public hearing must be held in Palm Beach County and the other must be held in either Dade or Broward County. The interim report shall be used by the department and the district in making any decisions regarding the implementation of the Everglades Construction Project subsequent to the completion of the interim report. The construction of STAs 3/4 shall not be commenced until 90 days after the interim report has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

6. Beginning January 1, 2000, the district and the department shall annually issue a peer-reviewed report regarding the research and monitoring program that summarizes all data and findings. The department shall provide copies of the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall identify water quality parameters, in addition to phosphorus, which exceed state water quality standards or are causing or contributing to adverse impacts in the Everglades Protection Area.

7. The district shall continue research seeking to optimize the design and operation of STAs and to identify other treatment and management methods that are superior to STAs in achieving optimum water quality and water quantity for the benefit of the Everglades. The district shall optimize the design and operation of the STAs described in the Everglades Construction Project prior to expanding their size. Additional methods to achieve compliance with water quality standards shall not be limited to more intensive management of the STAs.

(e) Evaluation of water quality standards.--

1. The department and the district shall employ all means practicable to complete by December 31, 1998, any additional research necessary to:

- a. Numerically interpret for phosphorus the Class III narrative nutrient criterion necessary to meet water quality standards in the Everglades Protection Area; and
- b. Evaluate existing water quality standards applicable to the Everglades Protection Area and EAA canals.

This research shall be completed no later than December 31, 2001.

2. By December 31, 2001, the department shall file a notice of rulemaking in the Florida Administrative Weekly to establish a phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area. In no case shall such phosphorus criterion allow waters in the Everglades Protection Area to be altered so as to cause an imbalance in the natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna. The phosphorus criterion shall be 10 parts per billion (ppb) in the Everglades Protection Area in the event the department does not adopt by rule such criterion by December 31, 2003. However, in the event

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

the department fails to adopt a phosphorus criterion on or before December 31, 2002, any person whose substantial interests would be affected by the rulemaking shall have the right, on or before February 28, 2003, to petition for a writ of mandamus to compel the department to adopt by rule such criterion. Venue for the mandamus action must be Leon County. The court may stay implementation of the 10 parts per billion (ppb) criterion during the pendency of the mandamus proceeding upon a demonstration by the petitioner of irreparable harm in the absence of such relief. The department's phosphorus criterion, whenever adopted, shall supersede the 10 parts per billion (ppb) criterion otherwise established by this section, but shall not be lower than the natural conditions of the Everglades Protection Area and shall take into account spatial and temporal variability.

3. The department shall use the best available information to define relationships between waters discharged to, and the resulting water quality in, the Everglades Protection Area. The department or the district shall use these relationships to establish discharge limits in permits for discharges into the EAA canals and the Everglades Protection Area necessary to prevent an imbalance in the natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna in the Everglades Protection Area, and to provide a net improvement in the areas already impacted. Compliance with the phosphorus criterion shall be based upon a long-term geometric mean of concentration levels to be measured at sampling stations recognized from the research to be reasonably representative of receiving waters in the Everglades Protection Area, and so located so as to assure that the Everglades Protection Area is not altered so as to cause an imbalance in natural populations of aquatic flora and fauna and to assure a net improvement in the areas already impacted. For the Everglades National Park and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the method for measuring compliance with the phosphorus criterion shall be in a manner consistent with Appendices A and B, respectively, of the settlement agreement dated July 26, 1991, entered in case No. 88-1886-Civ-Hoeveler, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, that recognizes and provides for incorporation of relevant research.

4. The department's evaluation of any other water quality standards must include the department's antidegradation standards and EAA canal classifications. In recognition of the special nature of the conveyance canals of the EAA, as a component of the classification process, the department is directed to formally recognize by rulemaking existing actual beneficial uses of the conveyance canals in the EAA. This shall include recognition of the Class III designated uses of recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife, the integrated water management purposes for which the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project was constructed, flood control, conveyance of water to and from Lake Okeechobee for urban and agricultural water supply, Everglades hydroperiod restoration, conveyance of water to the STAs, and navigation.

(f) *EAA best management practices.--*

1. The district, in cooperation with the department, shall develop and implement a water quality monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs in achieving and maintaining compliance with state water quality standards and restoring and maintaining designated and existing beneficial uses. The program shall include an analysis of the effectiveness of the BMPs in treating constituents that are not being significantly improved by the STAs. The monitoring program shall include monitoring of appropriate parameters at representative locations.

2. The district shall continue to require and enforce the BMP and other requirements of chapters 40E-61 and 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code, during the terms of the existing permits issued pursuant to those rules. Chapter 40E-61, Florida Administrative Code, may be amended to include the BMPs required by chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code. Prior to the expiration of existing permits, and during each 5-year term of subsequent permits as provided for in this section, those rules shall be amended to implement a comprehensive program of research, testing, and implementation of BMPs that will address all water quality standards within the EAA and Everglades Protection Area. Under this program:

a. EAA landowners, through the EAA Environmental Protection District or otherwise, shall sponsor a program of BMP research with qualified experts to identify appropriate BMPs.

b. Consistent with the water quality monitoring program, BMPs will be field-tested in a sufficient number of representative sites in the EAA to reflect soil and crop types and other factors that influence BMP design and effectiveness.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

c. BMPs as required for varying crops and soil types shall be included in permit conditions in the 5-year permits issued pursuant to this section.

d. The district shall conduct research in cooperation with EAA landowners to identify water quality parameters that are not being significantly improved either by the STAs or the BMPs, and to identify further BMP strategies needed to address these parameters.

3. The Legislature finds that through the implementation of the Everglades BMPs Program and the implementation of the Everglades Construction Project, reasonable further progress will be made towards addressing water quality requirements of the EAA canals and the Everglades Protection Area. Permittees within the EAA and the C-139 Basin who are in full compliance with the conditions of permits under chapters 40E-61 and 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code, have made all payments required under the Everglades Program, and are in compliance with subparagraph (a)8., if applicable, shall not be required to implement additional water quality improvement measures, prior to December 31, 2006, other than those required by subparagraph 2., with the following exceptions:

a. Nothing in this subparagraph shall limit the existing authority of the department or the district to limit or regulate discharges that pose a significant danger to the public health and safety; and

b. New land uses and new stormwater management facilities other than alterations to existing agricultural stormwater management systems for water quality improvements shall not be accorded the compliance established by this section. Permits may be required to implement improvements or alterations to existing agricultural water management systems.

4. As of December 31, 2006, all permits, including those issued prior to that date, shall require implementation of additional water quality measures, taking into account the water quality treatment actually provided by the STAs and the effectiveness of the BMPs. As of that date, no permittee's discharge shall cause or contribute to any violation of water quality standards in the Everglades Protection Area.

5. Effective immediately, landowners within the C-139 Basin shall not collectively exceed an annual average loading of phosphorus of 28.7 metric tons based proportionately on the historical rainfall for the C-139 Basin over the period of October 1, 1978, to September 30, 1988. New surface inflows shall not increase the annual average loading of phosphorus stated above. Provided that the C-139 Basin does not exceed this annual average loading, all landowners within the Basin shall be in compliance for that year. Compliance determinations for individual landowners within the C-139 Basin for remedial action, if the Basin is determined by the district to be out of compliance for that year, shall be based on the landowners' proportional share of the total phosphorus loading of 28.7 metric tons. The total phosphorus discharge load shall be determined by a method consistent with Appendix 40E-63-3, Florida Administrative Code, disregarding the 25-percent phosphorus reduction factor.

6. The district, in cooperation with the department, shall develop and implement a water quality monitoring program to evaluate the quality of the discharge from the C-139 Basin. Upon determination by the department or the district that the C-139 Basin is exceeding any presently existing water quality standards, the district shall require landowners within the C-139 Basin to implement BMPs appropriate to the land uses within the C-139 Basin consistent with subparagraph 2. Thereafter, the provisions of subparagraphs 2.-4. shall apply to the landowners within the C-139 Basin.

(g) Monitoring and control of exotic species.--

1. The district shall establish a biological monitoring network throughout the Everglades Protection Area and shall prepare a survey of exotic species at least every 2 years.

2. In addition, the district shall establish a program to coordinate with federal, state, or other governmental entities the control of continued expansion and the removal of these exotic species. The district's program shall give high priority to species affecting the largest areal extent within the Everglades Protection Area.

(5) ACQUISITION AND LOSS OF STATE LANDS.--

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

(a) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Available land" means land within the EAA owned by the board of trustees which is covered by any of the following leases: Numbers 3543, 3420, 1447, 1971-5, and 3433, and the southern one-third of number 2376 constituting 127 acres, more or less.
2. "Board of trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
3. "Designated acre," as to any impacted farmer, means an acre of land which is designated for STAs or water retention or storage in the February 15, 1994, conceptual design document and which is owned or leased by the farmer or on which one or more agricultural products were produced which, during the period beginning October 1, 1992, and ending September 30, 1993, were processed at a facility owned by the farmer.
4. "Impacted farmer" means a producer or processor of agricultural commodities and includes subsidiaries and affiliates that have designated acres.
5. "Impacted vegetable farmer" means an impacted farmer in the EAA who uses more than 30 percent of the land farmed by that farmer, whether owned or leased, for the production of vegetables.
6. "Vegetable-area available land" means land within the EAA owned by the board of trustees which is covered by lease numbers 3422 and 1935/1935S.

(b) The Legislature declares that it is necessary for the public health and welfare that the Everglades water and water-related resources be conserved and protected. The Legislature further declares that certain lands may be needed for the treatment or storage of water prior to its release into the Everglades Protection Area. The acquisition of real property for this objective constitutes a public purpose for which public funds may be expended. In addition to other authority pursuant to this chapter to acquire real property, the governing board of the district is empowered and authorized to acquire fee title or easements by eminent domain for the limited purpose of implementing stormwater management systems, identified and described in the Everglades Construction Project or determined necessary to meet water quality requirements established by rule or permit.

(c) The Legislature determines it to be in the public interest to minimize the potential loss of land and related product supply to farmers and processors who are most affected by acquisition of land for Everglades restoration and hydroperiod purposes. Accordingly, subject to the priority established below for vegetable-area available land, impacted farmers shall have priority in the leasing of available land. An impacted farmer shall have the right to lease each parcel of available land, upon expiration of the existing lease, for a term of 20 years and at a rental rate determined by appraisal using established state procedures. For those parcels of land that have previously been competitively bid, the rental rate shall not be less than the rate the board of trustees currently receives. The board of trustees may also adjust the rental rate on an annual basis using an appropriate index, and update the appraisals at 5-year intervals. If more than one impacted farmer desires to lease a particular parcel of available land, the one that has the greatest number of designated acres shall have priority.

(d) Impacted vegetable farmers shall have priority in leasing vegetable-area available land. An impacted vegetable farmer shall have the right to lease vegetable-area available land, upon expiration of the existing lease, for a term of 20 years or a term ending August 25, 2018, whichever term first expires, and at a rental rate determined by appraisal using established state procedures. If the lessee elects, such terms may consist of an initial 5-year term, with successive options to renew at the lessee's option for additional 5-year terms. For extensions of leases on those parcels of land that have previously been competitively bid, the rental rate shall not be less than the rate the board of trustees currently receives. The board of trustees may also adjust the rental rate on an annual basis using an appropriate index, and update the appraisals at 5-year intervals. If more than one impacted vegetable farmer desires to lease vegetable-area available land, the one that has the greatest number of designated acres shall have priority.

(e) Impacted vegetable farmers with farming operations in areas of Florida other than the EAA

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

shall have priority in leasing suitable surplus lands, where such lands are located in the St. Johns River Water Management District and in the vicinity of the other areas where such impacted vegetable farmers operate. The suitability of such use shall be determined solely by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The St. Johns River Water Management District shall make good faith efforts to provide these impacted vegetable farmers with the opportunity to lease such suitable lands to offset their designated acres. The rental rate shall be determined by appraisal using established procedures.

(f) The corporation conducting correctional work programs under part II of chapter 946 shall be entitled to renew, for a period of 20 years, its lease with the Department of Corrections which expires June 30, 1998, which includes the utilization of land for the production of sugar cane, and which is identified as lease number 2671 with the board of trustees.

(g) Except as specified in paragraph (f), once the leases or lease extensions specified in this subsection have been granted and become effective, the trustees shall retain the authority to terminate after 9 years any such lease or lease extension upon 2 years' notice to the lessee and a finding by the trustees that the lessee has ceased to be impacted as provided in this section. In that event, the outgoing lessee is entitled to be compensated for any documented, unamortized planting costs associated with the lease and any unamortized capital costs incurred prior to the notice. In addition, the trustees may terminate such lease or lease extension if the lessee fails to comply with, and after reasonable notice and opportunity to correct or fails to correct, any material provision of the lease or its obligation under this section.

(6) EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL PRIVILEGE TAX.--

(a) There is hereby imposed an annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax for the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on:

1. All real property located within the EAA that is classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193; and

2. Leasehold or other interests in real property located within the EAA owned by the United States, the state, or any agency thereof permitting the property to be used for agricultural purposes in a manner that would allow such property to be classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193 if not governmentally owned, whether or not such property is actually classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193.

It is hereby determined by the Legislature that the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on such property constitutes a reasonable basis for imposition of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax and that logical differences exist between the agricultural use of such property and the use of other property within the EAA for residential or nonagricultural commercial use. The Everglades agricultural privilege tax shall constitute a lien against the property, or the leasehold or other interest in governmental property permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes, described on the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll. The lien shall be in effect from January 1 of the year the tax notice is mailed until discharged by payment and shall be equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and non-ad valorem assessments imposed pursuant to general law, special act, or local ordinance and shall be superior in dignity to all other liens, titles, and claims.

(b) The Everglades agricultural privilege tax, other than for leasehold or other interests in governmental property permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes, shall be collected in the manner provided for ad valorem taxes. By September 15 of each year, the governing board of the district shall certify by resolution an Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll on compatible electronic medium to the tax collector of each county in which a portion of the EAA is located. The district shall also produce one copy of the roll in printed form which shall be available for inspection by the public. The district shall post the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for each parcel on the roll. The tax collector shall not accept any such roll that is not certified on compatible electronic medium and that does not contain the posting of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for each parcel. It is the responsibility of the district that such rolls be free of errors and omissions. Alterations to such rolls may be made by the executive director of the district, or a designee, up to 10 days before certification. If the tax collector or any taxpayer discovers errors or omissions on such roll, such person may request the district to file a corrected roll or a correction of the amount of any Everglades agricultural privilege tax. Other than for leasehold or other interests in governmental property permitting such property to be used for

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

agricultural purposes, Everglades agricultural privilege taxes collected pursuant to this section shall be included in the combined notice for ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments provided for in s. 197.3635. Such Everglades agricultural privilege taxes shall be listed in the portion of the combined notice utilized for non-ad valorem assessments. A separate mailing is authorized only as a solution to the most exigent factual circumstances. However, if a tax collector cannot merge an Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to produce such a notice, the tax collector shall mail a separate notice of Everglades agricultural privilege taxes or shall direct the district to mail such a separate notice. In deciding whether a separate mailing is necessary, the tax collector shall consider all costs to the district and taxpayers of such a separate mailing and the adverse effects to the taxpayers of delayed and multiple notices. The district shall bear all costs associated with any separate notice. Everglades agricultural privilege taxes collected pursuant to this section shall be subject to all collection provisions of chapter 197, including provisions relating to discount for early payment, prepayment by installment method, deferred payment, penalty for delinquent payment, and issuance and sale of tax certificates and tax deeds for nonpayment. Everglades agricultural privilege taxes for leasehold or other interests in property owned by the United States, the state, or any agency thereof permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes shall be included on the notice provided pursuant to s. 196.31, a copy of which shall be provided to lessees or other interestholders registering with the district, and shall be collected from the lessee or other appropriate interestholder and remitted to the district immediately upon collection. Everglades agricultural privilege taxes included on the statement provided pursuant to s. 196.31 shall be due and collected on or prior to the next April 1 following provision of the notice. Proceeds of the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes shall be distributed by the tax collector to the district. Each tax collector shall be paid a commission equal to the actual cost of collection, not to exceed 2 percent, on the amount of Everglades agricultural privilege taxes collected and remitted. Notwithstanding any general law or special act to the contrary, Everglades agricultural privilege taxes shall not be included on the notice of proposed property taxes provided for in s. 200.069.

(c) The initial Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll shall be certified for the tax notices mailed in November 1994. Incentive credits to the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes to be included on the initial Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll, if any, shall be based upon the total phosphorus load reduction for the year ending April 30, 1993. The Everglades agricultural privilege taxes for each year shall be computed in the following manner:

1. Annual Everglades agricultural privilege taxes shall be charged for the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on each acre of real property or portion thereof. The annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax shall be \$24.89 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 1994 through November 1997; \$27 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 1998 through November 2001; \$31 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 2002 through November 2005; and \$35 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 2006 through November 2013.

2. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the performance of best management practices to maximize the reduction of phosphorus loads at points of discharge from the EAA by providing an incentive credit against the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes set forth in subparagraph 1. The total phosphorus load reduction shall be measured for the entire EAA by comparing the actual measured total phosphorus load attributable to the EAA for each annual period ending on April 30 to the total estimated phosphorus load that would have occurred during the 1979-1988 base period using the model for total phosphorus load determinations provided in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code, utilizing the technical information and procedures contained in Section IV-EAA Period of Record Flow and Phosphorus Load Calculations; Section V-Monitoring Requirements; and Section VI-Phosphorus Load Allocations and Compliance Calculations of the Draft Technical Document in Support of chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code - Works of the District within the Everglades, March 3, 1992, and the Standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality Collection in Support of the Everglades Water Condition Report, dated February 18, 1994. The model estimates the total phosphorus load that would have occurred during the 1979-1988 base period by substituting the rainfall conditions for such annual period ending April 30 for the conditions that were used to calibrate the model for the 1979-1988 base period. The data utilized to calculate the actual loads attributable to the EAA shall be adjusted to eliminate the effect of any load and flow that were not included in the 1979-1988 base period as defined in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code. The incorporation of the method of measuring the total phosphorus load reduction provided in this subparagraph is intended to provide a legislatively approved aid to the governing board of the district in making an annual ministerial determination of any incentive credit.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

3. Phosphorus load reductions calculated in the manner described in subparagraph 2. and rounded to the nearest whole percentage point for each annual period beginning on May 1 and ending on April 30 shall be used to compute incentive credits to the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes to be included on the annual tax notices mailed in November of the next ensuing calendar year. Incentive credits, if any, will reduce the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes set forth in subparagraph 1. only to the extent that the phosphorus load reduction exceeds 25 percent. Subject to subparagraph 4., the reduction of phosphorus load by each percentage point in excess of 25 percent, computed for the 12-month period ended on April 30 of the calendar year immediately preceding certification of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax, shall result in the following incentive credits: \$0.33 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 1994 through November 1997; \$0.54 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 1998 through November 2001; \$0.61 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 2002 through November 2005, and \$0.65 per acre for the tax notices mailed in November 2006 through November 2013. The determination of incentive credits, if any, shall be documented by resolution of the governing board of the district adopted prior to or at the time of the adoption of its resolution certifying the annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector.

4. Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., incentive credits for the performance of best management practices shall not reduce the minimum annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax to less than \$24.89 per acre, which annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax as adjusted in the manner required by paragraph (e) shall be known as the "minimum tax." To the extent that the application of incentive credits for the performance of best management practices would reduce the annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax to an amount less than the minimum tax, then the unused or excess incentive credits for the performance of best management practices shall be carried forward, on a phosphorus load percentage basis, to be applied as incentive credits in subsequent years. Any unused or excess incentive credits remaining after certification of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll for the tax notices mailed in November 2013 shall be canceled.

5. Notwithstanding the schedule of Everglades agricultural privilege taxes set forth in subparagraph 1., the owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder of any property shall be entitled to have the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for any parcel of property reduced to the minimum tax, commencing with the tax notices mailed in November 1996 for parcels of property participating in the early baseline option as defined in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code, and with the tax notices mailed in November 1997 for parcels of property not participating in the early baseline option, upon compliance with the requirements set forth in this subparagraph. The owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder shall file an application with the executive director of the district prior to July 1 for consideration of reduction to the minimum tax on the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to be certified for the tax notice mailed in November of the same calendar year and shall have the burden of proving the reduction in phosphorus load attributable to such parcel of property. The phosphorus load reduction for each discharge structure serving the parcel shall be measured as provided in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code, and the permit issued for such property pursuant to chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code. A parcel of property which has achieved the following annual phosphorus load reduction standards shall have the minimum tax included on the annual tax notice mailed in November of the next ensuing calendar year: 30 percent or more for the tax notices mailed in November 1994 through November 1997; 35 percent or more for the tax notices mailed in November 1998 through November 2001; 40 percent or more for the tax notices mailed in November 2002 through November 2005; and 45 percent or more for the tax notices mailed in November 2006 through November 2013. In addition, any parcel of property that achieves an annual flow weighted mean concentration of 50 parts per billion (ppb) of phosphorus at each discharge structure serving the property for any year ending April 30 shall have the minimum tax included on the annual tax notice mailed in November of the next ensuing calendar year. Any annual phosphorus reductions that exceed the amount necessary to have the minimum tax included on the annual tax notice for any parcel of property shall be carried forward to the subsequent years' phosphorus load reduction to determine if the minimum tax shall be included on the annual tax notice. The governing board of the district shall deny or grant the application by resolution adopted prior to or at the time of the adoption of its resolution certifying the annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector.

6. The annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax for the tax notices mailed in November 2014 and thereafter shall be \$10 per acre.

(d) For purposes of this paragraph, "vegetable acreage" means, for each tax year, any portion of a parcel of property used for a period of not less than 8 months for the production of vegetable crops, including sweet corn, during the 12 months ended September 30 of the year preceding the

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

crops, including sweet corn, during the 12 months ended September 30 of the year preceding the tax year. Land preparation, crop rotation, and fallow periods shall not disqualify property from classification as vegetable acreage if such property is actually used for the production of vegetable crops.

1. It is hereby determined by the Legislature that vegetable farming in the EAA is subject to volatile market conditions and is particularly subject to crop loss or damage due to freezes, flooding, and drought. It is further determined by the Legislature that, due to the foregoing factors, imposition of an Everglades agricultural privilege tax upon vegetable acreage in excess of the minimum tax could create a severe economic hardship and impair the production of vegetable crops. Notwithstanding the schedule of Everglades agricultural privilege taxes set forth in subparagraph (c)1., the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for vegetable acreage shall be the minimum tax, and vegetable acreage shall not be entitled to any incentive credits.

2. If either the Governor, the President of the United States, or the United States Department of Agriculture declares the existence of a state of emergency or disaster resulting from extreme natural conditions impairing the ability of vegetable acreage to produce crops, payment of the Everglades agricultural privilege taxes imposed for the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on such property shall be deferred for a period of 1 year, and all subsequent annual payments shall be deferred for the same period.

a. If the declaration occurs between April 1 and October 31, the Everglades agricultural privilege tax to be included on the next annual tax notice will be deferred to the subsequent annual tax notice.

b. If the declaration occurs between November 1 and March 31 and the Everglades agricultural privilege tax included on the most recent tax notice has not been paid, such Everglades agricultural privilege tax will be deferred to the next annual tax notice.

c. If the declaration occurs between November 1 and March 31 and the Everglades agricultural privilege tax included on the most recent tax notice has been paid, the Everglades agricultural privilege tax to be included on the next annual tax notice will be deferred to the subsequent annual tax notice.

3. In the event payment of Everglades agricultural privilege taxes is deferred pursuant to this paragraph, the district must record a notice in the official records of each county in which vegetable acreage subject to such deferment is located. The recorded notice must describe each parcel of property as to which Everglades agricultural privilege taxes have been deferred and the amount deferred for such property. If all or any portion of the property as to which Everglades agricultural privilege taxes have been deferred ceases to be classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193 or otherwise subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax, all deferred amounts must be included on the tax notice for such property mailed in November of the first tax year for which such property is not subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax. After a property owner has paid all outstanding Everglades agricultural privilege taxes, including any deferred amounts, the district shall provide the property owner with a recordable instrument evidencing the payment of all outstanding amounts.

4. The owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder must file an application with the executive director of the district prior to July 1 for classification of a portion of the property as vegetable acreage on the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to be certified for the tax notice mailed in November of the same calendar year and shall have the burden of proving the number of acres used for the production of vegetable crops during the year in which incentive credits are determined and the period of such use. The governing board of the district shall deny or grant the application by resolution adopted prior to or at the time of the adoption of its resolution certifying the annual Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector.

5. This paragraph does not relieve vegetable acreage from the performance of best management practices specified in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code.

(e) If, for any tax year, the number of acres subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax is less than the number of acres included on the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll certified for the tax notices mailed in November 1994, the minimum tax shall be subject to increase in the manner provided in this paragraph. In determining the number of acres subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for purposes of this paragraph, property acquired by a not-for-profit

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

agricultural privilege tax for purposes of this paragraph, property acquired by a not-for-profit entity for purposes of conservation and preservation, the United States, or the state, or any agency thereof, and removed from the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll after January 1, 1994, shall be treated as subject to the tax even though no tax is imposed or due: in its entirety, for tax notices mailed prior to November 2000; to the extent its area exceeds 4 percent of the total area of property subject to the Everglades agricultural tax, for tax notices mailed in November 2000 through November 2005; and to the extent its area exceeds 8 percent of the total area of property subject to the Everglades agricultural tax, for tax notices mailed in November 2006 and thereafter. For each tax year, the district shall determine the amount, if any, by which the sum of the following exceeds \$12,367,000:

1. The product of the minimum tax multiplied by the number of acres subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax; and
2. The ad valorem tax increment, as defined in this subparagraph.

The aggregate of such annual amounts, less any portion previously applied to eliminate or reduce future increases in the minimum tax, as described in this paragraph, shall be known as the "excess tax amount." If for any tax year, the amount computed by multiplying the minimum tax by the number of acres then subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax is less than \$12,367,000, the excess tax amount shall be applied in the following manner. If the excess tax amount exceeds such difference, an amount equal to the difference shall be deducted from the excess tax amount and applied to eliminate any increase in the minimum tax. If such difference exceeds the excess tax amount, the excess tax amount shall be applied to reduce any increase in the minimum tax. In such event, a new minimum tax shall be computed by subtracting the remaining excess tax amount from \$12,367,000 and dividing the result by the number of acres subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax for such tax year. For purposes of this paragraph, the "ad valorem tax increment" means 50 percent of the difference between the amount of ad valorem taxes actually imposed by the district for the immediate prior tax year against property included on the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll certified for the tax notices mailed in November 1994 that was not subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax during the immediate prior tax year and the amount of ad valorem taxes that would have been imposed against such property for the immediate prior tax year if the taxable value of each acre had been equal to the average taxable value of all other land classified as agricultural within the EAA for such year; however, the ad valorem tax increment for any year shall not exceed the amount that would have been derived from such property from imposition of the minimum tax during the immediate prior tax year.

(f) Any owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder of property subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax may contest the Everglades agricultural privilege tax by filing an action in circuit court.

1. No action may be brought to contest the Everglades agricultural privilege tax after 60 days from the date the tax notice that includes the Everglades agricultural privilege tax is mailed by the tax collector. Before an action to contest the Everglades agricultural privilege tax may be brought, the taxpayer shall pay to the tax collector the amount of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax which the taxpayer admits in good faith to be owing. The tax collector shall issue a receipt for the payment, and the receipt shall be filed with the complaint. Payment of an Everglades agricultural privilege tax shall not be deemed an admission that such tax was due and shall not prejudice the right to bring a timely action to challenge such tax and seek a refund. No action to contest the Everglades agricultural privilege tax may be maintained, and such action shall be dismissed, unless all Everglades agricultural privilege taxes imposed in years after the action is brought, which the taxpayer in good faith admits to be owing, are paid before they become delinquent. The requirements of this subparagraph are jurisdictional.

2. In any action involving a challenge of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax, the court shall assess all costs. If the court finds that the amount of tax owed by the taxpayer is greater than the amount the taxpayer has in good faith admitted and paid, it shall enter judgment against the taxpayer for the deficiency and for interest on the deficiency at the rate of 12 percent per year from the date the tax became delinquent. If it finds that the amount of tax which the taxpayer has admitted to be owing is grossly disproportionate to the amount of tax found to be due and that the taxpayer's admission was not made in good faith, the court shall also assess a penalty at the rate of 25 percent of the deficiency per year from the date the tax became delinquent. The court may issue injunctions to restrain the sale of property for any Everglades agricultural privilege tax which appears to be contrary to law or equity.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

(g) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in chapter 120, or any provision of any other law, an action in circuit court shall be the exclusive remedy to challenge the assessment of an Everglades agricultural privilege tax and owners of property subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax shall have no right or standing to initiate administrative proceedings under chapter 120 to challenge the assessment of an Everglades agricultural privilege tax, including specifically, and without limitation, the annual certification by the district governing board of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector, the annual calculation of any incentive credit for phosphorus level reductions, the denial of an application for exclusion from the Everglades agricultural privilege tax, the calculation of the minimum tax adjustments provided in paragraph (e), the denial of an application for reduction to the minimum tax, and the denial of any application for classification as vegetable acreage, deferment of payment for vegetable acreage, or correction of any alleged error in the Everglades agricultural privilege tax roll.

(h) In recognition of the findings set forth in subsection (1), the Legislature finds that the assessment and use of the Everglades agricultural privilege tax is a matter of concern to all areas of Florida and the Legislature intends this act to be a general law authorization of the tax within the meaning of s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

(7) C-139 AGRICULTURAL PRIVILEGE TAX.--

(a) There is hereby imposed an annual C-139 agricultural privilege tax for the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on:

1. All real property located within the C-139 Basin that is classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193; and
2. Leasehold or other interests in real property located within the C-139 Basin owned by the United States, the state, or any agency thereof permitting the property to be used for agricultural purposes in a manner that would result in such property being classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193 if not governmentally owned, whether or not such property is actually classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193.

It is hereby determined by the Legislature that the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on such property constitutes a reasonable basis for imposing the C-139 agricultural privilege tax and that logical differences exist between the agricultural use of such property and the use of other property within the C-139 Basin for residential or nonagricultural commercial use. The C-139 agricultural privilege tax shall constitute a lien against the property, or the leasehold or other interest in governmental property permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes, described on the C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll. The lien shall be in effect from January 1 of the year the tax notice is mailed until discharged by payment and shall be equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and non-ad valorem assessments imposed pursuant to general law, special act, or local ordinance and shall be superior in dignity to all other liens, titles, and claims.

(b) The C-139 agricultural privilege tax, other than for leasehold or other interests in governmental property permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes, shall be collected in the manner provided for ad valorem taxes. By September 15 of each year, the governing board of the district shall certify by resolution a C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll on compatible electronic medium to the tax collector of each county in which a portion of the C-139 Basin is located. The district shall also produce one copy of the roll in printed form which shall be available for inspection by the public. The district shall post the C-139 agricultural privilege tax for each parcel on the roll. The tax collector shall not accept any such roll that is not certified on compatible electronic medium and that does not contain the posting of the C-139 agricultural privilege tax for each parcel. It is the responsibility of the district that such rolls be free of errors and omissions. Alterations to such rolls may be made by the executive director of the district, or a designee, up to 10 days before certification. If the tax collector or any taxpayer discovers errors or omissions on such roll, such person may request the district to file a corrected roll or a correction of the amount of any C-139 agricultural privilege tax. Other than for leasehold or other interests in governmental property permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes, C-139 agricultural privilege taxes collected pursuant to this section shall be included in the combined notice for ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments provided for in s. ~~197.3635~~. Such C-139 agricultural privilege taxes shall be listed in the portion of the combined notice utilized for non-ad valorem assessments. A separate mailing is authorized only as a solution to the most

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

in the most exigent factual circumstances. However, if a tax collector cannot merge a C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll to produce such a notice, the tax collector shall mail a separate notice of C-139 agricultural privilege taxes or shall direct the district to mail such a separate notice. In deciding whether a separate mailing is necessary, the tax collector shall consider all costs to the district and taxpayers of such a separate mailing and the adverse effects to the taxpayers of delayed and multiple notices. The district shall bear all costs associated with any separate notice. C-139 agricultural privilege taxes collected pursuant to this section shall be subject to all collection provisions of chapter 197, including provisions relating to discount for early payment, prepayment by installment method, deferred payment, penalty for delinquent payment, and issuance and sale of tax certificates and tax deeds for nonpayment. C-139 agricultural privilege taxes for leasehold or other interests in property owned by the United States, the state, or any agency thereof permitting such property to be used for agricultural purposes shall be included on the notice provided pursuant to s. 196.31, a copy of which shall be provided to lessees or other interestholders registering with the district, and shall be collected from the lessee or other appropriate interestholder and remitted to the district immediately upon collection. C-139 agricultural privilege taxes included on the statement provided pursuant to s. 196.31 shall be due and collected on or prior to the next April 1 following provision of the notice. Proceeds of the C-139 agricultural privilege taxes shall be distributed by the tax collector to the district. Each tax collector shall be paid a commission equal to the actual cost of collection, not to exceed 2 percent, on the amount of C-139 agricultural privilege taxes collected and remitted. Notwithstanding any general law or special act to the contrary, C-139 agricultural privilege taxes shall not be included on the notice of proposed property taxes provided in s. 200.069.

(c) The initial C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll shall be certified for the tax notices mailed in November 1994. The C-139 agricultural privilege taxes for the tax notices mailed in November 1994 through November 2013 shall be computed by dividing \$654,656 by the number of acres included on the C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll for such year, excluding any property located within the C-139 Annex. The C-139 agricultural privilege taxes for the tax notices mailed in November 2014 and thereafter shall be \$1.80 per acre.

(d) For purposes of this paragraph, "vegetable acreage" means, for each tax year, any portion of a parcel of property used for a period of not less than 8 months for the production of vegetable crops, including sweet corn, during the 12 months ended September 30 of the year preceding the tax year. Land preparation, crop rotation, and fallow periods shall not disqualify property from classification as vegetable acreage if such property is actually used for the production of vegetable crops.

1. If either the Governor, the President of the United States, or the United States Department of Agriculture declares the existence of a state of emergency or disaster resulting from extreme natural conditions impairing the ability of vegetable acreage to produce crops, payment of the C-139 agricultural privilege taxes imposed for the privilege of conducting an agricultural trade or business on such property shall be deferred for a period of 1 year, and all subsequent annual payments shall be deferred for the same period.

a. If the declaration occurs between April 1 and October 31, the C-139 agricultural privilege tax to be included on the next annual tax notice will be deferred to the subsequent annual tax notice.

b. If the declaration occurs between November 1 and March 31 and the C-139 agricultural privilege tax included on the most recent tax notice has not been paid, such C-139 agricultural privilege tax will be deferred to the next annual tax notice.

c. If the declaration occurs between November 1 and March 31 and the C-139 agricultural privilege tax included on the most recent tax notice has been paid, the C-139 agricultural privilege tax to be included on the next annual tax notice will be deferred to the subsequent annual tax notice.

2. In the event payment of C-139 agricultural privilege taxes is deferred pursuant to this paragraph, the district must record a notice in the official records of each county in which vegetable acreage subject to such deferment is located. The recorded notice must describe each parcel of property as to which C-139 agricultural privilege taxes have been deferred and the amount deferred for such property. If all or any portion of the property as to which C-139 agricultural privilege taxes have been deferred ceases to be classified as agricultural under the provisions of chapter 193 or otherwise subject to the C-139 agricultural privilege tax, all deferred amounts must be included on the tax notice for such property mailed in November of the first tax

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index..../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

amounts must be included on the tax notice for such property mailed in November of the first tax year for which such property is not subject to the C-139 agricultural privilege tax. After a property owner has paid all outstanding C-139 agricultural privilege taxes, including any deferred amounts, the district shall provide the property owner with a recordable instrument evidencing the payment of all outstanding amounts.

3. The owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder shall file an application with the executive director of the district prior to July 1 for classification of a portion of the property as vegetable acreage on the C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll to be certified for the tax notice mailed in November of the same calendar year and shall have the burden of proving the number of acres used for the production of vegetable crops during the year in which incentive credits are determined and the period of such use. The governing board of the district shall deny or grant the application by resolution adopted prior to or at the time of the adoption of its resolution certifying the annual C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector.

4. This paragraph does not relieve vegetable acreage from the performance of best management practices specified in chapter 40E-63, Florida Administrative Code.

(e) Any owner, lessee, or other appropriate interestholder of property subject to the C-139 agricultural privilege tax may contest the C-139 agricultural privilege tax by filing an action in circuit court.

1. No action may be brought to contest the C-139 agricultural privilege tax after 60 days from the date the tax notice that includes the C-139 agricultural privilege tax is mailed by the tax collector. Before an action to contest the C-139 agricultural privilege tax may be brought, the taxpayer shall pay to the tax collector the amount of the C-139 agricultural privilege tax which the taxpayer admits in good faith to be owing. The tax collector shall issue a receipt for the payment and the receipt shall be filed with the complaint. Payment of an C-139 agricultural privilege tax shall not be deemed an admission that such tax was due and shall not prejudice the right to bring a timely action to challenge such tax and seek a refund. No action to contest the C-139 agricultural privilege tax may be maintained, and such action shall be dismissed, unless all C-139 agricultural privilege taxes imposed in years after the action is brought, which the taxpayer in good faith admits to be owing, are paid before they become delinquent. The requirements of this paragraph are jurisdictional.

2. In any action involving a challenge of the C-139 agricultural privilege tax, the court shall assess all costs. If the court finds that the amount of tax owed by the taxpayer is greater than the amount the taxpayer has in good faith admitted and paid, it shall enter judgment against the taxpayer for the deficiency and for interest on the deficiency at the rate of 12 percent per year from the date the tax became delinquent. If it finds that the amount of tax which the taxpayer has admitted to be owing is grossly disproportionate to the amount of tax found to be due and that the taxpayer's admission was not made in good faith, the court shall also assess a penalty at the rate of 25 percent of the deficiency per year from the date the tax became delinquent. The court may issue injunctions to restrain the sale of property for any C-139 agricultural privilege tax which appears to be contrary to law or equity.

(f) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in chapter 120, or any provision of any other law, an action in circuit court shall be the exclusive remedy to challenge the assessment of an C-139 agricultural privilege tax and owners of property subject to the C-139 agricultural privilege tax shall have no right or standing to initiate administrative proceedings under chapter 120 to challenge the assessment of an C-139 agricultural privilege tax including specifically, and without limitation, the annual certification by the district governing board of the C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll to the appropriate tax collector, the denial of an application for exclusion from the C-139 agricultural privilege tax, and the denial of any application for classification as vegetable acreage, deferment of payment for vegetable acreage, or correction of any alleged error in the C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll.

(g) In recognition of the findings set forth in subsection (1), the Legislature finds that the assessment and use of the C-139 agricultural privilege tax is a matter of concern to all areas of Florida and the Legislature intends this section to be a general law authorization of the tax within the meaning of s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

(8) SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.--

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

(a) In addition to any other legally available funding mechanism, the district may create, alone or in cooperation with counties, municipalities, and special districts pursuant to s. 163.01, the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, one or more stormwater management system benefit areas including property located outside the EAA and the C-139 Basin, and property located within the EAA and the C-139 Basin that is not subject to the Everglades agricultural privilege tax or the C-139 agricultural privilege tax. The district may levy special assessments within said benefit areas to fund the planning, acquisition, construction, financing, operation, maintenance, and administration of stormwater management systems for the benefited areas. Any benefit area in which property owners receive substantially different levels of stormwater management system benefits shall include stormwater management system benefit subareas within which different per acreage assessments shall be levied from subarea to subarea based upon a reasonable relationship to benefits received. The assessments shall be calculated to generate sufficient funds to plan, acquire, construct, finance, operate, and maintain the stormwater management systems authorized pursuant to this section.

(b) The district may use the non-ad valorem levy, collection, and enforcement method as provided in chapter 197 for assessments levied pursuant to paragraph (a).

(c) The district shall publish notice of the certification of the non-ad valorem assessment roll pursuant to chapter 197 in a newspaper of general circulation in the counties wherein the assessment is being levied, within 1 week after the district certifies the non-ad valorem assessment roll to the tax collector pursuant to s. 197.3632(5). The assessments levied pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be final and conclusive as to each lot or parcel unless the owner thereof shall, within 90 days of certification of the non-ad valorem assessment roll pursuant to s. 197.3632(5), commence an action in circuit court. Absent such commencement of an action within such period of time by an owner of a lot or parcel, such owner shall thereafter be estopped to raise any question related to the special benefit afforded the property or the reasonableness of the amount of the assessment. Except with respect to an owner who has commenced such an action, the non-ad valorem assessment roll as finally adopted and certified by the South Florida Water Management District to the tax collector pursuant to s. 197.3632(5) shall be competent and sufficient evidence that the assessments were duly levied and that all other proceedings adequate to the adoption of the non-ad valorem assessment roll were duly held, taken, and performed as required by s. 197.3632. If any assessment is abated in whole or in part by the court, the amount by which the assessment is so reduced may, by resolution of the governing board of the district, be payable from funds of the district legally available for that purpose, or at the discretion of the governing board of the district, assessments may be increased in the manner provided in s. 197.3632.

(d) In no event shall the amount of funds collected for stormwater management facilities pursuant to paragraph (a) exceed the cost of providing water management attributable to water quality treatment resulting from the operation of stormwater management systems of the landowners to be assessed. Such water quality treatment may be required by the plan or permits issued by the district. Prior to the imposition of assessments pursuant to paragraph (a) for construction of new stormwater management systems or the acquisition of necessary land, the district shall establish the general purpose, design, and function of the new system sufficient to make a fair and reasonable determination of the estimated costs of water management attributable to water quality treatment resulting from operation of stormwater management systems of the landowners to be assessed. This determination shall establish the proportion of the total anticipated costs attributable to the landowners. In determining the costs to be imposed by assessments, the district shall consider the extent to which nutrients originate from external sources beyond the control of the landowners to be assessed. Costs for hydroperiod restoration within the Everglades Protection Area shall be provided by funds other than those derived from the assessments. The proportion of total anticipated costs attributable to the landowners shall be apportioned to individual landowners considering the factors specified in paragraph (e). Any determination made pursuant to this paragraph or paragraph (e) may be included in the plan or permits issued by the district.

(e) In determining the amount of any assessment imposed on an individual landowner under paragraph (a), the district shall consider the quality and quantity of the stormwater discharged by the landowner, the amount of treatment provided to the landowner, and whether the landowner has provided equivalent treatment or retention prior to discharge to the district's system.

(f) No assessment shall be imposed under this section for the operation or maintenance of a stormwater management system or facility for which construction has been completed on or

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

before July 1, 1991, except to the extent that the operation or maintenance, or any modification of such system or facility, is required to provide water quality treatment.

(g) The district shall suspend, terminate, or modify projects and funding for such projects, as appropriate, if the projects are not achieving applicable goals specified in the plan.

(h) The Legislature hereby determines that any property owner who contributes to the need for stormwater management systems and programs, as determined for each individual property owner either through the plan or through permits issued to the district or to the property owner, is deemed to benefit from such systems and programs, and such benefits are deemed to be directly proportional to the relative contribution of the property owner to such need. The Legislature also determines that the issuance of a master permit provides benefits, through the opportunity to achieve collective compliance, for all persons within the area of the master permit which may be considered by the district in the imposition of assessments under this section.

(9) PERMITS.--

(a) The Legislature finds that construction and operation of the Everglades Construction Project will benefit the water resources of the district and is consistent with the public interest. The district shall construct, maintain, and operate the Everglades Construction Project in accordance with this section.

(b) The Legislature finds that there is an immediate need to initiate cleanup and restoration of the Everglades Protection Area through the Everglades Construction Project. In recognition of this need, the district may begin construction of the Everglades Construction Project prior to final agency action, or notice of intended agency action, on any permit from the department under this section.

(c) The department may issue permits to the district to construct, operate, and maintain the Everglades Construction Project based on the criteria set forth in this section. The permits to be issued by the department to the district under this section shall be in lieu of other permits under this part or ²part VIII of chapter 403, 1992 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1991.

(d) By June 1, 1994, the district shall apply to the department for a permit or permits for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Everglades Construction Project. The district may comply with this paragraph by amending its pending Everglades permit application.

(e) The department shall issue a permit for a term of 5 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Everglades Construction Project upon the district's providing reasonable assurances that:

1. The project will be constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the Everglades Construction Project;
2. The BMP program set forth in paragraph (4)(f) has been implemented; and
3. The final design of the Everglades Construction Project shall minimize wetland impacts, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the Everglades Construction Project.

(f) At least 60 days prior to the expiration of any permit issued under this section, the district may apply for renewal for a period of 5 years.

(g) Permits issued under this section may include any standard conditions provided by department rule which are appropriate and consistent with this section.

(h) Discharges shall be allowed, provided the STAs are operated in accordance with this section, if, after a stabilization period:

1. The STAs achieve the design objectives of the Everglades Construction Project for phosphorus;
2. For water quality parameters other than phosphorus, the quality of water discharged from the

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

STAs is of equal or better quality than inflows; and

3. Discharges from STAs do not pose a serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

(i) The district may discharge from any STA into waters of the state upon issuance of final agency action authorizing such action or in accordance with s. 373.439.

(j)1. Modifications to the Everglades Construction Project shall be submitted to the department for a determination as to whether permit modification is necessary. The department shall notify the district within 30 days after receiving the submittal as to whether permit modification is necessary.

2. The Legislature recognizes that technological advances may occur during the construction of the Everglades Construction Project. If superior technology becomes available in the future which can be implemented to more effectively meet the intent and purposes of this section, the district is authorized to pursue that alternative through permit modification to the department. The department may issue or modify a permit provided that the alternative is demonstrated to be superior at achieving the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project considering:

- a. Levels of load reduction;
- b. Levels of discharge concentration reduction;
- c. Water quantity, distribution, and timing for the Everglades Protection Area;
- d. Compliance with water quality standards;
- e. Compatibility of treated water with the balance in natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna in the Everglades Protection Area;
- f. Cost-effectiveness; and
- g. The schedule for implementation.

Upon issuance of permit modifications by the department, the district is authorized to use available funds to finance the modification.

3. The district shall modify projects of the Everglades Construction Project, as appropriate, if the projects are not achieving the design objectives. Modifications that are inconsistent with the permit shall require a permit modification from the department. Modifications which substitute the treatment technology must meet the requirements of subparagraph 2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the district from refining or modifying the final design of the project based upon the February 14, 1994, conceptual design document in accordance with standard engineering practices.

(k) By October 1, 1994, the district shall apply for a permit under this section to operate and maintain discharge structures within the control of the district which discharge into, within, or from the Everglades Protection Area and are not included in the Everglades Construction Project. The district may comply with this subsection by amending its pending permit application regarding these structures. In addition to the requirements of ss. 373.413 and 373.416, the application shall include the following:

1. Schedules and strategies for:
 - a. Achieving and maintaining water quality standards;
 - b. Evaluation of existing programs, permits, and water quality data;
 - c. Acquisition of lands and construction and operation of water treatment facilities, if appropriate, together with development of funding mechanisms; and

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

d. Development of a regulatory program to improve water quality, including identification of structures or systems requiring permits or modifications of existing permits.

2. A monitoring program to ensure the accuracy of data and measure progress toward achieving compliance with water quality standards.

(l) The department shall issue one or more permits for a term of 5 years for the operation and maintenance of structures identified by the district in paragraph (k) upon the district's demonstration of reasonable assurance that those elements identified in paragraph (k) will provide compliance with water quality standards to the maximum extent practicable and otherwise comply with the provisions of ss. 373.413 and 373.416. The department shall take agency action on the permit application by October 1, 1996. At least 60 days prior to the expiration of any permit, the district may apply for a renewal thereof for a period of 5 years.

(m) The district may apply for modification of any permit issued pursuant to this subsection, including superior technology in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subsection.

(n) The district also shall apply for a permit or modification of an existing permit, as provided in this subsection, for any new structure or for any modification of an existing structure.

(o) Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this subsection shall relieve any person from the need to obtain any permit required by the department or the district pursuant to any other provision of law.

(p) The district shall publish notice of rulemaking pursuant to chapter 120 by October 1, 1991, allowing for a master permit or permits authorizing discharges from landowners within that area served by structures identified as S-5A, S-6, S-7, S-8, and S-150. For discharges within this area, the district shall not initiate any proceedings to require new permits or permit modifications for nutrient limitations prior to the adoption of the master permit rule by the governing board of the district or prior to April 1, 1992, whichever first occurs. The district's rules shall also establish conditions or requirements allowing for a single master permit for the Everglades Agricultural Area including those structures and water releases subject to chapter 40E-61, Florida Administrative Code. No later than the adoption of rules allowing for a single master permit, the department and the district shall provide appropriate procedures for incorporating into a master permit separate permits issued by the department under this chapter. The district's rules authorizing master permits for the Everglades Agricultural Area shall provide requirements consistent with this section and with interim or other permits issued by the department to the district. Such a master permit shall not preclude the requirement that individual permits be obtained for persons within the master permit area for activities not authorized by, or not in compliance with, the master permit. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the department or district to enforce existing permit requirements or existing rules, to require permits for new structures, or to develop rules for master permits for other areas. To the greatest extent possible the department shall delegate to the district any authority necessary to implement this subsection which is not already delegated.

(10) LONG-TERM COMPLIANCE PERMITS.--By December 31, 2006, the department and the district shall take such action as may be necessary so that water delivered to the Everglades Protection Area achieves state water quality standards, including the phosphorus criterion, in all parts of the Everglades Protection Area.

(a) By December 31, 2003, the district shall submit to the department a permit modification to incorporate proposed changes to the Everglades Construction Project and the permits issued pursuant to subsection (9). These changes shall be designed to achieve compliance with the phosphorus criterion and the other state water quality standards by December 31, 2006.

(b) If the Everglades Construction Project or other discharges to the Everglades Protection Area are not in compliance with state water quality standards, the permit application shall include:

1. A plan for achieving compliance with the phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area.

2. A plan for achieving compliance in the Everglades Protection Area with state water quality

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

standards other than the phosphorus criterion.

3. Proposed cost estimates for the plans referred to in subparagraphs 1. and 2.
4. Proposed funding mechanisms for the plans referred to in subparagraphs 1. and 2.
5. Proposed schedules for implementation of the plans referred to in subparagraphs 1. and 2.

(c) If the Everglades Construction Project or other discharges to the Everglades Protection Area are in compliance with state water quality standards, including the phosphorus criterion, the permit application shall include:

1. A plan for maintaining compliance with the phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area.
2. A plan for maintaining compliance in the Everglades Protection Area with state water quality standards other than the phosphorus criterion.

(11) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS AND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS; AUTHORITY OF DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT.--

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this section shall be construed:

1. As altering any applicable state water quality standards, laws, or district or department rules in areas impacted by this section; or
2. To restrict the authority otherwise granted the department and the district pursuant to this chapter or chapter 403, and provisions of this section shall be deemed supplemental to the authority granted pursuant to this chapter and chapter 403.

(b) Mixing zones, variances, and moderating provisions, or relief mechanisms for compliance with water quality standards as provided by department rules, shall not be permitted for discharges which are subject to paragraph (4)(f) and subject to this section, except that site specific alternative criteria may be allowed for nonphosphorus parameters if the applicant shows entitlement under applicable law. After December 31, 2006, all such relief mechanisms may be allowed for nonphosphorus parameters if otherwise provided for by applicable law.

(c) Those landowners or permittees who are not in compliance as provided in paragraph (4)(f) must meet a discharge limit for phosphorus of 50 parts per billion (ppb) unless and until some other limit has been established by department rule or order or operation of paragraph (4)(e).

(12) RIGHTS OF SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA.--Nothing in this section is intended to diminish or alter the governmental authority and powers of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, or diminish or alter the rights of that tribe, including, but not limited to, rights under the Water Rights Compact among the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the state, and the South Florida Water Management District as enacted by Pub. L. No. 100-228, 101 Stat. 1556, and chapter 87-292, Laws of Florida, and codified in s. ~~285.165~~, and rights under any other agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the state or its agencies. No land of the Seminole Tribe of Florida shall be used for stormwater treatment without the consent of the tribe.

(13) ANNUAL REPORTS.--Beginning January 1, 1992, the district shall submit to the department, the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate annual progress reports regarding implementation of the section. The annual report will include a summary of the water conditions in the Everglades Protection Area, the status of the impacted areas, the status of the construction of the STAs, the implementation of the BMPs, and actions taken to monitor and control exotic species. The district must prepare the report in coordination with federal and state agencies.

(14) EVERGLADES FUND.--The South Florida Water Management District is directed to separately account for all moneys used for the purpose of funding the Everglades Construction Project.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

(15) DEFINITION OF EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA.--As used in this section, "Everglades Agricultural Area" or "EAA" means the following described property: BEGINNING at the intersection of the North line of Section 2, Township 41, Range 37 East, with the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Levee D-9, in Palm Beach County, Florida; thence, easterly along said North line of said Section 2 to the Northeast corner of said Section 2; thence, northerly along the West line of Section 36, Township 40 South, Range 37 East, to the West one-quarter corner of said Section 36; thence, easterly along the East-West half section line of said Section 36 to the center of said Section 36; thence northerly along the North-South half section line of said Section 36 to the North one-quarter corner of said Section 36, said point being on the line between Palm Beach and Martin Counties; thence, easterly along said North line of said Section 36 and said line between Palm Beach and Martin Counties to the Westerly right-of-way line of the South Florida Water Management District's Levee 8 North Tieback; thence, southerly along said Westerly right-of-way line of said Levee 8 North Tieback to the Southerly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 8 at a point near the Northeast corner of Section 12, Township 41 South, Range 37 East; thence, easterly along said Southerly right-of-way line of said Levee 8 to a point in Section 7, Township 41 South, Range 38 East, where said right-of-way line turns southeasterly; thence, southeasterly along the Southwesterly right-of-way line of said Levee 8 to a point near the South line of Section 8, Township 43 South, Range 40 East, where said right-of-way line turns southerly; thence, southerly along the Westerly right-of-way line of said Levee 8 to the Northerly right-of-way line of State Road 80, in Section 32, Township 43 South, Range 40 East; thence, westerly along the Northerly right-of-way line of said State Road 80 to the northeasterly extension of the Northwesterly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 7; thence, southwesterly along said northeasterly extension, and along the northwesterly right-of-way line of said Levee 7 to a point near the Northwest corner of Section 3, Township 45 South, Range 39 East, where said right-of-way turns southerly; thence, southerly along the Westerly right-of-way line of said Levee 7 to the Northwesterly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 6, on the East line of Section 4, Township 46 South, Range 39 East; thence, southwesterly along the Northwesterly right-of-way line of said Levee 6 to the Northerly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 5, near the Southwest corner of Section 22, Township 47 South, Range 38 East; thence, westerly along said Northerly right-of-way lines of said Levee 5 and along the Northerly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 4 to the Northeasterly right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 3 and the Northeast corner of Section 12, Township 48 South, Range 34 East; thence, northwesterly along said Northeasterly right-of-way line of said Levee 3 to a point near the Southwest corner of Section 9, Township 47 South, Range 34 East, where said right-of-way line turns northerly; thence, northerly along the Easterly right-of-way lines of said Levee 3 and South Florida Water Management District's Levee 2 to the southerly line of Section 4, Township 46 South, Range 34 East; thence, easterly along said southerly line of said Section 4 to the Southeast corner of said Section 4; thence, northerly along the East lines of said Section 4 and Section 33, Township 45 South, Range 34 East, to the Northeast corner of said Section 33; thence, westerly along the North line of said Section 33 to said Easterly right-of-way line of said Levee 2; thence, northerly along said Easterly right-of-way lines of said Levee 2 and South Florida Water Management District's Levee 1, to the North line of Section 16, Township 44 South, Range 34 East; thence, easterly along the North lines of said Section 16 and Section 15, Township 44 South, Range 34 East, to the Northeast corner of said Section 15; thence, northerly along the West lines of Section 11 and Section 2, Township 44 South, Range 34 East, and the West lines of Section 35, Section 26 and Section 23, Township 43 South, Range 34 East to a point 25 feet north of the West quarter-corner (W1/4) of said Section 23; thence, easterly along a line that is 25 feet north and parallel to the East-West half section line of said Section 23 and Section 24 to a point that is 25 feet north of the center of said Section 24; thence, northerly along the North-South half section lines of said Section 24 and Section 13, Township 43 South, Range 34 East, to the intersection with the North right-of-way line of State Road 80A (old U.S. Highway 27); thence, westerly along said North right-of-way line of said State Road 80A (old U.S. Highway 27) to the intersection with the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 80; thence, easterly along said Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 80 to the intersection with the North line of Section 19, Township 43 South, Range 35 East; thence, easterly along said North line of said Section 19 to the intersection with Southerly right-of-way of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee D-2; thence, easterly along said Southerly right-of-way of said Levee D-2 to the intersection with the north right-of-way line of State Road 80 (new U.S. Highway 27); thence, easterly along said North right-of-way line of said State Road 80 (new U.S. Highway 27) to the East right-of-way line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 25 (Miami Canal); thence, North along said East right-of-way line of said Levee 25 to the said south right-of-way line of said Levee D-2; thence, easterly and northeasterly along said Southerly and Easterly right-of-way lines of said Levee D-2 and said Levee D-9 to the point of beginning.

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=->2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

³(16) DEFINITION OF C-139 BASIN.--For purposes of this section:

(a) "C-139 Basin" or "Basin" means the following described property: beginning at the intersection of an easterly extension of the south bank of Deer Fence Canal with the center line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 3 in Section 33, Township 46 South, Range 34 East, Hendry County, Florida; thence, westerly along said easterly extension and along the South bank of said Deer Fence Canal to where it intersects the center line of State Road 846 in Section 33, Township 46 South, Range 32 East; thence, departing from said top of bank to the center line of said State Road 846, westerly along said center line of said State Road 846 to the West line of Section 4, Township 47 South, Range 31 East; thence, northerly along the West line of said section 4, and along the west lines of Sections 33 and 28, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, to the northwest corner of said Section 28; thence, easterly along the North line of said Section 28 to the North one-quarter (N1/4) corner of said Section 28; thence, northerly along the West line of the Southeast one-quarter (SE1/4) of Section 21, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, to the northwest corner of said Southeast one-quarter (SE1/4) of Section 21; thence, easterly along the North line of said Southeast one-quarter (SE1/4) of Section 21 to the northeast corner of said Southeast one-quarter (SE1/4) of Section 21; thence, northerly along the East line of said Section 21 and the East line of Section 16, Township 46 South, Range 31, East, to the northeast corner thereof; thence, westerly along the North line of said Section 16, to the northwest corner thereof; thence, northerly along the West line of Sections 9 and 4, Township 46 South, Range 31, East, to the northwest corner of said Section 4; thence, westerly along the North lines of Section 5 and Section 6, Township 46 South, Range 31 East, to the South one-quarter (S1/4) corner of Section 31, Township 45 South, Range 31 East; thence, northerly to the South one-quarter (S1/4) corner of Section 30, Township 45 South, Range 31 East; thence, easterly along the South line of said Section 30 and the South lines of Sections 29 and 28, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, to the Southeast corner of said Section 28; thence, northerly along the East line of said Section 28 and the East lines of Sections 21 and 16, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, to the Northwest corner of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southwest one-quarter (SW1/4 of the SW 1/4) of Section 15, Township 45 South, Range 31 East; thence, northeasterly to the east one-quarter (E1/4) corner of Section 15, Township 45 South, Range 31 East; thence, northerly along the East line of said Section 15, and the East line of Section 10, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, to the center line of a road in the Northeast one-quarter (NE1/4) of said Section 10; thence, generally easterly and northeasterly along the center line of said road to its intersection with the center line of State Road 832; thence, easterly along said center line of said State Road 832 to its intersection with the center line of State Road 833; thence, northerly along said center line of said State Road 833 to the north line of Section 9, Township 44 South, Range 32 East; thence, easterly along the North line of said Section 9 and the north lines of Sections 10, 11 and 12, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, to the northeast corner of Section 12, Township 44 South, Range 32 East; thence, easterly along the North line of Section 7, Township 44 South, Range 33 East, to the center line of Flaghole Drainage District Levee, as it runs to the east near the northwest corner of said Section 7, Township 44 South, Range 33 East; thence, easterly along said center line of the Flaghole Drainage District Levee to where it meets the center line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 1 at Flag Hole Road; thence, continue easterly along said center line of said Levee 1 to where it turns south near the Northwest corner of Section 12, Township 44 South, Range 33 East; thence, Southerly along said center line of said Levee 1 to where the levee turns east near the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence, easterly along said center line of said Levee 1 to where it turns south near the Northeast corner of Section 17, Township 44 South, Range 34 East; thence, southerly along said center line of said Levee 1 and the center line of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 2 to the intersection with the north line of Section 33, Township 45 South, Range 34 East; thence, easterly along the north line of said Section 33 to the northeast corner of said Section 33; thence, southerly along the east line of said Section 33 to the southeast corner of said Section 33; thence, southerly along the east line of Section 4, Township 46 South, Range 34 East to the southeast corner of said Section 4; thence, westerly along the south line of said Section 4 to the intersection with the centerline of South Florida Water Management District's Levee 2; thence, southerly along said Levee 2 centerline and South Florida Water Management District's Levee 3 centerline to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

(b) If the district issues permits in accordance with all applicable rules allowing water from the "C-139 Annex" to flow into the drainage system for the C-139 Basin, the C-139 Annex shall be added to the C-139 Basin for all tax years thereafter, commencing with the next C-139 agricultural privilege tax roll certified after issuance of such permits. "C-139 Annex" means the following described property: that part of the S.E. 1/4 of Section 32, Township 46 South, Range 34 East and that portion of Sections 5 and 6, Township 47 South, Range 34 East lying west of the L-3 Canal and South of the Deer Fence Canal; all of Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34, and that portion of Sections 8, 9, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29 lying south and west

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.../SEC4592.HTM&Title=>2000->Ch0373->Section%20459> 1/25/01

33, and 34, and that portion of Sections 2, 3, 10, 21, 22, 26, 27, 33, and 34 lying south and west of the L-3 Canal, in Township 47 South, Range 34 East; and all of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 and that portion of Section 1 lying south and west of the L-3 Canal all in Township 48 South, Range 34 East.

(17) SHORT TITLE.--This section shall be known as the "Everglades Forever Act."

History.--s. 2, ch. 91-80; ss. 1, 2, ch. 94-115; s. 273, ch. 94-356; s. 171, ch. 99-13.

¹Note.--Repealed by s. 38, ch. 99-247.

²Note.--Sections 403.91-403.938 comprised part VIII of ch. 403 in 1992. Except for s. 403.927 and ss. 403.93-403.958, these sections were repealed by ss. 45, 46, ch. 93-213, or s. 18, ch. 95-145. Sections 403.93-403.936 were repealed by s. 13, ch. 95-299. The two remaining sections from former part VIII as it was constituted in 1992, ss. 403.927 and 403.938 (transferred to s. 403.9333 by s. 12, ch. 95-299), are located in part VII of ch. 403.

³Note.--Section 3, ch. 96-412, provides that "[n]otwithstanding s. 373.4592(16), to the contrary, Sections 21, 28, and 33, Township 46 South, Range 31 East shall not be included within the boundary of the C-139 Basin." Section 84, ch. 96-321, contains a substantially similar provision.

[Welcome](#) • [Session](#) • [Committees](#) • [Legislators](#) • [Information Center](#) • [Statutes and Constitution](#) • [Lobbyist Information](#)

Disclaimer: The information on this system is unverified. The journals or printed bills of the respective chambers should be consulted for official purposes. Copyright © 2000 State of Florida. [Contact us](#).

2435995 OR: 2514 PG: 0200

RECORDED in OFFICIAL RECORDS of COLLIER COUNTY, FL
02/18/99 at 09:23AM DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK

REC FEE 42.00
DOC-.70 .70

Retn:
HARRY O HENDRY
P O BOX 1509
FT MYERS FL 33902

42.00
928.10 stamps
10.00 sub copy

This instrument prepared by and return to:
Marcy Z. Wilson, Title Examiner Supervisor
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

FL 9902192 B 581 P 421
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

DOC STAMPS 9,928.10
INTANG TAX .00

Tax Folio # 1-24-45-29-1700-0001.0000
Project: Okaloacoochee Slough
Tract: 100-013, 014, 015

CHRISTINE PRATT CLERK
CO:HENDRY ST:FL

FILED AND RECORDED
DT 02/17/1999 TIME 16:27

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE made this 16th day of February, 1999, between **ALICO, INC.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, the Grantor, whose mailing address is 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, Florida 33935, Hendry County, in consideration of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration, received from **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, the Grantee, whose mailing address is c/o Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, Leon County, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, the real property located in Hendry and Collier Counties, State of Florida, described as:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

RESERVING unto Grantor a non-exclusive access, ingress and egress easement ("Access Easement") with respect to the real property described in Schedule "1-C" attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Parcel"). This Access Easement is reserved to Grantor for the use and benefit of its officers, agents, employees, guests, lessees, licensees, contractees and subcontractees, successors and assigns, for access, ingress and egress, over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel to the lands owned in fee by Grantor, as hereinafter provided, together with any and all purposes reasonably deemed by the Grantor to be necessary, convenient or incident to such access, ingress and egress over, under and across or through the Easement Parcel. The real property described in Schedule "2-C" is benefited by the easement described in Schedule "1-C", which is appurtenant thereto. (The lands described in Schedule "2-C" are hereinafter referred to as Grantor's Benefited Parcel.) Unless consented to by Grantee in writing and Grantee makes no representations that such consent will be given, at no time shall the road bed located within the Easement Parcel described in Schedule "1-C" attached hereto and made a part hereof ever exceed fifty (50) feet in width with the exception of the right to improve the Easement Parcel described in Schedule "1-C" to access Section 12, Township 45 South, Range 29 East, such improvement, however, shall not exceed fifty (50) feet in width.

1.3 Public Hearing Notice, Advertisements, and Press Release

1.3.1 Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Announces a

PUBLIC HEARING

for the
**Okaloacoochee Slough
Wildlife Management Area
Management Plan**

Hendry County, Florida

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023

Hendry Board of County Commissioner Chambers
25 E. Hickpochee Avenue
LaBelle, FL 33935

PURPOSE: To receive public comment regarding considerations for the FWC ten-year Land Management Plan for the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (OKSWMA). This hearing is being held EXCLUSIVELY for discussion of the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan, which outlines environmental and recreation management on the area. This meeting is not being held to discuss area hunting or fishing regulations, which are handled through a separate rule and regulation development process. For more information about the rule and regulation development process, go online to: <https://myfwc.com/about/rules-regulations/>

A Management Prospectus for the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA is available upon request. For a copy, please contact Nicholas Coppock, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Land Conservation and Planning, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600. Telephone: 850-487-9588.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should notify the agency at least ten calendar days before the meeting by calling 850-488-6411 or contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (Voice), if you are hearing or speech impaired. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at: FWC, Office of Human Resources, 620 S Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, 850-488-6411. Or write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

1.3.2 Internal FWC Press Release

5/17/23, 12:05 PM

Help plan the future of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area | FWC



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MENU

Site Search

[Home](#) > [FWC News](#) > [Help plan the future of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area](#)

Help plan the future of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Media contact: Arielle Callender,
561-882-5709 or
Arielle.Callender@MyFWC.com

Release Date: 04-04-2023

[All Articles](#)

Tags:

WMA

Public Meeting

[Photos available](#)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will present the draft materials for the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area 10-year Management Plan at a public hearing in Hendry County on Wednesday, May 3.

The [public hearing](#) will be held at 7 p.m. at the Hendry County Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue in LaBelle. The public is encouraged to attend and will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions regarding the Management Plan for the FWC-managed WMA.

The [Okaloacoochee Slough WMA](#) encompasses approximately 58,880 acres in Hendry County, 26,510 of which are managed by the FWC, and is one of the few places in Florida where the state's pre-colonial landscape can be observed. The marshes, pine flatwoods and wet prairies found on the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA provide important habitat for wildlife including Florida panthers, little blue herons and roseate spoonbills. The Okaloacoochee Slough WMA also offers many opportunities for public recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, bird watching, hiking, biking, primitive camping and horseback riding.

"The Okaloacoochee Slough WMA was purchased to ensure the preservation of fish, wildlife, and other natural and cultural resources for future generations, and to provide fish and wildlife-based outdoor recreation opportunities to the public," said **Nicholas Coppock, FWC Land Conservation Planner**. "This draft Management Plan will specify how we intend to accomplish that goal."

To obtain a copy of the draft elements of the Management Plan for the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA, call Nicholas Coppock at 850-487-9588 or email Nicholas.Coppock@MyFWC.com. For more information [regarding management plans and other upcoming public hearings](#), go to MyFWC.com/Conservation, click on "Terrestrial Conservation," then on "management" under "Management Plans" and then on "Terrestrial Habitat Management Plans." Hunting and fishing regulations are addressed through a separate public process. Visit MyFWC.com/about and click on "Rules & Regulations" to [learn more about hunting and fishing regulations](#).

Pursuant to Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, all lands purchased with public funds must have a management plan that ensures the property will be managed in a manner that is consistent with the intended purposes of the purchase.

<https://myfwc.com/news/all-news/okaloacoochee-423/>

1/2

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should notify the agency at least 10 calendar days before the meeting by calling 850-488-6411 or contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (Voice), if you are hearing or speech impaired. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, contact the FWC at:

FWC, Office of Human Resources
620 S Meridian Street,
Tallahassee, FL 32399, 850-488-6411

Or write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Civil Rights
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Select Language ▼

Follow Us:

See a full list of our Social Media accounts

Subscribe: 

The Commission

About

The Commission

Commission Meetings

Wildlife Alert

Calendar of Events

Customer Service

Outlook E-mail

Links

Technical Help

Limited English Proficiency Plan

Office of Supplier Diversity

Americans with Disabilities

EEO/AA

Privacy Statement

Sitemap

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission • Farris Bryant Building
620 S. Meridian St. • Tallahassee, FL • (850) 488-4676
Copyright 1999 - 2023 State of Florida

Pursuant to section 120.74, Florida Statutes, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has published its **2022 Agency Regulatory Plan**.

1.3.3 Newspaper

SouthCentralFloridaLife.com | Lake Okeechobee News | April 19, 2023 19

Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) announces a PUBLIC HEARING for the FWC Lead Managed Portions of Okaloacoochee Slough WMA located in Hendry County, Florida.

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023
Hendry Board of County Commissioner Chambers
25 E. Hickpochee Avenue
LaBelle, FL 33935

PURPOSE: To receive public comment regarding considerations for the FWC's ten-year Management Plan for the FWC Lead Managed Portions of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

This hearing is being held EXCLUSIVELY for discussion of the DRAFT Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan, otherwise referred to as the Management Prospectus. This meeting is not being held to discuss area hunting or fishing regulations. For more information on the process for FWC rule and regulation development visit our Proposed Rules Changes webpage at <https://myfwc.com/about/rules-regulations/proposed-rule-changes/>.

A Management Prospectus for the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA and a copy of the agenda is available upon request from Nicholas Coppock at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600. Telephone: (850) 487-9588 or by e-mail at Nicholas.Coppock@MyFWC.com.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should notify the agency at least 10 calendar days before the meeting by calling 850-488-6411 or contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (Voice), if you are hearing or speech impaired. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at:

FWC, Office of Human Resources
 620 S Meridian Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399, 850-488-6411

Or write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Civil Rights
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20240

ad #592626-1 April 19



**“Always on Top
of the Job”**

- Metal & Shingle Roofs
- Flats & Leak Repair

FREE ESTIMATES

863-357-3838

LUVIANO ROOFING INC.
 Re-Roofing Specialists
Santa L.L.C. #CCC-1327338

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



\$1000 OFF* | **AND** | **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months****

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/2023

CALL NOW!
BCI BATH & SHOWER (877) 243-9701

*Includes product and labor, excludes tax, permit, and haul charges. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/2023. Each dealership independently owned and operated. **Third party financing available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. B023-333 Anyco Inc.



Vote for your favorite business in
our Readers' Choice Awards

Voting is Now Open!

Vote now through April 26th at
SouthCentralFloridaLife.com/BestOfLake

SPONSORED IN PART BY



Adron Fence
 Brown & Company Realty
 Florida Trophy Gators
 Heartland Discount Pharmacy
 Hospice of Okeechobee
 Nunez AC
 Parrott Island

1.3.4 Florida Administrative Register Ad

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: May 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hendry Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) announces a PUBLIC HEARING for the FWC Lead Managed Portions of Okaloacoochee Slough WMA located in Hendry County, Florida.

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Hendry Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935

PURPOSE: To receive public comment regarding considerations for the FWC's ten-year Management Plan for the FWC Lead Managed Portions of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

This hearing is being held EXCLUSIVELY for discussion of the DRAFT Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan, otherwise referred to as the Management Prospectus. This meeting is not being held to discuss area hunting or fishing regulations. For more information on the process for FWC rule and regulation development visit our Proposed Rules Changes webpage at <https://myfwc.com/about/rules-regulations/proposed-rule-changes/>.

A Management Prospectus for the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA and a copy of the agenda is available upon request from Nicholas Coppock at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, Telephone: (850)487-9588 or by e-mail at Nicholas.Coppock@MyFWC.com.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should notify the agency at least 10 calendar days before the meeting by calling (850)488-6411 or contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice), if you are hearing or speech impaired. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at:

FWC, Office of Human Resources, 620 S Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (850)488-6411

Or write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Nicholas H. Coppock, Nicholas.Coppock@myfwc.com, (850)487-9588.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 14 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Nicholas H. Coppock, Nicholas.Coppock@myfwc.com, (850)487-9588. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: Nicholas H. Coppock, Nicholas.Coppock@myfwc.com, (850)487-9588.

1.4 Public Input

1.4.1 Management Advisory Group Meeting Results

Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (OKSWMA)

Management Advisory Group (MAG)

Consensus Meeting Results

February 1st, 2023, in Felda, Florida

The intent of convening a consensus meeting is to involve a diverse group of stakeholders in assisting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in development of a rational management concept for lands within the agency's managed area system. The FWC does this by asking spokespersons for these stakeholders to participate in a half-day meeting to provide ideas about how FWC-managed lands should be protected and managed.

The MAG consensus meeting was held on the morning of February 1st, 2023 at the Felda Community Center, in Felda, Florida in Hendry County. The ideas found below were provided by stakeholders for consideration in the 2023 - 2033 Management Plan with priority determined by vote. These ideas represent a valuable source of information to be used by biologists, planners, administrators, and others during the development of the Management Plan. Upon approval by the FWC, the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the Management Plan will guide the activities of FWC personnel over the ten-year duration of the Management Plan and will help meet agency, state, and federal planning requirements.

Numbers to the left of **bold-faced ideas** listed below represent the total number of votes and the score of each idea. Rank is first determined by the number of votes (vote cards received for each idea) and then by score. Score is used to break ties when two or more ideas have the same number of votes. A lower score indicates higher importance because each voter's most important idea (recorded on card #1) received a score of 1, and their fifth most important idea (recorded on card #5) received a score of 5. Ideas not receiving any votes are listed, and are considered during the development of the Management Plan, but carry no judgment with regard to priority.

Statements following the bold-faced ideas represent a synopsis of the clarifying discussion of ideas as transcribed and interpreted by the FWC recorder at the meeting. As indicated above, the ideas below are presented in priority order:

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
1.	[6]	[17]	38. Continue and increase work on invasive removal, management, and monitoring. Burmese Pythons are highly successful predators and need to be monitored. Ideally, this monitoring will lead to new management tools as the current tools (trapping and python roundups) remove a very small percentage of the population. Pythons are new to this area — and as this is a serious problem — we need to respond appropriately. It is especially important that this newly acquired property be treated effectively, as this land has never been treated for pythons. Controlling pythons around the perimeter of the property is especially important. Additionally, invasive plants can be an issue on this property, and ensuring they are treated effectively is an important part of managing the OKSWMA.
2.	[6]	[19]	28. Increase law enforcement staff, continue coordination with Hendry County Sheriff Department to help reduce illegal activity, and limit access after sunset. There is substantial criminal activity occurring on the OKSWMA. This is often done with large amounts of organization and manpower, especially regarding illegal berry picking and poaching. Additionally, much of this crime occurs at night. Increasing the number of staff — especially Law Enforcement staff — would do a great deal to mitigate this. Other suggestions include limiting access at night, license plate readers, limiting campers from ORV use at night.
3.	[5]	[10]	13. Continue habitat restoration efforts and implementing Prescribed Burns. Continue with current efforts through prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical vegetation treatments, and plantings. We conduct prescribed burns on the property, after the Management Plan is made, we will develop a prescription Burn plan for the whole property and try to stick to that.

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
4.	[5]	[19]	42. Manage and improve infrastructure, facilities, and equipment. The only real infrastructure we have is a road system on the north side and south side, and we hope to open an office, a shop, and staff housing.
5.	[4]	[10]	21. Increase environmental education via implementation of interpretive information about wildflowers and plants, and adding an interpretive display and brochure on FL Panther. Increase education efforts for wildlife, plants, and the importance of water resources, wetlands, and everything they provide to the ecosystem. These materials could potentially include the entire watershed, and how the water flows from the OKSWMA to the surrounding area. This interpretive information about the OKSWMA would allow people to utilize the WMA in an educated capacity. Additionally, there has been a lack of informational materials on the FL Panther recently as compared to historically. People know and love the FL Panther, but know little about it. It is essential to the survival of the species to prevent development and maintain habitat, and developing educational materials would help encourage people to speak out against development. This WMA is important for FL Panthers, and educational material about them would be useful for this WMA. Additionally, expanding staff to provide a staff member to coordinate with the school board would increase educational outreach.

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
6.	[4]	[11]	11. Enhance wildlife corridors between OK Slough and other public lands while filling in acquisition gaps, as well as Identifying roadkill hotspots, on Keri Rd. and increasing wildlife safety. The only 2 species that are monitored for roadkill deaths (where/when/how) are FL panther and black bears, these are mapped. But others are not, so use the data that's available for panther and black bears, or do a research study on the roadkill. It's a good way of viewing what wildlife is available. See what roadkill is happening on Keri, locate hotspots, and implement measures to reduce roadkill mortalities. Try fencing along road, an area like this is easy to fence off and create crossings for the animals to use to prevent them from crossing the road. When you have the map of conservation areas, between the green (conservation lands) there were some oranges (Florida Forever Projects), there needs to be a continuance for the folks managing property especially for Prescribed Burns and seed source (invasives) Increase wildlife crossings under Keri Rd. and buying land around the WMA.
7.	[4]	[14]	35. Wetland enhancement to maintain hydrology, perform hydrological surveys and restoration. Continue restoration efforts for hydrological resources. You don't know what to restore without background information. Ensuring native wetlands species and hydrology is present. Maintaining hydrology in the WMA will help with runoff from agricultural areas.
8.	[4]	[15]	18. Increase budget and staff. That's all internal. This would allow you to relocate the check station, where they have power and aren't running off a generator and construct some kind of restroom or outhouse, vault toilets.

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
9.	[3]	[10]	19. Increase trails, boardwalks if necessary, and provide trailhead parking. People like to hike. Id like to see some kind of marked trails out there. Boardwalks or walking bridges above the slough area to be able to walk. Parking does not have to be right on trail, can be near trailhead if there is smaller trail leading to larger trail system. (Just some place to park cars)
10.	[2]	[3]	8. Continue habitat management for birds, wildlife, pollinators, and plants. More management for pollinators and wildflowers, to help with birds and wildlife.
11.	[2]	[4]	31. Reduce impacts to wetlands. Encompasses the development of the WMA; just be cautious and evaluate where the structures are going to reduce impact to higher quality wetlands (determining if theres a better place to put infrastructure based on ecosystems).
12.	[2]	[6]	17. Marked horse safe trails along roads. There are limited trails within the OKSWMA, make it so there are more areas for equestrians to ride. People need something to come out to, not just short trails that are done in less than an hour. More accessible riding trails within the OKSWMA. About 3 miles round trip, horses go approx. 3 miles an hour (6-8 miles of horse trails would be best). Make sure they are marked.

Two items of equal rank:

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
13.	[1]	[1]	4. Continue Monitoring of Endangered and Threatened Species to enhance their populations. Continuously updating as species are endangered/threatened. In addition to monitoring the species, a lot of times its worth while to make seed sources available to make sure the plants continues to flourish. Seed collection with other orgs and propagating plants are other helpful ways to improve plant populations. Pursuing routes to bolster imperiled/important animal species is important too. Ensuring habitat is good so they can expand.
14.	[1]	[1]	15. Clear goals and objectives for each natural community. Looking at the map, there's quite a few natural communities. When the plan gets evaluated every 5 years the management plan will get evaluated. Having clear goals and objectives for each nat communities is important. (e.g. Treat x amount of invasives in ____)

Two items of equal rank:

15.	[1]	[2]	43. Continue to support volunteer opportunities. Our area has one major volunteer event, and we would love to expand and facilitate all volunteer opportunities on the area. Infrastructure maintenance, Species ID and surveys, ground maintenance, experienced volunteers would be great to help with staff.
16.	[1]	[2]	44. Game and non-game, as well as imperiled and locally important species monitoring and management. Continuing what we are doing with imperiled and locally important species. -- Continue with the surveys we are doing right now, as well as following recommended surveying patterns

Three items of equal rank:

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
17.	[1]	[3]	10. Increase Recreational Opportunities. Ensure recreational activities are balanced with conservation efforts.
18.	[1]	[3]	37. Electronic Resource Increase. If we can incorporate this in a way where we would have horse trails electronically available, plants and wildlife viewing, all of that on electronic resources. You can take advantage of bringing this ten-year plan without paper and signs.
19.	[1]	[3]	47. Use cattle as a management tool. We are working with the NRCS to help with the grazing plant on the south -- mostly using it as a way to prevent having to use mechanical removal of overgrowth. Lease with NRCS to use for grazing instead of cattle production.

Two items of equal rank:

20.	[1]	[4]	12. Designated access points with parking. Along 32 and Keri Road, Designated parking along the area. Having designated parking/entry along where berry picking is popular would be very helpful for law enforcement.
21.	[1]	[4]	40. Sufficient Staff housing. If we have more staff on site, then we have more eyes on the ground and can reduce LE interactions, as well as other issues. Housing would make it easier to retain higher numbers of area staff.
22.	[1]	[5]	27. Provide equestrian trail maps

The following items received no votes. All ideas represent valuable input, and are considered in development of the MP, but carry no rank with regard to the priority perceptions of the MAG.

<u>Rank</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Idea</u>
23.	[]	[]	3. Continue Co-operative burning between FFS and FWC. Local forestry wants to continue management cooperation with FWC across boundaries (camping and prescribed Burns)
24.	[]	[]	6. More Access Roads. To accomodate water on property.
25.	[]	[]	20. Increase multi-use partnerships with recreational use organizations. Seasonality of recreational activities. It's good to have opportunities for different uses.
26.	[]	[]	26. Develop Key indicators for species monitoring. Whether its keystone species, Identify key indicators of those species and monitor.
27.	[]	[]	29. Evaluate opportunities for primitive camping sites
28.	[]	[]	45. Continue land conservation partnerships and collaborate with State Forest on presribed burns to combine resources. Continuing our work with CO-op agencies like WMD, FFS, and universities/non-profits for research. Every agency is limited in equipment and staff, and having another management area next to you allows you to do some kind of inclusion/working together. E.g. Following their burn rotation, and combining burns. If you are able to combine resources, then more might be done as opposed to just using the resources that you have.
29.	[]	[]	46. Cultural Resource monitoring and management, as well as survey protection and preservation. We have 3 cultural resources, having a survey on the area and continuing the monitoring. Protect any historical structures. Be aware of any known archeological sites especially if theres any looting issues.

Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

MAG Meeting Participants

Name

Affiliation

Active Participants

Ryder Hochmuth	FWC Area Biologist
Captain Michael Davis	FWC Law Enforcement
Marie Dessources	South Florida Water Management District
Matthew Schwartz	South Florida Wildlands Association
Mitchell Wills	Hendry County Commissioner
Ryan Alexander	Hendry County Planning
Michael Edwards	Florida Forest Service
Tori Gray	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Margaret England	Audubon Society
Deanna Filkins	Florida Trails Association
Marlene Rodak	Florida Native Plant Society
Sue Coffman	Caloosa Saddle Club
Frank Lott	Hunting stakeholder

Supportive Participants

Marsha Ward	FWC Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC), Regional Biologist
-------------	---

Lieutenant Kevin Kleis	FWC Law Enforcement
Kathy Burke	FWC Public Access Services Office (PASO)
Eric Suarez	FWC Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC), Conservation Biologist
Ben Rangel	FWC PASO
Jessica Majors	FWC Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC), Biological Scientist 2
Cheyenne Walker	FWC Hunting and Game Management (HGM), Hunting Areas Biologist
Beau Yeiser	FWC Regional Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN)

Invited but Unable to Attend

Jason O'Donoghue	Division of Historical Resources
Dan Hipes	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
Jeff Schmidt	NRCS District Conservationist
Mike Moore	Alico (Adjacent Landowner)
Luis Gonzalez	FWC Regional Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)

FWC Planning Personnel

Nicholas Coppock	Lead Land Conservation Planner, Facilitator
Jackie Bucheck	Senior Land Conservation Planner, Facilitator
Clara Boyas	Land Conservation Planner, Recorder

1.4.2 Public Hearing Report

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

FOR
THE OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH
WMA
MANAGEMENT PLAN

HELD BY THE

OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH WMA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

AND THE

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAY 3rd, 2023 – HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

The following report documents the public input that was received at the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA (OKSWMA) Management Advisory Group's (MAG) public hearing for the update to the Management Plan for the OKSWMA that was held at 7:00-9:00 PM, on May 3rd at the Hendry Board of County Commissioner Chambers in Labelle, Florida.

OKSWMA Management Advisory Group Introduction:

The meeting was introduced by Mr. Ryder Hochmuth, an OKSWMA Management Advisory Group participant, who represented the OKSWMA MAG. Mr. Ryder Hochmuth indicated that he was one of 13 stakeholders that attended the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) facilitated OKSWMA MAG meeting held on May 3rd, 2023. Mr. Ryder Hochmuth stated that the elements of the Draft Management Plan were being presented tonight by FWC staff, and that hardcopies of the overview, management prospectus and the OKSWMA MAG meeting report were available at the front door for the public's review. Mr. Ryder Hochmuth thanked everyone for attending and then introduced Mr. Nicholas H. Coppock, Land Conservation Planner, FWC, to facilitate and coordinate the presentation of an overview of the OKSWMA, FWC's planning process, and the draft components of the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan.

Presentation on an Overview of the OKSWMA and the FWC Planning Process:

FWC member Mr. Coppock welcomed everyone and thanked the public for their attendance. Mr. Coppock then went over an orientation of the material and explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to solicit public input regarding the Draft Management Plan for the OKSWMA, and not hunting and fishing regulations, indicating there is a separate public input process for FWC rule and regulation development. Mr. Coppock then described the materials that were available at the door for public review, including the OKSWMA Management Prospectus and the MAG Meeting Report. Mr. Coppock then presented the agenda for the public hearing and facilitated the introduction of all FWC staff in attendance to the audience. Mr. Coppock then presented an overview and orientation of the OKSWMA, including a description of the natural communities, data about OKSWMA visitation, revenue and economic benefits generated for the state and region by the area, wildlife species, recreational opportunities found on the area, surrounding conservation lands, surrounding Florida Forever Program Land Acquisition Projects, acquisition history, etc. He also explained FWC's planning process for the management of the public conservation land and asked if there were any questions regarding that process.

Questions, Answers and Discussion on the OKSWMA Overview and FWC's Planning Process:

Mr. Coppock facilitated an informal question and answers session where members of the public in attendance, without necessarily identifying themselves, could ask questions of the FWC staff, and discuss the answers. Mr. Coppock again emphasized that the exclusive purpose for the public hearing was to collect public input regarding the elements of the Draft Management Plan for the OKSWMA, and not to discuss area hunting, fishing and use regulations since, as was noted earlier, FWC has a separate process for input on hunting and fishing regulations.

No questions or comments were received at this stage of the OKSWMA public hearing meeting.

Presentation of the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan:

At this point, Mr. Coppock began the presentation of the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan. Mr. Coppock then completed and concluded the presentation of the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan.

Questions and Comments on the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan Presentation:

Mr. Coppock asked if there were any comments or questions from the public regarding the Draft Management Plan and encouraged everyone to fill out a speaker card for public testimony. He informed them that all comments, questions, and public testimony will be duly considered equally by FWC.

No questions or comments were received at this stage of the OKSWMA public hearing meeting.

Public Testimony on the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan:

One member of the public audience submitted speaker card(s) indicating their intention to provide formal public testimony. Mr. Coppock again emphasized that the public hearing was for taking input regarding the OKSWMA Draft Management Plan and called the first speaker to the podium.

Public Testimony #1: Linda Smithe provided the following remote public testimony via email: *"I am asking for removal of human impacts."*

Adjournment:

Mr. Coppock asked if there were any other members of the public that wished to give public testimony.

No other speakers offered further comments.

Then Mr. Coppock declared the public hearing adjourned.

1.5 Native Plant and Animal Species Lists

Table 8: Plant Species Observed on the OKSWMA

Common name	Scientific name
ragweed	<i>Ambrosia sp.</i>
pink redstem	<i>Ammannia latifolia</i>
blue maidencane	<i>Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum</i>
maidencane	<i>Amphicarpum sp.</i>
shortspike bluestem	<i>Andropogon brachystachyus</i>
bushy bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>
purple bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus var. glaucopsis</i>
bushy bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus var. glomeratus</i>
bushy bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus var. pumilus</i>
bluestem	<i>Andropogon sp.</i>
splitbeard bluestem	<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>
broomsedge bluestem	<i>Andropogon virginicus var. decipiens</i>
chalky bluestem	<i>Andropogon virginicus var. glaucus</i>
broomsedge bluestem	<i>Andropogon virginicus var. virginicus</i>
pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
annona	<i>Annona sp.</i>
longleaf threeawn	<i>Aristida palustris</i>
tall threeawn grass	<i>Aristida patula</i>
arrowfeather threeawn	<i>Aristida purpurascens var. purpurascens</i>
threeawn	<i>Aristida sp.</i>
bottlebrush threeawn	<i>Aristida spiciformis</i>
wiregrass	<i>Aristida stricta</i>
milkweed	<i>Asclepias sp.</i>
netted pawpaw	<i>Asimina reticulata</i>
common carpetgrass	<i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>
big carpetgrass	<i>Axonopus furcatus</i>
silverling	<i>Baccharis glomeruliflora</i>
groundsel tree	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
falsewillow	<i>Baccharis sp.</i>
lemon bacopa	<i>Bacopa caroliniana</i>
tropical waterhyssop	<i>Bacopa innominata</i>
herb-of-grace	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>
waterhyssop	<i>Bacopa sp.</i>
tarflower	<i>Bejaria racemosa</i>
rattan vine	<i>Berchemia scandens</i>
beggarticks	<i>Bidens alba</i>

pineland rayless goldenrod
pineland rayless goldenrod
fern
smallhead doll's daisy
capillary hairsedge
hairsedge
american beautyberry
florida bellflower
chestnutleaf falsecrotan
long's sedge
sedge
coastalplain chaffhead
false vanillaleaf
love vine
sugarberry
spadeleaf
centella
partridge pea
sensitive pea
florida alicia
nuttall's thistle
thistle
citrus
jamaica swamp sawgrass
swamp sawgrass
pine hyacinth
tread-softly
beaked panicum
ciliate redtop panicum
redtop panicum
bluejoint panicum
whitemouth dayflower
blue mistflower
canadian horsetweed
florida tickseed
leavenworth's tickseed
tickseed
flowering dogwood
dogwood
rabbitbells

Bigelowia nudata ssp. australis
Bigelowia nudata ssp. nudata
Blechnum sp.
Boltonia diffusa
Bulbostylis ciliatifolia
Bulbostylis sp.
Callicarpa americana
Campanula floridana
Caperonia castaneifolia
Carex longii
Carex sp.
Carphephorus corymbosus
Carphephorus odoratissimus var. subtropicatus
Cassytha filiformis
Celtis laevigata
Centella asiatica
Centella sp.
Chamaecrista fasciculata
Chamaecrista nictitans
Chapmannia floridana
Cirsium nuttallii
Cirsium sp.
Citrus sp.
Cladium jamaicense
Cladium sp.
Clematis baldwinii
Cnidoscolus stimulosus
Coleataenia anceps
Coleataenia longifolia
Coleataenia rigidula
Coleataenia tenera
Commelina erecta
Conoclinium coelestinum
Conyza canadensis
Coreopsis floridana
Coreopsis leavenworthii
Coreopsis sp.
Cornus florida
Cornus sp.
Crotalaria rotundifolia

rattlebox	<i>Crotalaria sp.</i>
dodder	<i>Cuscuta sp.</i>
poorland flatsedge	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>
baldwin's flatsedge	<i>Cyperus croceus</i>
haspan flatsedge	<i>Cyperus haspan</i>
low spikesedge	<i>Cyperus hortensis</i>
pinebarren flatsedge	<i>Cyperus ovatus</i>
manyspike flatssedge	<i>Cyperus polystachyos</i>
flatsedge	<i>Cyperus sp.</i>
tropical flatsedge	<i>Cyperus surinamensis</i>
prairie clover	<i>Dalea sp.</i>
tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium sp.</i>
needleleaf witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium aciculare</i>
cypress panicgrass	<i>Dichanthelium dichotomum</i>
cypress witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium ensifolium var. ensifolium</i>
cypress witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium ensifolium var. unciphyllum</i>
erectleaf witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium erectifolium</i>
eggleaf witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium ovale</i>
hemlock witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium portoricense</i>
witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium sp.</i>
roughhair witchgrass	<i>Dichanthelium strigosum var. strigosum</i>
southern crabgrass	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>
blanket crabgrass	<i>Digitaria serotina</i>
crabgrass	<i>Digitaria sp.</i>
virginia buttonweed	<i>Diodia virginiana</i>
dwarf sundew	<i>Drosera brevifolia</i>
sundew	<i>Drosera sp.</i>
clustered mille grains	<i>Edrastrum uniflora</i>
baldwin's spikerush	<i>Eleocharis baldwinii</i>
jointed spikerush	<i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i>
yellow spikerush	<i>Eleocharis flavescens</i>
canada spikerush	<i>Eleocharis geniculata</i>
spikerush	<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>
tall elephantsfoot	<i>Elephantopus elatus</i>
elliott's lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>
coastal lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis refracta</i>
lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis sp.</i>
purple lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>
fireweed	<i>Erechtites hieraciifolius</i>
early whitetop fleabane	<i>Erigeron vernus</i>

tenangle pipewort
narrow pipewort
pipewort
baldwin's eryngo
eryngo
button rattlesnakemaster
eucalyptus
spanish stopper
wild coco
dogfennel
yankeeweed
falsefennel
justiceweed
semaphore thoroughwort
mohr's thoroughwort
roundleaf thoroughwort
thoroughwort
saltmarsh fingergrass
pinewoods fingergrass
slender flattop goldenrod
flattop goldenrod
strangler fig
slender fimbry
carolina fimbry
forked fimbry
fimbry
saltmarsh umbrellasedge
southern umbrellasedge
white twinevine
elliott's milkpea
milkpea
dwarf huckleberry
branched hedgehyssop
toothpetal false rein orchid
longhorn false rein orchid
narrowleaf sunflower
stiff sunflower
sunflower
roundleaf bluet
marshpennywort

Eriocaulon decangulare
Eriocaulon lineare
Eriocaulon sp.
Eryngium baldwinii
Eryngium sp.
Eryngium yuccifolium
Eucalyptus sp.
Eugenia foetida
Eulophia alta
Eupatorium capillifolium
Eupatorium compositifolium
Eupatorium leptophyllum
Eupatorium leucolepis
Eupatorium mikanioides
Eupatorium mohrii
Eupatorium rotundifolium
Eupatorium sp.
Eustachys glauca
Eustachys petraea
Euthamia caroliniana
Euthamia sp.
Ficus aurea
Fimbristylis autumnalis
Fimbristylis caroliniana
Fimbristylis dichotoma
Fimbristylis sp.
Fuirena breviseta
Fuirena scirpoidea
Funastrum clausum
Galactia elliottii
Galactia sp.
Gaylussacia dumosa
Gratiola ramosa
Habenaria floribunda
Habenaria quinqueseta
Helianthus angustifolius
Helianthus radula
Helianthus sp.
Houstonia procumbens
Hydrocotyle sp.

manyflower marshpennywort
marsh grass
coastalplain st. john's wort
roundpod st. john's wort
st. peter's wort
peelbark st. john's wort
bedstraw st. john's wort
st. andrew's cross
st. john's wort
atlantic st. john's wort
fourpetal st. john's wort
clustered bushmint
bushmint
dahoon
large gallberry
gallberry
saltmarsh morning glory
piedmont marshelder
marshelder
soft rush
grassleaf rush
bighead rush
manyhead rush
needlepod rush
rush
pineland water-willow
warty panicgrass
spikesedge
carolina redroot
whitehead bogbutton
bogbutton
pinweed
moistbank pimpernel
false pimpernel
flax
lobelia
winged primrosewillow
seedbox
curtiss' primrosewillow
seaside primrosewillow

Hydrocotyle umbellata
Hymenachne sp.
Hypericum brachyphyllum
Hypericum cistifolium
Hypericum crux-andreae
Hypericum fasciculatum
Hypericum galioides
Hypericum hypericoides
Hypericum sp.
Hypericum tenuifolium
Hypericum tetrapetalum
Hyptis alata
Hyptis sp.
Ilex cassine var. *cassine*
Ilex coriacea
Ilex glabra
Ipomoea sagittata
Iva microcephala
Iva sp.
Juncus effusus ssp. *solutus*
Juncus marginatus
Juncus megacephalus
Juncus polycephalus
Juncus scirpoides
Juncus sp.
Justicia angusta
Kellochloa verrucosa
Kyllinga sp.
Lachnanthes caroliana
Lachnocaulon anceps
Lachnocaulon sp.
Lechea sp.
Lindernia dubia
Lindernia sp.
Linum sp.
Lobelia sp.
Ludwigia alata
Ludwigia alternifolia
Ludwigia curtissii
Ludwigia maritima

smallfruit primrosewillow
mexican primrosewillow
creeping primrosewillow
primrosewillow
shrubby primrosewillow
southern watergrass
coastalplain staggerbush
fetterbush
mazu
axilflower
axilflower
bretonica peluda
creeping cucumber
climbing hempvine
swamp hornpod
wax myrtle
bayberry
hairawn muhly
dewflower
myrsine
peppervine
big floatingheart
common yellow woodsorrel
cowbane
fall panicgrass
mountain panic
panic grass
switchgrass
virginia creeper
florida paspalum
field paspalum
gulfdune paspalum
thin paspalum
crowngrass
spreading cinchweed
swamp bay
swamp smartweed
dotted smartweed
golden polypody
turkey tangle fogfruit

Ludwigia microcarpa
Ludwigia octovalvis
Ludwigia repens
Ludwigia sp.
Ludwigia suffruticosa
Luziola fluitans
Lyonia fruticosa
Lyonia lucida
Mazus sp.
Mecardonia acuminata
Mecardonia acuminata ssp. peninsularis
Melochia spicata
Melothria pendula
Mikania scandens
Mitreola sessilifolia
Morella cerifera
Morella sp.
Muhlenbergia capillaris
Murdannia sp.
Myrsine cubana
Nekemias arborea
Nymphoides aquatica
Oxalis corniculata
Oxypolis sp.
Panicum dichotomiflorum
Panicum hemitomom
Panicum sp.
Panicum virgatum
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Paspalum floridanum
Paspalum laeve
Paspalum monostachyum
Paspalum setaceum
Paspalum sp.
Pectis prostrata
Persea palustris
Persicaria hydropiperoides
Persicaria punctata
Phlebodium aureum
Phyla nodiflora

carolina leaf-flower
american pokeweed
wild pennyroyal
small butterwort
slash pine
south florida slash pine
pine
pitted stripeseed
narrowleaf silkgrass
rosy camphorweed
stinking camphorweed
sweetscent
camphorweed
orange milkwort
yellow milkwort
coastalplain milkwort
milkwort
tall jointweed
knotweed
rustweed
pickerelweed
pickerelweed
combleaf mermaidweed
mermaidweed
bracken fern
blackroot
sand live oak
laurel oak
swamp laurel oak
dwarf live oak
water oak
oak
live oak
pale meadowbeauty
nuttall's meadowbeauty
fringed meadowbeauty
meadowbeauty
handsome harry
winged sumac
michaux's snoutbean

Phyllanthus caroliniensis
Phytolacca americana
Piloblephis rigida
Pinguicula pumila
Pinus elliotii
Pinus elliotii var. *densa*
Pinus sp.
Piriqueta cistoides ssp. *caroliniana*
Pityopsis graminifolia
Pluchea baccharis
Pluchea foetida
Pluchea odorata
Pluchea sp.
Polygala lutea
Polygala rugelii
Polygala setacea
Polygala sp.
Polygonum pinicola
Polygonum sp.
Polypremum procumbens
Pontederia cordata
Pontederia sp.
Proserpinaca pectinata
Proserpinaca sp.
Pteridium sp.
Pterocaulon pycnostachyum
Quercus geminata
Quercus hemisphaerica
Quercus laurifolia
Quercus minima
Quercus nigra
Quercus sp.
Quercus virginiana
Rhexia mariana
Rhexia nuttallii
Rhexia petiolata
Rhexia sp.
Rhexia virginica
Rhus copallinum
Rhynchosia michauxii

bunched beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora cephalantha</i>
starrush white-top	<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>
shortbristle horned beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora corniculata</i>
spreading beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora divergens</i>
fascicled beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora fascicularis</i>
fernald's beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora fernaldii</i>
threadleaf beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora filifolia</i>
narrowfruit horned beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora inundata</i>
southern beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora microcarpa</i>
smallhead beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora microcephala</i>
shortbeak beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora nitens</i>
beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora sp.</i>
tracy's beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora tracyi</i>
mexican clover	<i>Richardia sp.</i>
lowland rotala	<i>Rotala ramosior</i>
blackberry	<i>Rubus sp.</i>
southern dewberry	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>
blackeyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
cabbage palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>
rosegentian	<i>Sabatia sp.</i>
sugarcane plumegrass	<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>
american cupscale	<i>Sacciolepis striata</i>
grassy arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
bulltongue arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>
common arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>
arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sp.</i>
coastalplain willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>
willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>
peppertree	<i>Schinus sp.</i>
crimson bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium sanguineum</i>
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium sp.</i>
netted nutrush	<i>Scleria reticularis</i>
nutrush	<i>Scleria sp.</i>
low nutrush	<i>Scleria verticillata</i>
licoriceweed	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i>
saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>
danglepod	<i>Sesbania herbacea</i>
knotroot foxtail	<i>Setaria parviflora</i>
bristlegass: foxtail	<i>Setaria sp.</i>

saffron plum
florida bully
bully
earleaf greenbrier
saw greenbrier
laurel greenbrier
bristly greenbrier
pinebarren goldenrod
sweet goldenrod
goldenrod
wand goldenrod
rough hedgehyssop
lopsided indianguass
sand cordgrass
cordgrass
buttonweed
dropseed
gaping panicum
water toothleaf
toothleaf
queen's delight
snowberry, waxberry, ghostberry
scaleleaf aster
rice button aster
annual saltmarsh aster
yellow hatpins
toothed midsorus fern
sprawling hoary-pea
hoary-pea
wood sage
alligatorflag
alligator-flag
hottentot fern
water cowbane
water cowbane
eastern poison ivy
southern cattail
cattail
urena
bladderwort

Sideroxylon celastrinum
Sideroxylon reclinatum
Sideroxylon sp.
Smilax auriculata
Smilax bona-nox
Smilax laurifolia
Smilax tamnoides
Solidago fistulosa
Solidago odora
Solidago sp.
Solidago stricta
Sophronanthe hispida
Sorghastrum secundum
Spartina bakeri
Spartina sp.
Spermacoce sp.
Sporobolus sp.
Steinchisma hians
Stillingia aquatica
Stillingia sp.
Stillingia sylvatica
Symphoricarpos sp.
Symphyotrichum adnatum
Symphyotrichum dumosum
Symphyotrichum subulatum
Syngonanthus flavidulus
Telmatoblechnum serrulatum
Tephrosia hispidula
Tephrosia sp.
Teucrium canadense
Thalia geniculata
Thalia sp.
Thelypteris interrupta
Tiedemannia filiformis
Tiedemannia filiformis ssp. filiformis
Toxicodendron radicans
Typha domingensis
Typha sp.
Urena sp.
Utricularia sp.

zigzag bladderwort	<i>Utricularia subulata</i>
darrow's blueberry	<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i>
shiny blueberry	<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>
white crownbeard	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>
fourleaf vetch	<i>Vicia acutifolia</i>
bog white violet	<i>Viola lanceolata</i>
muscadine	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
calloose grape	<i>Vitis shuttleworthii</i>
grape	<i>Vitis sp.</i>
shoestring fern	<i>Vittaria lineata</i>
sleepy morning	<i>Waltheria indica</i>
chain fern	<i>Woodwardia sp.</i>
virginia chain fern	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>
hog plum	<i>Ximenia americana</i>
coastalplain yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris ambigua</i>
shortleaf yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris brevifolia</i>
carolina yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris caroliniana</i>
elliott's yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris elliottii</i>
savannah yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris flabelliformis</i>
richard's yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris jupicai</i>
small's yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris smalliana</i>
yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris sp.</i>

Table 9: Wildlife Species Observed on the OKSWMA

Common Name	Scientific Name
eastern lesser siren	<i>Siren intermedia</i>
green tree frog	<i>Hyla cinerea</i>
peninsula newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>
pine woods treefrog	<i>Hyla femoralis</i>
southern leopard frog	<i>Lithobates sphenocephalus</i>
two-toed amphiuma	<i>Amphiuma means</i>
american bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
american coot	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
american crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
american goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
american kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
american purple gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>
american redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>

american robin
anhinga
audubon's crested caracara
bachman's sparrow
bald eagle
barn owl
barn swallow
barred owl
belted kingfisher
black vulture
black-and-white warbler
black-bellied whistling duck
black-crowned night-heron
black-throated green warbler
blue jay
blue-grey gnatcatcher
blue-headed vireo
blue-winged teal
boat-tailed grackle
brown thrasher
brown-headed cowbird
brown-headed nuthatch
burrowing owl
carolina wren
caspien tern
cattle egret
cedar waxwing
chimney swift
chipping sparrow
chuck-will's-widow
common gallinule
common grackle
common ground-dove
common nighthawk
common snipe
common yellowthroat
cooper's hawk
crested caracara
double-crested cormorant
downy woodpecker

Turdus migratorius
Anhinga anhinga
Caracara cheriway (Polyborus plancus audubonii)
Peucaea aestivalis
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Tyto alba
Hirundo rustica
Strix varia
Ceryle alcyon
Coragyps atratus
Mniotilta varia
Dendrocygna autumnalis
Nycticorax nycticorax
Setophaga virens
Cyanocitta cristata
Polioptila caerulea
Vireo solitarius
Anas discors
Quiscalus major
Toxostoma rufum
Molothrus ater
Sitta pusilla
Athene cunicularia
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Hydroprogne caspia
Bubulcus ibis
Bombycilla cedrorum
Chaetura pelagica
Spizella passerina
Anrostomus carolinensis
Gallinula galeata
Quiscalus quiscula
Columbina passerina
Chordeiles minor
Capella gallinago
Geothlypis trichas
Accipiter cooperii
Caracara cheriway
Phalacrocorax auritus
Dryobates pubescens

eastern bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
eastern meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
eastern screech owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>
eastern towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
eastern whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>
eastern wood peewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
european starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
fish crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
florida sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>
glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
great white heron	<i>Ardea herodias occidentalis</i>
greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
green heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
ground dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
hairy woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>
hooded merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
house wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
king rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>
lark sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
laughing gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>
least bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>
lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
marsh wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
mottled duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>
mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
northern bobwhite quail	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>

northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
northern parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>
northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
northern waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
orange-crowned warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>
osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>
painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
palm warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>
peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
pied-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
pine warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>
prairie warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>
purple gallinule	<i>Porphyryla martinica</i>
purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>
red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>
savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
screech owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>
sedg wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
short-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>
snow goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>

southeastern american kestrel
southern bald eagle
spotted sandpiper
summer tanager
swallow-tailed kite
swamp sparrow
tennessee warbler
tree swallow
tricolored heron
tufted titmouse
turkey vulture
virginia rail
white ibis
white pelican
white-eyed vireo
white-winged dove
wild turkey
wild turkey (florida wild turkey)
wilson's snipe
wood stork
yellow warbler
yellow-bellied sapsucker
yellow-crowned night-heron
yellow-rumped warbler
yellow-throated vireo
yellow-throated warbler
banded sphinx moth
barred sulphur
black swallowtail
brazillian skipper
carolina satyr
ceraunus blue
checkered white
cloudless sulphur
common buckeye
dainty sulphur
fiery skipper
fulvous hairstreak
georgia satyr
giant swallowtail

Falco sparverius paulus
Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus
Actitis macularia
Piranga rubra
Elanoides forficatus
Melospiza georgiana
Oreothlypis peregrina
Tachycineta bicolor
Egretta tricolor
Baeolophus bicolor
Cathartes aura
Rallus limicola
Eudocimus albus
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
Vireo griseus
Zenaida asiatica
Meleagris gallopavo
Meleagris gallopavo osceola
Gallinago delicata
Mycteria americana
Setophaga petechia
Sphyrapicus varius
Nyctanassa violacea
Setophaga coronata
Vireo flavifrons
Setophaga dominica
Eumporpha fasciata
Eurema दौरा
Papilio polyxenes
Calpodēs ethlius
Hermeuptychia sosybius
Hemiargus ceraunus
Pontia protodice
Phoebis sennae
Junonia coenia
Nathalis iole
Hylephila phyleus
Electrostrymon angelia
Neonympha areolata
Papilio cresphontes

gray hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>
great southern white	<i>Ascia monuste</i>
gulf fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>
horace's duskywing	<i>Erynnis horatius</i>
least skipper	<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>
little sulphur	<i>Eurema lisa</i>
little wood satyr	<i>Megisto cymela</i>
long-tailed skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>
monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
palamedes swallowtail	<i>Papilio palamedes</i>
pearl crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>
phaon crescent	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>
queen	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>
red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
red-banded hairstreak	<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>
silver-spotted skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>
southern hairstreak	<i>Satyrium [Fixsenia] favonius</i>
southern skipperling	<i>Copaeodes minimus</i>
spicebush swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>
viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>
whirlabout	<i>Polites vibex</i>
white peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>
white-m hairstreak	<i>Parhassius m-album</i>
zebra longwing	<i>Heliconius charitonius</i>
zebra swallowtail	<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>
blue tilapia	<i>Oreochromis aureus</i>
bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
eastern cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
everglades mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
feral hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
florida black bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>
florida panther	<i>Puma conolor coryi</i>
gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
marsh rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>
nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
opposum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>
raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>

river otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>
virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
white-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
wild hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
american alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>
black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
brown anole	<i>Anolis sagrei</i>
common snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
cooter sp.	<i>Pseudemys sp.</i>
corn snake, anerythristic morph	<i>Pantherophis guttata guttata, anerythristic morph</i>
dusky pigmy rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus miliarius barbouri</i>
eastern box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>
eastern diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>
eastern glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>
eastern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>
florida box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>
florida cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>
florida softshell turtle	<i>Apalone ferox</i>
gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>
red rat snake	<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>
ribbon snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>
ringneck snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>
snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
southern black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>
striped crayfish snake	<i>Regina alleni</i>
striped mud turtle	<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>
yellow rat snake	<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>

1.6 Soil Series Descriptions

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

[Minor map unit components are excluded from this report]

Map unit: 1 - Cypress Lake sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Cypress Lake (85%)

The Cypress Lake component makes up 85 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 over limestone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 13 to 58 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly 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 12 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.

Map unit: 2 - Pineda sand, limestone substratum

Component: Pineda, limestone substratum (80%)

The Pineda, limestone substratum component makes up 80 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on drainageways on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 40 to 80 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 3 inches during June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 4 - Oldsmar sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Oldsmar (85%)

The Oldsmar component makes up 85 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 low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 6 - Wabasso sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

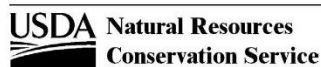
Component: Wabasso (85%)

The Wabasso component makes up 85 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, strongly contrasting textural stratification, is 9 to 50 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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.

Map unit: 7 - Immokalee sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Immokalee (85%)

The Immokalee component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine



Survey Area Version: 21
Survey Area Version Date: 08/25/2021

Page 1 of 10

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 7 - Immokalee sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Immokalee (85%)

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 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. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 8 - Malabar sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Malabar (85%)

The Malabar 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 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 low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 9 - Riviera fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Riviera (80%)

The Riviera component makes up 80 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 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.

Map unit: 10 - Pineda-Pineda, wet, fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Pineda (45%)

The Pineda component makes up 45 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 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, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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: Pineda, wet (40%)

The Pineda, wet component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 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 high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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.

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 12 - Winder fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Winder (85%)

The Winder 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 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 low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is high. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 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 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.

Map unit: 13 - Gentry fine sand, depressional

Component: Gentry (90%)

The Gentry component makes up 90 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 loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 4 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.

Map unit: 14 - Wabasso sand, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Wabasso, limestone substratum (85%)

The Wabasso, limestone substratum component makes up 85 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 over limestone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 13 to 54 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 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.

Map unit: 17 - Basinger sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Basinger (85%)

The Basinger 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 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 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 19 - Gator muck, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Gator (83%)

The Gator component makes up 83 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Nonirrigated land

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 19 - Gator muck, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Gator (83%)

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.

Map unit: 20 - Okeelanta muck

Component: Okeelanta, undrained (50%)

The Okeelanta, undrained component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 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: Okeelanta, drained (37%)

The Okeelanta, drained component makes up 37 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 herbaceous organic material over sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 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.

Map unit: 21 - Holopaw sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Holopaw (84%)

The Holopaw component makes up 84 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 July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 26 - Holopaw sand, limestone substratum

Component: Holopaw, limestone substratum (83%)

The Holopaw, limestone substratum component makes up 83 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on drainageways on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 50 to 80 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during 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.

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 27 - Riviera sand, limestone substratum

Component: Riviera, limestone substratum (83%)

The Riviera, limestone substratum component makes up 83 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on drainageways on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 50 to 80 inches. The natural drainage class is 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 6 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. 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.

Map unit: 28 - Cypress Lake sand, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Cypress Lake (77%)

The Cypress Lake component makes up 77 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits over limestone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 13 to 58 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 very low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 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.

Map unit: 29 - Oldsmar sand, limestone substratum

Component: Oldsmar, limestone substratum (87%)

The Oldsmar, limestone substratum component makes up 87 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, bedrock, lithic, is 60 to 73 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, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: 32 - Riviera sand, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Riviera (85%)

The Riviera component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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.

Map unit: 33 - Holopaw sand, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Holopaw (88%)

The Holopaw component makes up 88 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 33 - Holopaw sand, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Holopaw (88%)

ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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.

Map unit: 34 - Chobee fine sandy loam, limestone substratum, depressional

Component: Chobee, depressional, limestone subst. (80%)

The Chobee, depressional, limestone subst. 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 loamy alluvium. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 40 to 79 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 9 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.

Map unit: 37 - Tuscawilla fine sand

Component: Tuscawilla (82%)

The Tuscawilla component makes up 82 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains, rises on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy 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 8 inches during June, July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil meets hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 15 percent. 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.

Map unit: 42 - Riviera sand, limestone substratum, depressional

Component: Riviera, depressional, limestone subst. (80%)

The Riviera, depressional, limestone subst. 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 and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 40 to 80 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 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.

Map unit: 44 - Jupiter fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Jupiter (80%)

The Jupiter component makes up 80 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 marine deposits over limestone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 7 to 18 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly 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 6 inches during July, August, September, October. 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.

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 45 - Pahokee muck, drained, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Pahokee, drained (90%)

The Pahokee, drained component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over limestone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 36 to 51 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 very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 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.

Map unit: 50 - Delray sand, depressional

Component: Delray (82%)

The Delray component makes up 82 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 4 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.

Map unit: 51 - Malabar fine sand, high, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Malabar, high (85%)

The Malabar, high component makes up 85 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 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, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. This component is in the R155XY003FL South Florida Flatwoods ecological site. 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.

Map unit: 57 - Chobee fine sandy loam, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Chobee (88%)

The Chobee component makes up 88 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is high. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. This component is in the R155XY010FL Freshwater Marshes And Ponds ecological site. 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.

Map unit: 58 - Oldsmar sand, depressional

Component: Oldsmar, depressional (87%)

The Oldsmar, depressional component makes up 87 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 58 - Oldsmar sand, depressional

Component: Oldsmar, depressional (87%)

flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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.

Map unit: 59 - Winder fine sand, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Winder (85%)

The Winder component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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.

Map unit: 60 - Myakka sand, depressional

Component: Myakka, depressional (87%)

The Myakka, depressional component makes up 87 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 moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 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.

Map unit: 62 - Pineda sand, depressional

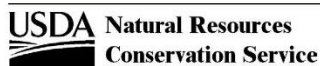
Component: Pineda, depressional (87%)

The Pineda, depressional component makes up 87 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October. 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.

Map unit: 69 - Denaud-Gator mucks

Component: Denaud (50%)

The Denaud component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits organic material. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 55 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 5 percent. 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.



Survey Area Version: 21
Survey Area Version Date: 08/25/2021

Page 8 of 10

Map Unit Description

Hendry County, Florida

Map unit: 69 - Denaud-Gator mucks

Component: Gator (25%)

The Gator component makes up 25 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over loamy and 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 very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 70 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.

Map Unit Description

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, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

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.

1.7 Land Management Review

2016 Land Management Review Team Report for Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Property Reviewed in this Report	3
1.2 Property Map	3
1.3. Overview of Land Management Review Results	4
1.3.1 Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency	4
1.3.2. Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency	5
2. Field Review Details	6
2.1. Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field	6
2.2. Field Review Checklist and Scores	7
3. Land Management Plan Review Details	9
3.1 Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan	9
3.2 Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores	10
Appendix A: Scoring System Detail	13

1. Introduction

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

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district, 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 Appendix is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts provided by individual team members. It is not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the land management review team.

1.1. Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Managed by: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Acres: 2,923

County: Hendry

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: The OSWMA was purchased to protect the watershed and waters of Okaloacoochee Slough, its dependent imperiled and other native wildlife, and provide resource-based public outdoor recreation including mitigation for the loss of hunting opportunities on Brown's Farm Wildlife Management Area (BFWMA) in Palm Beach County.

Acquisition Program(s): Florida Forever

Original Acquisition Date: 2/16/1999

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/2/2014

Review Date: 1/12/2016

Agency Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Tiffany Thornhill, FWC area biologist
- Beth Morford, FWC District Biologist

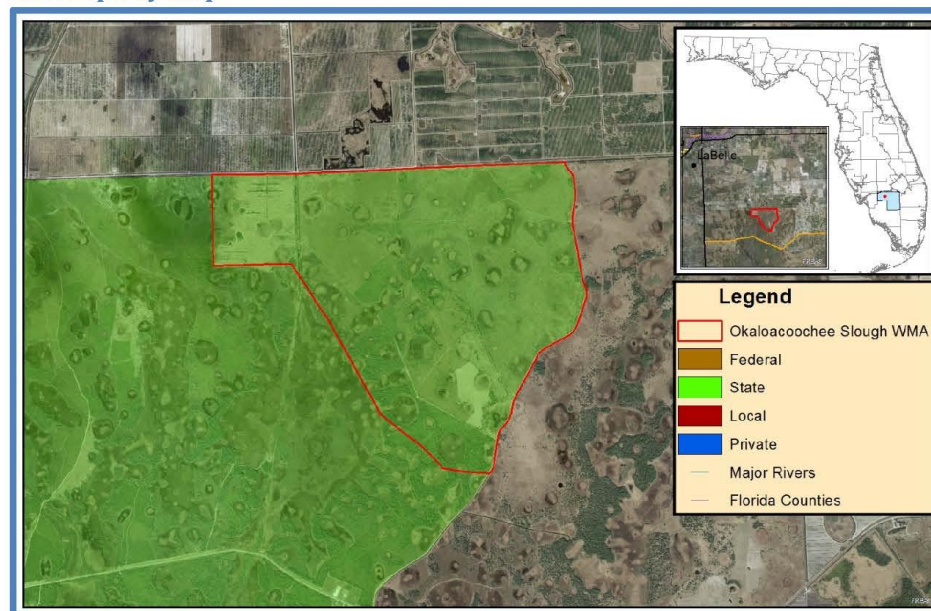
Review Team Members Present (voting)

- DRP: Matthew Hodge
- SWCD:
- FWC: Erik Eckles
- Local gov't:
- FFS: Chris Schmiede
- Conservation organization: Patsy McDonald
- DEP: Heidi Hoffman
- Private land manager:

Other Non-Team Members Present (attending)

- Aric Larson, DEP/DSL
- Dennis Giardina, FWC IMP

1.2 Property Map



Page 3 of 14

1.3. Overview of Land Management Review Results

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

Yes = 5, No = 0

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

Yes = 5, No = 0

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

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	3.72	3.73
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.41	4.05
Hydrology	3.53	3.67
Imperiled Species	4.33	4.25
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.37	3.57
Cultural Resources	4.35	4.30
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	3.61	3.46
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.73	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 review team commends FWC for contracting with FNAI for a baseline endangered plant survey. (5+, 0-)
2. The review team commends FWC for the successful groundcover restoration program, including methods, implementation, and results. (5+, 0-)
3. The review team commends FWC for the successful invasive exotics treatment program on OSWMA; particularly the effective utilization of contractors, contract requirements, and program adaptation. (5+, 0-)
4. The review team commends FWC for their efforts to conduct the majority of prescribed burns during the growing season. (5+, 0-)

1.3.2. Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The review team recommends that FWC conduct more thorough baseline surveys of non-game species (herps, small mammals), compared to the previous contracted herp survey. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *FWC will continue to assess the need to conduct small mammal surveys and additional herpetological surveys as feasible and appropriate, through the OSWMA WCPR Strategy and the FWC WCPR program.*

2. The review team recommends that FWC develop a post-fire monitoring protocol to help with improving the fire program and to monitor rare plants which rely on fire for propagation (e.g. cutthroat grass). (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *FWC conducts ongoing comprehensive vegetation monitoring which includes fire effects monitoring and analysis as well as recommended management regime adaptations, through the FWC's Objective Based Vegetation Monitoring (OBVM) program. FWC will continue to conduct such monitoring through the OBVM Program for OSWMA and will also include more detailed information regarding the results of ongoing OBVM monitoring and vegetation management at OSWMA in the next update to the OSWMA Management Plan.*

The review team recommends that FWC establish some baseline monitoring (presence/absence) on small mammal populations in various areas of the property to monitor changes due to future hydrologic restoration or increased predator populations. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *FWC will continue to assess the need to conduct small mammal surveys and any additional wildlife surveys as feasible and appropriate, through the OSWMA WCPR Strategy and the FWC WCPR program.*

3. The review team recommends that FWC consider installing additional road signs / informational kiosks with trails maps at appropriate locations along existing roads and trails. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *FWC determines the need for improved or new public access facilities and signage through the development of Recreational Master Plans (RMP) for each respective management area. Upon completion and implementation of the Recreational Master Plan, FWC will improve or develop new public access facilities recommended by the RMP which will likely include replacing the kiosk at the check station this year, as well as continuing to add additional road and interpretive signage/kiosks as recommended in the RMP as feasible to enhance the visitor experience at OSWMA. Also, given the adjacent close proximity of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS), FWC will continue to coordinate with the FFS to develop and provide signage and maps that highlight the*

Page 5 of 14

connectivity of the resources and recreational uses throughout the Okaloacoochee Slough system on both areas.

2. Field Review Details

2.1. Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

***Managing Agency Response:** FWC is in the process of restoring the mesic flatwoods to maintenance condition by mechanically reducing mid-story vegetation and cabbage palms so that these sites can be more effectively prescribe burned. In 2016, FWC mechanically treated 29 acres followed by a growing season burn. Additional funds have been allocated to continue mechanical treatments in this habitat in FY 2016/17. FWC will continue to work to restore and improve the habitats at OSWMA to their Desired Future Condition as established through and monitored by the FWC OBVM Program.*

2. **Forest Management, specifically timber inventory (timber assessment), received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency as well as overall management actions, whether management of forest resources is sufficient on the property.**

***Managing Agency Response:** FWC is coordinating with the Florida Forest Service to complete a timber assessment for OSWMA and expects to have it completed before the end of 2016. Upon completion of the timber assessment, FWC will incorporate it into the OSWMA Management Plan.*

3. **Environmental Education and Outreach, specifically interpretive facilities and signs, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their observations as well as information provided by the managing agency, whether environmental outreach and education efforts are sufficient.**

Managing Agency Response: FWC determines the need for improved or new public access facilities, signage and environmental educational outreach through the development of RMPs for each respective management area. Upon completion and implementation of the OSWMA RMP, the FWC will enhance or expand such facilities and programs as recommended in the OSWMA RMP and will continue to improve the education and outreach about the resources and management of the area through improved website, signage and enhanced interpretation of the area for visitors.

4. **Management Resources, specifically staff, 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: The FWC notes that staffing is dependent upon receiving funding appropriations from the Florida Legislature. As funding allows, FWC will continue to staff and manage Okaloacoochee Slough WMA at levels that will allow FWC to implement the approved Management Plan, and will continue to request additional needed funding for staff and resources as feasible.

2.2. 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	4				4.80
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	3	3	1	4	3				2.80
Mesic Hammock	I.A.3	5	4	5	5	4				4.60
Slough Marsh	I.A.4	5	5	4	5	4				4.60
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.5	5	4	4	4	4				4.20
Wet Prairie	I.A.6	5	3	3	5	4				4.00
Natural Communities Average Score										4.17
Listed Species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	4	4	4	4				4.20
Florida Panther	I.B.1.a	5	4	4	4	4				4.20
Plants	I.B.2	5	5	5	4	3				4.40
Cutthroat Grass	I.B.2.a	5	5	5	X	3				4.50
Listed Species Average Score										4.33
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	4	4	4	3				3.80

Page 7 of 14

Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	5	4	2	4	4				3.80
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	3	2	4	2				3.00
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	4	2	X	4				3.75
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	5	5	4				4.80
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	4	5	X	4				4.50
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	5	3	4				4.20
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.35
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	5	5	5	5	4				4.80
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	4				4.80
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	4				4.80
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.80
Restoration (III.B)										
GCR Sites	III.B.1	5	5	5	4	5				4.80
Hydrologic Restoration	III.B.2	4	4	2	X	3				3.25
Restoration Average Score										4.03
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	4	2	1	3	2				2.40
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	4	3	3	4	3				3.40
Site Preparation	III.C.4	5	4	4	4	3				4.00
Forest Management Average Score										3.27
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1. a	5	5	4	5	5				4.80
prevention - animals	III.D.1. b	5	4	3	4	4				4.00
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1. c	5	4	3	4	4				4.00
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2. a	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
control - animals	III.D.2. b	5	5	5	4	3				4.40
control - pest/pathogens	III.D.2. c	5	4	4	4	3				4.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.37
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1. a	4	4	4	4	3				3.80
Ditches	III.E.1. b	4	4	1	3	3				3.00
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1. c	4	4	1	3	3				3.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.27
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										NA
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quantity	III.F.3. b	5	4	3	4	3				3.80
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.80

Page 8 of 14

Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	3	5	5	3				4.20
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	5	3	3	4	3				3.60
Signage	III.F.3	4	3	2	3	3				3.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	3	4	4	2				3.40
Resource Protection Average Score										3.55
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	4	3	3	X	5				3.75
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1. a	4	3	4	3	3				3.40
Parking	IV.1. b	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2. a	5	4	4	X	4				4.25
Invasive Species	IV.2. b	5	4	2	X	4				3.75
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2. c	5	4	3	X	4				4.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	3	1	3	2				2.60
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.68
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	5	4	4	4	3				4.00
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	5	4	4	4	3				4.00
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	5	4	5	4	3				4.20
Equipment	V.2.b	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Staff	V.3	4	2	2	3	2				2.60
Funding	V.4	5	3	5	4	2				3.80
Management Resources Average Score										3.73

Color Code:	Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor	See Appendix A for detail
		Missing Vote	Insufficient Information		

3. Land Management Plan Review Details

3.1 Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. **Natural Resources Survey and Monitoring Resources, specifically fire effects monitoring, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address survey or monitoring.**

Managing Agency Response: FWC conducts ongoing comprehensive vegetation monitoring which includes fire effects monitoring and analysis as well as recommended management regime adaptations, through the FWC's Objective Based Vegetation Monitoring (OBVM) program. FWC will continue to conduct such monitoring through the OBVM Program for OSWMA and will also include more detailed information regarding the results of ongoing OBVM monitoring and vegetation management at OSWMA in the next update to the OSWMA Management Plan.

2. **Managed area uses, specifically horseback riding, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address to what degree this use is consistent with the purpose for which the property was acquired, or other restrictions.**

Managing Agency Response: Horseback riding is listed on page 51 of the OSWMA Management Plan as an approved use at OSWMA. Additionally, as stated on page 66 of the OSWMA Management Plan, horseback riding is allowed on named or numbered roads and on designated trails at OSWMA. Additionally, the management plan notes that extensive equestrian opportunities are also available on the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest managed by the FFS.

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	3	3	4	4				3.60
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	4	3	4	4	4				3.80
Mesic Hammock	I.A.3	4	3	4	5	4				4.00
Slough Marsh	I.A.4	4	3	3	5	4				3.80
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.5	4	3	4	4	4				3.80
Wet Prairie	I.A.6	4	3	4	4	4				3.80
Natural Communities Average Score										3.80
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	4	3	4	5	4				4.00
Florida Panther	I.B.1.a	4	5	4	5	4				4.40
Plants	I.B.2	5	3	4	4	4				4.00
Cutthroat Grass	I.B.2.a	5	5	5	4	4				4.60
Listed Species Average Score										4.25

Page 10 of 14

Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	3	3	4				3.80
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	5	3	3	4	4				3.80
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	2	1	3	3				2.60
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	3	1	2	4				3.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	4	5	5	4				4.60
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	4	5	4	4				4.40
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	5	3	4				4.20
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.30
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	4	5	5	3				4.40
Frequency	III.A.2	5	4	5	5	3				4.40
Quality	III.A.3	5	4	5	5	3				4.40
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.40
Restoration (III.B)										
GCR Sites	III.B.1	4	4	4	4	3				3.80
Hydrologic Restoration	III.B.2	5	3	3	3	4				3.60
Restoration Average Score										3.70
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	5	3	4	3	4				3.80
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	4	3	4	4	3				3.60
Site Preparation	III.C.4	4	3	4	4	3				3.60
Forest Management Average Score										3.67
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.E.1. a	5	4	3	5	3				4.00
prevention - animals	III.E.1. b	5	4	1	4	3				3.40
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1. c	4	3	1	4	3				3.00
Control										
control - plants	III.E.2. a	5	4	4	5	3				4.20
control - animals	III.E.2. b	5	4	2	4	3				3.60
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2. c	5	3	1	4	3				3.20
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.57
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.F.1. a	4	4	4	4	3				3.80
Ditches	III.F.1. b	4	4	3	3	3				3.40
Hydro-period Alteration	III.F.1. c	5	3	3	3	3				3.40
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.53
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										NA
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										

Page 11 of 14

Surface water quantity	III.F.3. b	5	4	3	4	3				3.80
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.80
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.G.1	5	2	5	5	3				4.00
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	5	2	1	4	3				3.00
Signage	III.G.3	4	3	2	3	3				3.00
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	4	3	1	4	3				3.00
Resource Protection Average Score										3.25
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	5	3	2	4	5				3.80
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.H.3	5	4	4	5	5				4.60
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.H.4	5	4	4	5	5				4.60
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1. a	5	4	5	4	3				4.20
Parking	IV.1. b	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2. a	5	3	3	4	3				3.60
Invasive Species	IV.2. b	5	3	3	4	3				3.60
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2. c	5	3	1	4	3				3.20
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	5	3	5	3	3				3.80
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	3	4	4	3				3.80
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	4	1	4	3				3.40
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.68
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Resource Conservation	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	5				5.00
Wildlife Observation	VI.A.2	5	5	4	5	5				4.80
Environmental Education	VI.A.3	4	4	4	5	5				4.40
Hiking	VI.A.4	5	3	4	4	5				4.20
Horseback Riding	VI.A.5	4	2	3	2	2				2.60
Biking	VI.A.6	5	3	3	4	2				3.40
Geocaching	VI.A.7	5	3	3	4	4				3.80
Proposed Uses										
Entrance "Package" facility	VI.B.1	5	4	4	4	4				4.20

Color Code: Excellent Above Average Below Average Poor Missing Vote Insufficient Information See Appendix A for detail

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

Page 13 of 14

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*

1.8 Management Plan Terms

Management Plan Goals and Objectives

Terms and Definitions

Assessment: Assessment—when a historic resource professional determines the possible effects—positive or negative—that an action or inaction may have on a historical resource (e.g., site, building, object or structures) by analyzing its current condition and documenting any modifications and changes to its original state as well as identifying any potential human or natural threats to its existence.

Capital Improvement: Capital improvement" or "capital project expenditure" means those activities relating to the acquisition, restoration, public access, and recreational uses of such lands, water areas, and related resources deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: the initial removal of invasive plants; the construction, improvement, enlargement or extension of facilities' signs, firelanes, access roads, and trails; or any other activities that serve to restore, conserve, protect, or provide public access, recreational opportunities, or necessary services for land or water areas. Such activities shall be identified prior to the acquisition of a parcel or the approval of a project. The continued expenditures necessary for a capital improvement approved under this subsection shall not be eligible for funding provided in this chapter.

Desired future condition: Desired Future Condition is a description of the land or resource conditions that are believed necessary if management goals and objectives are fully achieved. Desired Future Condition varies by specific habitat and ecosystem. It can also vary, based upon a specific agency's management goals.

Evaluation: Review by a professional in archaeology, history or architecture as to the integrity and significance of the site, building or structure. The criteria of the National Register of Historic Places will be applied.

Facility: all developed structures and improvements provided for a specific purpose or contained within a clearly defined area.

Fire management plan: An element of the land management plan or an independent document that outlines the goals and objectives of a fire management program (prescribed and wildfire) for a predetermined period of time.

Historic: An object, site or structure that is 50 years or older.

Hydrological assessment: A documented, systematic evaluation by a qualified professional of

the existing and historical quantity, quality, movement and function of water resources (e.g., computer modeling).

Imperiled species: A species or subspecies that is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Endangered or Threatened; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as Endangered or Threatened; or is tracked by Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) as globally or state Critically Imperiled or Imperiled. Imperiled Species does NOT refer to species that are on the FDACS list of commercially exploited plants that are not Endangered or Threatened.

Improve: the enhancement or expansion of facilities, roads and trails.

Maintenance: the daily or regular work of keeping facilities, roads and trails in proper condition.

Monitoring: Periodic examination of the site, building or structure to determine the current condition and threats such as erosion, structural deterioration, vegetation intrusion, poaching or vandalism. An updated Florida Master Site File form is used to complete this assessment.

Natural community/habitat/ecological improvement: Similar to restoration but on a smaller less intense scale. Typically includes small scale vegetation management activities, spot treatments of exotic plants, or minor habitat manipulations. Any habitat alteration that increases the diversity of a habitat or increases the population of a particular species.

Natural community/habitat/ecological restoration: The process of assisting the recovery and natural functioning of degraded natural communities to desired future condition, including the re-establishment of biodiversity, ecological processes, vegetation structure, and physical characters. Activities may include vegetative treatments (e.g., hardwood removal, mechanical treatment, pine tree thinning, etc.), groundcover establishment, non-commercial tree plantings, erosion control, hydrological manipulation (filling ditches), and beach management.

Not in maintenance condition: Species composition and/or structure is outside the targeted range. The natural community is in need of more frequent or recurring management treatments that are beyond maintenance activities. Examples include natural communities with exotic plant or animal infestations that are at levels requiring significant treatment, natural communities that have exceeded maximum targeted fire return intervals, and natural communities in need of restoration treatments.

Poor, fair, good condition: Evaluating the condition of cultural resources is accomplished using a three-part evaluative scale, expressed as good, fair and poor. These terms describe the present condition, rather than comparing what exists against the ideal. “Good” describes a condition of structural stability and physical wholeness, where no obvious deterioration other than normal occurs. “Fair” describes a condition in which there is a discernible decline in

condition between inspections, and the wholeness or physical integrity is and continues to be threatened by factors other than normal wear. A “fair” assessment is cause for concern. “Poor” describes an unstable condition where there is palpable, accelerating decline, and physical integrity is being compromised quickly. A resource in poor condition suffers obvious declines in physical integrity from year to year. A poor condition suggests immediate action is needed to reestablish physical stability.

Population survey: Using broadly accepted methodologies to detect changes in population trends over time.

Public access: access by the general public to state lands and water, including vessel access made possible by boat ramps, docks, and associated support facilities, where compatible with conservation and recreation objectives.

Recorded: A Florida Master Site File form has been completed and filed with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Recreational/visitor opportunity: measure of potential number of users based on existing resource conditions and developed facilities.

Repair (major): the restoration of facilities, road and trails to proper condition after damage or failure.

Restoration underway: restoration planning/design, executing, evaluating and reporting.

Restored/Maintenance condition: (refers to natural community) - within the range of target species composition and structure such that no significant, non-recurring alterations to structure or species composition are needed for ecological restoration. Invasive exotic plants or animals are absent or at levels requiring minimal recurring treatments, and prescribed fire rotations are within target intervals. Refers to Natural Communities. Includes NCs that meet DFC, and NCs that have received restoration action (such as thinning, clear-cut and native species planting) and only require time and recurring maintenance actions such as prescribed fire, maintenance level exotics control, or sustainable forestry practices if applicable.

Road: a paved or unpaved motor vehicle route unless identified and managed as a trail.

Significant: Listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an individual property, element of a multiple listing or in an historic district. Cultural resource professionals are able to make the determination, but final determination rests with the Director of the Division of Historical Resources.

Sustainable forestry: The stewardship and harvest of forest products in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and potential to

fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic, and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Systematic survey: A sampling protocol designed to assess the occurrence or population status of a species or a suite of species (e.g., presence/absence, mark and recapture, transect survey, etc.).

Trail: a linear route or path which has been specifically prepared or designed for one or more recreational functions such as hiking, biking, horseback riding or multiple use. In many cases, unimproved service roads are also designated as trails.

Treatment: A mechanical, chemical, biological or manual action that changes the structure or composition of an area in order to facilitate restoration or improvement.

Visitor carrying capacity: An estimate of the number of users a recreation resource or facility can accommodate and still provide a high-quality recreational experience and preserve the natural values of the site.

Wildlife activities: wildlife-associated recreation such as birdwatching, fishing, hunting, etc.

1.9 FNAI Element Occurrence Data Usage Letter



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

November 15, 2021

Dylan Hasse, Senior Conservation Planner
Land Conservation and Planning Subsection
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Tallahassee, FL

Dear Dylan,

By virtue of this letter, we are updating and continuing our agreement that it is unnecessary for your office to request FNAI Element Occurrence data for each land management plan you prepare, under the following conditions:

- FNAI will continue to provide our Florida Element Occurrence Map Package to FWC on a quarterly basis
- The FNAI GIS data will be available to FWC staff for reference and incorporation as required in management plan review and preparation with the following restrictions.
- FWC will limit spatial reference to Element Occurrence locations in public documents to the Management Area level (i.e., EOs will not be displayed on public maps to protect sensitive resources, habitats, and data sources)
- For Management Areas less than 160 acres in size, FWC will not list occurrences of resources (i.e., species and natural communities) coded as Data Sensitive. If desired, these sensitive resources can be included in a table as a count of occurrences and resource (e.g., three additional occurrences of two species/resources are coded as sensitive)
- When possible, FWC should use the FNAI provided Element Occurrence polygons, and consider the Representational Accuracy and Locational Uncertainty of each record, when determining which species occur on a Management Area

The FNAI Data Manager currently provides this update to FWC staff on a quarterly basis. Current FWC contacts are Rene Baumstark, Christi Santi, Steven Nicholl, Kristal Walsh, Kristen Sella, and yourself. We are pleased to continue this beneficial collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



Florida Resources
and Environmental
Analysis Center

Institute of Science
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

Sincerely,

Frank Price
Assistant Director
Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Strategic Plan 2020-2024



May 6, 2020

This plan was written by the FWC 2020 Strategic Plan Development Team for the dedicated staff of the FWC, specifically designed with leaders and supervisors in mind with the intention of fostering and reinforcing our agency culture, core operations, and strategic approach to our conservation mission.

From the Executive Director

Balancing the needs of Florida’s fish and wildlife resources with a diverse, growing population of people can be complicated and challenging. It is our honor to be the agency that is entrusted to take care of these resources on behalf of all Florida residents and visitors. The FWC team strives every day to uphold this public trust. An important element of effective management and administration is focusing on strategic priorities that are vital in accomplishing our overall mission and adjusting resources accordingly. This reallocation must be done while continuing to attend to day to day functions. It is critical to accurately identify these developing issues and set forth a strategy to address them. This formula is the basis for a strategic plan. As with any plan, it works best if it is a collaborative effort, with everyone having the opportunity to provide input in the planning process and identify emerging issues that require strategic solutions. We have put together diverse teams to develop the FWC’s strategic plan, to encompass the major issues affecting our agency as a whole.

I also firmly believe that strategic plans are less about a printed document, and more about the process and collaboration necessary to achieve such a plan. The benefits of this process are seen and continued far beyond printing the final draft.

The success of this effort – of our mission – rests upon the shoulders of each and every one of us. Whether you work in the field or in an office, whether you’re a scientist, technician, accountant, law enforcement officer, administrative assistant, or programmer, your unique skills and expertise are necessary to continue the good work of conservation that we do every day as well as the strategic work we will be taking up over these next five years . As you read through this plan, I challenge you to look for ways that you can help make a difference. I also ask that you challenge your co-workers to leverage their skills and talents for the good of our mission as well. The future of Florida’s fish and wildlife conservation depends on our collective and diverse perspectives, backgrounds, contributions, creativity, and energy.

Respectfully yours,
Eric Sutton

Vision & Values

The mission of the FWC is to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long term well-being and the benefit of people. Every organization has an identity that is forged not only by what it does, but by how it conducts itself. The values embedded in our mission and expressed in the vision of FWC leadership are to make quality decisions by being dynamic, science-based, efficient, ethical, collaborative, competent, and committed to the vitality of the state and its environment.

We work diligently to conserve fish and wildlife in a manner that honors the public trust that has been vested in us through Florida's constitution. This is based in long-standing law and traditions commonly referred to as the "Public Trust Doctrine." This doctrine is steeped in the principle that fish and wildlife should be managed for the public, and reflects the belief that certain resources are an intergenerational inheritance, held in trust by government for the benefit of all current and future residents and visitors.

Consistent with this tradition, we strive to reinforce an inclusive culture that provides for public access, public input, technical assistance groups, stakeholder and public outreach, open communication, work teams, and shared decision making. The FWC encourages scientific inquiry and diversity of thought, and actively promotes these values with our public engagement efforts. The core concepts of these values are derived from a set of nationally accepted Wildlife Governance Principles that have been developed over time and focus efforts on conservation.

Additionally, we strive to make proactive resource decisions based on the best available science, balanced with social, economic and political interests, to create durable solutions with enforcement and managerial practicality. We empower staff to act locally on behalf of the agency to ensure decision making is as close to the issues as possible. We must cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture that care and includes values of integrity, professionalism, dedication, and adaptability, and create environment that is inclusive and supports diverse opinions and voices in decision making at all levels.

We envision...

a Florida where fish and wildlife are abundant and thriving in healthy and connected natural landscapes with vital working lands and waterways; where natural resources are valued and safely enjoyed by all; and wherein natural systems support vibrant human communities and a strong economy.

Wildlife Governance Principles

Wildlife governance will:

- Be adaptable and responsive to citizens' current needs and interests, while also
- being forward-looking to conserve options of future generations.
- Seek and incorporate multiple and diverse perspectives.
- Apply social and ecological science, citizens' knowledge, and trust administrators' judgment.
- Produce multiple, sustainable benefits for all beneficiaries.
- Ensure that trust administrators are responsible for maintaining trust resources and allocating benefits from the trust.
- Be publicly accessible and transparent.
- Ensure that trust administrators are publicly accountable.
- Include means for citizens to become informed and engaged in decision making.
- Include opportunities for trust administrators to meet their obligations in partnerships with non-governmental entities.
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination across ecological, jurisdictional, and ownership boundaries.

Our Core Values

Resource Stewardship We are passionate about Florida's natural resources and use our expertise to manage and conserve fish and wildlife

Service Excellence We are solution-oriented and committed to achieving wildlife and fisheries conservation results, and efficiently meeting the needs of the public and stakeholders

Teamwork and Collaboration We communicate openly and work together effectively to achieve our common goals We appreciate the value of diverse backgrounds, expertise, and ideas, and incorporate multiple perspectives into decision making

Professional Integrity We operate honestly and ethically, and apply our processes, rules, and regulations in a consistent manner that engenders a climate of trust and fairness

Scientific and Technical Excellence We use our science-based expert knowledge, technology, and other available resources to achieve high-quality work

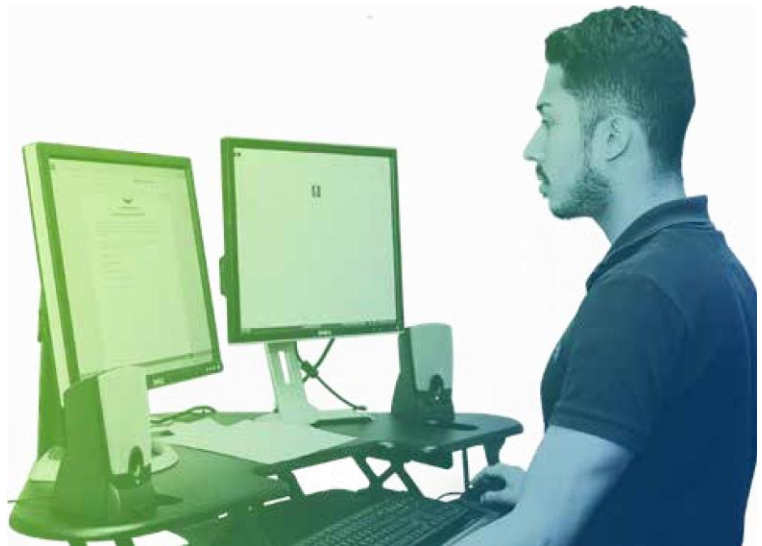
Accountability We set challenging goals for our achievement and hold ourselves accountable for the results

Business Practices

In addition to our core values, we also strive to follow a core business model that addresses how best to deliver our vision, strategy, and mission through key practices. These include:

- ◆ Thinking proactively and strategically to anticipate challenges and opportunities while taking actions that contribute to the achievement of long-term interests.
- ◆ Coordinating science, resource management, enforcement, and research.
- ◆ Providing a safe and healthy environment where the public can enjoy Florida's resources and waterways.
- ◆ Providing an excellent experience for our customers.
- ◆ Creating and maximizing the use of integrated work and issue teams.
- ◆ Continually striving to improve processes and efficiency for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- ◆ Leveraging technology.
- ◆ Integrating leadership development.
- ◆ Optimizing fiscal management.
- ◆ Adapting to new and emerging needs for communication.

These core values and business practices are further defined in, and serve as, the foundation of our internal communications programs, hiring practices, and annual employee evaluation process, embedding these principles into the fabric of our organization and making them meaningful to employees in their daily activities.



Overview of Strategic Planning

We have been developing strategic and operational plans since the FWC's inception in 1999. Our first planning effort focused on developing the structure and culture of a newly-formed agency. Subsequent plans similarly focused on norms and values, including development of a collaborative and team based culture. The strategic planning effort that resulted in the "FWC Agency Strategic Plan 2014-2019" was the first time we incorporated a large-scale, highly collaborative process to determine how to focus the strength of the agency on the most essential conservation challenges while ensuring safe and enjoyable public access to Florida's fish and wildlife resources. The 2014-2019 strategic plan identified agency Themes, Goals, and Strategies to define the conservation work required to achieve our mission. Hundreds of staff from across the agency at multiple levels worked in teams to create 109 measurable objectives across each of the five Themes, which were then prioritized by each Regional Leadership Team before being presented to our Commissioners. Executive leadership used that guidance, along with elements from other planning efforts, to develop seven Strategic Initiatives. These initiatives emphasized areas where we wanted to focus attention, discipline, and resources to make significant conservation gains over the subsequent five to 10 years. Strategic work is complex and takes considerable planning and developmental investment to accomplish. Cross-divisional teams worked together to further define the Sis, develop implementation plans, and operationalize key portions of the initiatives. The work that was accomplished on these seven

2014-2019 Strategic Initiatives

Boating as a Gateway to Conservation and the Outdoors: Strengthen and promote the conservation connections of boating while protecting people and natural resources, and improving boating related opportunities.

Conflict Wildlife: Maintain the support and appreciation of fish and wildlife through sustainable coexistence by reducing human wildlife conflict.

Conservation through Innovation – Marine Fisheries Management: Enhance marine fisheries through the expansion of progressive and collaborative management techniques.

Conservation through Innovation – Private Lands: Partner with private landowners as a key to enhanced conservation.

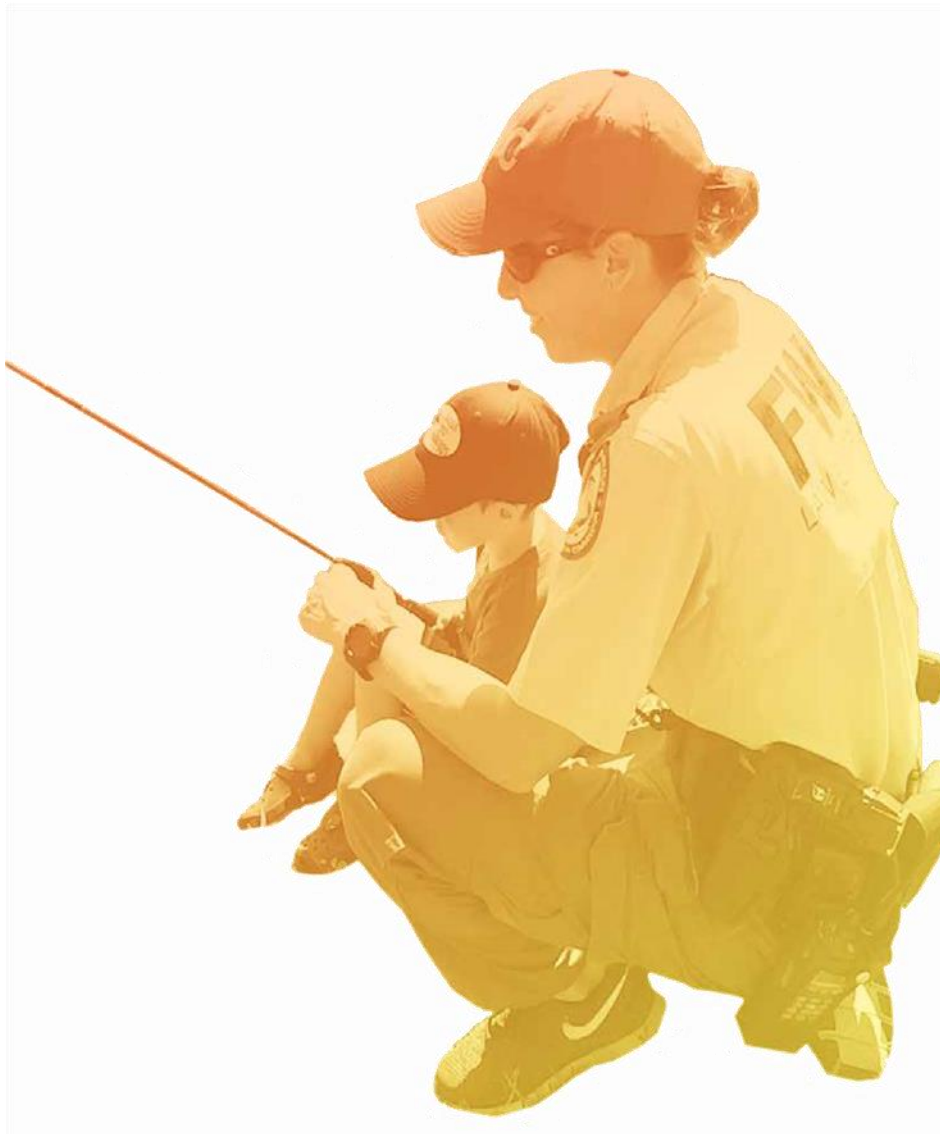
Expanding Participation in Conservation: Expand partnerships and FWC programs to encourage diverse youth and families to be more involved in the future of conservation.

Imperiled Species Management Plan: Improve the status of imperiled species to effectively reduce the risk of extinction.

Running the Business: Establish an internal infrastructure that identifies the areas of business operations and practices that represent high risk, prioritize them, and modify them to address risks.

SIs created a foundation for furthering more effective strategic thinking, planning, and implementation of meaningful and long-lasting conservation efforts for Florida's fish and wildlife resources. The 2014-2019 Sis are now becoming part of the broader conservation work that we do and will continue to influence operational planning moving forward

The current strategic plan builds upon the knowledge gained and lessons learned from all our prior strategic planning efforts. The purpose of our agency strategic planning is to leverage our values and behaviors as an agency with our strategic planning is to leverage our values and behaviors as an agency with our operational workforce to produce significant conservation outcomes that align with an ever-changing world to better position ourselves in the future



Strategic Landscape

We must be strategic in identifying our emerging issues and opportunities to put our agency in the best position to achieve our mission. We must adapt to take advantage of changing technology, seize opportunities to improve our fiscal and operational resources, increase efficiencies, and align priorities across the agency. In order to adapt to a changing environmental, economic, and socio-political landscape, we must first understand and define the environment in which we work. This plan is focused on aligning our agency resources to address our strategic opportunities. The issues, challenges, and risks we face will be addressed in division operational plans and priorities.

Challenges we must address:

- ◆ Static revenue streams.
- ◆ Increasing program costs and infrastructure improvement needs.
- ◆ Loss of institutional knowledge with an unprecedented rate of upcoming retirements.
- ◆ Recruiting and retaining qualified employees.
- ◆ Leveraging legislative support for agency operations.
- ◆ Maintaining an adequate level of research, monitoring programs, and population assessments for fish and wildlife resource management.
- ◆ Balancing state and federal regulatory authorities and reducing unneeded regulatory burdens while ensuring sustainable species populations and protecting habitat.
- ◆ Securing habitat for fish and wildlife in the face of increasing development pressure.
- ◆ Managing aquatic systems and resources without control over water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution
- ◆ Gaining public support for conservation and management

Issues We Face

- ◆ Maintaining the significance of natural resources as pillars of the community and economy.
- ◆ Habitat loss and degradation.
- ◆ Climate change impacts.
- ◆ Water quality and water quantity issues.
- ◆ Changes in public views of wildlife and conservation.
- ◆ Impacts from exotic and invasive species on natural systems.
- ◆ Natural disasters and disease outbreaks.

- ◆ Shifts in demographics, changing attitudes toward conservation, and declining percentages of hunters and anglers, which all impact our relevancy to the public

Meeting the Challenges

We have a broad scope of core work that keeps us focused on our mission. This core work is the foundation of our agency and provides the basis for building a culture of strategic planning and doing. To address the identified challenges through strategic and operational planning, we must invest in the people, programs, and technology that best advance our highest priorities, which requires that we sunset low-priority activities, programs, or service. We must foster an agency culture and capacity to accept, understand, engage, and serve people with different interests and uses of fish, wildlife, and habitats. We must demonstrate fairness, honesty, and compassion; practice dedication and adaptability; and include diverse opinions throughout our decision-making processes.



As demographics change across the state, it becomes increasingly important to develop practices and processes that are responsive to the changing nature-based values of the public. We must focus on providing a safe environment for people to enjoy Florida's natural resources and the outdoors; adapt to the impacts of social media on communication; increase focus, capacity, and use of social sciences into agency conservation and management decisions and public engagement strategies; and foster cultural acceptance of hunting and fishing.

As we maintain a high level of core work and increase strategic planning and doing as part of our foundation, we will have a greater workload than the available resources can address. This will require a priority-based approach, meaning some work will not be completed. We will need to increase efficient use of our existing resources through realignments and decrease work on lower priority activities. We will need to work with our legislative team to secure the resources necessary for agency operations and priority issues, and leverage stakeholder relationships and partnerships to increase capacity for conservation work. We will integrate research, management, and law enforcement to focus on emerging threats, landscape conservation, and a holistic approach to watershed management. This will be accomplished through partnerships, leveraging funding sources, implementing existing plans, and fostering locally-led conservation. Achieving our conservation goals will require us to think strategically across the agency and prioritize our operations to meet the challenges that lie ahead.



Our Organization

The core work of the FWC is broad and forms the basis from which strategic effort springs. Maintaining our core competencies and work is critical to our success and this section contains an overview of the core work areas within the FWC. This is by no means an all-encompassing description of the multifaceted work conducted throughout the agency. Additional information on each of the divisions, offices, and the institute can be found within the “Programs of the FWC” annual report as well as within each division’s operational plans. This agency strategic plan focuses on a small portion of our overall work with the intent of identifying areas of strategic focus, using our existing work as the foundation.

Moreover, it is important to note that our agency’s structure is intentionally organized into inter-dependent parts that must work together to achieve our mission. Divisions serve as the main operational elements, while offices provide critical support functions across the entire agency. Regions then serve to ensure geographic continuity of policy and programs across the state. This structure necessitates strong collaboration and teaming amongst all parts of the FWC. We then carry this heavy focus on working together outside of the agency and actively engage partners, stakeholders, and the public in our decision making and implementation.

FWC

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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

The FWC consists of more than 3,000 employees, including 848 sworn law enforcement officers. All personnel work together to protect and manage more than 575 species of wildlife, 200 species of freshwater fish, and 500 species of saltwater fish. The FWC works to balance the needs of these fish and wildlife species and the habitats that support them with the needs of Florida’s growing population of more than 21 million residents and record numbers of visitors coming to the state – well over 100 million annually.



The Commissioners

The FWC's seven Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate to five-year terms. Their constitutional duty is to exercise the “. . .regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life and shall also exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life, except that all license fees and penalties for violating regulations shall be as provided by law .”

OED

Office of the Executive Director

The Office of the Executive Director provides coordination, oversight, and support for FWC operations. It provides policy guidance, fosters accountability, and promotes continual improvement among the agency's divisions and offices. To address important conservation issues, OED coordinates and supports strong engagement of Commissioners and facilitates effective interaction with agency customers; stakeholders; federal, state, and local elected officials; federal and state agencies; and FWC staff. Further responsibilities include maintaining facilities and infrastructure and leading efforts to strategically focus agency staff and resources on conservation priorities. OED staff work closely with the agency's Senior Leadership Team to ensure effective integration of agency activities and programs across all divisions and offices.

There are multiple functions within OED, with some primary functions including media relations and informing residents and visitors about fish and wildlife resources; quickly and efficiently issuing licenses and permits for recreational fishing and hunting and for commercial saltwater and freshwater fishing; providing oversight for the agency's administrative functions such as disbursements, financial management, procurement, leasing, and property; managing an automated information technology environment that is reliable, secure, cost-effective, and responsive; and working closely with division, regional, and office directors to identify and coordinate programs with boundary-spanning implications that will benefit the FWC.



FWRI

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute provides timely information and guidance to protect, conserve, and manage Florida's fish and wildlife resources through effective research and technical knowledge.

The work done by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute reaches far beyond the confines of the FWC. Research conducted on habitats, freshwater and marine fisheries, harvested and imperiled species, and other important plant and wildlife communities in Florida is used by federal, state, and local governments; universities; recreational and commercial fishing interests; recreational hunting and boating interests; nongovernmental organizations; and the public. FWRI integrates its research activities with management efforts of other FWC divisions.

Primary work areas within FWRI include conducting monitoring, assessments, mapping, and research to support development of management practices to protect and improve the quality of habitat and diversity of wildlife on state managed lands; maintaining an extensive collection of fish and invertebrate specimens and providing data management services and scientific library services; integrating research on predicted or emerging threats to fish and wildlife conservation, such as climate change; and acquiring and distributing biological and ecological information critical for the science based management, conservation, restoration, and wise use of Florida's fish and wildlife resources.



FFM

Freshwater Fisheries Management

The Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management manages, enhances, and conserves Florida's freshwater aquatic life for public benefit.

The Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management is responsible for directing the management and identifying the research needs of freshwater fisheries within public lakes, rivers, streams, and canals, with efforts focused on improving the fish populations and their habitats to benefit anglers and other stakeholders. This is accomplished through strategies revolving around improving aquatic habitat; increasing access; improving freshwater sport and commercial fisheries; stocking sportfish; regulations; developing management plans; increasing aquatic stewardship; and building partnerships with state, county, and city governments, industry leaders, and freshwater stakeholders. FFM has developed a private-public partnership through the TrophyCatch conservation and marketing program, which uses citizen science to provide valuable

information that contributes to the management of Florida's trophy bass fisheries. Special projects, such as the high school fishing program and kids' fishing clinics, encourage responsible fishing practices and help bolster future generations' understanding of and personal investment in the conservation of fish and wildlife resources.

Primary work areas include evaluating freshwater resources through surveys and inventories of fish populations and angler use; maintaining Fish Management Areas that provide access and promote fishing; developing aquatic habitat enhancement/restoration projects; producing fingerling and subadult fish for stocking in public waters to enhance fisheries, provide new opportunities, supplement urban pond populations, and for youth events; and work with communities surrounding major freshwater resources so they appreciate the intrinsic value and economic importance of the resource and the fishery .



HSC

Habitat and Species Conservation

The Division of Habitat and Species Conservation ensures healthy populations of all native wildlife and their habitats on a statewide basis.

The Division of Habitat and Species Conservation integrates scientific data with applied habitat and species management to maintain stable or increasing populations of fish and wildlife. Conservation integration efforts focus on the ecosystem or landscape scale to provide the greatest benefits to the widest possible array of fish and wildlife species. Accomplishing this mission requires extensive collaboration and partnering with local, state, and federal agencies to maintain diverse and healthy fish and wildlife populations for the benefit of all Floridians and visitors, which provides direct ecological, economic, aesthetic, scientific, and recreational benefits.

Primary work areas include managing, maintaining, enhancing, and restoring native natural habitats on 1.4 million acres, assisting cooperators with wildlife management on another 4.5 million acres, and working with partners to connect and expand public conservation lands; providing technical assistance to private landowners to implement wildlife conservation strategies; restoring, enhancing, and managing



publicly-owned aquatic resources to improve the ecological health of freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats; directing, coordinating, and funding control of invasive upland plants on public conservation lands and invasive aquatic plants in public waterways; developing and implementing high-priority conservation activities to improve conditions for native and imperiled wildlife; addressing human wildlife interactions and managing the impact of native and nonnative fish and wildlife species; reviewing growth management and regulated land and water use project proposals that have potential to impact Florida's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources; and promoting, facilitating, and expanding nature-based tourism, recreational opportunities, and public participation in conservation .

HGM

Hunting and Game Management

The Division of Hunting and Game Management manages and conserves game wildlife for the future, while fostering safe and responsible hunting.

The Division of Hunting and Game Management uses scientifically proven game-management strategies and professional expertise to conserve game wildlife and perpetuate sustainable hunting opportunities on public and private lands statewide. The Division also manages public shooting sports facilities throughout the state and offers hunter safety programs to foster safe, responsible hunting.

Primary work areas include managing Florida's wild game populations using science, leadership, and key partnerships; providing opportunities for responsible and sustainable hunting on public and private lands; working with stakeholders and partners to coordinate support for hunting-related activities; providing hunter safety courses and special events to ensure Florida hunters are well prepared to be safe, responsible, and conservation minded; and constructing and managing public shooting ranges located throughout the state.



LE

Law Enforcement

The Division of Law Enforcement protects Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services.

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement, comprised of 1,043 members including 848 sworn law enforcement officers, operates in six regions throughout the state. FWC officers are responsible for uniformed patrol and investigative law enforcement services on more than 8,400 miles of coastline, more than 13,000 square miles of offshore waters, and more than 34 million acres of land encompassing a variety of habitats including private lands, wildlife management areas, state parks, and forests.

Primary duties include protecting Florida's fish and wildlife and their habitats, and providing law enforcement services that protect public safety throughout the state of Florida. The division also provides support for state Emergency Operations Center activities and readiness for natural disasters and mutual aid requests. Personnel also engage in targeting illegal black markets and trafficking in fish and wildlife, conduct federal fisheries enforcement patrols, help to regulate the Florida seafood industry, and enforce rules related to captive wildlife.



Some internal programs undertaken by the division include professional recruitment efforts of new officers; providing world-class training and recruit instruction; conducting progressive advanced training; implementing the division career development programs; and providing intelligence information to officers in the field. The DLE enhances boating safety and waterway experiences through maintenance and repair of approximately 244 boat ramps, construction of new boat ramps, and placement and maintenance of waterway markers.

MF

Marine Fisheries Management

The Division of Marine Fisheries Management manages Florida's marine fisheries for their long-term sustainability, their economic benefits, and for the enjoyment of the public.

The Division of Marine Fisheries Management works with stakeholders, federal agencies, other states, and regional councils to manage and provide outreach on more than 500 marine fish and invertebrates. The division also provides expertise, monitoring, and grant funding for the deployment of artificial reefs; recovers lost or abandoned lobster and crab traps; conducts wholesale-dealer audits; provides agency comments on proposed development projects that may affect marine resources; and issues special activity licenses for harvest of species for research and educational purposes . This division additionally provides outreach and education to introduce people to the sport of fishing, instill ethical angling values, and ensure comprehension of marine fisheries regulations

Primary work areas include compiling fishery data, coordinating with other government agencies and research institutions, and soliciting information from the public regarding fishery management strategies for state saltwater fisheries regulations; serving as liaison between the FWC

Commissioners, interstate fisheries commissions, and federal fishery management councils that manage marine fish species such as snapper and grouper in federal and interstate waters; promoting responsible recreational and commercial fishing activities; and administering the statewide artificial reef programs.



Approach to the Future

Strategic Framework

Maintaining the FWC's core work is foundational to achieving our mission and continuing our success of achieving conservation. Enforcement and education, public engagement, species and habitat management, comprehensive research, freshwater and marine fisheries enhancement, sustaining game wildlife as a public resource, and operating within responsible business practices are all components of the exceptional work we do every day. These central functions comprise the majority of our time and effort, and continuing to excel in this work is key to successfully conserving Florida's fish and wildlife and their habitats into the future.

Currently, considerable effort is spent responding to urgent challenges. Much of this work is reactive in nature, rapidly consumes resources, and ultimately pulls focus from identified priorities. A refined approach to the future – one that results in a more agile and focused organization – is necessary to minimize time spent reacting and increase time spent making progress toward our strategic priorities. By increasing the portion of work we do that is strategic, focused, and proactive, we can better adapt to our changing environment, integrate strategic solutions into our operations to address specific issues, and position ourselves to successfully conserve fish and wildlife into the future (Figure 1) .

The strategic approach presented here is a framework for infusing strategy into our operations and ultimately positioning the FWC to proactively address known challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and continue to successfully fulfill our mission. Investing time in strategic priorities is necessary to sustain the model for fish and wildlife conservation that the FWC has built. The conservation gains realized through focused planning and dedicated action are both worthwhile and essential. When strategic initiatives become fully integrated into the core components of the work we do, we achieve long-term, sustainable success.

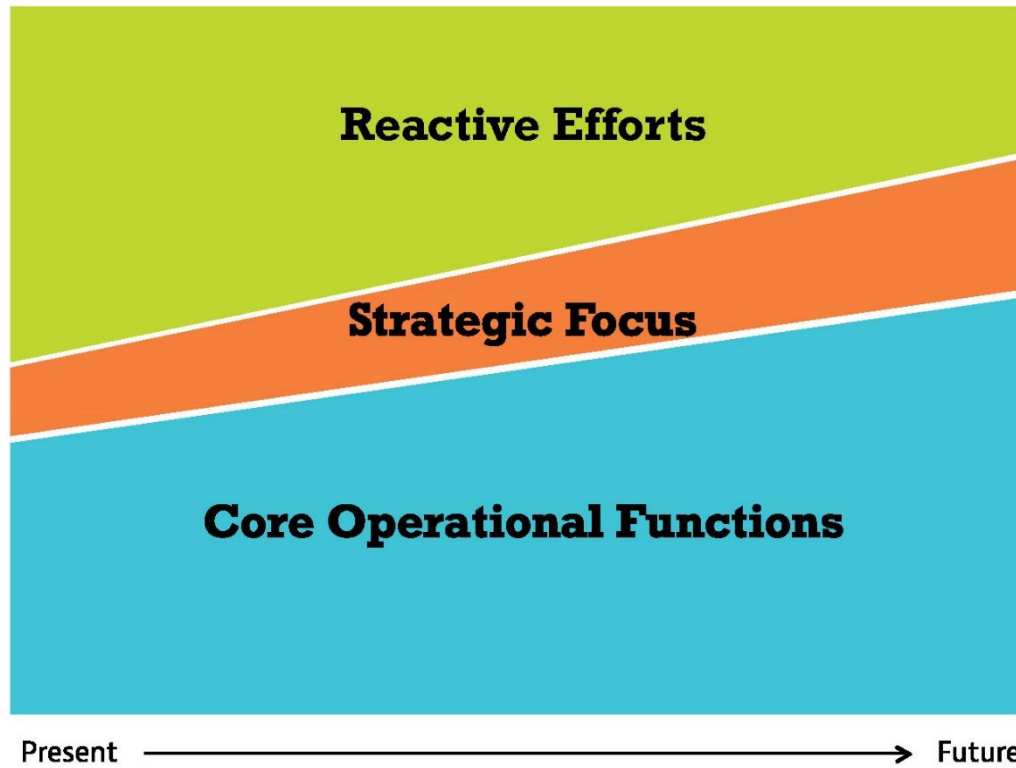


Figure 1. Currently, a significant portion of our effort is spent reacting to urgent issues. With a shift to a more proactive, forward-focused approach, through time we can reduce the overall amount of reactive efforts by using approaches that address future challenges.



21

Establishing Dynamic Strategic Initiatives

Identifying strategic priorities at the agency, division, and section/ program level is an important component of a future-focused approach. Strategic initiatives are intended to leverage areas of strategic importance and strengthen conservation efforts. SIs are distinguished as proactive, timely, and important topics requiring increased focus and a shift in resources. SIs are not a response to urgent, reactive challenges, nor are they a shift in course due to opportunities to address topics of lower priority. They are those critically important conservation efforts that focus on future opportunity or alignment, require dedicated attention, challenge us to work across organizational lines, and for which a shift in resources or change in operational structure may be required.

Initiatives will be selected through an ongoing process that includes environmental scanning and staff input. Strategic planning will include feedback and ongoing discussion with each division to clarify emerging issues and priorities. A cross-divisional strategic planning team will compile input, identify common themes across the agency, and evaluate

Strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Realize significant benefits for conservation that otherwise would not occur.
- ◆ Are forward-focused instead of reactive.
- ◆ Need directed increase in agency focus.
- ◆ Span section or division boundaries.
- ◆ Require resource reallocation.
- ◆ May necessitate realignment or organizational transformation.

potential initiatives. This team will produce recommendations on strategic areas of focus for agency and division-level initiatives to be discussed with each division leadership team and by the FWC's Executive Leadership Team. Collectively, the ELT will determine which issues become agency-level initiatives. Then, with support from the agency's strategic planning team, initiative sponsors will coordinate cross-divisional work to further describe the initiative and develop clear objectives and timelines.

To ensure available resources are fully focused on priorities, no more than three agency SIs will be active at any given time. Limiting the number of topics we are addressing through a strategic shift in resources is intended to yield more progress in each initiative more quickly than when resources are divided among numerous initiatives. Initiatives will develop clearly defined objectives from the onset and will be evaluated annually. Many topics identified through consideration of influences, challenges, and opportunities may be urgent in nature and require cross-divisional coordination at an operational level. While only a subset of these topics will be active as an SI at any given time, we will continue to design our core work to sustainably address urgent needs by working across organizational boundaries. As this intentionally necessitates an adaptive approach, we will reassess this process after another five-year period to improve our development of strategic initiatives moving forward.

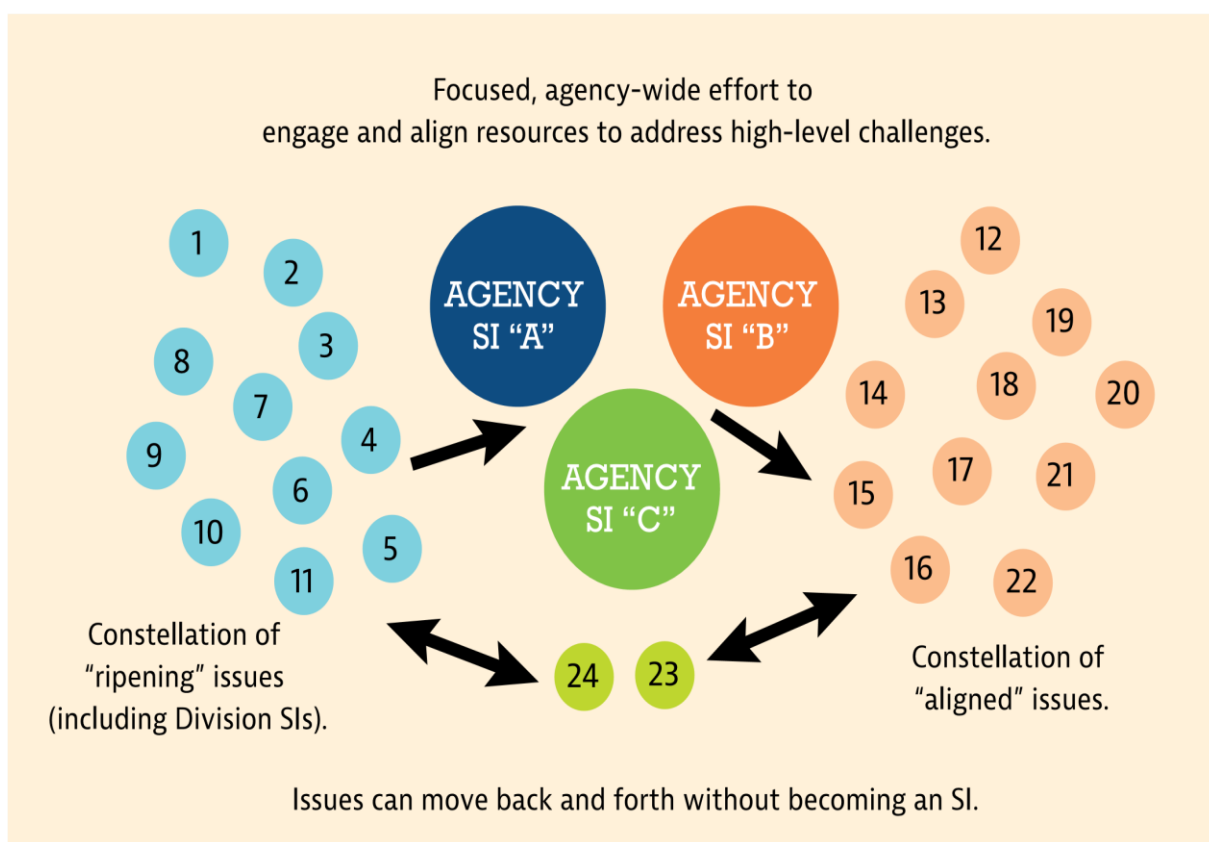


Figure 2. Dynamic Strategic Initiatives for 2020-2024

There will be no more than three agency strategic initiatives at any one time with no more than three strategic initiatives per division. Initiatives can change when special emphasis is no longer needed and they will be tracked as part of the strategic plan framework.

Integrative Work Planning

To help weave strategic thinking into the fabric of the FWC, we will identify initiatives at multiple levels of the agency (e.g., division, section, and program initiatives) to both support agency initiatives and integrate the strategic framework into the structure of our core work. While key issues will be addressed through agency initiatives, division initiatives are also critical to addressing important topics. Sections and programs may also identify initiatives by shifting focus to a refined set of topics. Divisions, sections, and programs are encouraged to apply a framework similar to the one presented here to identify priorities requiring a strategic approach and develop timely initiatives to address them. Like agency-level initiatives, these will have a refined focus, so no more than three initiatives will be active for a division at any given time. Divisions with a significant role in an agency initiative will assume the agency initiative as one of up to three initiatives on which to focus as a division. This framework is founded on each division, section, and program initiating proactive strategies in addition to maintaining operational priorities. To achieve this, divisions may need to identify operational activities that no longer warrant agency focus and evaluate where capacity can be created to refocus on proactive topics. With strategic efforts active at the agency, division, and potentially section and program levels, we will strive to align vertically to leverage resources and coordinate efforts (Figure 3).

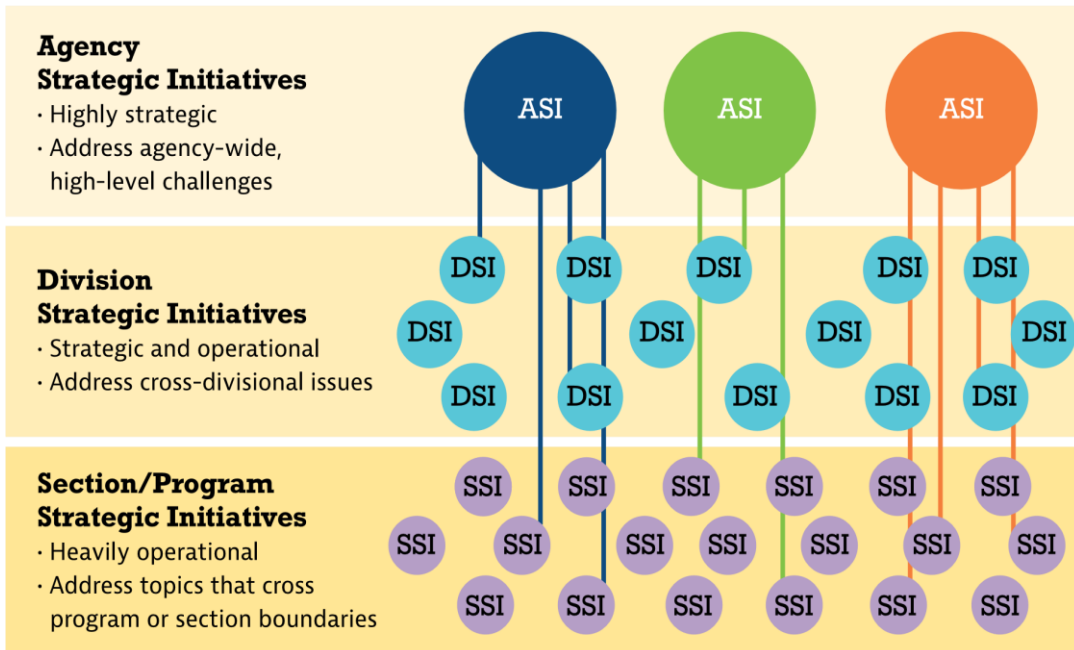


Figure 3. Strategic initiatives at the agency, division, and section or program levels. Vertical alignment of effort and coordination supports progress toward initiatives at multiple levels within the agency.

Future-focused Conservation

FWC's 2020-2024 strategic plan is built upon the idea that we must be intentional in our work to conserve Florida's fish and wildlife resources so they are available for current and future generations. Our success in this arena directly depends on our individual and collective action, and accountability for achieving our mission. Guided by this strategic approach, shaped by our values and fueled by our passion, we will work together to build the Florida we envision: a Florida where fish and wildlife are abundant and thriving in healthy and connected natural landscapes with vital working lands and waterways; where natural resources are valued and safely enjoyed by all; and wherein natural systems support vibrant human communities and a strong economy.



Strategic Initiatives: 2020

Agency Initiatives

From October 2019 through March 2020, the agency strategic planning team worked with division leadership teams to determine the next round of SIs (this process is outlined in [Appendix 1](#)). The ELT collectively affirmed the initial three agency SIs and discussed initiative alignment under the new strategic approach. Moving forward, initiative sponsors will coordinate cross-divisional work to establish clear milestones and time frames for achieving objectives under the following areas of strategic focus:

Invest Inward

A strong foundation to maintain our core functions is critical to sustaining the important work we do and achieving our mission. **Investing Inward** means focusing on key challenges within our agency that, when addressed, position us to better accomplish sustainable conservation into the future. These challenges include: 1) staff retention, recruitment, capacity, and distribution; 2) infrastructure improvements, facilities, technology, and equipment; and 3) cultivating a culture that cares through investing in morale, professional development, diversity, and inclusion.

Landscape Conservation

The **Landscape Conservation** initiative will define a unified conservation vision to be implemented at the local level and fit within a broadly agreed-upon conservation target. This conservation vision should be one that can be shared with and implemented by internal and external, public and private partners to achieve broad-scaled, long-lasting conservation outcomes. Conservation delivery at the local level will require that we develop a network of local, state, federal, and private partners to provide technical and financial resources (data, information, assistance, funding opportunities) and a stable communication network.

Relevancy, Engagement, and Support

Recognizing the need to adapt to Florida's changing demographics and values by improving agency engagement and service to broader constituencies, **Relevancy, Engagement, and Support** focuses on the need to enhance conservation through broader engagement, identify available capacity for and challenges to reaching and servicing more constituents, and establish logical steps to helping the public understand the impact that fish and wildlife conservation has on their quality of life and mental and physical well-being. This includes increasing both social and financial support for conservation.

Division Initiatives

The input provided by division leadership to determine agency strategic initiatives was also used to determine division initiatives. As outlined in the strategic framework section, divisions with a significant role in an agency strategic initiative will assume the agency initiative as one of their three division initiatives. The initiatives in Figure 4 were identified as the most timely to address at the agency and division levels. Division initiatives were also affirmed by the ELT. Each initiative will be further described by divisions as part of their workplans.

Many division initiatives align with the broader agency initiatives but will address discrete challenges relevant to the core work of those divisions. This alignment increases the focus and shift of resources towards these topics through both strategic and operational approaches and unifies work across the agency. Some divisions also have initiatives that do not directly align with agency initiatives but do represent important, timely topics that divisions, programs, and sections will strategically address. The constellation of initiatives at the agency and division levels illustrates the alignment of strategic work proposed in Figure 3.

Strategic Alignment

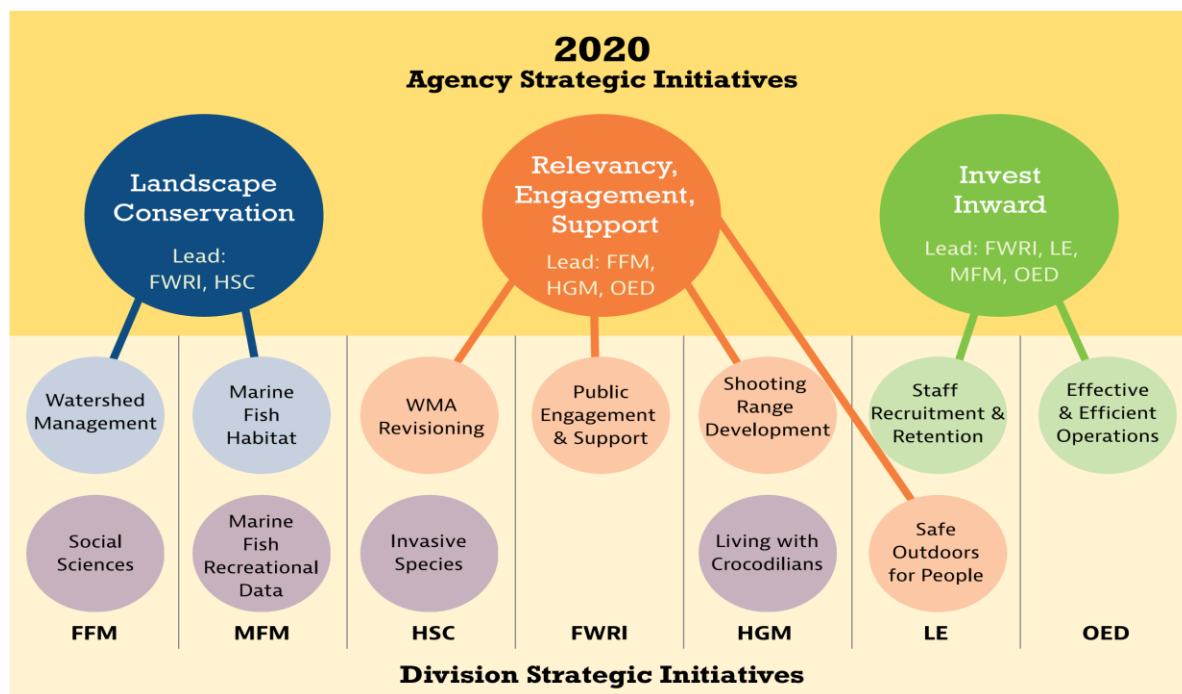


Figure 4. Vertical alignment between the agency and division initiatives shows multiple tiers of support for the broad initiative topics.

APPENDIX 1

2020 Strategic Initiative Selection Process

Division leadership teams provided input on timely initiatives to the agency strategic planning team throughout the selection process. A number of challenges and opportunities were identified through a questionnaire and follow-up discussions. Common themes emerged among the initiatives proposed by each division, and alignment was strong in several themes. These themes may affect each division in unique ways, but they represent agency-wide challenges that require a directed focus to fully address.

Table 1 on the following page is a process illustration of preliminary initiatives from the first round of data analysis. Development of agency and division initiatives went through several iterations of division-level review through the ELT as concepts evolved and solidified, eventually becoming the 2020 Strategic Initiatives outlined in Figure 4.



Table 1. Common themes were identified from the initiatives, influences, and challenges put forward by each division. This crosswalk represents proposed initiatives and alignment among agency-wide challenges. This information guided the initiative selection process for 2020.

Proposed Initiatives

	Agency Initiatives	Division Initiatives
FFM	- Wildlife conflict - Watershed management - Social sciences	- Lake management plans - Chipola and shoal bass - Largemouth bass
FWRI	- Relevancy - Landscape conservation - Diversify and modernize revenue - K-12 and new resident education	- Staff recruitment and retention - Integrative research on events - Integrative research on events - Integrate research and management
HGM	- Landscape conservation - Expand participation in conservation - Wildlife conflict	- Implement R3 plan - Shooting range construction - Living with crocodilians campaign
HSC	- Infrastructure improvement - Landscape conservation - Relevancy - Invasive species	- WMA re-visioning (relevancy) - HSC's role in landscape conservation
LE	- Invest inward - Public service - Science and conservation	- Reinforce culture that cares - Recruit and retain quality staff - Safe environment for people
MFM	- Invasives - Wildlife trafficking - Corals - Invest inward	- Maximize productivity, capacity - Marine fish habitat - Marine fish recreation - data collection
OED	- Internal focus/invest inward - Human dimensions and social science - Connectivity with other D/Os - Effective, efficient operation	OED organizational management

Common Themes

Invest Inward

- ◆ Staff: recruitment, retention, pay, capacity, distribution
- ◆ Infrastructure: facilities, technology
- ◆ Funding: stable sources
- ◆ Culture that cares: training, morale, professional development, diversity

Landscape Conservation

- ◆ Watershed management
- ◆ Integrate science with management
- ◆ WMA re-visioning
- ◆ Landscape conservation prioritization
- ◆ Marine and freshwater habitat

Relevancy, Engagement, and Support

- ◆ For fish and wildlife conservation
- ◆ For FWC as an agency
- ◆ Safe environment for people
- ◆ EPIC, R3, K-12 education
- ◆ Public service (good work)

Social Science and Human Dimensions

- ◆ Apply to management decisions
- ◆ Increase capacity to gather social science
- ◆ Increase value in FWC
- ◆ Use to influence behaviors
- ◆ Maintain focus on relevancy

Wildlife Conflict and Invasives

- ◆ Native species conflict
- ◆ Nonnative wildlife
- ◆ Invasive plants
- ◆ Aquaculture
- ◆ Trafficking and trade
- ◆ Living with crocodilians

Operational: Proactive Research and Development/Other

- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Marine fish recreational data
- ◆ Largemouth bass
- ◆ Corals ◆ Shooting Range Construction

1.11 FWC Apiary Policy

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Apiary Policy

Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

**Issued by:
Terrestrial Habitat Conservation and Restoration Section
9/1/2010**

Enclosed is the HSC/THCR Apiary Policy for all Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

DIVISION OF HABITAT AND SPECIES CONSERVATION POLICY

Issued September 2010

**SUBJECT: APIARY SITES ON FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: It is the intent of this policy to determine which Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Wildlife Management Areas or Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WMA/WEA) may have apiary sites, and provides direction on site location, management and administration of said apiaries.

Definitions

Apiary – A place where bees and beehives are kept, especially a place where bees are raised for their honey.

Apiary Site – An area set aside on a WMA/WEA for the purpose of allowing a beekeeper to locate beehives in exchange for a fee as established by contract between the beekeeper and FWC.

Apiary Wait List – An apiary wait list will be maintained by the Terrestrial Habitat Conservation and Restoration (THCR) Section Leader's Office based on applications received from interested beekeepers. Only qualified apiarists will be added to the list. To become qualified the new apiarist must submit an application form and meet the criteria below under the section titled "Apiary Wait List and Apiary Application."

Beekeeper/Apiarist – A person who keeps honey bees for the purposes of securing commodities such as honey, beeswax, pollen; pollinating fruits and vegetables; raising queens and bees for sale to other farmers and/or for purposes satisfying natural scientific curiosity.

Best Management Practices – The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS; Division of Plant Industry (DPI), Apiary Inspection Section, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 332614-1416) provides Best Management Practices (BMP) for maintaining European Honey Bee colonies and FWC expects apiarists to follow the BMP.

Hive/Colony – Means any Langstroth-type structure with movable frames intended for the housing of a bee colony. A hive typically consists of a high body hive box with cover, honey frames, brood chambers and a bottom board and may have smaller super hive boxes stacked on top for the excess honey storage. A hive/colony includes one queen, bees, combs, honey, pollen and brood and may have additional supers stacked on top of a high body hive box.

Establishment of Apiary Sites on WMA/WEA

During the development of an individual WMA/WEA Management Plan, apiaries will be considered under the multiple-use concept as a possible use to be allowed on the area. “Approved” uses are deemed to be in concert with the purposes for state acquisition, with the Conceptual State Lands Management Plan, and with the FWC agency mission, goals, and objectives as expressed in the agency strategic plan and priorities documents. Items to consider when making this determination can also include:

- Were apiaries present on the area prior to acquisition?
- Are there suitable available sites on the WMA/WEA?
- Will the apiary assist in pollination of an onsite FWC or offsite (adjacent landowner) citrus grove or other agricultural operation?

For those WMA/WEAs that have not considered apiaries in their Management Plan, upon approval of this policy Regional Staff will work with the Conservation Acquisition and Planning (CAP) staff and THCR Section leadership to determine if apiaries are an approved use on the area. If apiaries are considered an approved use then a request will be made to the Division of State Lands to allow this use as part of an amended Management Plan. This request will be made through the THCR’s Section Leader’s office and coordinated by the CAP.

Determination of apiary site locations on WMA/WEAs should be done using the following guidelines:

- Apiary sites should be situated so as to be at least one-half mile from WMA/WEA property boundary lines, and at least one mile from any other known apiary site. Exceptions to this requirement must be reviewed by the Area Biologist and presented to the THCR Section Leader for approval.
- Site should be relatively level, fairly dry, and not be prone to flooding when bees would normally be present.
- Site should be accessible by roads which allow reasonable transfer of hives to the site by vehicle.
- If a site is to be located near human activity, such as, an agricultural field, food plot, wildlife opening, campsites, etc., or if the site may be manipulated by machinery at a time when bees would be present, then the apiary site should be located at a minimum

of 150 to 200 yards from the edge of that activity. This will ensure minimal disturbance to the bees and minimize incidents with anyone working in the area.

- It is preferable to have apiary sites located adjacent to or off roads whenever possible. If traditional apiary sites were located on roads and the Area Biologist determines that the site will not impact use of the road by visitors then it will be allowed.
- FWC Area Biologist shall select apiary site(s) and the site(s) selected should not require excessive vegetation clearing (numerous large trees, dense shrubs) or ground disturbance (including fill).

WMA/WEA Staff Responsibilities

Area Biologist on WMAs/WEAs with approved apiary sites will forward a GIS shapefile depicting all the apiary site polygon(s), including a name or number with coordinates for each apiary site, to the THCR Contract Manager.

Area Biologist will monitor each apiary site no less than once a year to determine if the beekeeper is abiding by the contract requirements. If violations are noted, staff should bring them to the attention of the beekeeper for correction. If violations continue staff should notify the THCR Contract Manager who will determine if or what additional action is warranted.

Area Biologist will establish and maintain firelines around the apiary site to ensure the apiary site is ready when a planned burn is scheduled.

Area Biologist will advise the beekeeper of burn plans, road work, gate closures, or other site conditions and management activities that may affect the beekeeper's ability to manage or access the apiary site.

Area Biologist is not responsible to ensure access roads are in condition suitable for beekeepers to access their hives with anything other than a four wheeled drive vehicle. (The site of the apiary may be high and dry, but the roads accessing them may be difficult to impossible to get a two wheeled drive vehicle into during extreme weather, e.g., heavy rainfall events.)

Apiary Wait List and Apiary Application

An electronic waiting list for apiary sites will be maintained by the THCR's Contract Manager for each WMA/WEA. To be placed on the waiting list an interested beekeeper must submit an apiary application form to the contract manager (See Enclosed Application Form). Each applicant will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Proof of a valid registration with the FDACS/DPI.
- Proof of payment of outstanding special inspection fees for existing sites.
- A validated history of being an apiary manager.
- Three references that can attest to the applicant's beekeeping experience.

If an apiary site becomes available on a WMA/WEA and there are beekeepers on the waiting list interested in that particular area, those individuals meeting the criteria above will be given preference. If there is more than one beekeeper meeting the criteria with their name on the list then a random drawing will be held by the THCR Contract Manager to determine who will receive the site. Beekeepers on the waiting list will be notified in writing of the random drawing's date/location and will be invited to attend. The individual's name selected during this drawing will be awarded the contract.

Apiary agreements are non-transferable. Each agreement serves as a contract between a specific individual or company and FWC, and the rights and responsibilities covered by an individual agreement cannot be transferred.

Contracts

Apiary contracts are for five (5) years and renewals are contingent upon a satisfactory performance evaluation by Area Biologist and concurrence of the THCR Section Leader. Approval is based on apiarist performance, adherence to rules and regulations and general cooperation. If an Area Biologist decides an apiarist whose contract is expiring is unacceptable he may recommend not approving the new contract. If this transpires then the wait list process using random selection will be used. If there is no apiarist on a current wait list then the apiarists who are in good standing with existing contracts will be notified to see if any want to be put on the wait list for the drawing. If none are interested then the site will be put on hold pending a valid request.

Pricing of Apiary Site(s)

Cost of each apiary site will be \$40 annually which will include up to 50 beehives. Additional beehives will be charged at the rate of \$40 per 50 beehives.

Pricing examples:

- A beekeeper is leasing 2 apiary sites with up to 100 beehives - the fee per year is \$80.
- A beekeeper is leasing 3 apiary sites with up to 200 beehives - the fee per year is \$160.

Note: The maximum number of hives/colonies allowed on an apiary site will be at the discretion of the apiarist. However, the apiarist is strongly recommended to follow the BMP as recommended by the FDACS/DPI. In addition to providing the BMP, FDACS/DPI's management has recommended 50 hives per site in pineland communities and no more than 100 hives per site in areas with bountiful resources. However, FWC will not dictate the number of hives on a site unless they create land management issues.

Bear Depredation Control at Apiary Site(s)

Beekeepers are required to consult with the WMA/WEA Area Biologist to see if electric fencing is required for their apiary sites. If the Area Biologist requires electric fencing then the Beekeeper shall construct and maintain electric fences for each apiary site. Numerous electric fence designs have been used to varying success and FWC as a courtesy provides an electric fence technical information bulletin with each Agreement. This bulletin is attached in order to assist the Beekeeper and/or provide a design that has been proven to be reasonable effective.

SUBJECT MATTER REFERENCES

Apiary Inspection Law - Chapter 586, Florida Statutes (see <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/>), Rule Chapter 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code (see www.flrules.org).

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund – Recommended Apiary Agreement Guidelines For Apiaries & Revisions to an Agreement for Apiary Activities on State Lands on September 23, 1986

S:\HSC\THCR\APIARY.BACKUP.POLICY\dlissupport@dos.state.fl.us_20100903_111446.pdf

Senate Resolution 580, September 21, 2006: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:sr580ats.txt.pdf

Attachments

Sample Apiary Agreement W/Attachments (Map Placeholder & Electric Fence Bulletin)

Sample Apiary Site Application Form W/Mission Statement

Best Management Practices for Maintaining European Honey Bee Colonies

Sample of Random Selection Process Procedure

APPROVED:

Division Director or Designee

DATE: _____

APIARY AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT FOR APIARY ACTIVITIES ON STATE LANDS

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600, hereinafter known as “the COMMISSION,” and (Insert Name and Address of Apiarist Here), telephone number (Insert Phone Number of Apiarist Here), hereinafter known as “the USER.”

WITNESSETH

In consideration of the mutual promises to be kept by each and the payments to be made by the USER, the parties agree as follows:

1. TERM: This Agreement will begin (Insert date here) or the date signed by both parties, whichever is later, and will end five (5) years from the date of execution. Issuance of a new five (5) year Agreement is contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluation by the Area Biologist and approval of the THCR Section Leader.
2. The COMMISSION Agrees:
 - a. To provide apiary sites on state lands, which will be identified by the COMMISSION staff and located on the property identified in (4)(f) below.
 - b. To provide technical assistance for bear-proofing, if required by Area Biologist, of sites made available under this Agreement.
 - c. To allow the USER to place a total number of (insert number of hive boxes here) hive boxes on the COMMISSION-managed property at the apiary site(s).

3. The USER Agrees:

- a. To pay (Insert Total Dollars Here) on or before the execution date of this Agreement and each year thereafter on or before anniversary date of the original contract execution date, with check or money order payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. All payments shall be remitted to The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Finance and Budgeting, Accounting Section, PO Box 6150, Tallahassee, FL 32399-6150, and a copy of the check to The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Terrestrial Habit Conservation and Restoration Section, Attn: Section Leader, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.
- b. To have no more than (Insert Number of Hive boxes here) hive boxes on the property at one time.
- c. To comply with the Florida Honey Certification and Honeybee Law, Chapter 586, Florida Statutes, and Rule 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code, and all other applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules or ordinances.
- d. To not damage, cut or remove any trees in the course of preparing for or conducting operations under this Agreement.
- e. To repair within 30 days of occurrence any damage to roads, trails, fences, bridges, ditches, or other public property caused by USER'S operations under this Agreement based on discretion of the COMMISSION to ensure the WMA/WEA management goals are met. All repairs will be coordinated with the Area Biologist to ensure management goals are met. If USER does not comply within the 30 day requirement, then the COMMISSION may use a third party to perform the repairs and charge the USER accordingly.
- f. To report any forest fires observed and to prevent forest fires during the course of operations under this Agreement.
- g. To abide by all WMA/WEA rules and regulations in addition to items in this Agreement.
- h. To notify the Area Biologist within 24 hours when a bear depredation event occurs.

- i. To post their name in an agreed upon location at each site covered by this Agreement or otherwise use an identifying system that is approved by the Area Biologist.
- j. To furnish proof of general liability insurance prior to starting apiary activities on state property or within 30 days of execution of this Agreement, whichever is earlier, and proof of annual renewal of the general liability insurance policy prior to or upon expiration date of the policy. The USER shall maintain continuous general liability insurance throughout the term of this Agreement for no less than \$300,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property damage for each occurrence. Such a policy shall name the COMMISSION as the Certificate Holder. The USER's current certificate of insurance shall contain a provision that the insurance will not be canceled for any reason during the term of this Agreement except after thirty (30) days written notice to the COMMISSION.
- k. To be liable for all damage to persons or property resulting from operations under this Agreement, and to release, acquit, indemnify, save and hold harmless the COMMISSION, its officers, agents, employees and representatives from any and all claims, losses, damages, injuries and liabilities whatsoever, whether for personal injury or otherwise, resulting from, arising out of or in any way connected with activities under this Agreement or activities occurring from any other source not under this Agreement and the USER further agrees to assume all risks of loss and liabilities incidental to any natural or artificial condition occurring on state lands cover by this Agreement.
- l. To construct and maintain electric fences, if required by the Area Biologist at the Area Biologist's discretion, to provide protection of apiaries from black bear depredation consistent with the technical information bulletin attached to this agreement, and, if so required, to maintain an open buffer around the fencing of five (5) feet or more. (See Attachment 1)
- m. To remove all personal property from the site within thirty (30) days of termination or expiration of this Agreement. The USER understands that after this time, all the USER'S personal property remaining on the WMA/WEA shall be deemed abandoned and become the property of the COMMISSION, which will be utilized or disposed of at the sole discretion of the COMMISSION, and that reasonable storage and/or disposal fees and/or costs may be charged to the USER.

4. The parties mutually agree:
- a. This Agreement is not transferable.
 - b. The USER's failure to submit payment by the due date established herein may result in cancellation of the Agreement by the COMMISSION.
 - c. The USER's failure to submit proof of general liability insurance or proof of annual renewal in compliance with (3) (j) above may result in cancellation of this Agreement by the COMMISSION.
 - d. This Agreement shall be in effect for a period of five (5) years and issuance of a new agreement will be contingent upon a satisfactory performance evaluation and approval of the Area Biologist and THCR Section Leader.
 - e. Each apiary site shall be situated so as to be at least one-half (1/2) mile inward from state property lines and there shall be at least one (1) mile separation between sites. Exceptions to this rule must be reviewed by Area Biologist presented to and approved by the Terrestrial Habitat Conservation and Restoration Section Leader.
 - f. The property covered by this Agreement is described as follows: That the property sites (Insert Area Name) Wildlife Management Area are represented by Attachment 2.
 - g. In accordance with Section 287.134, Florida Statutes, an entity or affiliate who has been placed on the discriminatory vendor list may not submit a bid, proposal or reply on a contract to provide goods or services to any public entity; may not submit a bid, proposal or reply on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work; may not submit bids, proposals or replies on leases of real property to a public entity; may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant with any public entity; and may not transact business with a public entity.
 - h. As part of the consideration of this Agreement, the parties hereby waive trial by jury in action brought by either party pertaining to any matter whatsoever arising out of or in any way connected with this Agreement. Exclusive venue for all judicial actions pertaining to this Agreement is in Leon County, Florida.
 - i. This Agreement may be terminated by the COMMISSION upon thirty (30) days written notice to the USER in the event the continuation of the apiary activities

are found to be incompatible with the COMMISSION’S management plans or for any other reason at the sole discretion of the COMMISSION.

This Area Intentionally Left Blank

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year last below written.

USER SIGNATURE

Date: _____

Witness

Witness

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mike Brooks, Section Leader
Terrestrial Habitat Conservation and
Restoration

Date: _____

Approved as to form and legality

Commission Attorney

Date: _____

AGREEMENT

ATTACHMENT 1

Use of Electric Fencing to Exclude Bears And Prevent Property Damage

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Technical Information Bulletin (2001)

Electric fencing has proven effective in deterring bears from entering landfills, apiaries (beehives), livestock pens, gardens, orchards, and other high-value properties. Numerous electrical fence designs have been used with varying degrees of success. Design, quality of construction, and proper maintenance determine the effectiveness of an electric fence. The purpose of this technical bulletin is to assist the property owner in understanding and implementing electrical fencing as a tool to exclude and prevent damage caused by black bears.

Understanding Electric Fencing

Electric fencing provides an electrical shock when an animal comes into contact with the electrically charged wires of the fence. People unfamiliar with electric fencing often are afraid that it will injure, permanently damage, or kill an individual or pet that contacts the fence. **This is not true!** A properly constructed electric fence is safe to people, pets, and bears.

Components of Electric Fencing

An electric fence is composed of four main elements: a charger, fence posts, wire, and the ground rod.

Fence Charger. On a small scale electric fence (like that typically needed for bear exclusion), the largest cost is normally the fence charger. A fence charger's job is to send an electrical pulse into the wire of the fence. Contrary to popular belief, there is not a continuous charge of electricity running through the fence. Instead the charger emits a short pulse or burst of electricity through the fence. The intensity and duration of the electrical pulse varies with the type of charger or controller unit. Chargers with a high-voltage, short duration burst capacity are the best because they are harder to ground out by tall grass and weeds. These types are also the safest, because, even though the voltage is high (5 kilovolts) the duration of the burst is very short (2/10,000 of a second) (FitzGerald, 1984).

Two basic energy sources for chargers are batteries (12-volt automotive type) and household current (110 volt). Battery-type chargers are typically cheaper to purchase but require more maintenance because of the necessity of charging the battery. The advantage of a battery powered charger is that it can be used in a remote location where 110-volt current is not available. Most units that are powered by a fully charged 12-volt deep-cycle batteries can last three weeks before needing a charge. Addition of a solar trickle charger will help prolong the duration of effective charge in 12-volt batteries.

Fence Posts. On small scale fences, the posts are normally the second largest expense involved in construction. Therefore, when planning an electric fence it is a good idea to utilize existing fencing in order to save money. If no existing fence is available, posts will need to be placed around the area needing protection. Posts may be wood, metal, plastic, or fiberglass. Wood and metal posts will need to have plastic insulators attached to them which prevent the electric wire from touching the post causing it to ground out. Plastic and fiberglass posts do not need insulators, the wire may be affixed directly to these posts. Wood and metal posts are typically more expensive and require the added expense of insulators, however, they are more durable and generally require less maintenance.

Wire. Fourteen to seventeen gauge wire is the most common size range used in electric fencing. Heavier wire (a lower gauge number) is more expensive but carries current with less resistance and is more durable (FitzGerald, 1984).

The two most common types of wire are galvanized and aluminum. Galvanized wire is simply a steel wire with a zinc coating to prevent rust, which makes the wire last longer. Some wire is more galvanized than others. The degree or amount of zinc coating that is around the core steel wire is measured in three classes. A class I galvanization means the wire has a thinner coating of zinc than a class II galvanization. Class III galvanized wire has the heaviest zinc coating and will last longer than the class I and class II wire (FitzGerald, 1984). In general, the cost of galvanized wire increases as the class or amount of galvanization increases.

Aluminum wire is typically more expensive than the galvanized wire. Some advantages of aluminum wire are: it will not rust, it conducts electricity four times better, and it weighs one-third less than steel wire.

The Ground Rod. The ground is an often overlooked, but critical part of an electric fence. Without a good ground, electricity will not flow through the wire. When an animal touches a charged wire, the body of the animal completes the electrical circuit and the animal feels the “shock”. The current must travel from the charger through the wire to the animal and then back through the ground to the charger if the animal is to

feel the shock. The soil acts as the return “wire” (ground) in the circuit. However, if a bird was to land on a charged wire without touching the soil the bird would not complete the circuit and would be unaffected (FitzGerald, 1984). Some fence configurations use actual grounded wires within the fence to enhance the grounding system.

The ground may be a commercial ground rod or a copper tube or pipe driven six to eight feet in moist soil. Copper is expensive, so a copper coated steel pipe or any other good conducting metal pipe will work also. Very dry soil can effect the ability to create a good ground and has sometimes been a problem during drought conditions. Pipe may be a better choice than a solid rod during drought conditions, because water may be poured down the ground pipe to improve the ground. Some fence configurations use wires as the grounding system, rather than relying solely on the soil as a ground.

Recommended Electric Fence to Deter Black Bears

Conditions at fence sites will vary and will determine what the most effective fence configuration will be. Commission biologists welcome the opportunity to visit sites and provide custom tailored advice on constructing an effective electric fence. The following recommendation will cover most situations with low to moderate pressure from black bears. Use a five strand aluminum wire fence that is 40 inches high with wire spacing every eight inches apart using the previously mentioned wired grounding system (see Figure 1). The wire closest to the ground level (the lowest wire) should be a charged or “hot” wire. The second wire should be grounded. The third wire should be hot. The fourth wire should be grounded and the fifth wire should be hot. If using metal or wood posts, insulators must be used to keep the hot wires from grounding out. The cost of this type of electric fence utilizing fiberglass posts and a 110 volt fence charger is approximately \$200 for a 40' x 40' area (160 linear feet of fence).

Materials:

- 1 - 1, 312 foot roll (1/4 mile) 14 gauge aluminum electric fence wire
- 1 - 50 foot roll 12 gauge insulated wire
- 20 - 5 foot 5/8 inch dia fiberglass fence posts
- 5 - plastic gate handles
- 1 - 110 volt fence charger
- 1 - 10 foot ground pipe
- 4 - plastic electric fence signs

Installation. These instructions are for a square shape fence exclusion, but the process would be very similar for other applications. Drive 4 corner posts 1-foot deep into ground and stake with guy wires. Clip, rake, and keep clear any vegetation in a 15-inch wide strip under the fence and apply herbicide. Attach and stretch the aluminum wire at 8-inch increments starting 8 inches from ground level. A loop of wire should be left on each wire at the first corner post. Once the wire has been stretched

around the outside of all the corner posts back to the first post a plastic gate handle should be attached to each wire and the gate handles should be attached to each corresponding loop on the first corner post. Drive in the remaining 16 posts to the same depth at 8-foot intervals between corner posts. Secure each of the five wires to each of the posts with additional wire. Attach four plastic electric fence signs (one on each side) to the top wire of the fence. Attach a 12-gauge strand of insulated wire to the positive terminal of the fence charger and attach it to the first, third, and fifth wires of the fence. Attach another 12 gauge insulated wire to the negative terminal of the charger and attach this wire to the ground pipe which has been driven into the ground 6 to 8-feet deep. Attach another 12 gauge insulated wire from the negative terminal of the charger to the second and fourth wires on the fence. Plug the charger into a 110 volt power supply and the fence is in operation.

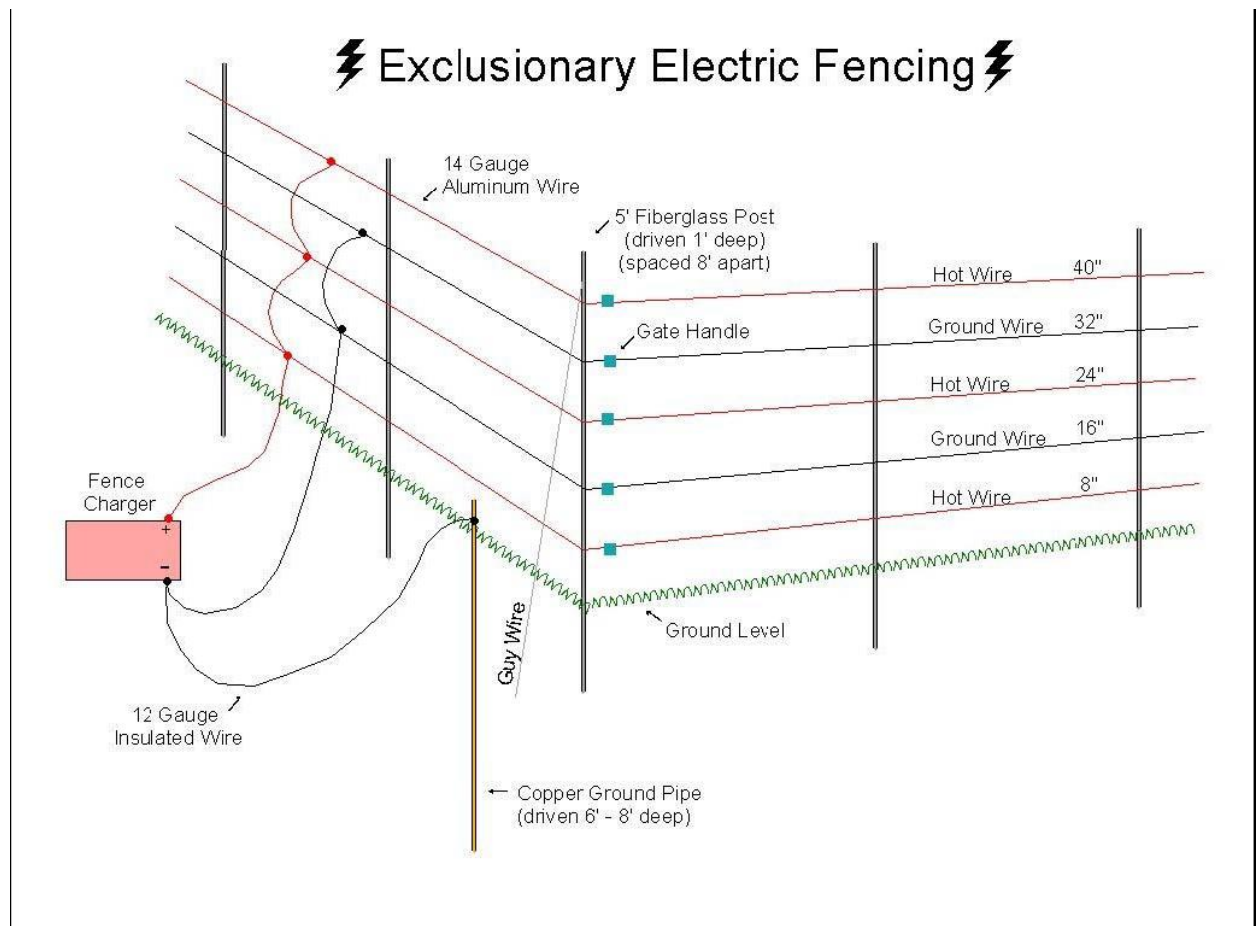
Tips to improve the effectiveness of your electric fence to deter black bears:

1. If using a 12-volt fence charger, ensure that the battery is charged; check every two weeks.
2. Make sure terminals on the charger and battery are free of corrosion.
3. Make sure hot wires are not being grounded out by tall weeds, fallen tree branches, broken insulators, etc.
4. If fence wires have been broken and repaired, make sure wires are corrosion free where they have been spliced together. Also, tighten the fence at each corner post as wires that have been spliced and are loose make poor connections.
5. Be sure to rake vegetation from under and around the outside of the fence as this may act as an insulator.
6. To improve the ground around the perimeter of the fence add a piece of 24 inch chicken wire laying on the ground around the outside of the fence. This should be connected to ground.
7. During periods of drought pour water down the ground pipe and around the ground pipe to improve the ground. Digging a 6 inch deep 6 inch diameter hole around the ground pipe and back filling with rock salt will also improve the ground. Additional ground pipes may also be added to portions of the fence farthest from the charger.
8. To ensure that the bear solidly contacts the charged portion of the fence, a bait like bacon strips, a can of sardines, or tin foil with peanut butter may be attached to one of the top hot wires. Make sure these do not contact the ground, thus shorting out the fence.
9. When protecting a specific structure (like a shed or rabbit hutch), the fence should be placed 3 to 5 feet away from the structure (rather than on it) so that the bear encounters the fence before reaching the attractant.
10. Protect the fence charger from the elements by covering it with a plastic bucket or a wooden box.

11. Place plastic electric fence signs around the perimeter of your fence to improve visibility and to warn other people.

LITERATURE CITED

FitzGerald, James (1984), *The Best Fences*. Storey Publishing Bulletin A-92, Pownal, Vermont. p. 14-16.



AGREEMENT

ATTACHMENT 2

APIARY SITE APPLICATION FORM

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

RETURN TO: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600. Please print or type all information. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City or Town _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Physical Address (If Different from Mailing Address) _____

Company Name: _____

Email Address _____

Requested Wildlife Management or Wildlife and Environmental Area(s)(see attached list of WMA/WEAs with apiary sites):

WMA/WEA _____ County _____ # of Sites _____

WMA/WEA _____ County _____ # of Sites _____

WMA /WEA _____ County _____ # of Sites _____

WMA /WEA _____ County _____ # of Sites _____

Planned Number of Hives Per Site: _____ Permanent: _____ Seasonal: _____

Member of Beekeepers Association: Yes _____ No _____

Number of Years a Member _____

Name of Beekeepers Association: _____

Are you registered with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI): _____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A If yes, please provide proof.

Are you current with any and all special inspection fees: _____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A. If yes, please provide proof.

Do you follow all recommended Best Management Practices from FDACS/DPI?: _____ Yes _____ No

If no, then please explain on a separate piece of paper.

Please provide below a chronological history of your beekeeping experience. If you need more space, please provide additional sheets:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan

References: If a new apiary contractor, please provide on a separate piece of paper at least 3 references who can verify your apiary experience. Provide each reference's name, address, phone number and email address (if applicable). Please attach reference sheet to this document and submit.

MISSION STATEMENT

**Management
Of
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's
Wildlife Management Areas
And
Wildlife and Environmental Areas**

The mission of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of the people. To aid in accomplishing this mission, one of FWC's management goals is to manage fire-adapted natural communities on our Wildlife Management and Environmental Areas (WMA/WEA) to support healthy populations of the plants and animal's characteristic of each natural community. In order to achieve this goal various habitat management techniques are used. These include prescribed burning, applications of herbicides and mechanical treatment of vegetation. These management efforts will take place at various times and locations on each of the FWC's WMA/WEAs. Staff on each WMA/WEA will work with and make users aware of these activities when necessary. Users must be aware and accept that these activities are necessary for the proper management of the area.

Note: This document is included as an attachment with each Application and executed Contract.

FDACS/DPI's BMP

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR

MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES

1. Beekeepers will maintain a valid registration with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI), and be current with any and all special inspection fees.
2. A Florida apiary may be deemed as European Honey Bee with a minimum 10% random survey of colonies using the FABIS (Fast African Bee Identification System) and/or the computer-assisted morphometric procedure (i.e., Universal system for the detection of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) (USDA-ID) or other approved methods by FDACS on a yearly basis or as requested.
3. Honey bee colony divisions or splits should be queened with production queens or queen cells from EHB breeder queens following Florida's Best Management Practices.
4. Florida beekeepers are discouraged from collecting swarms that cannot be immediately re-queened from EHB queen producers.
5. Florida Beekeepers should practice good swarm-prevention techniques to prevent an abundance of virgin queens and their ready mating with available AHB drones that carry the defensive trait.
6. Maintain all EHB colonies in a strong, healthy, populous condition to discourage usurpation (take over) swarms of AHB.
7. Do not allow any weak or empty colonies to exist in an Apiary, as they may be attractive to AHB swarms.
8. Recommend re-queening with European stock every six months unless using marked or clipped queens and having in possession a bill of sale from an EHB Queen Producer.
9. Immediately re-queen with a European Queen if previously installed clipped or marked queen is found missing.
10. Maintain one European drone source colony (250 square inches of drone comb) for every 10 colonies in order to reduce supercedure queens mating with AHB drones.
11. To protect public safety and reduce beekeeping liability, do not site apiaries in proximity of tethered or confined animals, students, the elderly, general public, drivers on public roadways, or visitors where this may have a higher likelihood of occurring.

12. Treat all honey bees with respect.

RANDOM
SELECTION PROCESS
FOR VACANT APIARY SITE

When an apiary site becomes available the following procedure is used to randomly select the next apiarist (beekeeper) for an available apiary site on a WMA or WEA. Only those who have been evaluated and deemed qualified to be an apiarist on a WMA/WEA through the Apiary Application process will be eligible for this selection process. The steps below will be followed by the THCR Contract Manager when a site becomes available to be filled by a qualified apiarist:

1. The THCR Contract Manager will maintain an “Apiary Wait List Folder” on the THCR SharePoint for each WMA/WEA with apiary sites.
2. A wait list is either created or updated when an Apiary Application(s) is received by the THCR Contract Manager from a qualified apiarist.
3. Upon receipt of an apiary site application, the THCR Contract Manager will review the WMA/WEA folder to see if there is an “Apiary Wait List”.
4. If a list exists then the qualified applicant will be added to the list.
5. When an apiary site becomes available if there are more than one qualified apiarist then these apiarists will be contacted by certified letter to determine their interest.
6. The letter will request a response within 10 working days to make them eligible for the random drawing.
7. If there is no response or is negative then that apiarist will not be included in the random drawing and the name will be removed from the waiting list*.
8. If only one apiarist responds positively to the certified letter then the available site will be awarded to that interested apiarist.
9. If there are no apiarists on a wait list or all responses are negative then apiarists who currently have site(s) under Agreement and where not on the waiting list will be contacted to see if any have interest in the available site. If more than one responds

then the random drawing process will be used to determine who will be awarded the site.

10. Steps to be performed by the THCR Contract Manager to execute the random selection for an available apiary site are listed below:

- a. The names of each interested apiarist will be noted on a 1" X 2" piece of paper and folded in half.
- b. The pieces of paper will be inserted into a "black film canister" which has a snap top and placed into a container and stirred up prior to the selection.
- c. A non-biased person will be selected to reach into the bowl (which will be held above the selection person's eyesight) and randomly select one of the canisters.
- d. The canister will be opened by the person performing the selection and the name is read aloud for those in attendance. Everyone in attendance will sign a witness sheet.
- e. The apiarist whose name is selected will be awarded the available site.
- f. A new Agreement will be developed by the THCR Contract Manager.

*A new apiary application must be submitted once requestor's name is removed from a waiting list.

1.12 Wildlife Conservation and Prioritization and Recovery Program Strategy (WCPR)

Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area Wildlife Management Strategy

July 2021

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Wildlife and Habitat Management Section

A product of the Wildlife Conservation
Prioritization and Recovery Program



Executive Summary

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife and Habitat Management Section (WHM) takes a proactive, science-informed approach to wildlife management on lands in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA/WEA) system. This approach uses information from statewide models, in conjunction with input from species experts and local staff, to create a Wildlife Management Strategy (hereafter "Strategy") for the area. The FWC intends for this Strategy to provide land managers with information on management and monitoring actions that should be taken to promote the presence and facilitate the persistence of wildlife species on the area.

This document presents the results of a science-informed process for evaluating the needs of listed and locally important species on Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (OSWMA). The foundation for FWC's management is an understanding of Florida's natural communities, and the ecological processes that affect the richness and abundance of the plant and animal species which inhabit them. By restoring and maintaining natural communities, management will benefit the greatest suite of native species reliant upon those natural communities. Monitoring select species can indicate whether natural community management is having the desired effect on wildlife. To maximize the potential wildlife conservation benefit, staff considers the role of OSWMA in regional and statewide conservation initiatives throughout the process.

[Section 1](#) introduces the reader to the Strategy.

[Section 2](#) describes historic and ongoing habitat management and monitoring actions on the property.

[Section 3](#) provides an assessment of the area's role in the conservation of locally important species. This section includes management and monitoring recommendations identified during the Wildlife Conservation, Prioritization and Recovery Program (WCPR) workshop.

[Section 4](#) identifies coordination and "beyond the boundaries" opportunities that will assist in conserving listed and locally important species.

Maintaining resources at current levels would be required to provide for most of the land management recommended in this document. Some of the monitoring recommendations may require additional resources, while FWC can accomplish others with continuation of existing resources.

Acknowledgements

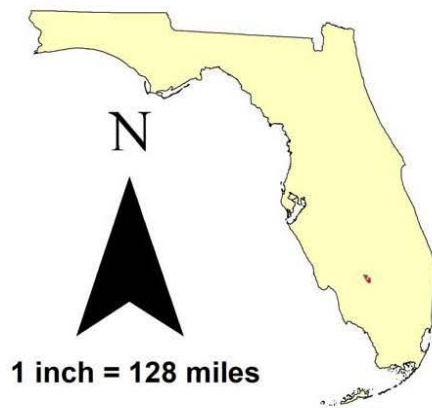
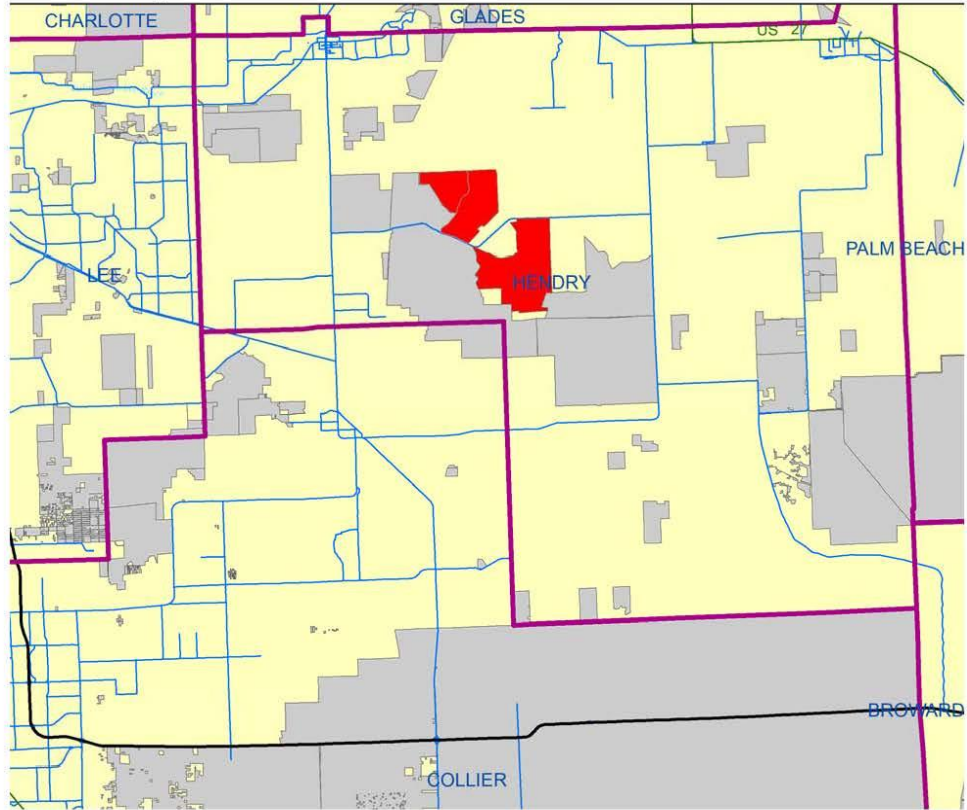
The WCPR Strategy development process is intended to be a collaborative effort between multiple Divisions and Sections within the agency, and coordination with experts beyond the FWC. Without the support of these experts, we would not have successfully prioritized our management, monitoring, and coordination efforts for areas like the OSWMA. As such, we would like to highlight the agency, local, and statewide experts that helped shape the discussion on OSWMA, including Tyler Beck, Elizabeth Braun de Torrez, David Cook, Terry Doonan, Kevin Enge, Craig Faulhaber, Katelyn Horn, Jonathan Mays, Ashley McKelvy, Andrea Pereyra, Victoria Ruddle, Joe Sage, Amy Schwarzer, Lisa Smith, Brooke Talley, Katie Teets, Ricardo Zambrano, and many others. Thank you for taking the time and effort to consider our management lands within context of the conservation needs for the region, as well as the State of Florida.

Table of Contents	
Executive Summary	ii
Acknowledgements	ii
Acronym List.....	iv
Locator Map	v
Section 1: Introduction	6
Section 2: Historic, Current, and Planned Management	6
2.1 Habitat Management	7
2.2 Monitoring	11
Species Specific Monitoring.....	11
Species Inventories	12
Document Occurrence.....	12
Section 3: Species Assessments	13
3.1 Bachman’s Sparrow	14
3.2 Crested Caracara	15
3.3 Florida Sandhill Crane	17
3.4 Snail Kite.....	18
3.5 Wading Birds.....	19
3.6 Big Cypress Fox Squirrel.....	19
3.7 Colonial Bats.....	20
3.8 Florida Panther	22
Section 4: Coordination and Beyond the Boundaries Considerations.....	23
Appendix 1. OSWMA Natural community map.	24
Appendix 2. OSWMA listed and locally important species.	25

Acronym List

DFCs	Desired Future Conditions
DIRWMA	Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (Subsection)
GCR	Ground Cover Restoration
ISMP	Imperiled Species Management Plan
MU	Management Unit
OBVM	Objective-Based Vegetation Management
OSSF	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest
OSWMA	Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area
SaMP	Survey and Monitoring Protocol (Database)
SAP	Species Action Plan
SMA	Strategic Management Area
SWWMA	Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area
UF	University of Florida
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCPR	Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery (Program)
WDC	Wildlife Diversity Conservation (Section)
WEA	Wildlife and Environmental Area
WHM	Wildlife and Habitat Management (Section)
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

Locator Map



0 2.5 5 10 15 Miles

- County Lines
- Interstates
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Public Lands
- OSWMA

v

Section 1: Introduction

FWC manages the lands in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system using a science-informed, proactive approach, which includes an understanding of natural communities of plants and animals. As applied by FWC, natural community management starts by classifying lands into distinct natural communities that are then managed in a way to maintain or enhance the communities' unique structure and function. Land management that has a positive influence on natural community conditions benefits the wildlife living in those habitats.

While natural community management provides benefits to a host of species reliant upon these natural communities, imperiled species sometimes require specific attention. Additionally, subsection 253.034(5) of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) requires all land management plans to include an analysis of the property to determine if significant natural resources, including listed species, occur on the property. If significant natural resources occur, the plan shall contain management strategies to protect the resources. The Florida Forever Act (s. 259.105, F.S.) adds that all State lands that have imperiled species habitat shall include restoration, enhancement, management, and repopulation of such habitats as a consideration in the management plan.

FWC's Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery Program (WCPR) created this Strategy for OSWMA to document the area's role in wildlife conservation, to ensure the management needs for wildlife in the WMA system are met, and to identify the appropriate species monitoring for the area. This Strategy: 1) provides land managers with information on management and monitoring actions that should be taken, provided the necessary resources are available; 2) facilitates the persistence of listed and locally important wildlife species on the area; and 3) provides measurable objectives that can be used to evaluate the success of wildlife management on the area. By implementing the actions in this Strategy, FWC believes that management will promote the persistence of listed and locally important species, aid in the recovery of imperiled species, and ensure staff are managing all wildlife species on the area for their long-term well-being and for the benefit of people.

Section 2: Historic, Current, and Planned Management

Located in Hendry County, OSWMA is part of the WMA complex that includes Dinner Island Ranch (DIRWMA) and Spirit of the Wild WMAs (SWWMA). The Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) borders OSWMA to the south and west. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is the lead management agency on OSSF which is part of the WMA, as the FWC manages hunts for the area. For the purposes of this Strategy, the following recommendations and objectives will pertain to the FWC led OSWMA property ([see Appendix 1](#)). OSSF connects this WMA complex creating a contiguous area of conservation lands totaling approximately 70,065 acres. This large area of contiguous conservations lands provides habitat for several imperiled species. Private lands adjacent to the property are rural, with citrus to the north and south of OSWMA and cattle ranching to the east. Today, agriculture is the base of Hendry County's economy. Sugar cane and citrus agriculture, followed by cattle and tomato farming, are among the County's most important economic activities.

The State of Florida used Preservation 2000 Inholdings and Additions land acquisition program funding to purchase 2,923 acres of land from Alico Inc. in 1998. These acres became the FWC-lead acres of OSWMA in 2002. Additionally, the State of Florida acquired 5,528 acres in 2019 and 10,702 acres in 2020. These new land acquisitions bring the total acreage of FWC-lead OSWMA to 19,153 acres. The OSWMA was purchased to protect the watershed and waters of Okaloacoochee Slough, its dependent imperiled and other native wildlife, and to provide resource-based public outdoor recreation including mitigation for the loss of hunting opportunities on Brown's Farm Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County. The OSWMA is considered a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*), swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), and snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). Prior to state acquisition, OSWMA was used as a site for logging, cattle, and other agriculture practices. Previous landowners converted much of the historic marsh and flatwoods natural community types on the OSWMA to pasture.

The newly acquired 5,528-acre parcel runs along the eastern boundary of the original OSWMA and OSSF with Sears Road the north boundary and County Road 832 the south boundary. The newly acquired 10,702-acre parcel runs along the eastern border of OSSF with County Road 832 the north boundary extending south nearing the northwest boundary of DIRWMA. These new parcels were purchased as part of the Devil's Garden Florida Forever Project. Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) natural community data show that the 5,528-acre parcel consists mostly of improved pasture, marsh, and mesic hammock. FNAI natural community data for the 10,702-acre parcel are currently unavailable, but cooperative land cover data show that this parcel is largely consists of marsh and improved pasture. Because this is a new acquisition, our knowledge of the natural communities and the listed and locally important species that inhabit them is limited. These acquisitions provide added protections and monitoring opportunities for imperiled species including the crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) and Big Cypress fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger avicennia*). Previously, these properties were mostly used for cattle grazing and sod farming; however, cattle have been removed from the WMA except the 2021 property acquisition, which will have cattle removed in early 2022.

2.1 Habitat Management

The [OSWMA Management Plan](#), completed in 2014, lists in detail management activities, projects, and objectives that staff accomplished over the previous 10 years. In January 2020, FWC hosted a Management Advisory Meeting. Information gathered from this meeting followed by stakeholder input will be used to update the area's Management Plan. However, due to additional property acquisitions in 2021, a Management Advisory Meeting is set for late 2022 or early 2023 to update the OSWMA Management Plan in 2023 that will include the 2019, 2020, 2021, and any other property acquisitions. Previous landowners converted approximately 88% of historical mesic flatwoods to pasture. Since acquisition, staff have been actively restoring a number of disturbed communities toward their historical conditions. Management techniques applied by FWC to restore the natural communities on OSWMA include prescribed burning,

mechanical treatments, exotic vegetation control, and replanting native vegetation. Through the Objective Based Vegetation Management (OBVM) process, staff defined desired future conditions (DFC) for the actively managed natural communities. At OSWMA, mesic flatwoods is the only actively managed natural community monitored by OBVM.

When the OBVM monitoring was conducted, it was applied only to the property's original 2,923 acres. The [2018 OBVM Report](#) noted that approximately 216 acres were classified as mesic flatwoods out of the estimated 1,825 acres that historically occurred on OSWMA. Fire exclusion in the area led to a flatwoods community dominated by excessive cabbage palms, oaks, shrubs, and palmettos. Mechanical treatments followed by shorter fire intervals (≤ 4 years) will help control shrubs and palmettos and reduce shading of the herbaceous cover. To effectively enhance mesic flatwoods, nine ground cover restoration (GCR) projects (totaling 340 acres) are ongoing in pasture habitat. Examples of other natural communities that staff manage are depression marsh, wet flatwoods, and wet prairie.

Prescribed fire is the most important tool OSWMA staff use to maintain and restore natural communities. FWC uses prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading, control invasive hardwoods, promote fire dependent plant species, and enhance natural communities to benefit wildlife. Staff utilize a combination of growing and dormant season burns. Dormant season burns help to ensure fire frequency is maintained when it's too wet to burn during the growing season. Staff will continue to leave 131 acres of habitat in MU 20 on a 3-5-year fire return interval to provide more dense canopy and midstory habitat for Florida panthers, black bears (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), and other locally important species. This panther management unit consists of mesic flatwoods and depression marsh. A 7-acre strip in MU 19 was untouched by mechanical treatment in 2017 to preserve a former panther den and is currently on a 3-5-year burn rotation.

Since the previous Strategy, staff burned most of the area (5,628 acres; excluding newly acquired properties) during the dormant season, multiple times. Staff burned an average of 625 acres per year (no burning occurred in 2015), with over 1000 acres burned in 2011 and 2016. Frequent fire treatments have resulted in a documented increase in crested caracara foraging behavior in pasture. As staff continue to burn pasture more frequently, the next step will be restoring pasture to flatwoods. Area staff will continue to employ a burning program with different burning frequencies, intensities, and seasonality of prescribed burns to enhance habitat diversity and a mosaic of vegetation patterns. Staff will continue to protect archeological sites on the property during prescribed burns and mechanical treatments.

Since the last Strategy, staff have applied herbicide treatments across the area including multiple area retreatments, totaling 40,708 acres of nonnative invasive plants (excluding newly acquired properties). Examples of nonnative invasive plants treated by staff include Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), caeserweed (*Urena lobata*), cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), West Indian marsh grass (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), Wright's nutsedge (*Scleria lacustris*), and torpedograss (*Panicum repens*). Staff will closely monitor for and potentially treat other invasive exotics that might be encroaching on the property. From 2011-2012 and 2019-2020, a

total of 617 acres of invasive native shrubs were chemically treated. Prior to including the new property additions into the area's chemical treatment rotation, staff will consider roller chopping and burning on the 2019 property addition prior to implementing chemical treatments to reduce costs.

Staff use mechanical treatments in areas to reduce understory and shrub height to restructure fuel loads for future prescribed fire and to control nonnative plants. Staff will also use discing or tilling and mowing to maintain firebreaks, although other treatments, such as hand pulling, mulching rolling, chopping, and flattening, are used on a limited basis. Since the last Strategy, OSWMA staff mechanically treated 1,144 acres (not including firebreak creation and maintenance).

In 2017, the FFS conducted a [Timber Assessment](#) to evaluate the potential and feasibility of managing timber resources for conservation and revenue generation purposes. The assessment concluded that it is not economically feasible to generate revenue from timber operations at OSWMA at this time, and as such, tree planting is the current focus of timber management. Planting Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) will help increase the rate of reforestation in areas that were logged before state acquisition and improve natural community condition that will benefit wildlife.

Since the last Strategy, OSWMA staff planted 131 acres with species such as Florida slash pine, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*), and winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*). Staff planted 44 acres of mesic flatwood and wetland groundcover seed mix in 0.4 and 0.5-acre clumps (300-1000 ft. apart) within the GCR site in 2013. One year later, staff planted 12 acres of shrubs randomly spaced in scattered patches (at least 15 ft. apart) of open ground and the remaining 75 acres planted in 2019 with trees and shrubs (2,800 plants) appropriately spaced with varying arrangements. Staff were successful in restoring native groundcover to a 112-acre GCR site and have continued the process of planting and maintaining shrubs and trees as the next step in restoring mesic flatwoods. Staff continue to restore and maintain native groundcover in 340 acres of former pasture being restored to mesic flatwoods (full restoration will be a long-term process).

A [Hydrological Assessment](#) was completed in 2018 in a collaboration with AECOM Engineering Company. The goal of the assessment was to support the identification of flow ways, seasonal direction of flow, and flow pattern disturbances such as ditches and swales that will be used to determine historical water conditions in the area. In 2017 contractors installed hydrological transducers to measure water levels remotely. The assessment recommended that the stop logs at the Sears East Structure be removed, with the accompanying models showing the discharge downstream wouldn't be adversely impacted. This recommendation would provide maximum benefit within OSWMA without having adverse impacts downstream where the Gerber Grove Water Control District is located. FWC will consult with Gerber Grove Water Control District regarding the potential removal of the stop logs.

Over the next 10 years, the continued management of mesic flatwoods towards the appropriate DFCs will be the focus of habitat management on OSWMA. Staff will continue restoration of altered communities to historical conditions. Staff will focus on maintaining functional natural communities and initiate actions to make altered communities more wildlife friendly. The actions outlined below will improve habitat for many of OSWMA's listed and locally important species that use these communities.

Timber Management

- Staff do not anticipate the need for large scale timber harvests during the life of the Strategy.
- Staff will continue to conduct natural community restoration activities including planting native trees and shrubs where appropriate (e.g., planting trees on selected sites to increase the rate of reforestation and to ensure diversity).

Mechanical Treatments

- Staff will continue to mechanically treat areas heavily infested with nuisance native (e.g., wax myrtle [*Morella cerifera*] and cabbage palm [*Sabal palmetto*]), followed by fire.
- When necessary, staff will use mechanical treatments to restructure fuel loads before applying prescribed fire. Other treatments will be implemented when appropriate.
- Staff will follow mechanical treatments with prescribed fire and avoid mechanically treating more area than they can burn.
- When using mechanical treatments, be sure to leave patches of palmetto (especially old growth palmetto) $\geq \frac{1}{4}$ ac in size for panther cover.

Chemical Treatments

- Staff will continue to annually treat invasive nonnative plants.
- Staff will establish a new exotic treatment rotation schedule to include newly acquired properties.

Natural Community Restoration and Structural Enhancement

- Staff will use a variety of habitat management practices (i.e., chemical, planting, and prescribed fire) to continue to manage the existing 340-acre GCR sites for future restoration to mesic flatwoods.
- Continuing efforts to plant pockets of trees and shrubs (including palmetto) in pasture will provide benefits to panthers.

Prescribed Fire

- Staff will plan to burn flatwoods, pasture, wet prairie, marshes, and other fire-maintained communities alone or in combination with mechanical and chemical treatments on a 2-3-year fire regime.

- Staff will employ a burning program with different burning frequency, intensity, and seasonality (dormant vs. growing seasons) designed to provide a diversity of community structure.
- Staff will emphasize dormant season burns in areas with no fire history as well as growing season burns in areas with excess shrubs until the unit is in maintenance condition.
- Panthers need a mosaic, so when applying fire, do not go back and burn-out unburned patches.

Hydrological Restoration

- Staff will continue to document and monitor water levels monthly at the seven established monitoring stations.
- Staff will maintain culverts to sustain and enhance natural hydrological functions.
- Staff will engage in conversation with the Gerber Grove Water Control District to discuss hydrological improvement recommendations related to the structures they manage on Sears Road and the actions to be outlined in future hydrological restoration plans.

2.2 Monitoring

Monitoring recommendations in the 2010 Strategy included conducting aerial wading bird surveys, baseline survey for Bachman's (*Peucaea aestivalis*) and Florida grasshopper (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) sparrows, and crested caracara nest territory surveys. Staff accomplished these monitoring recommendations during the 10-year lifetime of the Strategy. Results from these efforts and the rationale for discontinuing some of the monitoring informed the species assessments.

In addition to the monitoring recommendations in the 2010 Strategy, staff conducted annual aerial white-tailed deer surveys (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Staff plan to conduct aerial white-tailed deer surveys to obtain baseline data on newly acquired properties as resources allow. Surveys for various mammals included the following: a 2018 acoustic bat survey, and an area wide small mammal trapping study in 2017. From 2003-2016, staff and volunteers conducted Mock Christmas Bird Counts. The standard routes were implemented in 2017 and received official Christmas Bird Count status with the Audubon Society in 2018. Surveys for various reptiles and amphibians included the following: 2014-2015 amphibian trapping study, 2014-2015 visual encounter surveys, 2014-2015 and 2017-2019 road cruising surveys, and 2017-2019 drift fence array (with coverboard, PVC pipe traps, and aquatic trap) study. Staff also conducted a butterfly survey in 2017.

Species Specific Monitoring

The Area-Specific Species Assessments detail species' status and specific monitoring actions. On OSWMA the following species or species groups will receive dedicated monitoring:

- Bachman's sparrow
- Crested caracara

- White-tailed deer

Species Inventories

Conducting periodic inventories on lands within the WMA system accomplishes several purposes. Inventories inform staff about species on the area, provide an up-to-date species list for the area, and may alert staff to potential species declines that warrant further investigation. Additionally, conducting an inventory may be a more effective way to document species occurrence than other methods, such as opportunistic monitoring.

During the 10-year lifetime of this Strategy, staff or contractors will conduct taxa inventory surveys for the main terrestrial vertebrate species and selected aquatic species as resources allow. Surveys on OSWMA will include herpetofauna coverboard and drift fence surveys, treefrog PVC pipe surveys, aquatic amphibian trapping, electrofishing surveys, small and meso mammal surveys, avian point count surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, butterfly surveys, and acoustic bat surveys. For species identified as unlikely to be captured by current methods, cryptic species and other special cases, modifications or enhancements (e.g., baited fox squirrel traps) to existing survey methodologies will be considered.

Document Occurrence

To improve the area-specific documented species list, staff document opportunistic observations of species as they are encountered. While staff only need to enter opportunistic observations for common species on an occasional basis, common species will be documented and entered into the Survey and Monitoring Protocol (SaMP) database every time initially, but then only in novel locations after the area has built a species list. Collecting this information will help further our understanding of species' ranges statewide as well as the area's role in the conservation of these species. Staff will record observations of the following species when encountered using the [Opportunistic Observations for Wildlife protocol](#) and enter those data into the SaMP database so it will be available to other FWC sections and divisions, as well as to cooperating agencies and organizations. It is not necessary to fill out the opportunistic monitoring form if data on these species are collected as part of another monitoring effort (e.g., herp arrays). Species for which all occurrences will be documented on OSWMA are:

- Eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*)
- Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*)
- Florida box turtle (*Terrapene carolina bauri*)
- Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*)
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)
- Bachman's sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*; in novel locations)
- Black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)
- Brown-headed nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- Crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)
- Florida mottled duck (*Anas fulvigula*; nesting or occurrence of dependent young)

- Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*; nesting or occurrence of dependent young as well as use of prairie habitat)
- Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*; nesting activity or occurrence of dependent young)
- Snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*; banded individuals, mating pairs, and nest activity)
- Southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*; presence May-July)
- Southern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; nesting activity or occurrence of dependent young) - Follow the current [federal guidelines](#) when conducting management activities nearby and report new nests to BaldEagle@myfwc.com
- Swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*; nesting activity)
- Wading birds (imperiled species; all species large nest colonies)
- Bat roosts (multiple species)
- Big Cypress fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger avicennia*)
- Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)
- Eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)
- Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*)
- Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*)
- Marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris*)
- Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)
- Round-tailed muskrat (*Neofiber alleni*)
- Any listed species that does not have a monitoring protocol in this section

Section 3: Species Assessments

Creating these assessments for listed and locally important species on OSWMA involved several steps. First, WCPR staff created a list of listed and locally important species for the area ([Appendix 2](#)), starting with the listed and recently delisted species in the [Imperiled Species Management Plan](#) (ISMP) that are known to occur or could potentially occur on the area. Staff then considered adding additional species to this list, including: species that were identified in the area's purpose for acquisition; species for which staff conduct significant monitoring or management for conservation, recreation, or public viewing purposes; candidates for federal listing; species recognized as habitat management indicators, keystone species, or umbrella species; and species for which occurrence data are lacking. Staff used references, in addition to the ISMP, which included: statewide potential habitat models, created by FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) using Cooperative Land Cover V.3.2; agency documents such as the previous WCPR Strategy and the area's [Management Plan](#); and input from local staff and species experts. There are approximately 10 imperiled animal species and 11 rare plant species known to occur at OSWMA.

After creating the species list, WCPR staff drafted assessments outlining proposed management actions for each species (except those for which documenting occurrence was the only needed action identified by experts). Then staff conducted a workshop, held February 25-26, 2020, at which area managers, species experts, and section leaders reviewed the draft species

assessments and discussed OSWMA's potential role in the conservation of listed and locally important species. To determine management actions needed for each species, workshop participants considered: the species' status on the area; the current condition of the area's natural communities; the amount and spatial arrangement of the species' potential habitat on the area and adjacent lands; the species' response to management; and any local overriding factors (e.g., status of species in the region, local declines or extirpations). Additionally, staff considered management actions identified in FWC's [Species Action Plans](#) (SAPs), [Regional Assessment](#), and the area's Management Plan. Using the information from the workshop, staff drafted the Strategy and sent it to species experts and other stakeholders for review. Following the review, the Strategy was finalized and implemented.

This section summarizes the assessment for each species. Each assessment outlines the species' status on the area and the current condition of its habitat, planned habitat management actions, planned monitoring actions, and the area's role in conservation of the species. In addition, some assessments may identify species management recommendations, which refer to actions such as translocation, restocking, or installing artificial cavities.

3.1 Bachman's Sparrow

Current Condition: Staff have documented Bachman's sparrows opportunistically and during a 2012, 2018, and 2020 callback survey on OSWMA. Staff conducted surveys in wet and mesic flatwoods. Bachman's sparrows were only detected in mesic flatwoods and observations increased from 2012-2020, likely due to increased habitat management. Bachman's sparrows have been documented on nearby SWWMA. Bachman's sparrows inhabiting OSWMA and SWWMA may serve as the southernmost population in the species' geographic range. Fire suppression and land alteration prior to state acquisition decreased habitat suitability for this species. Planned management including increasing prescribed fire in mesic flatwoods should improve conditions over time.

The Bachman's sparrow requires specific habitat containing diverse herbaceous groundcover maintained by a frequent (<3 year) fire return interval. Because of this, ecologists consider the Bachman's sparrow an 'indicator species' whose continued presence indicates well-managed pine communities. Bachman's sparrows are habitat specialists that prefer mature pine forests with low basal area and abundant herbaceous vegetation, or early successional old-field habitat. The original OSWMA property currently has 216 acres of mesic flatwoods and 387 acres of restoration mesic flatwoods. Very little flatwoods occur in the newly acquire properties. Area staff can increase the Bachman's sparrow population in the next 10+ years by maintaining the fire frequency (2-3 years) in maintenance communities, and by mechanically treating overgrown areas, then following with fire. Staff will continue to manage the 131 acres of mesic flatwoods in MU 20 on a 3-5-year rotation, but the surrounding mesic flatwood area will continue to burn on a 2-3-year rotation.

Habitat Management: Bachman's sparrows have been known to abandon areas where fire has been absent for >3 years. Staff will use prescribed fire to restore and maintain habitat appropriate for this species. Fire is required to stimulate growth of grass and forbs while

assisting other management techniques in creating a patchy understory. These patches of grasses and shrubs are important habitat for Bachman's sparrow nest sites and singing perches. Staff will follow mechanical treatments with prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads, remove shrub cover, and stimulate growth of grasses and forbs. Staff will conduct plantings, chemically treat nonnative plants, mechanically treat overgrown areas, and apply fire to meet desired conditions in communities classified as restoration mesic flatwoods. In areas where it is difficult to maintain the desired fire return interval, as well as in areas that have not had recent fire (i.e., newly acquired properties), staff plan to use mechanical treatments to restructure fuel loads and ultimately increase acres that can be burned, which will increase habitat suitability for Bachman's sparrows. Staff plan to plant native trees and shrubs in pasture habitat to create corridors to benefit wildlife. Initially, staff will conduct scattered plantings throughout the altered communities to benefit listed and locally important species. These plantings will help increase survival of overstory and mid-story vegetation that will be crucial as the pastures continue to go through the long-term process of conversion to mesic flatwoods.

Monitoring: Staff documented Bachman's sparrows in low numbers in 2012 and 2018, but numbers increased in 2020. Since the Bachman's sparrow can serve as a habitat indicator, monitoring can help gauge the effectiveness of habitat management and restoration efforts. However, OSWMA (including its newly acquire parcels) currently has very few acres of mesic flatwoods and monitoring is not appropriate at this time. As pasture continues to be restored to mesic flatwoods, staff will reconsider the need to conduct Bachman's sparrow surveys during the mid-term strategy review. Based on the results of the Avian Inventory in 2021, staff can reconsider using Bachman's Sparrow surveys to document the success of OSWMA mesic flatwoods restoration, possibly resurveying in 2024 and 2025. If surveys continue, area staff will use the [standardized monitoring protocol](#) (playback surveys) to monitor Bachman's sparrows in mesic flatwoods as an indicator that the appropriate management actions are effective and result in a stable or expanding population. Staff will document presence of Bachman's sparrows in new locations.

Area's Role: The amount of flatwoods on OSWMA available and in restoration phase means the area may potentially have a role in the conservation of Bachman's sparrows by providing suitable habitat to support a viable population. The area also has a role in supporting the species in its southernmost population. To ensure the area fulfills this role staff will continue to manage and restore flatwoods through the application of prescribed fire in conjunction with mechanical treatments and chemical treatment of invasive exotic plants. These management practices will enhance the condition of the mesic flatwoods to meet the needs of the species.

3.2 Crested Caracara

Current Condition: Crested caracara are often observed on OSWMA, and staff documented a breeding pair on the area in 2004. Staff observed caracara carrying nesting material on an adjacent privately-owned property in 2014 and a potential observed nest on OSWMA in 2018, but nesting was never confirmed. In 2019, that adjacent privately-owned

property was acquired by the FWC and staff observed two nests on the new property during 2020 breeding territory surveys. Crested caracara occur on SWWMA and nest on DIRWMA. Staff record opportunistic observation as well as perform breeding territory surveys.

The crested caracara is listed as federally-Threatened making it a statewide priority. This species prefers to forage in open areas with low ground and shrub cover and will build its nest on a cabbage palm tree in an open area. Historically, this species would have occurred in native dry prairie. Due to habitat loss and degradation, crested caracaras now occur mostly on private and public land on improved or semi-improved pastures and associated wetlands. Crested caracaras have strong nest site-fidelity, often returning to the same tree every year to build a new nest. Nests are primarily constructed on cabbage palms with an average tree height of about 28 ft. (13-59 ft.). This species may nest on live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*). With >3,500 acres of mesic hammock, flatwoods, improved and semi-improved pasture (not including 2020 property addition), OSWMA can support a small number of breeding pairs but will have enough habitat to support more breeding pairs as new parcels are acquired. Crested caracara are using pasture in adjacent private lands, so the persistence of caracaras on OSWMA will be influenced by what happens beyond the boundaries.

Habitat Management: Maintaining low shrub and ground cover in suitable habitat will benefit this species. Wetland restoration and ditch maintenance would benefit caracara by providing access to various herpetofauna and fish prey species. In altered habitats where caracara occur, staff will consider planting pines at lower densities as they continue to restore pasture to flatwoods. Staff should avoid disturbance within 1,000 feet of the nest during the first 2-3 weeks of nesting, as this is when caracaras are most likely to flush from the nest (see [Crested Caracara Best Management Practices](#)). Activities, such as mowing and prescribed burning create ideal foraging habitat for caracaras by maintaining areas with low ground cover and shrub cover.

Monitoring: Prior to the 2020 surveys on the 2019 property acquisition, staff had not observed nesting on OSWMA. Whenever a pair of adult caracaras are observed together during the nesting season, staff will initiate efforts to observe the birds with the goal of locating any nearby nest. Staff will increase the breeding territory surveys interval to every five-years in the original parcel, and then conduct baseline breeding territory surveys in the newly acquired properties in three stages (2020 property acquisition [west and central region], 2020 property acquisition [east region]), and the 2021 property acquisition over the course of 3 years). Staff will evaluate the results of the exploratory surveys with the South Region Conservation Biologist to determine the timing and breadth of future caracara monitoring. If staff observe nests, then they will monitor known nests annually. Staff will continue to record opportunistic observations and follow the monitoring guidelines set forth by the [Crested Caracara Breeding Territory Surveys](#).

Area's Role: The role of OSWMA in the conservation of crested caracaras is to provide suitable habitat to support the regional population. Staff will fulfill this role by continuing to restore wetlands and keeping a patchy distribution of cabbage palms, low groundcover and

shrubs in the appropriate communities. These management practices will help increase habitat for the crested caracara.

3.3 Florida Sandhill Crane

Current Condition: Florida sandhill cranes are common and staff have documented nesting on OSWMA. Florida sandhill cranes also occur on nearby DIRWMA and SWWMA. Area staff believe breeding occurs on all three areas. All Florida sandhill crane observations on OSWMA are recorded opportunistically by staff and the FWRI conducts annual recruitment surveys.

The Florida sandhill crane is considered state-Threatened on [Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List](#). This species uses a combination of shallow wetlands and open upland habitats with a majority of the vegetative cover <20 inches in height. Hydroperiod is an important parameter for nesting habitat. The area (not including 2020 property addition) has over 5,000 acres of potential habitat for this species. The amount of available habitat has increased substantially with the 2019 and 2020 land acquisitions that have extensive pasture and marsh. Florida sandhill cranes use pasture on nearby private lands. The amount of suitable habitat on OSWMA and the adjacent public and private lands makes the area important for this species.

Habitat Management: Nonnative plant control and prescribed burning will maintain the healthy herbaceous cover these species need and prevent excessively thick growth of vegetation or shrubs. When fire occurs in the area, staff will allow it to burn across marshes in order to manage and maintain habitat appropriate for this species. In altered habitats where cranes occur, staff will consider planting pines at lower densities as they continue to restore pasture to flatwoods. When staff document an active sandhill crane nest, they will maintain a 400 ft. buffer to reduce the likelihood of nest disturbance. Florida sandhill cranes will occupy the same territory for many years if appropriate habitat remains available. By maintaining suitable habitat conditions through prescribed fire on the area, staff will continue to maintain OSWMA in a way that will benefit sandhill cranes.

Monitoring: Most of the research and monitoring for Florida sandhill cranes has occurred on private ranchlands (i.e., improved pasture). FWRI staff conduct annual road surveys for Florida sandhill cranes. Due to the large amount of semi-improved pasture in OSWMA, species experts have suggested that area staff continue to monitor Florida sandhill cranes via opportunistic observations as the habitat continues to be restored. Because sandhill cranes exhibit high nest site fidelity, staff will continue to opportunistically document active nests and adults with flightless young, as well as attempt to look for active nests in wetlands where cranes have nested in the past.

Area's Role: The extensive marsh and improved pasture on OSWMA means the area has a significant role in the conservation of Florida sandhill cranes by providing suitable habitat to support the regional population. Staff will help the area fulfill this role by continuing to manage wetland and open upland habitats through mechanical and chemical treatments in conjunction with prescribed fire. These management practices will help maintain habitat for the Florida

sandhill crane. Florida sandhill cranes on OSWMA are part of a larger regional population that is subject to conditions outside of the control of FWC.

3.4 Snail Kite

Current Condition: Snail kites are occasionally observed on OSWMA and DIRWMA, but rarely observed at SWWMA. Staff have not confirmed nesting on OSWMA, SWWMA, or DIRWMA. Snail kites have been observed nesting at nearby Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades WMA Complex. The Wildlife Diversity Conservation (WDC) Section and University of Florida (UF) biologists monitor snail kites in Florida, and area staff record opportunistic observations.

The snail kite is a federally-Endangered species and considered a high priority species due to its high risk of decline and extinction. This species is a diet specialist and is dependent on the availability of the apple snail (*Pomacea* spp.), which requires high-quality wetland habitats with emergent vegetation. In Florida, snail kites prefer habitats that include large inland freshwater marshes or edges of shallow lakes where apple snails occur. Snail kites are highly mobile but can stay in one area for extended periods of time if food is plentiful. Hydrology plays a crucial role in prey availability and nest success. With the 2019 land acquisition, the area has just over 1000 acres of foraging and nesting habitat for this species, although it lacks the large freshwater marshes and lake edges the species prefers for nesting in large numbers. FNAI natural community data for the 2020 land acquisition may show that there is more habitat available for this species.

Habitat Management: Snail kites prefer water <4 ft. deep with low density emergent vegetation. Allowing prescribed fire to burn into marsh and wet prairie can help maintain these communities in an open condition. Fire during low water allows the control and reduction of dense emergent plant growth that can reduce use of the wetlands and access to apple snails. Staff will consult with Invasive Plant Management Section about chemical or mechanical removal of emergent exotic plants, (e.g., water hyacinth [*Eichhornia crassipes*] and water lettuce [*Pistia stratiotes*]) if WDC and UF biologists determine that existing exotic emergent vegetation is a problem, and area staff will work with Invasive Plant Management subsection staff to mitigate it if it is. Staff will follow management guidelines about reducing activity within 1,640 ft of active nests and will not conduct any activity within 500 ft of known nests ([USFWS Snail Kite Management Guidelines](#)).

Monitoring: The statewide snail kite monitoring program does not include OSWMA in its program, due to a lack of nesting activity in the area. Area staff will continue to record opportunistic observations. If staff observe mating pairs, nesting activity, or banded birds in the area, they will share data with the appropriate WDC and UF biologists.

Area's Role: The marsh communities on OSWMA (including the new property additions) may play a role in the conservation of snail kites by providing suitable habitat to support the regional population, primarily by providing seasonal foraging opportunities. Snail kites will only occur on OSWMA if wetland communities continue to be managed appropriately.

3.5 Wading Birds

Current Condition: Multiple wading bird species (great egret [*Ardea alba*], snowy egret [*Egretta thula*], tricolored heron [*E. tricolor*], little blue heron [*E. caerulea*], white ibis [*Eudocimus albus*], wood stork [*Mycteria americana*], and roseate spoonbill [*Platalea ajaja*]) occur on OSWMA. Staff conducted aerial wading bird surveys from 2014-2016 and record opportunistic observations of imperiled wading birds. Staff have not observed any large nesting colonies in the area, but nesting colonies were observed on nearby OSSF during aerial surveys.

All wading bird species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The wood stork is a federally-Threatened species, while little blue heron, roseate spoonbill, and the tricolored heron are state-Threatened species. OSWMA now has over 3000 acres (not including 2020 land acquisition) of suitable foraging habitat for these species. The 2019 newly acquired property provided more marsh and cooperative land cover data shows a significant amount of marsh in the 2020 newly acquired property. The acquisition of large tracts of contiguous conservation lands with both breeding and foraging habitat greatly increases the potential to support wading birds in the long-term. Many of the wading bird species that occur in this area occur on other nearby public lands.

Habitat Management: Natural community management, especially when conducted following wildlife best management practices (BMPs), will benefit these species. Prescribed burning can help maintain open wetlands that support foraging. Staff should plan mechanical and chemical treatments of aquatic vegetation near known nesting sites to occur during the non-breeding season and avoid damaging nest trees. Management actions for most species should be conducted >330 ft. from active breeding sites during nesting season. Careful implementation of chemical treatment for exotics shall be done to protect nesting substrate. Habitat conservation guidelines and BMPs for imperiled wading birds are available in the [Imperiled Wading Bird Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines](#). Specific conservation guidelines for wood storks are available at the [Wood Stork Management Guidelines](#).

Monitoring: Staff will continue to record opportunistic observations of nesting imperiled species of wading birds. If any large nesting colonies (>50 nests or pairs of any wading bird species) are observed, staff will report that information to the South Region Conservation Biologist and the potential for future monitoring will be discussed within WHM.

Area's Role: The role of OSWMA in the conservation of wading birds is to provide habitat to support the regional population. Area staff will continue to manage the natural communities around colonies, using prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, and the chemical treatment of nonnative plants in nesting areas, and following best management practices.

3.6 Big Cypress Fox Squirrel

Current Condition: Staff have not encountered Big Cypress fox squirrels on OSWMA. Big Cypress fox squirrels occur on SWWMA and to a greater degree on DIRWMA. A graduate student from the University of Arizona conducted an area-wide camera trap study in 2018 and did not record any fox squirrels on OSWMA.

The Big Cypress fox squirrel is state-Threatened on [Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List](#). Historically, Big Cypress fox squirrels occupied dry prairies, pine flatwoods, hardwood forests, and cypress and mangrove swamps. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation continue to negatively influence Big Cypress fox squirrel populations range wide. Big Cypress fox squirrels have been forced to cope with habitat loss and regularly use altered habitat such as ranches and golf courses because these communities mimic the open structure this species prefers. Due to the differences in habitat use throughout their life history and their three distinct dietary periods, a mosaic of habitat types is important for this species for dietary and breeding purposes. The original OSWMA property does not have much Big Cypress fox squirrel habitat, but with the newly acquired properties adjacent to the area, available habitat will likely increase.

Habitat Management: Big Cypress fox squirrels prefer open, park-like, pine-dominated forests near cypress domes, but will use altered habitats, such as pasture, and suburban habitats including golf courses, city parks, and residential areas when these areas provide desired tree species. Habitats should contain low, relatively open, diverse herbaceous ground cover maintained with frequent fire. Areas should contain large continuous tracts of habitat >1000 acres. The modeled potential habitat should burn every 2-4 years (April-July, if possible) to maintain open conditions. Staff will allow fires to burn into wetland communities to produce broad, diverse ecotones. When restoring pasture, staff will plant pines, retain any large pines and important mast-producing hardwoods to provide food and cover, while keeping the area as open as possible to benefit other listed species that occur in the area.

Monitoring: Staff will record opportunistic observations of Big Cypress fox squirrels throughout OSWMA. Staff will add the appropriate enhancements (e.g., live traps, baited camera traps) when conducting future mammalian inventories to increase the likelihood of documenting this subspecies if it occurs in the area.

Area's Role: The communities on OSWMA show that the area may have a role in the conservation of Big Cypress fox squirrel by providing suitable habitat to support the regional population. Staff will help the area fulfill this role by continuing to manage flatwoods and pasture with fire, and by strategically planting trees and shrubs in pastures to improve their potential to support the species. These management practices will enhance the condition of improved pasture, as well as restore and maintain mesic flatwoods to meet the needs of the species.

3.7 Colonial Bats

Current Condition: There are 13 resident bat species in Florida, 9 of which biologists consider colonial, gathering in groups to form maternity or hibernation colonies. The remaining four species roost solitarily or in small family groups in tree foliage. Five species of bats (Brazilian free-tailed bat [*Tadarida brasiliensis*], tri-colored bat [*Perimyotis subflavus*], northern yellow bat [*Lasiurus intermedius*], Seminole bat [*L. seminolus*], and evening bat [*Nycticeius humeralis*]) are known to occur on OSWMA. The federally-Endangered Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*) has not been detected on OSWMA, but has been detected on nearby

SWWMA and DIRWMA. Past tree-clearing likely reduced the amount of roost sites available for bats; however, planned management will increase suitable habitat for bats occurring on OSWMA.

Habitat Management: All bat species that are known to occur on OSWMA roost in tree cavities, structures, culverts, palm fronds, or foliage, which are present on this area. All bat species may forage in most of the open communities (i.e., pasture) found on OSWMA. The amount of marsh and pasture habitat available in the newly acquired properties will likely increase foraging habitat for various species. Bat species occurring on OSWMA use a variety of communities, therefore planned natural community management should provide benefits to these species. Protecting known roost sites from disturbance during habitat management actions is a priority.

Bonneted bats appear to respond positively to prescribed burns conducted in pine flatwoods at a moderate frequency, particularly at the transition from the dry season to the wet season (April-June). The [Florida Bonneted Bat Species Action Plan](#) provides recommendations for habitat management, including retaining trees and snags with hollows and cavities, as well as inspecting any dead trees for bat roosts before felling. If staff document bonneted bats on OSWMA, staff conducting habitat management around known or potential roost sites from April 15th through December 31st (maternity season) should follow BMPs (see Appendix D in [USFWS Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Guidelines](#)) so as to not impact flightless young. OSWMA currently has little flatwoods available for roosting; however, planned restoration will increase the amount of flatwood available and in the long term may provide roosting habitat. For foraging purposes, bonneted bats may benefit from the open pasture, wet prairie, and open wetlands available throughout the area. The recently acquired property adjacent to OSWMA may provide additional roosting sites for all bat species.

Monitoring: Ecologists previously believed the southern range of southeastern myotis ended in Sarasota, Hardee, and Osceola Counties; however, acoustic surveys have detected the species as far south as CREW Wildlife and Environmental Area, Lake Okeechobee and on SWWMA. Detecting southeastern myotis this far south during the winter would improve our knowledge of this species. At least one year-round comprehensive acoustic monitoring effort will be conducted by 2025 to determine which bats species occur on the area. The survey will follow the monitoring guidelines set forth by the North American Bat Monitoring Program and the Florida long-term bat monitoring program and include efforts to determine Florida bonneted bat distribution throughout the area. If future inventories detect bonneted bats, staff and the South Region Conservation Biologist will confer with the FWC Bat Monitoring Coordinator and Mammal Taxa Coordinator to determine next steps, monitoring, and management needs. All bonneted bat data will be shared with the appropriate FWC staff as well as the USFWS.

Area's Role: The role of OSWMA in the conservation of bats is to provide and manage suitable habitat to support the regional population. Area staff will make sure any known roost sites stay protected during habitat management actions. As mesic flatwoods restoration

improves the condition of Colonial Bat habitat on the WMA, maintaining the suite of natural communities in a condition that support bats will help us fill our role for these species.

3.8 Florida Panther

Current Condition: The Florida panther frequently uses habitats on OSWMA. Staff have documented Florida panthers on nearby DIRWMA and SWWMA. A 7-acre strip in MU 19 was untouched by mechanical treatment in 2017 to preserve a former panther den. All Florida panther observations by area staff on OSWMA via game cameras or visual sightings are recorded.

The Florida panther is considered federally-Endangered, making it a statewide priority. The primary threat to the Florida panther population is continued habitat loss and fragmentation. Vehicle mortality and intraspecific aggression are the leading causes of death for this species. Florida panthers use a variety of habitats that generally consist of forested uplands and wetlands interspersed with more open habitats such as freshwater wetlands, dry prairie, old fields, pasture, and agricultural land. Studies have found that Florida panthers use forested habitat types more frequently than non-forested areas. However, open, non-forested areas are important prey habitat and serve as travel corridors while moving to and from resting sites. Florida panthers have large home ranges expanding beyond the boundaries of OSWMA.

Habitat Management: This species uses a variety of communities present throughout OSWMA, surrounding WMAs, and adjacent public and private lands. Habitat management for this species should focus on creating a mosaic of communities that include patches of dense vegetation for resting and denning interspersed with open areas for stalking prey. Staff will avoid burning out unburned patches when appropriate. While mechanically treating areas, staff will be sure to leave patches of palmetto (especially old growth palmetto) at approximately quarter acre size to provide cover when appropriate. Vertical vegetation structure in forested areas is critical to this species and management actions should create and retain pockets of dense midstory and overstory. Staff will continue to leave 131 acres of habitat in MU 20 on a 3-4-year fire return interval and a 7-acre strip in MU 19 on a 3-year fire return interval to provide dense cover. Staff will continue efforts to plant patches of trees and shrubs in pasture to benefit panthers.

Monitoring: The FWC panther management team closely monitors the panther population in Florida. Staff will continue to interact with staff monitoring the panther, especially if dens are located on site. Area staff will continue to record opportunistic observations and share those data with the panther management team.

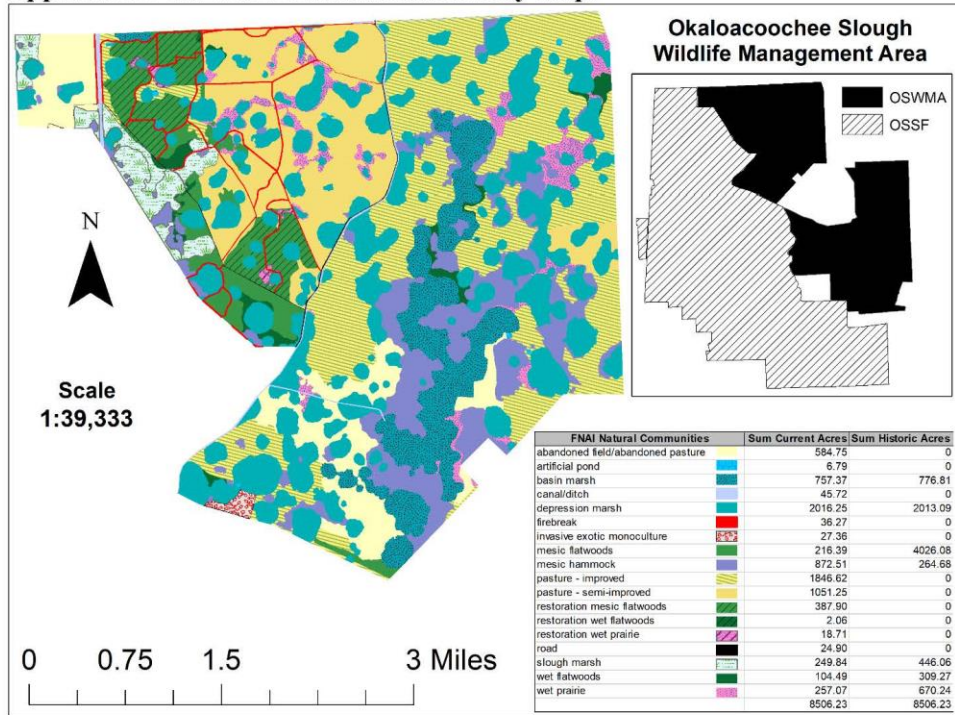
Area's Role: The variety of natural and altered communities present on OSWMA and its location along a panther dispersal route mean the area has a significant role in the conservation of Florida panthers by providing suitable habitat to support the regional population. Staff will help the area fulfill this role by continuing to manage and maintain existing natural communities as well as to restoring altered communities (i.e., improved pasture). Planting trees and shrubs in open pasture will help create cover and improve habitat for both Florida panthers and their prey.

Section 4: Coordination and Beyond the Boundaries Considerations

As discussed in the above assessments, several listed and locally important species (e.g., crested caracara) could disperse between OSWMA and neighboring private and conservation lands. While the current condition and management of OSWMA and neighboring lands provide an opportunity to further the conservation of many listed and locally important species, significant changes in management or land use beyond the boundaries may have a significant impact on some species. Species that have large home ranges or that are dependent on dispersal for maintaining a population may benefit from these property acquisitions as well as current management on adjacent private land. Many of the species that inhabit flatwoods and marshes are dependent on the availability of suitable habitat on adjacent public and private lands. Acquiring lands adjacent to OSWMA gives FWC the opportunity to manage nearby lands appropriately to benefit wildlife by maintaining and restoring habitat to the appropriate conditions. As such, the actions of adjacent landowners could contribute to the persistence of some wildlife species in the surrounding region. There is opportunity to work with easements adjacent to OSWMA to benefit wildlife in the area. Area staff will take advantage of every opportunity and work with the Office of Conservation Planning Services to cooperate with adjacent landowners on the conservation of listed and locally important species. That, in turn, will help listed and locally important species disperse through the landscape.

OSWMA staff often coordinate with staff from nearby DIRWMA, SWWMA, and OSSF to conduct surveys and habitat management activities. Working with interagency partners like the FFS will continue to help meet desired fire return intervals in the area. Partnering entities like the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Universities provide invaluable services by performing monitoring and research. While OSWMA is large enough to support viable populations of several species, this area also serves as an important link in the conservation lands of southern Florida.

Appendix 1. OSWMA Natural community map.



Appendix 2. OSWMA listed and locally important species.

Species	Location in Document
Bachman's sparrow (<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>)	Species Assessments
Big Cypress fox squirrel (<i>Sciurus niger avicennia</i>)	Species Assessments
Black rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>)	Document Occurrence
Bobcat (<i>Lynx rufus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Brown-headed nuthatch (<i>Sitta pusilla</i>)	Document Occurrence
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Document Occurrence
Colonial bats (multiple species)	Species Assessments
Crested caracara (<i>Caracara cheriway</i>)	Species Assessments
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Eastern indigo snake (<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>)	Document Occurrence
Eastern spotted skunk (<i>Spilogale putorius</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida black bear (<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida box turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina bauri</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum floridanus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida mottled duck (<i>Anas fulvigula</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida panther (<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>)	Species Assessments
Florida pine snake (<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Florida sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>)	Species Assessments
Gopher tortoise (<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Limpkin (<i>Aramus guarauna</i>)	Document Occurrence
Marsh rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>)	Document Occurrence
Otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)	Document Occurrence
Round-tailed muskrat (<i>Neofiber alleni</i>)	Document Occurrence
Snail kite (<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>)	Species Assessments
Southeastern American kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Southern bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Swallow-tailed kite (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	Document Occurrence
Wading birds (multiple species)	Species Assessments
White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	Species Monitoring

1.13 Timber Assessment



TIMBER ASSESSMENT

OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMET AREA

PREPARED BY:
MICHAEL EDWARDS, SENIOR FORESTER
OTHER PUBLIC LANDS REGION 3 & 4
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

March 10, 2017

PURPOSE

This document is intended to fulfill the timber assessment requirement for Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area (OSWMA) as required by Section 1, Section 253.036, Florida Statutes. The goal of this *Timber Assessment* is to evaluate the potential and feasibility of managing timber resources for conservation and revenue generation purposes.

BACKGROUND

LOCATION

The OSWMA is approximately 2,993 acres in size and lies within Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 44 South, Range 30 East, in Hendry County, Florida. The OSWMA is in west-central Hendry County, eight miles southeast of Port La Belle, five miles east of State Road (SR) 29, 8.5 miles south of SR 80, and 1.3 miles north of County Road (CR) 832. Access to the OSWMA is available from Twin Mills Grade off CR 832. There are 39 federal, state, county and private conservation lands located within a 20-mile radius of the OSWMA.

HISTORY

The OSWMA was purchased in December 1998 from Alico, Inc., an agribusiness and land management company that was formerly a subsidiary of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. The OSWMA was purchased by the FWC under the FWC Preservation 2000 Inholdings and Additions land acquisition program.

The OSWMA was purchased to protect the watershed and waters of Okaloacoochee Slough, its dependent imperiled and other native wildlife, and provide resource-based public outdoor recreation including mitigation for the loss of hunting opportunities on Brown's Farm Wildlife Management Area (BFWMA) in Palm Beach County.

PAST LAND MANAGEMENT

Prior to European settlement, this area was settled and used by a variety of aboriginal peoples whose culture relied mainly on hunting, fishing and subsistence agriculture. In the sixteenth century, Spanish occupation of Florida occurred. Along with more advanced agricultural practices, the Spanish and other settlers brought livestock, primarily cattle and hogs, as well as horses to Florida. Rangeland cattle grazing and other agricultural practices began to be utilized from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries. Then in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries major settlement, widespread use of agriculture and associated development occurred. OSWMA itself was historically used for rangeland cattle grazing, beginning in the early 1900s, and continuing for most of the 20th century, a large amount of land in the region was used for silviculture. Removal of virgin pine timber and pulpwood took place during this time, with the logged material being loaded onto rail cars at the Keri Wood Yard, just east of an existing railroad right-of-way.

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 1



Most of the uplands in this region were ditched and cultivated to produce tomatoes, watermelons, and cucumbers, but cultivation for these purposes had mostly ceased by the end of the 20th century. Other past uses of the properties included hunting and camping. Evidence of old dog pens, bunkhouses, hog pens, and swamp buggies still exist near OSWMA.

Adjacent Land Uses

The land within and surrounding the OSWMA is currently zoned as General Agricultural (A-2). The OSWMA is bordered to the south and west by the OSSF. Farther to the west is Spirit of the Wild WMA and to the southeast is Dinner Island WMA. To the north is private agricultural land, mainly citrus owned by multiple (8) landowners and divided into two private water control districts: Gerber Groves Water Control District and Collins Slough Water Control District; the area to the north is downstream from the FWC property. The area to the east is owned by Alico Inc. and is managed for cattle grazing on the property adjacent to the OSWMA. At least two miles east of the pasture, the land is agricultural and currently is used for sugarcane production. The area east of OSWMA is also a private water control district, the Devil's Garden Water Control District. Alico owns the property southeast of the OSWMA and is planning to develop the Keri Road Sand Mine 1.8 miles from the OSWMA property. The OSWMA is located approximately 7.5 miles north of the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern, which encompasses the Okaloacoochee Slough from its headwaters in the OSSF south to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand State Park, and the Big Cypress National Preserve.

PRESCRIBED BURN UNITS

Local resource managers have designated Burn Units on OSWMA. There are currently 20 Burn Units (BUs) that range in size from 24 to 644 acres. Except for a dove field in BU20, there is no record of prescribe burning conducted by the previous landowner. BUs were based on natural fire breaks, the initial fuel loading, and consistent cover type. BUs are used by the resource managers for other land management activities and will be referred to later in the *Timber Assessment* as Management Units (MUs) when identifying timber management recommendations.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

A field visit and discussion with the FWC District Biologist was conducted in August 2016. Also document reviews of the current OSWMA Management Plan and 2015 Objective Based Vegetation Management (OBVM) Report were completed. The background information has resulted in the identification of seven goals and twenty-one objectives. It is feasible to manage timber resources for conservation with the possibility for revenue generation while meeting FWC's goals and objectives described below.

GOALS

Forest Resource Management Goal:

- Manage timber resources for resource conservation and wildlife habitat improvement.

Habitat Restoration and Improvement Goal:

- Improve extant habitat and restore disturbed areas.

Prescribe Burn Management Goal:

- Maintain a prescribe burn program that focuses on frequency, acres, and quality of burns to restore natural communities.

Game Wildlife Species Goal:

- Maintain, improve, or restore game species populations and habitats.

Exotic and Invasive Species Plant and Animal Maintenance and Control Goal:

- Remove exotic and invasive plants and conduct needed maintenance and control activities.

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Goal:



- Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of current management plan.

Hydrological Preservation and Restoration Goal:

- Protect water quality and quantity, restore hydrology to the extent feasible, and maintain the restored condition.

OBJECTIVES

Forest Resource Management Objective:

- Cooperate with the FFS or a private forestry consultant, to complete a Timber Assessment.

Habitat Restoration and Improvement Objectives:

- Conduct habitat/natural restoration activities including restoring native vegetation on the former north dove field and semi-improved pasture.
- Continue to reduce wax myrtle shrub density as needed on at least 700 acres
- Plant native shrubs including runner oak on 300 acres of groundcover restoration sites to provide additional food and cover for wildlife.
- Pursue groundcover restoration where feasible in north and south dove fields and semi-improved pasture if funding is available.

Prescribe Burn Management Objectives:

- Continue to conduct prescribed burning on 420 acres of fire-adapted communities per year.
- Continue to maintain 2,100 acres (100%) of fire adapted natural communities on the area within 4 – 5-year target fire return interval.
- Continue to maintain 370 acres (100%) of fire adapted natural communities on the area within 6 – 10-year target fire return interval to provide denning habitat for the Florida panther.

-Game Wildlife Species Objective:

- Continue ground cover restoration protocol for northern bobwhite habitat.

Exotic and Invasive Species Plant and Animal Maintenance and Control Objective:

- Continue to semi-annually treat at least 1,400 acres of torpedograss and Caesar weed, until a maintenance level is reached.
- Conduct two maintenance treatments on at least 1,400 acres of FEPPC Category I and Category II invasive exotic plant species.
- Selectively treat exotic pasture grasses on at least 750 acres in semi-improved pasture.
- Treat 37 acres of exotic species, including pasture grasses, with herbicide treatments on the former northeast dove field so that native groundcover can be reestablished.
- Spot treat invasive exotic species, including pasture grasses, on the current 360 acres of groundcover restoration and any future acres to encourage growth of native vegetation.
- Continue to implement control measures on one exotic and nuisance animal species (Burmese python) and opportunistically monitor other exotic animal species such as brown anole, European starling, and wild hogs.

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Objectives:

- Continue to maintain, improve, or repair ~5.8 miles of roads.
- Continue to maintain, improve, or repair ~1.2 miles of trails existing on site.
- Monitor trails and infrastructure biannually for visitor impacts.

Hydrological Preservation and Restoration Objectives:

- Continue to maintain culverts as appropriate to maintain and enhance natural hydrological functions.
- Continue to monitor water levels bi-weekly at the eight established locations.
- Implement hydrological restoration plan, as feasible.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 3



ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

FWC had Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) produce a 2004 report and map of six historic and twelve current natural community types on OSWMA. Six communities, covering 61.88% of the total acres on OSWMA will be addressed in this *Timber Assessment*,

- Mesic Flatwoods (216.17 acres)
- Wet Flatwoods (14.37 acres)
- Wet Prairies (132.80 acres)
- Restoration Mesic Flatwoods (317.93 acres)
- Pasture-Semi-Improved (1,006.73 acres)
- Pasture-Improved (69.23 acres)

SOILS AND PRODUCTIVITY

The U. S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes soil series profiles and site index for pines. The following is a generalized summary of the most prevalent soils and the site index for each pine species. Volumes were obtained using *U.S.D.A. Research Report No. 3, Growth and Yield of Slash Pine Plantations in Florida*, by R. L. Barnes. These figures assume fully stocked, even-aged stands with thinning harvests at the earliest age needed. Revenues are stated in current dollars for comparison purposes and based on actual recent sales in the region. Uneven-aged management may reduce timber growth and revenues by up to one-half to three-quarters.

Site Index for SFSP on flatwoods pasture and agriculture soil types ranges from about 35 to 55. An average Site Quality 45 (25-yr) was used for the following projections. Yields can be expected to be slightly higher on reforested improved pastures. About one-third of the trees may be harvested during the first thinning. If so, approximately 4 to 6 cords (11 to 17 tons) per acre would be removed at 20 to 25 years of age. At current market prices that would yield revenues of about \$154 to \$238 per acre. The first thinning would leave the largest, healthiest, and fastest growing trees still standing. By age 25 to 30, there would be about 12 to 15 cords (34 to 42 tons) per acre. Probably half of that volume would probably be chip-n-saw quality or better. In today's dollars, these would be worth about \$612 to \$756 per acre.

MESIC FLATWOODS SOIL TYPE

#2 PINEDA SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#4 OLDSMAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#8 MALABAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE
#32 RIVEIERA SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE
#59 WINDER FINE SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE

WET FLATWOODS SOIL TYPES

#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#59 WINDER FINE SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE

WET PRAIRIE SOIL TYPES

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 4



#2 PINEDA SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#4 OLDSMAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#8 MALABAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#9 RIVIERA FINE SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE
#32 RIVEIERA SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE

RESTORATION MESIC FLATWOODS SOIL TYPES

#4 OLDSMAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE

PASTURE SEMI-IMPROVED SOIL TYPES

#4 OLDSMAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#8 MALABAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#9 RIVIERA FINE SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#21 HOLOPAW SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE
#32 RIVEIERA SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE

PASTURE -IMPROVED SOIL TYPES

#2 PINEDA SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#27 RIVIERA SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#32 RIVEIERA SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE

CLEARING/REGENERATION SOIL TYPES

#2 PINEDA SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#4 OLDSMAR SAND	0-2% SLOPE
#14 WABASSO SAND	LIMESTONE SUBSTRATUM
#29 OLDSMAR SAND	LIMESTONE
#32 RIVEIERA SAND, DEPRESSIONAL	0-2% SLOPE



MESIC FLATWOODS (216.17 acres), MUs (4, 6-8, 10, 12, 19-20)

Mesic flatwoods comprise 7.22% of the total acres on OSWMA. Mesic flatwoods on the OSWMA are upland areas with an open pine canopy or no canopy, scattered cabbage palm subcanopy, and an understory dominated by saw palmetto or gallberry, with a variety of other shrubs, forbs, grasses, and sedges, including pasture grasses depending on their location. One area measured had a BA of 60 square feet per acre of mature (34 years old) chip n saw size trees 65 feet tall, site index of 60 at a 25-year base. The largest area, approximately 120 acres, occurs between the North Loop road running southeast to northwest off Twin Mills Road and the southern boundary of the WMA. Historically, mesic to wet flatwoods, interspersed with depression marshes, comprised much of the OSWMA landscape totaling 1,825 acres or 61% total acres on OSWMA.

The current, largest area of mesic flatwoods on the OSWMA, is also the area least effected by past cattle operations. The area was logged and cleared in the early 1990's, but not altered for cattle grazing. These flatwoods now have a shrubby understory with various amounts and differing composition of canopy and subcanopy cover depending on the relatively recent clearing activities. Slash pine and/or cabbage palm are generally present in the canopy, although some sites have no canopy. Oaks typically occur in the subcanopy or as a tall shrub layer. The shrub cover is generally dense and may include saw palmetto, gallberry, wax myrtle, fetterbush, staggerbush, winged sumac, St John's-wort, shiny blueberry, dwarf huckleberry, myrsine, and dwarf live oak. The herbaceous cover is generally sparse to moderate although a few areas are exceptions to this. Species include blackroot, bottlebrush threeawn, little blue maidencane, panic grasses, spikerush, pale meadow beauty, and bloodroot. Weedy species are generally sparse to moderate and include bluestem, pinebarron goldenrod, and saltbush. Some areas within this larger flatwoods area seem to be a mixture of hammock and flatwoods and are difficult to categorize.

Seven other areas within the OSWMA were delineated as mesic flatwoods and total approximately 93 acres, with an average size of 18 acres. One area, approximately 15 acres, also appears to have been cutover but not "improved". This area is one of the few places where wiregrass is found outside the groundcover restoration areas. This area also has low areas with more hydric species. Some spots appear to have been created when the site was logged but other areas may be natural wet prairie. Additional species not mentioned above include Malaysian false pimpernel, wild pennyroyal, pinebarron goldenrod, thistles, and button rattlesnakemaster. Most of the other flatwoods are smaller and have dense pockets of saw palmetto and a more disturbed groundcover. The pasture areas have additional areas where pockets of pines have been left or young pines are abundant.

The mesic flatwoods could use a timber thinning to open the canopy and allow sunlight to the ground for native wiregrass and herbaceous species to thrive. The more open stand will also help with prescribed burning; easier for staff move through open stand and less intense fires as heat can quickly escape the more open canopy. See *Timber Management Recommendations* section for details.

WET FLATWOODS (14.37 acres) MU 10

Wet flatwoods comprise only 0.48% total acreage on OSWMA, although historically it probably made up a large portion of the flatwoods matrix community. The remnant parcels have a sparse canopy of slash pine with a relatively open understory of scattered shrubs and dense groundcover of hydrophytic herbaceous species. One area described below has no pine canopy.

Wet flatwoods are pine forests with a dense groundcover of hydrophytic grasses, herbs and low shrubs. A feature of wet flatwoods that distinguishes them from mesic flatwoods is the absence, or small amount, of saw palmetto. Only one area is classified as wet flatwoods. It consists of scattered cabbage palm and oak, with and some areas with very dense, tall wax myrtle, saw palmetto and some fetterbush and gallberry. Swamp fern and Virginia chain fern are also present.



This area has been cutover and lacks a pine overstory, does not appear to have been improved for cattle grazing, and contains wiregrass. These areas have sparse to abundant canopy cover of mature slash pine and a moderate shrub cover that includes wax myrtle, saw palmetto, swamp laurel oak, netted pawpaw, and cabbage palm. The herbaceous cover is high and includes bahiagrass, wiregrass, little blue maidencane, maidencane, thin paspalum, bluestems, rosy camphorweed, dog fennel, umbrellasedges, spadeleaf, beaksedges, seaside primrose willow, tickseeds, queen's delight, pokeweed, clustered mille grains, clustered bushmint, and swamp fern. Torpedo grass and Caesarweed are exotic species that occur in these flatwoods. Fire is an important natural element in the control of the high shrub density at most of the flatwoods sites. Fire will also help increase the herbaceous cover, including wiregrass.

The wet flatwoods require artificial regeneration of SFSP to have a fully stocked stand. This planting would also facilitate future prescribed burning. A regular burn program would be delayed 10 years or so until the stand matures and grows to a height that allows burning the understory without top killing the pines. See *Reforestation* section below for details.

WET PRAIRIE (132.80 acres) MUs (1,8, 12-13,16-17)

Wet prairie covers 4.44% of the total acres on OSWMA. Wet prairie on the OSWMA occurs in 4 areas of the OSWMA. Historically, the northwestern area was a broad, shallow prairie/swale between two deeper portions of Okaloacoochee Slough. Agriculture and ditching to the east, and a dike to the north have greatly altered the natural hydrology of the adjacent area. Extensive orange groves lie north of this section of the management area. What remains is approximately 75 acres of wet prairie, depression marshes, and small hammocks on the northwestern boundary of the OSWMA. The rest of the former prairie, approximately 200 acres east to the canal, is an old agricultural field. Three other examples of wet prairie occur east of the canal as low herbaceous ecotones around marshes or small openings in flatwoods communities. The largest weaves between a series of wetlands and is the upper extent of a slough drainage extending northeast from the slough marsh.

Shrub cover is generally moderate with corkwood and Saint John's-worts most common. Herb cover is high and includes a variety of asters, Piedmont sumpweed, sundews, mermaidweeds and others. Grasses and sedges are abundant and may include gulfdune paspalum, little blue maidencane, maidencane, arrowfeather threeawn, Elliot's lovegrass, hairawn muhly grass, blue-joint panicgrass, and flatsedges. Fire is an important natural element in the structure of the wet prairie community, especially in controlling shrub densities. Fire will also help increase the herbaceous cover, including wiregrass.

The invasive exotics, West Indian marsh grass and torpedo grass were frequent in the margins of the wet prairie community but are much reduced after several years of chemical treatment. Torpedograss was dominant in the adjacent old agriculture fields but chemical treatment started in 2014 on the field.

Removal of encroaching trees and ground cover restoration are recommended for the wet prairie. Also restoration of the agriculture fields back to wet prairie is also recommended. See *Ground Cover Restoration* and *General Timber Management Guidelines* for details.

RESTORATION MESIC FLATWOODS (317.93 acres) MUs (4,6,9,14-15)

An additional 318 acres have been converted from pasture to mesic flatwoods vegetation. These areas have a diverse groundcover including wiregrass, lopsided indiagrass, many species of bluestems, witchgrasses, beakruses, flatsedges, spikerushes and forbs such as blackeyed susans, sunflowers, water hyssops, tall elephantsfoot, and pale meadow beauty.

Fire is an important natural element in the control of the high shrub density at most of the flatwoods sites. Fire will also help increase the herbaceous cover, including wiregrass. Some of the flatwoods are sandwiched between depression marshes or are adjacent to the main swale system in the southern central



portion of the OSWMA. These areas may naturally be subject to more moist conditions and less frequent fires because of their location.

Restoration of the mesic flatwoods from pasture should continue. See *Reforestation* and *Ground Cover Restoration* sections for details about suggestions.

PASTURE -SEMI-IMPROVED (1,006.73 acres) MUs (5-6, 10,12, & 14)

Semi-improved pasture constitutes 33.64% of the total acreage on OSWMA. Semi-improved pasture shares many of the same species as improved pasture but shows more affinity to the historic natural community. More species typical of mesic flatwoods are present in greater abundance. Semi-improved pasture has great potential for restoration. The semi-improved pasture appears to have been logged and cleared of most of the palmetto cover, and presumably other groundcover, by 1994. It had been managed primarily for cattle from the late 1980s until State acquisition and management.

Vegetation occurring in the semi-improved pastures includes smutgrass, vaseygrass, carpetgrass, flatsedge, rushes, bluestems, beaksedges, spikerushes, little blue maidencane, threeawns, panic grasses, yelloweyed grass, pinebarron goldenrod, dog fennel, spadeleaf, wild pennyroyal, sweet broom, button rattlesnakemaster, wand goldenrod, bloodroot, milkworts, Caesarweed, pale meadowbeauty, clustered bushmint, blackroot, tickseeds, camphorweeds, and others. Shrub species that occur are wax myrtle, saw palmetto, gallberry, staggerbush, winged sumac, St. John's-wort, dwarf live oak, and beautybush. Wax myrtles have been greatly reduced and exotic pasture grasses have been treated, so the composition of semi-improved pastures is composed of more natives and less exotics than at time of purchase. Slash pine, live and laurel oaks, and cabbage palm are infrequent.

A small patch of cutthroat grass was found in the eastern part of the semi-improved pasture. An additional location has since been found in formerly improved pasture now converted to mesic flatwoods vegetation. Giant orchid was in the improved pasture area.

PASTURE -IMPROVED (69.23 acres) MUs (4,7-8, 12-13, 16-17)

This altered community accounts for 2.31% of the entire OSWMA. Improved pastures are dominated by bahiagrass, bluestems, smutgrass, and dog fennel. Shrub species are occasional and tree species are infrequent, since wax myrtles, which were very dense, have been burned and mechanically and chemically treated. There are small patches where slash pine is the overstory and areas where pines are regenerating naturally. Additional herbaceous species present include smutgrass, vasey grass, carpetgrass, beakrushes, sweet broom, Caesar weed, and others. The few shrub species that occur are usually wax myrtle, saw palmetto, gallberry, staggerbush, and saltbush. Slash pine and cabbage palm are infrequent.

Pasture acreage is much reduced due to an active groundcover restoration program on OSWMA. The management area was periodically logged from the early part of the 20th century until 1992. By 1984, the improved area had been converted to pasture with a few pockets of pines left standing, usually adjacent to depression marshes.

Continue the restoration of the pastures. See *Ground Cover Restoration* section for suggestions on restoration of pasture (improved and semi-improved) to wet prairie, wet flatwoods and mesic flatwoods communities.

GENERAL TIMBER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Note: Any timber harvest, site preparation, seedling planting, or other timber management activity will adhere to Florida's Silviculture [Best Management Practices](#) Standards, available online. In addition, all known historical and archeological sites will also be protected.

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 8



A useful measurement of tree stocking and density is basal area (BA) per acre. BA is the cross sectional area (in square feet) of a tree measured four and one-half feet above the ground. The diameter of individual trees measured at this height is referred to as its diameter breast height (DBH). Fully stocked pine stands have enough trees per acre of a size large enough to utilize the growing space without causing over-crowding. SFSP stands with 70 to 100 square feet of BA are considered fully stocked. It requires more, smaller diameter trees than it does larger diameter trees to equal one square foot of BA. For example: It takes 357 evenly spaced, six-inch DBH trees to equal 70 square feet BA. Whereas, only 89 twelve-inch DBH trees per acre equal the same 70 square feet BA. BA can be roughly correlated to crown coverage and therefore needle-cast. About 40 to 60 square feet BA should provide sufficient needle-cast to carry prescribed fire and adequate sunlight for native grasses to be maintained.

Natural communities are dynamic things. A stand of scattered mature trees has not looked exactly as it does today throughout its existence. In natural, pine dominated forest systems trees die because they become old and less able to withstand insect and disease attack. SFSP has a life expectancy of about 100 years. Bark beetles might invade a weakened tree then multiply and kill some of its neighbors. Lightning strikes and windstorms do the same thing. Thus, holes of various sizes are continuously being created in the canopy. These openings allow full sunlight to reach the forest floor. In addition, lightning caused fires burn away leaf litter and expose bare mineral soil. The bare soil and canopy openings permit large numbers of sun loving pine seedlings to become established and grow straight and tall.

Where naturally occurring fire has kept the understory open, pine seedlings become established in these canopy holes at very high densities. It is not uncommon to have ten to twenty thousand seedlings per acre in scattered openings. Recurrent wildfires and competition for sunlight, moisture, and nutrients favor the strongest, fastest growing pine saplings. The rest die off continually over the life of a stand of trees until the trees mature and another opening is created that replaces the survivors with young seedlings again. The result is an uneven aged stand where each group of trees created by a canopy opening is about the same age. However, the stand as a whole is a mosaic of clusters that have different ages and densities. The long-term BA will fluctuate around a constant figure depending on soil productivity (as low as 20 square feet on extremely poor sites, up to 80 square feet on highly productive sites). The ultimate goal of ecologically based timber management is to mimic these natural processes and still be able to harvest trees that are destined to die anyway. The challenge is to capture the value of the timber while minimizing any negative impact on the system as a whole.

Thinning type harvests in pine stands help maintain the health and vigor of the stand by removing weak, diseased and deformed trees. Enough co-dominant trees are removed during thinning to insure crown retention and continued growth in the remaining trees. To create uneven aged pine stands, group selection openings are cut during thinning activities. These openings allow young trees to become established by seed falling from nearby trees or by planting seedlings. Since pine seedlings require direct sunlight to grow, all trees within the opening must be removed. However, to minimize the visual impact, openings can be as small as one-half acre. For natural regeneration, the minimum width of the openings is about two to three chains (1 chain=66 feet). Lack of cover followed by dense stands of young pine trees created by large openings can become impediments to animal foraging and migration patterns. For example: To prevent saplings growing in these openings from becoming barriers to RCW flight patterns, group selections should not exceed five acres in size.

Combined acreage of all openings cut within a stand during each thinning is kept to no more than five to ten percent of the total stand acreage. Since each stand only gets thinned every ten-plus years, over-harvesting of old-growth trees is avoided and a steady supply of young trees is ensured. For example: suppose that today there is a stand of 20 year-old pine trees. Every 10 years 95% of a stand gets thinned to keep the canopy open and 5% clearcut to allow regeneration of young pines. At the end of the tenth



cutting cycle (100 years from now) 50 % of a stand would have 120+ year-old trees and 50% would range from seedlings to 100 year-old trees. If the cutting cycle is extended to 20 years (which is more likely on poorer soils) and 10% is cut for openings, the age distribution at the end of 100 years is the same as for the 10 year cycle.

Planting activities, group selection openings, hardwood control measures, and natural regeneration in thin stands will produce young tree stands of various sizes. A well stocked stand of young pine trees will usually require the removal of weak, diseased, and some overcrowded trees beginning by the age of 15 to 20 years. By this time, the crowns have grown together and ground cover begins to get shaded out and hardwoods can begin to compete with shade intolerant pine seedlings. Harvesting a portion of the timber maintains healthy pine growth and provides sunlight to the forest floor. Trees removed in the thinning process can be sold to generate revenue to be used in other land management projects. Likely markets for early thinnings from pine stands currently include pulpwood, fence posts and landscape mulch.

Due to shading effects, trees grown in tight spacing produce fewer and smaller lower limbs. The shedding of the lower limbs makes them more desirable for fence posts and later, more valuable products. Planting at least 500 seedlings per acre also helps insure the marketability of the pine trees and increases future management options.

The need for second and later thinnings depend on how low the BA was taken in the first thinning and successive growth rate. If the BA is reduced to 50 to 70 square feet in the first cut, another harvest will probably be needed in ten to fifteen years. Trees removed from the second and succeeding operations produce ever more valuable products and therefore more money. Current market conditions have some second thinning products worth at least five times as much as the original wood that was cut. Third thinning trees can be worth twice as much as the second thin. All of this revenue can be generated and still have a stand of pine trees and a healthy ecosystem.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT RECOMENDATIONS

OSWMA is a large tract of land. Identifying individual stands and defining exact acres requiring a specific management practice is beyond the scope of this assessment. A more detailed timber stand description would be required to properly plan long-term timber management recommendations. The following are general descriptions and management recommendations. A prime objective on this tract is to establish and maintain a healthy ground cover of grasses and forbs. Adequate sunlight must reach the ground to achieve this goal. From a timber management standpoint, this means that in general pine-stocking levels should be maintained in the 40 to 60 square foot BA range.

LONG TERM RECOMENDATIONS

Many factors affect the need for and timing of future thinnings. These include initial planting density, number of trees surviving to merchantable size, crown closure (ground cover shading), and a live crown ratio below 40%. The following recommendations are guidelines to be used in areas where the described conditions exist on newly acquired lands, currently unknown stands, and in the distant future as planted seedlings and natural regeneration matures.

BA < 10—These areas have insufficient pine trees to regenerate themselves. Control the saw palmetto and sabal palms through the use of roller drum choppers and fire. Plant SFSP as described under the *Artificial Regeneration* section below.

10 to 30 BA—These stands may or may not have enough seed trees to regenerate themselves. Though for certain, any further loss of mature trees could preclude a healthy future. Stands with these marginally low BA should be included in the regeneration plan. See *Natural* and *Artificial Regeneration* sections below.

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 10



40 to 70 BA—These stands have an adequate number of pine trees to utilize the growing space without overcrowding. No harvests are necessary in these stands unless thinning is required to allow access for roller drum chopping of palmettos, palms, or other overgrown woody vegetation. If chopping is needed, follow spacing recommendations as described in the Natural Regeneration section. In large stands with little regeneration, some group selection openings may be cut to promote seedling establishment.

80 BA & UP—Pine stands with this level of stocking are probably beginning to shade out the ground cover. These stands should be thinned to 40 to 60 square feet BA. If chopping for palmetto control is needed, follow spacing recommendations as described in the natural regeneration section. Group selection openings should be scattered throughout these stands to promote seedling establishment.

SALVAGE SALES

On occasion, small volumes of wood may need to be removed due to fire, windstorm, insect or other damage. The decision whether or not to harvest the affected timber will depend on the threat to the surrounding stands and the volume/value of the trees involved. For example, small, isolated lightning-strike beetle kills are a natural part of a healthy ecosystem and normally would not be cut. However, if a drought caused the insect infestation to spread, the infected trees and a buffer zone might have to be removed. *Note: due to forest health and timber market factors, it is recommended contacting the FFS Forester as soon as possible.* Many times a salvage sale may be added to an existing sale in order to expedite the removal of dead and dying trees.

MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS

PINE STRAW

Pine needle raking could be an option to convert the disturbed agricultural lands, like the pastures and citrus groves into native communities, while still generating money. Since these areas are already highly disturbed, the use of herbicides to control the understory for easy needle raking, would have less impact than in stands with native ground cover species. Pine straw raking operations generally are set up for multiple year contracts where either the landowner or buyer agrees to spray/mow the understory to keep it clean of woody plants and grasses for ease of raking and equipment maneuverability. Pine straw raking can begin as soon as year 6, generating 50-75 bales/acre and be carried through the third thinning of a stand in some cases. Depending on several factors like species of pine (longleaf is best) and fertilization, it is possible to harvest 200-300 bales/acre at the maximum output (around yr. 15). Income can range from \$0.50-\$0.70/bale. Pine straw raking in a stand coincides with prescribed fire use and in some cases can be conducive with wildlife management. Money generated from pine straw raking is a good way to offset the planting costs of the stand as well as ground over restoration. *Note: higher density plantings of 726 trees per acre (6' X 10' or 5' X 12') are required to create a stand with the conditions favorable to needle raking.*

SILVOPASTURE

Silvopasture is an agroforestry practice specifically designed and managed for the production of trees, tree products, forage, and livestock. As a silvopasture, timber and pasture are managed as a single integrated system. Silvopastoral systems are designed to produce a high-value timber component, while providing short-term cash flow from the livestock component. Overall, silvopastures can provide economic returns while creating a sustainable system with many environmental benefits. This practice could be implemented into the semi-improved and improved pastures on OSWMA as a way to restore flatwoods communities, while still generating income from cattle leases.



A typical silvopasture system has pasture grasses of bahiagrass or bermudagrass and a tree planting density of 100-450 TPA. Loblolly, longleaf or slash pine/SFSP species can be used. SFSP should be used on OSWMA. For timber production, a spacing of 4' X 8' X 40' would result in 454 TPA. For forage production, a spacing of 2' X 8' X 88' would result in 454 TPA. See *Site Preparation* section below for specific recommendations, but generally scalping rows a couple months prior to planting will be required. Herbicide treatments may also be required in dense pasture grasses. The following example uses data from *Projected Timber Yields of South Florida Slash Pine Silvopasture in South-Central Florida* by Ezenwa, Kalmbacher & Mallett. Starting with a new silvopasture system, plant SFSP (454 TPA at 4' X 8' X 40') in an established pasture of bahiagrass. Wait to introduce cattle into the planted stand until the trees reach head high (about 3 years). This will prevent cattle damaging the young buds and stems of the planted trees. Approximately 5 cow-calf-pairs and two bulls per 2.5 acres can be allowed to graze from March to October. When the stand reaches age 20; thinning 25% of the stand would result in 12.6 tons/acre of timber, generating \$25.16/acre in timber revenue. The total forage yield would be approximately 1,264 pounds per acre/ per year.

REFORESTATION

NATURAL REGENERATION (ONLY USED WITH MATURE, CONE BEARING TREES)

Most of OSWMA will require artificial regeneration to establish a pine stand. The following methods of natural regeneration should be applied to current and future stands that have adequate number of seed trees. SFSP require 30 square feet BA. That would be a minimum of 12 trees per acre at 10" DBH. SFSP generally produce seeds on a 3-year cycle. When a good seed crop is anticipated by either flower or cone crop counts the previous year, the MU should be treated with one of the following site preparation methods described below.

10 to 30 BA- Control saw palmetto height and density. This can be accomplished by burning the stand in late winter or early spring to remove most of the fronds. Then roller drum chop the palmettos prior to the summer rainy season with a chopper heavy enough to sever their stems (probably a medium or heavy, single or tandem, but not offset). A second burn in the summer after the chopping is complete would be beneficial if a fire will carry.

If for any reason an adequate number of young seedlings are not established by the second summer following the initial chopping, burn the stand again prior to end of the rainy season. This will allow some grasses to re-grow enough to protect the seeds and fragile seedlings from the hot sun.

30 to 50 BA- Again control saw palmetto as above. These stands may require thinning alone or in combination with group selection cuts to allow the roller choppers to treat the palmettos without killing remnant pine trees. Spacing between leave trees or clusters of leave trees should be at least 20 to 30 feet to give room for the tractor and chopper to operate. Group selection openings should be at least two chains (132 feet) wide to allow adequate sunlight for sapling growth. Follow the fire regime as described above.

> 50 BA- These stands need reforestation treatment only where saw palmetto must be controlled or additional age classes are desired (i.e. insufficient number of trees younger than ten years old). Where palmetto control is a priority, thin pines to 30 to 40 sq. ft. per acre (at least 20 to 30 feet between leave trees or clusters if chopping is required). Scatter group selection openings throughout the stand. Roller chop the stand, evaluate success and implement fire regime as above. If palmetto is not a problem, skip the chopping, then evaluate success and burn as above

Successful establishment of SFSP stand requires 1,000 or more seeds per acre to have seeded in, and



begin growing. Timing of reintroduction of prescribed fire into regenerated stands will depend on seedling height growth and fuel loads. Generally, 400 or more trees per acre should be at least head-high in light fuels before the stand is burned. With short trees and heavier fuels, the first burn might have to be accomplished at night to prevent excessive scorch and mortality. These stands can probably be returned to the normal burn rotation following the first post-establishment burn, if fuels are light and fire frequent enough. See artificial regeneration methods, if more consistent and quicker results are required.

ARTIFICIAL

Most of the MU on OSWMA will require artificial regeneration in order to restore the land back to historical mesic and wet flatwoods community types. Forest source SFSP seedling should be used to create small, irregular shaped islands of trees in open pastures. They should also be planted in meandering strips as wildlife corridors to connect the hardwood hammocks, cypress domes, and the newly planted tree islands. It should not be necessary to plant hardwood species in the corridors or islands. Animals will transport seed from nearby hardwood stands to establish species other than pine in these areas. Cattle should not be allowed to graze pastures for two to five years after planting pine seedlings. To minimize damage from reproduction weevils, do not plant pine seedlings where pine stumps are present until at least one growing season has passed since the harvest.

The following recommendations are designed to generate the highest possible revenue stream while maintaining healthy ground cover. In areas where native ground cover is to be restored, consider planting pine seedlings immediately after sowing the seed and packing of the soil. This should help reduce losses due to moisture competition from established grasses during dry weather. Follow the fire regime described above in the *Natural Regeneration* section.

SITE PREPARATION

Prescribed fire may be used to prepare the planting site for hand planting or machine planting. Burn in the fall to provide access for planters, reduce groundcover competition (short term), hardwood and palmetto control, and allow adequate sunlight to the ground. Negative aspects of fall burning include lack of suitable habitat for wildlife until the spring growing season, and if not performed under the correct weather conditions, scorching of mature pine over-story can occur.

Mowing and roller chopping have also been used for site preparation; these techniques allow sunlight to reach the germinating seed or planted seedlings. Negative impacts include mowed/chopped debris on the ground, which can inhibit good soil to seed contact, and potentially the buildup of too much fuel for burning that can be damaging to new seedlings. Mowing "selects" for grasses, but like disking, roller chopping selects for forbs resulting in reduced fine fuels and soil disturbance of native groundcover.

A word of caution about planting in established pastures. To ensure adequate survival and avoid the expense of replanting, some form of herbicidal control, scalping, or deep disking of heavy grasses may be necessary. Competition from grass for soil moisture during hot, dry weather can cause severe losses of young seedlings. Applying a contact herbicide such as Roundup either in two foot wide strips or in spots can control these grasses. The herbicide should be applied far enough in advance of planting time so the grasses have time to "brown up" and indicate where to plant the seedlings.

If deep disking is used on heavy grass pasture, it should be accomplished during dry weather. The upturned earth should remain dry for about one month. Then the soil needs to be roller packed or have sufficient rainfall to settle and remove air pockets prior to planting. This method of grass control may be less expensive than herbicide treatments. However, the potential exists for poor survival due to inadequate grass control and improperly compacted soil. In addition, noxious weed seeds are often brought to the surface where they germinate and out-compete with the young pines or cause other



problems. Therefore, this method is not recommended.

A release treatment of herbicide can be applied after planting to aid in the new seedlings survival. Once seedlings have started root growth apply a 6 ft. band over planted rows in mid-April to mid-May, with 2oz OustXP + 24oz Velpar L for herbaceous weed control (wiregrass is tolerant). This could be used for example if the site prep could not be completed before planting. If the site has extra dense hardwoods that need to be controlled apply a broadcast foliar spray in June to October, 40-48 oz Chopper Gen2 + 2-3 qts. Accord XRT II. Alternatively a spring treatment with Velpar L 2-6 qts. could be applied to treat the hardwoods to allow the seedlings adequate growth before regular prescribed burning can resume. Some units may require a combination of chemical then prescribed burn or mowing/chopping then prescribed burn in order to prepare the site for planting and ensure good survival in the subsequent years.

HAND PLANTING

Hand planting of containerized (tubeling) forest source SFSP seedlings is one option for reestablishment in areas where an inadequate number of seed trees exist. Bare-root trees are planted in the winter. Tubelings can be planted in winter or summer, thereby extending the planting season. Plant approximately 600 bare root seedlings per acre at varying spacing, but averaging 6' X 12' overall. Due to the increased likelihood of survival and higher cost of containerized seedlings, as few as 500 seedlings per acre can be planted (8' X 11'). Still, for fear of not being able to reestablish essential grasses, land managers may insist on planting less than the recommended number of pine seedlings overall. To ameliorate these concerns, 400 seedlings per acre can be hand planted in small, irregularly shaped clusters (2 to 5 acres) with 2 to 5 chains between clusters. If machine planting is employed, plant 3 to 5 curved rows (9' X 12'). Leave 2 to 5 chains unplanted between sets of rows. The entire area can be inoculated with native grass seed prior to planting the SFSP seedlings. However, tremendous cost savings can be made by only sowing the area between tree plantings and relying on these areas to seed the rest over time.

MACHINE PLANTING

Meander planting containerized SFSP seedlings at an average spacing of 6' X 12' yields about 600 trees per acre. It is more difficult to vary the spacing and make the planting look random with machine planting. This is due primarily to the inability of tree planters to make sharp turns and still pack the soil around the seedlings roots. Tight turns are also hard on the planter's bearings. The desired effect can be obtained by gradually curving the planting rows and varying the distance between and within the rows. Another way to create the random look is to locate the planting rows twice as far apart as normal (averaging approximately 24'). Then, plant a second set of rows at some angle approaching 90 degrees to the first set of rows spaced about the same distance apart.

Again competition for soil moisture during dry weather can cause heavy losses of seedlings and waste of planting costs. Where grass is thick, it is best to either herbicide strips as described above or use a combination planter/scalper to plant the seedlings. The scalper should be set to no more than 2 to 3 inches deep and 18 to 24 inches wide. These settings will minimize soil disturbance and maintain continuity of fuels for future prescribed burns, but the seedlings will have a decent chance of survival.

GROUND COVER RESTORATION

The ground cover on most of OSWMA has been severely impact by past management practices. Most of the original wet and prairie communities were converted to semi-improved pasture or improved pasture. Also much of the historic mesic and wet flatwoods ground cover has been altered or converted into non-native pasture grass. Native grasses and forbs were partially or entirely replaced by imported varieties like bahiagrass that usually will not burn during the natural lightning-induced fire season. These pastures also have introduced invasive exotic species like smutgrass that don't carry fire as well as the native ground cover. The groundcover on the improved and semi-improved pastures as well as the mesic flatwoods, wet



flatwoods and wet prairie communities all require varying amounts of restoration.

Reestablishment of native groundcovers can be extremely expensive. Many methods have been tried with varying degrees of success. The following describes an alternative method to the expensive direct planting of containerized seedlings. It has worked on similar sites across the region. To get the ground ready to accept the seed, improved pastures often require multiple treatments with high priced herbicides. One or more passes with a heavy disc usually follow the herbicide applications. Depending on the ground cover, pastures may only need a single disking and one or no herbicide spraying prior to seeding. The pastures on OSWMA have many invasive exotic plants that should be removed with herbicide before the planting of native ground cover begins.

Undisturbed donor sites are chosen that have similar soil types as the area to be re-vegetated. Sites are burned at the right time (usually spring to early summer) to produce viable seed from a broad spectrum of native plants. Mechanical harvesters are used to gather the seeds. More than one trip maybe required, over a period of weeks, and with the machine set at different heights to get seeds from all of the species found at the donor site. This precious cargo is hauled to the treatment site and scattered across the field using a hay blower. Some form of roller, light disc or packer should then be used to insure close contact with the soil. Results vary, but if everything goes well, at least some of each species becomes established. Following the planting with well-timed prescribed burns should stimulate seed production in the newly established vegetation and further spread each species.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Frequent lightning induced fires are natural to most Florida's natural communities. Prior to European settlement, they occurred at regular intervals of one to five years. Without fire, native habitats would probably have turned into densely shaded hardwood hammocks. Introduction of effective fire suppression in the mid-1900's resulted in thick stands of saw-palmetto and subsequent loss of other grassy and herbaceous ground covers. Use of prescribed fire is essential to the maintenance of open healthy, pine-dominated ecosystems. The needles shed by pine trees planted in old pastures help carry fire across the landscape which in turn helps maintain fire dependent communities.

Caution must be exercised when reintroducing fire into these systems, as desirable as burning is. Survival of (expensive, newly planted seedlings or time intensive, natural seedlings) as well as valuable mature timber depends on timing and careful execution of burns. To prevent damage to delicate root systems and avoid smoky duff fires, be sure that there is adequate moisture in any organic matter thicker than approximately one inch. In stands with heavy duff layers, try to burn no more than one inch of duff at a time on approximately two to three-year intervals. At least the first burn should be at nighttime, during the dormant season after the seedlings have reached six feet or more in height and there is enough needle litter to carry the fire. If ground fuels are not too heavy, succeeding burns can be switched to the growing season.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has three criteria it uses to evaluate prescribe burning of natural communities during a Land Management Review; number of acres burned, frequency of burn, and quality of burn (appropriate season). Using DEP's criteria as guidance in evaluation of OSWMA prescribe burning program the following observations have been made;

- **Number of acres burned:** There are 2,100 fire adapted acres on OSWMA. The management has averaged 3 prescribed burns each year, which is good if each of those three burns average 70 acres. At that rate they would have all their acres burned once in a 10-year period. OSWMA stated goal though, is 420 acres burned every year, so 3 burns per year would need to be over 100 acres each.
- **Frequency:** FWC states the fire frequency for each community in their Bun Plan. Most BUs

OSWMA-TA 2017

Page 15



have a fire frequency somewhere 1-5 years. It appears from the field observations and reviewing the Management Plan that this frequency has been maintained for most of the BUs. This level of burn frequency is considered excellent.

- **Quality of Burn (appropriate season):** OSWMA Burn Plan varies the season of the prescribed burn based on fuel buildup and overstory tree and plant densities. This quality of burning is good. One suggestion would be to consider adjusting the season of burning (growing or dormant) for BUs based on results of the previous burns. The season to burn in depends on the objectives for the prescribed burn. Dormant season; fuels reduction, wildlife management (some), and duff removal in fire suppressed BUs. Growing Season; stimulate herbaceous seeding, site prep for planting, gopher tortoise forage requirements and killing woody vegetation. Grassy fueled fires produce less lingering smoke than woody fuels. Mechanical or chemical treatments followed by frequent prescribed burns should stimulate grasses and decrease the amount of woody understory.

ACCESS

Currently, there are 5.8 miles of roads on OSWMA. To minimize human disturbance, there is only one designated entrance to the OSWMA, via Twin Mills Grade on the southern boundary of OSWMA off County Road 832. Another improved road on OSWMA is the North Loop East Road.

OSWMA should increase the network of improved roads to expand their forest management opportunities. Culverts and low water crossings could be installed to aid in access for forest management operations, allowing for longer periods of vehicle access to timber for both managers and loggers. It would be beneficial to establish a few primary roads for access to the MUs identified as having a timber resource. Many of these roads may require reinforcement with rock or shell to support the heavy trucks used in timber operations. This work will also benefit other activities including hunting access and prescribe burning. It also will reduce wear and tear on FWC trucks and reduce travel time across the area.

SUMMARY

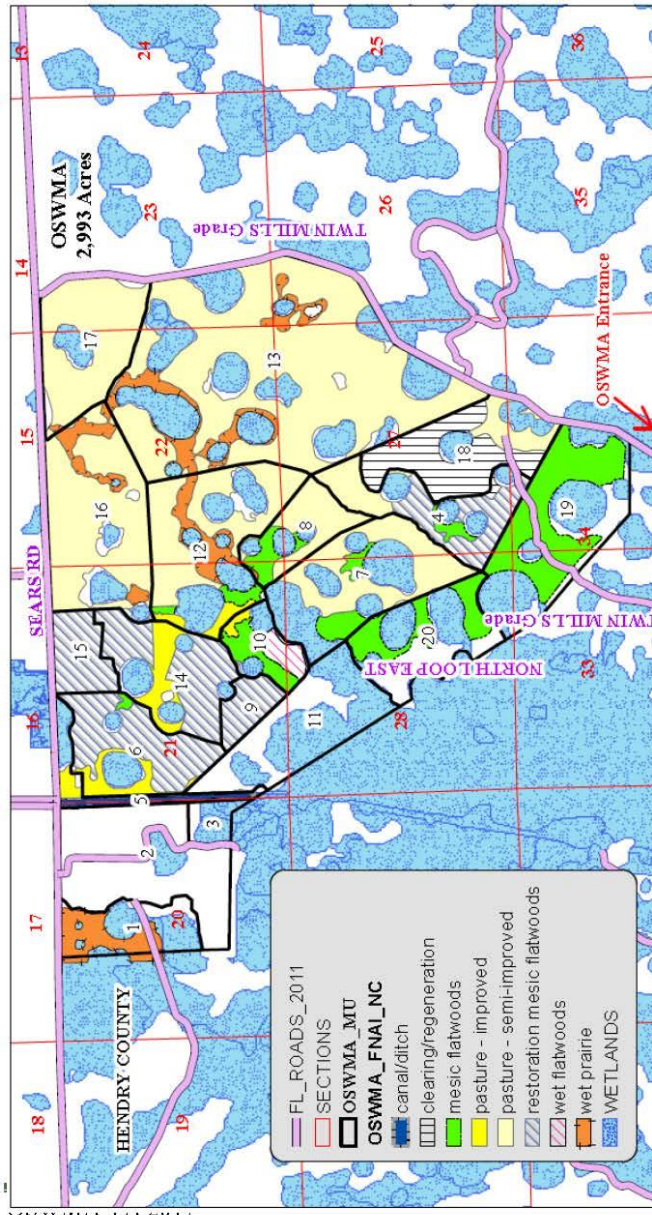
In rapidly urbanizing areas of the state, public lands are often the only refuges for native plant and animal communities. Restoring and maintaining these ecosystems is an important function of land managers. Saleable timber is a byproduct of good ecosystem management. Carefully designed timber harvests; protect water quality, create openings in the tree canopy allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor, promote herbaceous growth and pine regeneration. The seedlings then grow to replace trees killed by lightning, wind damage and insects or disease. Mechanical equipment involved in timber harvests helps reduce dense understory vegetation such as sabal palms, saw palmetto and undesirable hardwoods. Thinning of dense timber stands can result in enough space between trees to allow a tractor pulled roller-drum chopper to be used further reducing the understory vegetation. This fuels reduction results with easier, safer and more effective prescribed fire usage. The ability to maintain a frequent burning schedule is essential to keeping healthy ground cover. These clearings and their ecotones are favorite spots used by wildlife for feeding, resting, mating, nesting and rearing of offspring.

Land managers for OSWMA have expressed a desire to restore native groundcover especially in the pastures and flatwoods. Just as important to these natural communities is the reestablishment of vertical structure provided by trees and the reintroduction of periodic fires. Needle litter from growing pines helps carry these frequent, low intensity burns. In all restoration scenarios, the exact methods and final results will be guided by the best available ecological information to conserve biodiversity of the affected habitats.



Likely purchasers of forest products from OSWMA include a fence post company in Hardee County, a post mill in Sumter County, a few small local sawmills, several landscape mulch plants in Lee and Hardee counties, several pine straw vendors and railroad siding yards that operate in south Florida. More timber is sold in the region than might be expected. Timber harvests have even taken place on nearby State Forests and county conservation lands and a privately owned tract as recent as fall of 2015. OSWMA is located 200 or more miles from most of the pulpwood markets. The cost of hauling the trees to large, north Florida mills has a tendency to keep timber prices down and reduce interest in timber offered for sale. Therefore, successful timber sales may require timing to match the market. When north Florida woodlands are inundated with water and south Florida is dry, loggers tend to drive long distances to obtain wood from drier land. These circumstances allow local land managers to take advantage of the opportunity to sell timber that otherwise might be hard to sell. The secret to timing the markets is to be flexible about when stands should be cut and keeping up with market factors throughout the state.

Clearly, managing trees for timber as part of the overall management strategy is worthwhile for many reasons. Timber sale revenues can relieve the long-term burden on taxpayers for much needed management activities. As general revenue funds become more difficult to secure, revenues generated from sale of timber thinnings and miscellaneous forest products can be used to pay for habitat restoration, pine reestablishment, and OSWMA's comprehensive Management Plan.



**TIMBER ASSESSMENT MAP
OK SLOUGH
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Created By: Michael Edwards
Senior Forester OPL Reg 3 & 4
November 1, 2016



DISCLAIMER
This map is the product of the Florida Forest Service. These are not warranties. The Florida Forest Service does not accept any liability for damages, compensation, or expenses provided for state, federal, or private property, or for interpretation.

1.14 Management Procedures Guidelines - Management of Archaeological and Historical Resources

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

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

A. Historic Property Definition

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

B. Agency Responsibilities

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

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

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

State agencies are responsible for preserving historic properties under their control. State agencies are directed to use historic properties available to the agency when that use is consistent

with the historic property and the agency's mission. State agencies are also directed to pursue preservation of historic properties to support their continued use. (267.061(2)(d))

C. Statutory Authority

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

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

D. Management Implementation

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

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

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

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

E. Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) Training

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

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

F. Matrix for Ground Disturbance on State Lands

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

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

G. Human Remains Treatment

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

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

H. Division of Historical Resources Review Procedure

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

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

* * *

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

Compliance and Review Section
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Division of Historical Resources
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

StateLandsCompliance@dos.myflorida.com

Phone: (850) 245-6333

Toll Free: (800) 847-7278

Fax: (850) 245-6435

1.15 Land Management Uniform Accounting Council Categories

Land Management Uniform Cost Accounting Council and FWC Activity Code Groupings

Resource Management

Exotic Species Control

- 210 Exotic species control
- 211 Exotic plant control (mechanical)
- 212 Exotic plant control (chemical)

Prescribed Burning

- 205 Prescribed burning
- 206 Prescribed burning C growing season (April 1 to September 30)
- 207 Prescribed burning C dormant season (October 1 to March 31)
- 208 Firebreaks

Cultural Resource Management

- 201 Cultural resource management

Timber Management

- 202 Timber management

Hydrological Management

- 194 Lake restoration
- 215 Hydrology management
- 216 Dams, dikes, levees
- 217 Canals
- 218 Water level management

Other

- 185 GIS
- 200 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 203 Tree and shrub planting
- 213 Wildlife management
- 214 Listed Species management
- 219 Upland restoration
- 221 Animal surveys
- 228 Inland aerial surveys
- 235 Vegetation and plant surveys
- 250 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENTS
- 252 Biomedical monitoring
- 253 Ecological monitoring
- 256 Habitat monitoring analysis
- 263 Nest box monitoring
- 264 Population demographics
- 275 Permits and authorizations
- 276 Commission rule development and review
- 281 Technical assistance
- 282 Herbaceous seeding
- 283 Clearings
- 284 Feeding/watering
- 285 Nest structures
- 286 Population control
- 287 Stocking enhancements/population augmentation
- 288 Nuisance animal complaints 282 Herbaceous seeding
- 289 Native vegetation management (mechanical)

290	Native vegetation management (chemical)
293	Mortality investigations
294	Program coordination and implementation C inter- and intra-agency coordination and program implementation at the section, bureau, or division level 295 Biological data collection, analysis, and reporting
296	Habitat protection technical assistance
750	URTD assessment
789	Site Preparation – GCR
790	Irrigation – GCR
791	Seed Collection – Hand
792	Seed Collection – Mechanical
793	Herbicide Maintenance Treatment

Administration

Central Office/Headquarters

100	ADMINISTRATION C administrative tasks, including preparation of forms, word processing, photocopying, filing, and other clerical/secretarial duties.
104	Budget/purchasing/accounting

Districts/Regions

See Location code

Units/Projects

See Location code

Support

Land Management Planning

103	Meetings C includes workshops, conferences, staff, and other meetings.
204	Resource Planning

Land Management Reviews

101	Project inspection C field inspections of projects.
209	Land Management Reviews

Training/Staff Development

150	PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT C recruitment, hiring, training, counseling, and supervising.
-----	--

Vehicle Purchase

128	New Vehicle and Equipment Purchase
-----	------------------------------------

Vehicle Operation and Maintenance

923	FEM C vehicles/equipment
-----	--------------------------

Other

140	REPORT WRITING/EDITING/MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION
141	Grant applications
180	SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
182	Data management
184	Metadata development and management
187	IT
188	Web development
226	Human dimensions surveys
721	Geospatial analysis techniques

Capitol Improvements

New Facility Construction

910	New facility construction C buildings/structures
-----	--

- 912 New construction C roads/bridges
- 913 New construction C trails
- 914 New construction C fences

Facility Maintenance

- 920 Facility and equipment maintenance (FEM) C buildings/structures
- 921 FEM C utilities
- 922 FEM C custodial functions
- 925 FEM C boating access
- 926 FEM C roads/bridges
- 927 FEM C trails
- 928 FEM C fences

Visitor Services/Recreation

Information/Education Programs

- 145 Technical bulletin

Operations

- 311 Boundary signs
- 312 Informational signs
- 320 Outreach and education C attending or developing educational or informational materials or events for the public
- 341 Public use administration (hunting)
- 342 Public use administration (non-hunting)
- 350 Customer service support C disseminating written or verbal information or assistance to the public
- 700 STUDIES
- 740 EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

Law Enforcement

1.16 Operation Plan Fiscal Year 2020-2021

7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	100-Administration	2.75	\$668.24	\$15.53	\$1,148.45	\$1,832.22	0	☐	Completed general administrative duties and purchased office supplies as needed.
7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	103-Meetings	21.56	\$5,049.56	\$172.13	\$2,211.60	\$7,433.29	0	☐	Attended workshops, trainings and meetings.
7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	104-Budget/purchasing/accounting	8.63	\$2,306.28	\$46.58	\$0.00	\$2,352.86	0	☐	Monitored expenditures, processed invoices, and tracked budget.
7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	128-New Vehicle and Equipment Purchases	0.25	\$82.60	\$1.35	\$8,604.83	\$8,688.78	1	☒	Purchased a new ATV. (NFR)
7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	150-Personnel management	33.56	\$9,430.11	\$195.75	\$1,590.59	\$11,216.45	0	☐	Hired, supervised, trained, evaluated, and counseled employees. Purchased uniforms as needed.
7306-OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	185-GIS	9.94	\$2,324.16	\$105.98	\$1,859.24	\$4,289.38	0	☐	Compiled and submitted GIS related data for LMIS and SAMP and maintained WMA data on sharepoint.

7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	200- Resourc e Manage ment	35.31	\$8,850.97	\$958.23	\$1,322.71	\$11,131.91	0	☐	Planned and conducted resource management activities. Purchased bulk fuel and paid the annual uplands fee.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	201- Cultural resource man- agement	0.44	\$92.31	\$4.39	\$71.43	\$168.13	2	☒	Conducted annual monitoring of 2 archeological sites. (NFR)
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	204- Resourc e planning	16.25	\$4,368.15	\$95.18	\$209.62	\$4,672.95	0	☐	Prepared the annual operational plan, annual accomplishment report, weekly schedules, and conducted other resource planning activities as needed. Participated in district staff meetings.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	206- Prescrib ed burn- ing - growing season	1.50	\$111.12	\$16.20	\$520.79	\$648.11	0	☐	Conducted burn planning and purchased supplies as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	207- Prescrib ed burn- ing - dormant season	2.94	\$707.19	\$18.56	\$85.09	\$810.84	0	☐	Conducted burn planning.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	208- Firebrea ks	4.88	\$681.76	\$108.68	\$5,140.67	\$5,931.11	15	☐	Maintained 15 miles of fire breaks.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	211- Exotic plant control (me- chani- cal)	0.63	\$133.47	\$3.38	\$0.00	\$136.85	0	☐	Hand pulled the invasive plant Scleria lacustris.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	212- Exotic plant control (chemi- cal)	5.25	\$1,127.24	\$87.08	\$161,609.19	\$162,823.51	863	☐	Treated 863 acres of invasive exotics via contract. Monitored treatment.

7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	218- Water level man- agement	2.19	\$532.08	\$34.76	\$1,011.34	\$1,578.18	9	☐	Monitored and recorded water level data at 8 stations and 1 rain gauge. Maintained the data set. Paid for In-Situ subscription costs.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	221- Animal surveys	23.84	\$5,950.54	\$200.98	\$2,667.80	\$8,819.32	2	☐	Conducted camera trap and Christmas Bird Count surveys.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	235- Vegetati on and plant surveys	0.00	\$61.89	\$0.00	\$28.54	\$90.43	0	☐	Reported under Species 9200, Activity 212: exotics contract monitoring.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	275- Permits and autho- rizations	0.13	\$72.72	\$0.68	\$0.00	\$73.40	0	☐	Reviewed permit requests associated with the WMA.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	289- Native vegeta- tion man- agement (me- chani- cal)	2.06	\$440.73	\$18.56	\$11,312.60	\$11,771.89	110	☐	Roller chopped 110.2 acres via contract to improve habitat. This was a cost-share project with NWTF.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	294- Program coordi- nation and imple- menta- tion	17.94	\$4,945.80	\$118.80	\$1,404.55	\$6,469.15	0	☐	Coordinated other divisions/sections/offices (PASO, LE, HARP, AEMP) and agencies (FDACS) on hunts, land management activities, acquisitions, and law enforcement issues.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	311- Boundar y signs	10.44	\$2,640.57	\$92.14	\$1,065.59	\$3,798.30	0	☐	Purchased supplies and installed boundary signs along new property lines.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	341- Public use ad- ministra- tion (hunt- ing)	0.13	\$37.29	\$0.68	\$0.00	\$37.97	0	☐	Reported under Species 9200, Activity 342: traffic counter data collection.

7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	342- Public use ad- ministra- tion (non- hunting)	1.69	\$441.54	\$17.89	\$314.80	\$774.23	0	☐	Collected and com- piled traffic counter data.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	920- FEM -- building s/structu res	3.69	\$833.14	\$35.78	\$904.82	\$1,773.74	0	☐	Purchased supplies as needed for build- ing maintenance and entrance gate locks.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	921- FEM -- utilities	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$194.13	\$194.13	0	☐	Paid utility bills for OK Slough shop and red cabin.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	922- FEM -- custo- dial func- tions	13.25	\$3,357.21	\$211.95	\$5,128.76	\$8,697.92	0	☐	Maintained office, shop, and check sta- tion grounds. Purchased supplies as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	923- FEM -- vehicles/ equip- ment	33.63	\$7,862.46	\$296.83	\$16,902.39	\$25,061.68	0	☐	Maintained and re- paired all assigned equipment as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	926- FEM -- roads/bri dges	5.25	\$1,438.19	\$44.89	\$12,378.72	\$13,861.80	0	☐	Contracted for road maintenance services and purchased road fill as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9200-All wildlife	928- FEM -- fences	2.75	\$527.38	\$34.76	\$681.45	\$1,243.59	0	☐	Purchased supplies and repaired gates.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9210- Game wildlife	295- Biologic al data collec- tion, analysis, and report- ing	26.13	\$4,953.46	\$483.30	\$6,375.33	\$11,812.09	0	☐	Managed and oper- ated hunts, pur- chased check station supplies, contracted for port-o-lets and compiled and submit- ted harvest data uti- lizing OPS assistance.

7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9210-Game wildlife	341-Public use administration (hunting)	0.31	\$160.56	\$1.69	\$0.00	\$162.25	0	☐	Reviewed hunt brochure.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9211-White-tailed deer	221-Animal surveys	4.06	\$1,254.82	\$31.39	\$14,898.45	\$16,184.66	1	☐	Planned and conducted aerial deer surveys.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9240-Nongame wildlife	221-Animal surveys	5.75	\$1,410.30	\$159.64	\$6,979.99	\$8,549.93	1	☐	Conducted camera trap surveys and purchased supplies as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9290-Threatened and endangered wildlife (birds)	221-Animal surveys	17.25	\$4,390.77	\$119.14	\$1,030.53	\$5,540.44	1	☐	Conducted Crested Caracara surveys.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9800-Nature based recreation	340-Public use administration	2.75	\$834.07	\$14.85	\$328.00	\$1,176.92	0	☐	Conducted trail monitoring and maintenance and purchased supplies as needed.
7306-OKALO ACOO CHEE SLOUGH	9800-Nature based recreation	910-New facility construction -- building s/structures	1.38	\$563.44	\$110.03	\$15,180.44	\$15,853.91	0	☒	Conducted design & permitting for new entrance off Keri Road. (NFR)
Totals:			318.51	\$78,642.12	\$3,857.76	\$283,162.44	\$365,662.32			

1.17 Arthropod Control Plan



WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Agricultural Environmental Services

ARTHROPOD MANAGEMENT PLAN - PUBLIC LANDS

Section 388.4111, F.S.
Telephone: (850) 617-7995

Return to:

Mosquito Control Program
3125 Conner Blvd., Bldg. 6,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

For use in documenting an Arthropod Control Plan for lands designated by the State of Florida or any political subdivision thereof as being environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive therein. Fill this form out if control work is necessary or planned.

Name of Designated Land: Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

Is Control Work Necessary: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Location: South of Sears Road, East of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, and either side of Keri Road (CR832)

Land Management Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Are Arthropod Surveillance Activities Necessary? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes", please explain:

Which Surveillance Techniques Are Proposed?
Please Check All That Apply:

☐ Landing Rate Counts ☐ Light Traps ☐ Sentinel Chickens
☐ Citizen Complaints ☐ Larval Dips ☐ Other

If "Other", please explain:

Arthropod Species for Which Control is Proposed:

None

Proposed Larval Control:

None

Proposed larval monitoring procedure:

Are post treatment counts being obtained:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Biological Control of Larvae:

Might predacious fish be stocked:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Other biological controls that might be used:

Material to be Used for Larvaciding Applications:

(Please Check All That Apply:)

☐ Bti

☐ Bs

☐ Methoprene

☐ Non-Petroleum Surface Film

☐ Other, please specify:

Please specify the following for each larvacide:

Chemical or Common name:

☐ Ground

☐ Aerial

Rate of application:

Method of application:

Proposed Adult Mosquito Control:

Aerial adulticiding ☐ Yes ☒ No
Ground adulticiding ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please specify the following for each adulticide:

Chemical or common name:

Rate of application:

Method of application:

Proposed Modifications for Public Health Emergency Control: Arthropod control agency may request special exception to this plan during a threat to public or animal health declared by State Health Officer or Commissioner of Agriculture.

Proposed Notification Procedure for Control Activities:

Ryder Hochmuth at ryder.hochmuth@myfwc.com and Marsha Ward at marsha.ward@myfwc.com

Records:

Are records being kept in accordance with Chapter 388, F.S.:

☒ Yes ☐ No

Records Location: Hendry County Special Districts located at 3300-A Utility Drive, LaBelle, FL 33935

How long are records maintained: Five years

Vegetation Modification:

What trimming or altering of vegetation to conduct surveillance or treatment is proposed?

None

Proposed Land Modifications:

Is any land modification, i.e., rotary ditching, proposed:

None

Include proposed operational schedules for water fluctuations:

None

List any periodic restrictions, as applicable, for example peak fish spawning times.

None

Proposed Modification of Aquatic Vegetation:

None

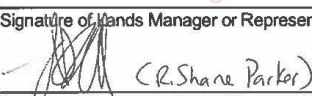
Land Manager Comments:

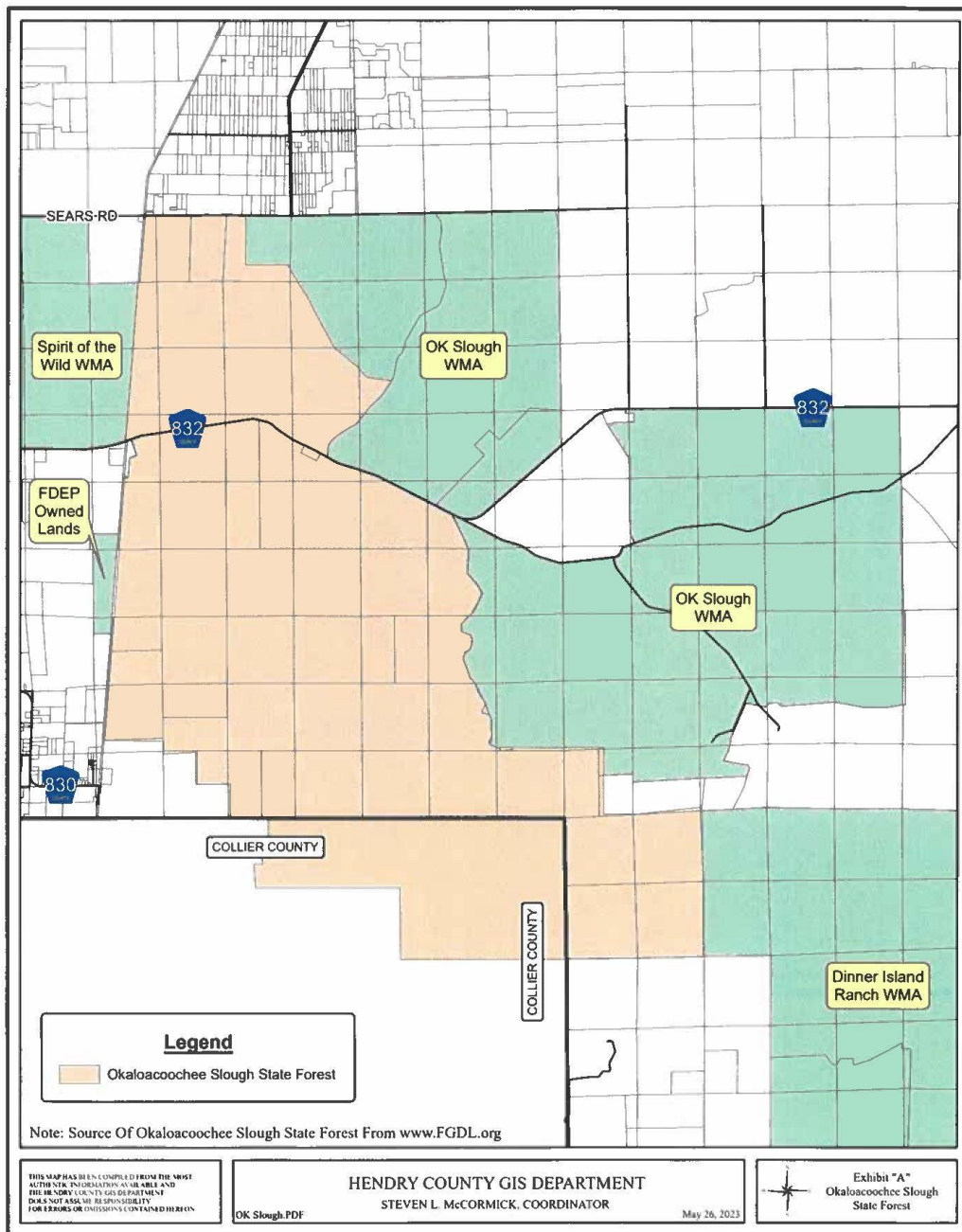
Arthropod Control Agency Comments:

At this time, Hendry County does not need to conduct any arthropod control in the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA.

James C
Conner III

Digitally signed by James C
Conner III
Date: 2024.04.27 08:52:03
-04'00'

Signature of Lands Manager or Representative	Date
 (C. R. Shane Parker)	4/25/24
Signature of Mosquito Control Director / Manager	Date



1.18 Hendry County Letter of Compliance with Local Government Comprehensive Plan



HENDRY COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 2340 • 640 S. MAIN STREET • LABELLE, FLORIDA 33975 • (863) 675-5240 • FAX: (863) 674-4194

April 25, 2024

Nicholas H. Coppock
Land Conservation Planner
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
(850) 487-9588

Re: Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Management Plan

Dear Mr. Nicholas H. Coppock:

Hendry County is pleased to provide a review of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Plan. Planning Department staff finds that the Okaloacoochee Slough WMA Plan is in compliance with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute and to review the proposed management plan. If you have questions or need additional information, we can be reached at 863-675-5240 Monday–Friday 8am– 5pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Alexander".

Ryan Alexander,
Director of Planning and Community Development
Hendry County BOCC